



For Immediate Release

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**Michigan Opera Theatre to Present Eisenhower Dance, State Street Ballet and ezdanza
Dance Companies for "Common Ground"**

Original dance piece joins classical and contemporary styles

March 4 at the Detroit Opera House

Detroit, Feb. 23, 2017 - Michigan Opera Theatre will present "Common Ground," an original dance piece by the Eisenhower Dance, State Street Ballet and ezdanza dance companies. The performance will take place Saturday, March 4 at the Detroit Opera House. The piece, choreographed by ezdanza's Edgar Zendejas, joins classical and contemporary dance styles performed to Max Richter's re-composition of Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons."

"'Common Ground' is an exceptional work, combining classical ballet and contemporary dance with the joining of three renowned, yet distinct, dance companies," said MOT Artistic Director David DiChiera. "At a time when our nation could use more unity, we are proud to present such a powerful piece that celebrates bringing people together and finding our common humanity."

The performance features Santa Barbara's State Street Ballet, Montreal's ezdanza and Metro Detroit's own Eisenhower Dance company, which has performed with Michigan Opera Theatre since the 2010-11 season with a longstanding partnership. The performance will be among the last for Eisenhower Dance under the leadership of Founder and Artistic Director Laurie Eisenhower, who will retire at the end of the season.

"Laurie's vision, talent and hard work have built an incredible dance company right in our own community," DiChiera said. "It has been among our greatest honors to present them on our Detroit Opera House stage."

Eisenhower said she is thrilled to return to the Detroit Opera House and share the experience with two other great dance companies.

"The choreography by Edgar Zendejas is so beautiful," she said. "Since this is one of my last performances as the artistic director of Eisenhower Dance, I'm happy to be able to present

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“Bolero, Revisited” again, which is a special work for me. The dance requires a magnificent stage, and you can't get more magnificent than the Detroit Opera House!”

Eisenhower Dance will also offer a master class the morning of the performance from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Detroit Opera House Margo V. Cohen Dance Studio. The class is open to intermediate to advanced level dance students ages 14 and up. Attendance is \$25 or free with corresponding ticket. Pre-registration is required and can be done via email at dance@motopera.org or via phone at (313) 237-3251.

Following the performance, patrons are invited to an afterglow reception to meet the dancers and artistic directors of the three dance companies. The event will take place in the Herman Frankel and Barbara Frankel Lounge. Cost is \$45. RSVP by Feb. 26.

The performance is dedicated in memory of Mrs. Carol Halsted, MOT Director of Dance from 2002-14.

MOT's 2016-17 dance season is supported by the **Lear Corporation**.

Ticket prices for the performance range from \$25 to \$89, afterglow tickets may be purchased for \$45 with RSVP by Feb. 26. Tickets may be purchased online at www.MichiganOpera.org, by calling (313) 237-7464 or in person at the Detroit Opera House (1526 Broadway, Detroit).

For more information visit <http://www.michiganopera.org/dance/common-ground/>.

“Common Ground” Featuring Eisenhower Dance, State Street Ballet and ezdanza
Performed at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit
Saturday, March 4, 7:30 p.m.

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About Michigan Opera Theatre

Michigan Opera Theatre (Wayne S. Brown, President and CEO; Dr. David DiChiera, Founder and Artistic Director), one of the nation's most vibrant nonprofit arts organizations, is committed to presenting opera and dance of the highest artistic caliber. Founded in 1971, the company's mission is to serve as a major cultural resource to the state of Michigan and the city of Detroit. Visit the website at www.michiganopera.org.

About Eisenhower Dance

Eisenhower Dance (“E/D”) is a nationally-touring contemporary dance company based in metropolitan Detroit. Considered one of the finest dance repertory ensembles in the nation,

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E/D is dedicated to the performance of a diverse range of works by both established and emerging choreographers, as well as its Artistic Director, Laurie Eisenhower

About State Street Ballet

State Street Ballet is a vibrant, innovative professional ballet company from Santa Barbara, California, making their debut on the Detroit Opera House stage. Founded in 1994 by former American Ballet Theatre dancer Rodney Gustafson, the company combines the discipline and timeless elegance of classical ballet technique with updated, cutting-edge choreography. Combining this with special effects and technology, the company produces original works that satisfy today's diverse audiences. A group praised for strong commitment to artistic and technical excellence, State Street Ballet is also applauded for the intelligently designed, versatile performances that have become the company's trademark.

About ezdanza

ezdanza is an ensemble of talented dancers that perform the work of Mexican-born choreographer, Edgar Zendejas. The choreographic works he creates are lush, expressive, beautiful poems in movement. Since its inception, ezdanza has been an expression of constant collaborative work, inspired by the creative energy between interpretive artists and director; this synergy is built on a foundation of reciprocal Respect, Authenticity, Equanimity, Unity, Integrity and Stability.