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NEVILLE
DANCE THEATRE

World Premiere Performances

'53 Movements'

Taking on Terry Riley's Musical Masterpiece 'In C'

Saturday, June 1, 3:00pm and 7:30pm
@Dixon Place 161A Chrystie Street, New York, NY

Tickets: General Admission \$30, Students & Seniors \$18
<https://www.nevilledance.com/events>

Manhattan contemporary ballet company Neville Dance Theatre takes on legendary composer Terry Riley's musical masterpiece '*In C*' in a bold new 45-minute work entitled '*53 Movements*' set to the 2011 live performance recording by Bang On a Can All-Stars.

Often referred to as the founding work of music minimalism, Terry Riley's pioneering 1964 composition '*In C*' consists of 53 short, set musical phrases played with improvisational aspects. In the same vein, director and choreographer Brenda Neville, known for her intelligence and musicality, along with her company dancers, have created corresponding movement phrases originating from and incorporating improvisational liberties, culminating in an intricately layered feast of movement and music that is unique with each and every performance.

"Beautiful and engaging"

Composer Terry Riley

"Exceptional"

Dixon Place, NYC work-in-progress showing patron

"Unique choreography and a great visual experience"

Dixon Place, NYC work-in-progress showing patron

Remarked choreographer Neville: "From the first time I heard Terry Riley's score *In C*, which was in 2017 of a performance recording by Bang on a Can All-Stars, I was instantly inspired and fell in love with it. The vibrant orchestral layerings, the driving underlying pulse, and the ever-changing uniqueness of the musical scoring caused movement phrases to instantly play across my mind's eye (a choreographer's dream!). I knew immediately that I wanted to choreograph to it at some point. I found my anchor the following year when I attended a live performance of the piece at Carnegie Hall. It was there I first learned of the improvisational components of the piece which is, while being

comprised of 53 distinct, set musical phrases, the musicians are allowed certain liberties as they play, causing each and every performance to be unique. Amazing! Ingenious! And I thought, what would happen if the same thing was tried with movement, while performing to the musical score? Hence the concept for *53 Movements* was born."

Composer Terry Riley, upon seeing the video of the first 8 minutes of Neville's work, which was presented in November 2018 at Dixon Place with the Paul Taylor II company, enthusiastically responded: "I enjoyed watching the video you sent of what you have done so far," adding "I think you have taken a very integrated and interesting approach to modeling dance moves on the interactive patterning of the music. I think your work is quite beautiful and engaging."

While based in classical ballet, artistic director and resident choreographer Brenda Neville's works have a definite contemporary edge with a street style flavoring and theatrical flare. Many of her works are on pointe and incorporate vibrant back wall slide projections that further the works thematic subjects. Her choreography has been described as remarkably musical, bold and delightfully unpredictable, though she is just as comfortable and capable producing a classically traditional ballet as she is at evoking provocative sensuality.

Neville Dance Theatre has been invited to perform in countless festivals and shared bill evenings in the New York area and at venues including the Jamaica Performing Arts Center, Kumble Theatre for the Performing Arts, Hudson Theatre Guild and the 92nd Street Y, plus annual self-produced seasons.

The company fulfills its mission by offering compelling repertory of innovative and exciting works and serves as a professional platform for versatile and talented dancers to perform and share their artistry and significance of dance with audiences of all ages.

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

The company's spring season is sponsored by PhysioWellness, Art for Life & Education and Freed of London.

Neville Dance Theatre

Hailed as "*compelling*", "*imaginative*" and a "*pure delight*" by both critics and patrons alike, Neville Dance Theatre brings theatrical and thematic innovation to contemporary ballet. Through eclectic and universally themed works that celebrate the human spirit and our shared world, this vibrant company creates a colorful tapestry of movement that's woven from a diverse array of dance styles, enabling the joy and artistry of dance to be felt by audiences of all ages and persuasions. The company also prides itself on fostering an artistic exchange of styles, outlooks and attitudes with both its artists and its audiences, and for furthering an increased appreciation of dance as a powerful means of expression, communication and artistry.

Founded in 2005 by Brenda R. Neville and comprised of artists from around the world, Neville Dance Theatre regularly performs at venues and festivals throughout the five boroughs including the 92nd Street Y Fridays@Noon Series, Queens Fringe Festival, COOL NY Dance Festival, DUMBO Dance Festival, the NYC Dance Parade and Dance Fest, and has been presented by venues such as the Jamaica Performing Arts Center, Lincoln Square BID, the Kumble Theatre for the Performing Arts in

Brooklyn, and at the Hudson Guild Theatre in Manhattan. The company annually presents New York City seasons of new works and repertory favorites.

Neville Dance Theatre has been recognized in media and press publications including Dance Magazine, Time Out New York, the New York Post and on Fox 5's 'Good Day New York'. Neville Dance Theatre offers educational workshops, classes and intensives to schools, universities and organizations in a wide array of dance styles, including repertory, classical ballet, contemporary dance, Argentine Tango, Flamenco and others. They are available both in conjunction with our performances or independently as an educational components. Neville Dance Theatre is a non-profit, 501c3 organization.

About Brenda R. Neville

Brenda R. Neville is an international performer, accredited teacher and choreographer, with her work having been described as “compelling”, “imaginative” and a “pure delight” by critics. Since 2006 she has choreographed and staged three full length ballets and numerous contemporary dance works for her New York based company Neville Dance Theatre, which performs throughout the New York area and beyond at venues and prestigious festivals including Dixon Place, the 92nd Street Y, The Ailey Theatre, The Riverside Theatre and Jamaica Performing Arts Center. She is a faculty instructor at both The Ailey School and Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn where she teaches ballet and pointe classes. She is a nationally reknown pointe shoe fitter and consultant for students at prestigious schools across the country and is currently the head of the US Retail Sales Department at Freed of London, USA. Brenda performed classical and contemporary ballet for over two decades and in more than 18 countries with the Milwaukee Ballet School, Butler Ballet and Indianapolis Dance Company; Argentine Tango, Flamenco and Irish Step Dance with international touring company All Nations Dance Company and artists from Riverdance and Cirque de Soleil, and lead roles in regional theatre productions of Crazy for You, La Cage aux Folles and Footloose to name a few. She has a BA in Dance Pedagogy from Butler University, trained in method acting at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in NYC and is a certified teacher of the ABT National Training Curriculum from Primary to Level 5.

Company Dancers Bios available at <https://www.nevilledance.com/about.html>

Laura Dearman

John Durbin

Ally Sacks

Lauren Settembrino

Michelle Siegel

Natalie Stys

Amanda Summers

Tanya Trombly

Emmy Spaar (apprentice/understudy)