

MEDIA ALERT: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VISA RENEWAL GRANTED FOR DANCER LIANG FU

Cincinnati Ballet, dance world leaders and Cincinnati community worked together to secure dancer's continued legal status in the United States.

CINCINNATI, OH – Cincinnati Ballet staff members are celebrating after receiving word today that the US. Citizen and Immigration Services office has approved the visa application for Cincinnati Ballet dancer and teacher Liang Fu.

After USCIS received the company's initial renewal on the O-1 Visa application, the office requested additional evidence regarding Fu's achievements.

"We mailed a huge stack of supporting documentation from choreographers and community and political leaders, news articles, broadcast features and critical reviews and hundreds of letters from patrons," says Susan Jacob, Cincinnati Ballet Company Manager.

"I am thrilled," says Victoria Morgan, Cincinnati Ballet Artistic Director and CEO. "The Cincinnati community rallied around this wonderful dancer and showed phenomenal support for our beloved Fu and his role in our Cincinnati Ballet. We are so grateful for the outpouring of support from this community."

Cincinnati Ballet submitted 118 individual exhibits, including 18 pounds of paper, 342 letters from community members and patrons, eight recommendations from international choreographers, and dozens of letters of support from community leaders.

Fu appears prominently on Cincinnati Ballet's 2010-11 season brochure and posters with an intense, determined expression and powerful stance as he partners with Corps de Ballet Dancer Maizyalet Velazquez. Fu has signed a contract as a Corps de Ballet Dancer with Cincinnati Ballet for 2010-11 season as well as a teaching contract with Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy, where he teaches the Academy's boys' class.

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Biography: Liang Fu

Liang Fu was born in Qing Dao, China. He began his dance education in one of the world's most prestigious ballet institutions, the Beijing Dance Academy, under the direction of Cao Jing Rong. After graduating from the Academy in 2001, he accepted an invitation to join the Singapore Dance Theater (SDT), where he danced until 2006. During his years with SDT, he performed many solo and principal roles in the company's classical and contemporary ballets. His repertoire there included works by Marius Petipa, Jiri Kylian, Ohad Naharin, August Bournonville, Choo San Goh and many other world famous choreographers. In 2003, he was invited to perform at the celebrated Gala of Benois de La Danse Competition at Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, Russia. Following this honor, he went on to win first prize at the Asia Pacific International Ballet Competition 2005 in Tokyo, Japan. He joined Universal Ballet Company in Seoul, Korea in 2007. In the short period of time spent there, he enriched his repertoire with works by Oleg Vinogradov and Vassili Vainonen, among several other choreographers. Mr. Fu joined Cincinnati Ballet in 2008 in the Corps de Ballet. The 2009-10 Season marked his second year with the company. His Dancer Fellowship Sponsors through the company are Peggy and Jim Bridgeland and Philip and Sheila Cohen.

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