

A Class Act 2011



Back by Popular Demand!

Theresa Koon

The 17th annual classical music and decadent dessert revue, benefiting the Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship Fund of Equity Foundation. Helping 3rd and 4th-year law students dedicated to fighting bigotry and discrimination.

Friday, April 29th 2011
7:30pm
The Old Church
1422 SW 11th
Portland, Oregon

Tickets
\$40 in advance
\$50 at the door

Tickets are available at:
Funny Bone, 617 SW Washington St.
or online at www.ogalla.org/aaclassact.html

Information
503-286-1752



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Photo by
Matthias C.

A Spring In Their Steps

April performances showcase local choreographers and dancers

BY REBECCA RAGAIN

Organizing a professional-caliber dance performance is no small endeavor. In addition to creating and rehearsing the dance works on the program, there are myriad production details to handle, from booking an appropriate venue to organizing ticket sales, from engaging a lighting designer to finding volunteers to clean up after the audience has left.

Many talented choreographers don't have the resources to organize a full-scale production on their own. That's where collaborative groups like PDX Dance Collective and the Dance Coalition of Oregon come in; both are presenting April performances that showcase the work of diverse independent choreographers and dancers.

The Dance Coalition of Oregon is the more established of the two groups. The nonprofit organization was founded more than 20 years ago to support dance in all its forms. Part of that support has historically been to present the coalition's annual *Blue Sky* concerts, featuring a variety of dancers and choreographers from a range of genres and levels of accomplishment.

"Many of the groups wouldn't have a

chance to have their work seen if not for the coalition," says Martha Murphy Hall, a spokesperson for Dance Coalition of Oregon. (Murphy Hall is also participating as an artist in the coalition's upcoming *Blue Sky* concert series.)

The *Blue Sky* concert series, supported in part by a grant from the Regional Arts & Culture Council, consists of four different programs, April 8-10. More than 25 choreographers are contributing their work; represented dance forms include modern, ballet, ethnic dance, hip-hop, tap, belly dance and others.

Blue Sky participants run the gamut from emerging to established. Choreographer Agnieszka Laska spent nearly 20 years working with the modern dance company Balet Form Nowoczesnych of Poland before she joined the Portland dance community. Cerrin Lathrop, on the other hand, earned her B.F.A. in dance in 2007. She has since acted as co-artistic director of a Phoenix-area dance company, Temenos Dance Collective, and performed with Polaris Dance Theatre's second company, Polaris II, here in Portland.



Choreographer Agnieszka Laska's piece *The Fall '01*

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-MARTHA MURPHY HALL,
DANCE COALITION OF OREGON
SPOKESPERSON

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