



Wednesday Evening, March 18, 2020 at 7:30
Thursday Evening, March 19, 2020 at 7:30
Friday Evening, March 20, 2020 at 8:00
Saturday Evening, March 21, 2020 at 8:00

The Jam Handy
Detroit

ANTHEM

Milka Djordjevich
Choreographer

81st, 82nd, 83rd, and 84th Performances of the 141st Annual Season
29th Annual Dance Series

RENEGHUT

This week's performances are supported by The Renegade Venture Fund, established by the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation.

This week's performances are funded in part by the William Davidson Foundation and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Endowment Fund.

Media partnership provided by WEMU 89.1 FM and *Metro Times*.

Special thanks to Liza Bielby, Richard Newman, and The Hinterlands for their collaboration on this week's performances.

Special thanks to Shannon Nulf, Grace Lehman, and the Ann Arbor Y, for their participation in events surrounding this week's performances.

ANTHEM is managed by Los Angeles Performance Practice/PerformancePractice.org.

In consideration of the artists and the audience, please refrain from the use of electronic devices during the performance.

The photography, sound recording, or videotaping of this performance is prohibited.

CREATIVE TEAM

Choreography / Milka Djordjevich

Performance / Laurel Atwell, Dorothy Dubrule, Allie Hankins, and
devika wickremesinghe

Music / Chris Peck

Lighting / Madeline Best

Lighting Assistant / Katelan Braymer

Audio Engineer / Duncan Woodbury

Costume Design / Naomi Luppescu

This evening's performance is approximately one hour in duration and is performed without intermission.

ANTHEM premiered in October 2017 at the Los Angeles Exchange [LAX] Festival and is commissioned by the Chocolate Factory Theater and Los Angeles Performance Practice.

ANTHEM was made possible in part by the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University, a Pennington Dance Group SPACE GRANT @ ARC Pasadena, and the Z. Clark Branson Foundation.



Following Wednesday evening's performance, please feel free to remain in your seats and join us for a post-performance Q&A with members of the company.

ARTISTS

Milka Djordjevich (*choreographer*) is a choreographer, performer, and teacher. Her work draws from a variety of compositional strategies to question preconceived notions of dance, examining the moving female body in the so-called “neutral” space of theater. Ms. Djordjevich’s works include *ANTHEM* (2017), commissioned by Los Angeles Performance Practice and The Chocolate Factory Theater. In 2013, Ms. Djordjevich created and performed *Kinetic Makeover*, a solo piece that confers power and autonomy on one body, which premiered at The Chocolate Factory Theater and toured nationally and internationally. Her long-standing collaborations with composer Chris Peck challenge conventional partnerships between choreographers and composers, rediscovering music as a practice of the body and dance as a mode of listening. Their work *MASS* (2015) premiered at The Kitchen, with additional performances at Show Box LA/Bootleg Theater and the American Realness Festival. Her forthcoming work *CORPS*, commissioned by New York Live Arts, reveals the cyclical feminine labor through the lens of militaristic, ritualistic, and socialist movement forms. Ms. Djordjevich’s works have also been presented at the REDCAT, LA Dance Platform, Danspace Project, Dance Theater Workshop, The Whitney Museum, The Philadelphia Thing, Portland Institute of Contemporary Art’s Time-Based Art Festival, Berkeley Art Museum, and Santa Ana Sites, as well as internationally in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Macedonia, Poland, Serbia, and the UK. She has served as co-editor for Movement Research’s *Critical Correspondence* and initiated the Monday Class series at Pieter in Los Angeles. She

is a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Artist Grant recipient (2020) and was a Princeton University Hodder Fellow (2017–18), a danceWEB Europe Scholar (2008/2010), and a Movement Research Artist-in-Residence (2006–07). She has also held residencies at Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography; PACT Zollverien; Fabrik Potsdam; and Workspace Brussels. She has taught at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA), Pomona College, and University of California at Irvine, Riverside and Los Angeles. Ms. Djordjevich received a BA from the University of California, Los Angeles and an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College. In 2016, she established STANA, an organization cultivating local, national, and international dance connections.

Laurel Atwell (*performer*) has been building performances since 2008 through residencies from chashama, The Field, Jonah Bokaer Arts Foundation, and Movement Research. She recently presented the trio *We Wield* as part of Gibney Dance’s DoublePlus series. Like most of her work, *We Wield* was built from the fascination with how interpersonal relations and non-verbal communication has the potential to break down accepted rules of engagement in order to better support intimate constructions of time. In doing so, does escaping tyranny become possible? Is freedom a goal anymore? Collaborations are a constant in Ms. Atwell’s process: co-choreographing/performing various worm states with Jessica Cook at PAM and Central Park Gallery in Los Angeles and MoMA PS1’s VW Dome; *Holding it Together* with Athena Kokoronis/Domestic Performance Agency; and curating and editing the

dance pamphlets for 53rd State Press. She performs regularly for other artists including Melanie Maar, Melinda Ring, Milka Djordjevich (her performance in *ANTHEM* earned her a 2018 “Outstanding Performance” Bessie nomination), Mariangela Lopez, Ursula Eagly, and Luciana Achugar. As a somatic apothecary she teaches *qi gong* and offers supportive energetic activations via reiki, *gua sha*, and stick + poke tattoos.

Madeline Best (*lighting designer*) designs lighting and is the director of production at the Chocolate Factory Theater. Ms. Best graduated from Bennington College, grew up in Durham, North Carolina, and currently lives in Long Island City, Queens. Recent design projects include work with the artists Paulina Olowska, Andrea Kleine, Anna Azrieli, Ursula Eagly, Heather Kravas, Katie Workum, Aki Sasamoto, Milka Djordjevich, Keely Garfield, Sophia Cleary and Neal Medlyn, and Yve Laris Cohen.

Dorothy Dubrule (*performer*) is a choreographer and performer based in Los Angeles. Her choreography is often made in collaboration with people who do not identify as dancers and has been performed in theaters as well as bars, clubs, galleries, sound stages, and sports arenas. She has performed in the work of artists, choreographers, and directors such as Alexx Shilling, Alison D’Amato, Lea Anderson, Melinda Ring, Milka Djordjevich, Narcissister, Tino Sehgal, and Zoe Aja Moore. She received an MFA from UCLA’s department of world arts and cultures/dance and has been the director of Pieter Performance Space since 2017. Prior to moving to LA, she danced with DIY performance collective Club Lyfestile

and comedy fly-girl crew Body Dreamz in Philadelphia. A board member of Grex, the West coast affiliate of the AK Rice Institute for the Study of Social Systems, she organizes workshops and writes about issues of social identity and power as they arise in dance contexts. Following the publication of her essay, “What I’m Doing When I’m Selling Out,” on SF MoMA’s Open Space, she is currently working with 53rd State Press to edit a collection of writing by performers who have been contracted by visual arts institutions to work in live exhibitions. For more information, please visit dorothydubrule.com.

Allie Hankins (*performer*) is a Portland-based dancer, performer, and performance maker. Her current collaborators include Physical Education (Lu Yim, Keyon Gaskin, and Taka Yamamoto), Linda Austin, and Rachael Dichter (SF). Most recently, Ms. Hankins has danced for Milka Djordjevich (LA) and Morgan Thorson (Minneapolis). She has been an artist in residence at Headlands Center for the Arts, the Djerassi Resident Artist Program, the Robert Rauschenberg Residency, Caldera, the Wassaic Project, and will be in residence at Ucross in April/May 2020. She’s currently reading *Zany, Cute, Interesting* by Sianne Ngai, *Calamities* by Renee Gladman, all the Ali Smith she can get her hands on, and she is eagerly awaiting her turn on the library’s waitlist for *In the Dream House* by Carmen Maria Machado. She loves book recommendations.

Naomi Lupescu (*costume design*) is a New York City-based costume designer. She received her BFA in dance from SUNY Purchase and as a dancer she always felt a great need for costumes that were

better-suited for the moving body, hence honing her craft at the Fashion Institute of Technology and the Danish Design School. By working closely with choreographers, she now specializes in costumes for dance. She has designed costumes for Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Parsons Dance, Houston METdance, Keigwin + Company, Bruce Wood Dance Project, Alvin Ailey II, LeeSaar the Company, Kate Skarpetowska, Manuel Vignoulle, Elisa Monte Dance, Loni Landon Dance Projects, and Shen Wei Dance Arts. She is delighted to work on her second project with Milka Djordjevich.

Chris Peck (*music*) is a composer, computer musician, and improviser who often collaborates with contemporary dance and theater. His recent music theater work with Eleanor Bauer, *New Joy*, premiered at Schauspielhaus Bochum and the Kunstenfestivaldesarts in 2019. Mr. Peck also performs as an improviser with Jon Moniaci and Stephen Rush under the name Crystal Mooncone. The trio's fifth album, *Listening Beam Five*, is available from Innova Recordings. Mr. Peck lives in Berlin, where he works as a software developer at Ableton.

devika v. wickremesinghe (*performer*) is a performing artist based in Los Angeles. She has had the pleasure of working with artists including Big Dance Theater, Milka Djordjevich, Kate Fisher, Levi Gonzalez, Maria Hassabi, KJ Holmes, Laurel Jenkins, Jennie MaryTai Liu, Mariangela Lopez, and taisha paggett. devika creates film and live performance with Samantha Allen as CEOs of the INSTITUT IDGAF. For more information, please visit institutidgaf.com.

PerformancePractice.org is the national touring extension of **Los Angeles Performance Practice**, a non-profit

organization devoted to the production and presentation of contemporary performance by artists whose work advances and challenges multidisciplinary artistic practices. Founded by Miranda Wright in 2010, its mission is to support a unique and diverse constellation of artists and audiences through the active creation and presentation of groundbreaking experiences that use innovative approaches to collaboration, technology, and social engagement. Anchored in Los Angeles, its artists and projects have national and global reach.

Built in 1919 as the Maranatha Baptist Tabernacle, **The Jam Handy** building was converted into a commercial film studio in the late-1920s by Henry Jamison ("Jam") Handy. His advertising firm — first called the Jam Handy Picture Service, later the Jam Handy Organization — quickly became one of the largest industrial film production companies in the world, producing advertisements and instructional videos for hundreds of clients, including General Motors/Chevrolet, AT&T, Westinghouse, Montgomery Ward, and the US military. While the studio closed in the late 1970s, and the building re-purposed into a home for the televised evangelical church, Faith for Miracles, thousands of the original films were rescued and later digitized and are accessible via YouTube and the Internet Archive. The building continued to house a series of churches throughout the 1990s, but by the early 2000s was abandoned. In 2011 it was purchased in the Wayne County tax auction and began its current use as an events venue, with an emphasis on community and art-related projects.

UMS welcomes the company of ANTHEM as they make their UMS debuts this week.

**THANK YOU TO SUPPORTERS OF
THIS WEEK'S PERFORMANCES**

Lead Presenting Sponsor

**The Renegade Venture Fund,
established by the Maxine and
Stuart Frankel Foundation**

Foundation Support

William Davidson Foundation

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MAY WE ALSO RECOMMEND...

- 4/3-4 *HOME*
4/9 Zakir Hussain
4/16-19 American Ballet Theatre: *Swan Lake*

Tickets available at www.ums.org.

ON THE EDUCATION HORIZON...

- 4/3 Post-Performance Artist Q&A: *HOME*
 (Power Center)
 Must have a ticket to that evening's performance to attend.
- 4/23 UMS 101: Classical Music – Chineke! Orchestra
 (Hill Auditorium Lower Lobby, 6:00-7:30 pm)
 Paid registration required at <http://bit.ly/UMSClasses> (case sensitive).
- 4/23 Post-Performance Panel Discussion: Chineke! Orchestra
 (Hill Auditorium)
 Must have a ticket to that evening's performance to attend.

Educational events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.