

For Immediate Release

**BALLET CREOLE'S UNIVERSAL HOLIDAY TRADITION
TURNS 14 WITH A BRAND NEW SOUND**

***Toronto's Ballet Creole Dance Company and The Nathaniel Dett Chorale join together to
present "An Indigo Christmas...Soulful Messiah", December 4 – 6, 2015***



The Nathaniel Dett Chorale in concert; Ballet Creole Dance Company and Guest Artist David Cox – Soulful Messiah 2013

(August 19, 2015; Toronto, Ontario) – Ballet Creole, one of Toronto's premier dance companies and the Forerunners of Blacks in Dance in Canada, has presented their holiday production ***Soulful Messiah*** to critical acclaim for the past 14 years. This year the Company will collaborate with Canada's premier Afrocentric choral group, **The Nathaniel Dett Chorale**, to present ***"An Indigo Christmas...Soulful Messiah"*** as part of Harbourfront Centre's NextSteps Series, **Friday December 4 to Sunday December 6 at the Fleck Dance Theatre** in Toronto.

Artistic Directors **Patrick Parson of Ballet Creole** and **Brainerd Blyden-Taylor of The Nathaniel Dett Chorale**, both native sons of Trinidad and Tobago, are excited to present this collaborative work to the Toronto public this holiday season. Blyden-Taylor will rework the musical score of Quincy Jones' Grammy Award-winning R&B rendition of Handel's Messiah – *Handel's Messiah: A Soulful Celebration* – with the voices of the chorale along with a 5-piece band; providing inspiration for Parson to reimagine his original choreography which has progressively developed with each new presentation.

Elements of Soulful Messiah will remain, such as reputed tapper and Guest Artist David Cox and lighting direction by Brad Trenaman. However, ***An Indigo Christmas...Soulful Messiah*** will represent the combination of two of Toronto's most acclaimed Afrocentric performing arts organization and will be one step closer to Parson's original vision of this production – 14 years ago.

Show Details

An Indigo Christmas...Soulful Messiah, presented by Ballet Creole and The Nathaniel Dett Chorale as part of Harbourfront Centre's NextSteps 15|16

When: Friday December 4th to Sunday December 6th, 2015

Where: Fleck Dance Theatre, 207 Queen's Quay West, 3rd floor of the Queen's Quay Terminal

Ticket Info: <http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com/nextsteps/ballet-creole-and-nathaniel-dett-chorale/> or call Harbourfront Centre box office for details at 416.973.4000.

Ballet Creole's 2015/2016 season is generously supported by:

Public funders – Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts
Presenter – NextSteps 15|16

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For Press Inquiries, Photo Ops, and access to Online Image Library, contact:
416-960-0350 x0 | marketing@balletcreole.org

About Ballet Creole:

Active on the Canadian dance scene since August 1990, Ballet Creole has been recognized as a Company where “*multicultural traditions blend deliciously with profound theatrical expression*”. Their high-energy works range from African ritualism to abstract modern, with a repertoire driven by the rhythm of the drums.

While focusing on traditional and contemporary performing arts of the Caribbean and Africa, Ballet Creole aims to establish a dynamic new artistic tradition in Canada based on a “creolization”, or fusion, of diverse dance and music traditions. The organization comprises both a professional ensemble of dancers and musicians and a School of Performing Arts, both under the direction of Artistic Director and Founder, Patrick A. Parson.

For more information on Ballet Creole visit www.balletcreole.org.

About The Nathaniel Dett Chorale:

One of Canada’s “*national treasures*”, The Nathaniel Dett Chorale has worked hard to bring Afrocentric music to people at home and abroad. This dedication has recently earned them industry recognition as the CAPACOA Touring Artist of the Year 2008-09. This award recognizes performers whose professionalism and cooperative spirit enhance their relationship with presenters, such as cooperation in performance promotion, technical facilitation, contract fulfillment, or service above and beyond contractual agreements.

Named for the celebrated African-Canadian composer, the Nathaniel Dett Chorale is Canada's first professional choral group dedicated to Afrocentric music of all styles, including classical, spiritual, gospel, jazz, folk and blues. The Chorale is comprised of classically trained, multi-talented vocalists whose work stretches beyond the traditional repertoire of a classical chamber choir, challenging audiences to broaden their vision to include all genres of music appropriate to the traditions of the African Diaspora. These 21 classically-trained, outstanding vocalists have shared the stage with internationally recognized artists such as Juno Award-winning jazz pianist Joe Sealy, opera star Kathleen Battle, and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. The Chorale recently had the honour of performing at various ceremonies in Washington on the occasion of President Obama's historic inauguration.

For more information please visit www.nathanieldettchorale.org.

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