



For Immediate Release

CONTACT:

Erica Hobbs  
(313) 237-3403  
ehobbs@motopera.org

## Michigan Opera Theatre to Present Paul Taylor Dance Company

*Company to perform works that examine political change, remembered love and the human condition*

*April 21-22 at the Detroit Opera House*

DETROIT, April 11, 2018 - Michigan Opera Theatre (MOT) concludes its 2017-18 dance season with the world-renowned Paul Taylor Dance Company. Since its founding in 1954, the company has been a staple of American modern dance, offering cogent observations on life's complexities and society's toughest issues through movement.

"Paul Taylor is one of the few remaining choreographers from an inspired dance generation in the 1950s and '60s," said MOT Principal Conductor Stephen Lord. "He continues to create breathtaking masterpieces with an incredible range of expression."

MOT CEO Wayne S. Brown said presenting Paul Taylor Dance Company is part of MOT's commitment to artistic excellence.

"Michigan Opera Theatre prides itself on presenting the best nationally and internationally-recognized dance companies to our Detroit audiences," he said. "We are proud to present such an iconic company in our revered Detroit Opera House."

This year's program includes "Changes," an homage to the rebellion and radical change of the 1960s, performed to the music of The Mamas and The Papas. It also includes "Eventide," a bittersweet tribute to remembered love, set to Ralph Vaughn Williams' "Suite for Viola and Orchestra" and "Hymn-Tune Prelude No. 1." The program concludes with "Promethean Fire," a work that examines a kaleidoscope of emotional colors in the human condition. Set to three keyboard works by Bach, dancers costumed in black, weave in and out of intricate patterns that mirror the way varied emotions weave themselves through life.

"The evening's program shows the wide spectrum of Mr. Taylor's choreographic range," said Paul Taylor Dance Company Member Christina Lynch Markham. "In Eventide, the subtle gestures of loving couples can be seen against a pastoral landscape. We view couples in different stages of their relationship and let out a collective sigh when we realize that not all of them live happily ever after. The dramatic orchestration of Bach, intricate patterns, and group unisons immediately draws us all into Promethean Fire. Dressed in the same costumes, the dancers move as one unit to guide the audience through a variety of feelings - from the grim despair of a pile of bodies to the final tableau of hope. Finally, in a time of political uncertainty, there is nothing more important to an artist than turning to art to express our emotions and push forward for change. Changes starts with a fearless individual and grows stronger with the collective. As artists, we need

to stand united and BE that change. Fueled by the music of The Mamas and The Papas, we dance, we question authority, we demand radical Change."

Ticket prices for the performance range from \$29 to \$89. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.MichiganOpera.org](http://www.MichiganOpera.org), by calling (313) 237-7464 or in person at the Detroit Opera House (1526 Broadway, Detroit).

The 2017-18 dance season is made possible by the Lear Corporation.

For more information visit <http://www.michiganopera.org/dance/paul-taylor-dance-company/>.

### **Paul Taylor Dance Company**

*At the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit*

**Saturday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, April 22, 2:30 p.m.**

###

### **About Michigan Opera Theatre**

Michigan Opera Theatre (Wayne S. Brown, President and CEO; Stephen Lord, Principal Conductor, Dr. David DiChiera, Founder and Artistic Director Emeritus), 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](http://www.michiganopera.org).

### **About the Paul Taylor Dance Company:**

The world-renowned Paul Taylor Dance Company sets the global standard for contemporary dance excellence. Since the company's founding in 1954, Mr. Taylor has choreographed 147 dances, many of which have attained iconic status and have been celebrated throughout the world. The Company has performed in some 524 cities in 64 countries. The 2018 Lincoln Center season marks the Company's 64th performing year.