

Mallarmé

CHAMBER PLAYERS

Suzanne Rousso, artistic director

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MALLARMÉ CHAMBER PLAYERS' presents SERIES CONCERT: *Bach and Forward*
Friday, February 25, 2022 @ 7:30 pm PSI Theater, Durham Arts Council, 120 Morris Street, Durham



Mallarmé presents *Bach and Forward*, a new modern-baroque choreography to movements from J.S. Bach's iconic Cello Suites performed on Baroque cello.

The performance is a project by four acclaimed NC artists: modern choreographer Michelle Pearson, baroque dancer and choreographer Paige Whitley-Bauguess, modern dancer Steven James Rodriguez Velez, and cellist Stephanie Vial

The Bach cello suites have inspired numerous contemporary choreographers such as Jerome Robbins and Mark Morris, who interpreted the music according to modern performance practices. This unique performance offers an intriguing exploration of the historical and the modern: dances may begin as solos, may intermingle, and may converge or diverge as the dancers interpret the music from different angles and centuries. The dance types in the suites have a direct relationship to documented historical dances performed in 18th-century society, (*minuet, gigue, sarabande, gavotte*, etc.). As part of the performance, the artists discuss their collaboration and relationships they have rekindled between historical and modern forms. They plan to go back and forward exploring where the art forms may lead, *Bach and Forward*.

Michelle Pearson was a core member of Liz Lerman Dance Exchange from 1993-98 and is the current Artistic Director of **Black Box Dance Theatre** in Raleigh. She is the recipient of an NC Arts Council Choreographer's Fellowship and was selected by the US Department of State to lead a Cultural Envoy to Sierra Leone in 2011 as well as Cultural Democracy missions to China in 2014 and 2016. Recently, the USO of NC has deemed Michelle and her cohort of dancers as SMEs (Subject Matter Experts) and engaged them to lead Warrior Reset Programs for active-duty service members.

Paige Whitley-Bauguess interprets, recreates, and performs Baroque theatre dance in venues all over the world. She is co-director of the Baroque Arts Project in North Carolina and producer of two baroque dance DVDs: *Introduction to Baroque Dance-Dance Types* (funded in part by an NC Arts Council Choreographer's Fellowship) and *Dance of the French Baroque Theatre*. Paige has stage directed baroque operas for festivals and universities in the US and has given masterclasses and workshops at universities, museums, and historical sites in the US, Canada, Finland, Hong Kong, Japan, and Singapore.

Steven James Rodriguez Velez hails from Puerto Rico where he attended the University of Puerto Rico Rio Piedras and danced in the company HINCAPIE under the direction of Petra Bravo. While with HINCAPIE he began presenting his own work. In 2016 Steven joined Black Box Dance Theatre directed by Michelle Pearson. Steven also dances with OM Grown Dancers directed by Courtney OM and Shaleigh Dance Works.

Stephanie Vial is a widely respected cellist, praised for her technical flair and expressive sense of phrasing. Vial performs regularly in early music ensembles throughout the US and has given solo and chamber music concerts, lectures, and master classes at numerous universities and institutions. She is co-director of the period instrument ensemble The Vivaldi Project and its educational arm, the Institute for Early Music on Modern Instruments (EMMI). Vial received her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University, an MM from Indiana University, and a DMA in 18th-century performance practice from Cornell University. Her book, *The Art of Musical Phrasing in the Eighteenth Century: Punctuating the Classical "Period,"* published by the University of Rochester Press, was praised by Malcolm Bilson as "inspired scholarship" and "essential reading." She has recorded for the Dorian Label, Naxos, Hungaroton, and Centaur Records, with a recent release of string trios for MSR Classics, titled *Discovering the Classical String Trio*.

Bach and Forward - Friday, February 25, 2022 at 7:30 pm

PSI Theater, Durham Arts Council, 120 Morris Street, Durham, NC 27701

Michelle Pearson - modern choreographer / **Paige Whitley-Bauguess** - baroque dancer and choreographer

Steven James Rodriguez Velez - modern dancer / **Stephanie Vial** – Baroque cellist

Tickets: \$10-\$25/ INFO and COVID PROTOCOLS:

<https://www.mallarmemusic.org/event/series-concert-bach-and-forward/>

PROGRAM

Joseph Dall'Abaco (1720-1805) - Capriccio No. 8 in G major [*minuet*]

Popular Renaissance tune - Queen's Alman (c. 1560s)

André Campra (1660-1744) - Menuet from *L'Europe Galante*

J.B. Lully (1632-1687) - *Chaconne d'Arlequin* from *Le bourgeois gentilhomme*

G.B. Vitali (1693-1692) - *Chiaccona* from *partita sopra diverse sonata per il violoncello*

F. P. Scipriani (1678-1753) - Toccata no. 7 in F major [*giga*]; Toccata no. 10 in D minor

J.S. Bach - Cello Suites

Suite No. 1 in G major, BWV 1007, Prelude, Sarabande, Menuet I and II, Gigue

Suite No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1008, Allemande

Suite No. 3 in C major, BWV 1009, Courante, Bouree I and II

Suite No. 6 in D major, BWV 1012, Gavotte I and II

Mallarmé Chamber Players is a flexible ensemble of professional musicians based in Durham, North Carolina, whose mission is to enrich the lives of their community through outstanding chamber music. The ensemble distinguishes itself by its innovative educational programs, its commitment to creative collaboration with other organizations, its creation of significant new work, and its dedication to serve a diverse population.

Mallarmé is unique in that they do not work with a core of musicians, but instead uses North Carolina's rich and diverse musical talent to perform with the ensemble according to the given repertoire. Mallarmé annually presents a series of concerts that features great, diverse, and multidisciplinary chamber music. Mallarmé performs everything from Bach with period instruments to commission and performing brand new works. In 2021, Albany records released a CD of chamber music by African American composer William Banfield featuring Mallarmé in two of its selections - the mini-opera "Soul Gone Home" and the ballet "*Tota Pulchra Es*".

Mallarmé is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c) 3 organization. The 2021/22 concert season is made possible in part by grants from the Durham Arts Council's Annual Arts Fund, the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation and the North Carolina Arts Council. [Mallarmemusic.org](https://www.mallarmemusic.org) ##