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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CINCINNATI BALLET PRESENTS *INFAMOUS LOVE SONGS*  
WITH THE BAND OVER THE RHINE**

*Unique, innovative collaboration brings Cincinnati Ballet together with internationally beloved Americana/folk indie band for three performances*

Cincinnati Ballet presents *Infamous Love Songs*, the unique cross-disciplinary collaboration that brings beloved songwriting team Over the Rhine together with Cincinnati Ballet dancers and choreographers. Over the Rhine performs live for all three performances April 29 and 30 at 8 pm and April 30 at 2 pm. Internationally renowned choreographers **Donald Byrd**, **Devon Carney** and **Missy Lay Zimmer** and **Andrew Hubbard** interpret Over the Rhine's songs of love, life and the human experience.

"This company's identity is all about experimenting with new ideas," says **Victoria Morgan**, Cincinnati Ballet CEO and Artistic Director. "Pairing these soulful songwriters and their passionate lyricism with Cincinnati Ballet dancers stretches our art form beyond the beauty and power of precise technique. It stretches us to express passion, invite new audiences and challenge preconceptions of what 'ballet' means."

This production marks the first full-length collaboration between Cincinnati Ballet and Over the Rhine. The annual season opener *New Works* has featured Over the Rhine for the last two seasons, bringing dance and movement to the band's music.

"I love what they do. And I love supporting the Cincinnati Ballet, says **Karin Bergquist**, in an interview for *Cincy Magazine* with David Lyman. Bergquist and husband **Linford Detweiler** make up the core of the band Over the Rhine.

"It's such an amazing thing, the symbiosis between the music and the dance — the two live art forms," says Bergquist. "There's risk and danger and excitement that you can't get any other way. It hypes up the adrenaline. And most important, it gives the audience something extra."

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Internationally celebrated choreographer **Donald Byrd** has created a series of dances to seven songs from Over the Rhine's recent release *The Long Surrender* as well as older albums *Drunkard's Prayer* and *Ohio*. Together the songs present a loose story arc.

"Each section of the piece is a different woman's point of view about a relationship," says Byrd. "It really captures the feeling of a contemporary torch song. Memory is very much a part of it, feeling and emotion is very much a part of it. It's an abstract narrative. It doesn't have a literal story line, but is more song-like."

Engaging Donald Byrd to choreograph to Over the Rhine's soulful-cerebral torch songs makes great sense. "I like the idea of people being engaged in dance, so they are thinking and they are feeling, so that it's a really complex kind of experience," says Byrd. "It's the place where thinking and feeling converges."

Over the Rhine's music was new to **Devon Carney**, who as a former Boston Ballet Principal Dancer and current Associate Artistic Director for Cincinnati Ballet, has not worked with music in this genre before.

"I've grown to love the music," says Carney. "I really appreciate Karin's singing, her sense of timing, her sensitivity and vocal creativity. And what a voice. Some of the songs are so moving I want to cry."

The music isn't the only thing that's new for Carney. "It's my first time working with a live band," he says. "I'm used to orchestras, where you have a lead conductor keeping the tempo of the music and dance held together. How much of a song performed by a band is improvisational? It's very risky – it will be unique and challenging for every dancer."

**Missy Lay Zimmer and Andrew Hubbard**, another husband-and-wife artistic duo, choreograph another section of the program. It was their suggestion in 2009 that impelled Cincinnati Ballet to work with Over the Rhine.

"Working with Cincinnati Ballet and Over the Rhine has been a big honor," says Zimmer. "Our work has a sensual, soulful and individual way of expression that we feel Over the Rhine also possess. So the combination feels fulfilling to us as movement architects." She continues, "As a married couple that creates together all over the US, it is always a lovely experience to create work surrounding love."

## **MEDIA**

Videos, Q&As with the choreographers and the band and rehearsal images are available on Cincinnati Ballet's web site [cballet.org](http://cballet.org). High-resolution images from Cincinnati Ballet's preview of *Infamous Love Songs* from *New Works 2010* are available at <http://media.gamedaypr.com/ft2.php?dir=%2F2010-2011%20Cincinnati%20Ballet%2FInfamous%20Love%20Songs>

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## **ARTIST BIOS**

### **Over the Rhine**

Southern Ohio-based band Over the Rhine formed in 1989, with husband-and-wife songwriting team Karin Bergquist and Linford Detweiler at its core. Named for the Cincinnati neighborhood (where, coincidentally, Cincinnati Ballet studios are located), Over the Rhine's prolific career features 13 studio albums, five live albums, compilations and solo projects. Their ever-evolving music combines heartfelt, poetic and intimate lyrics with solid, heartbreaking melodies and soulful vocals. Author Daniel Radosh wrote in *The New York Times*, "Karin Bergquist may be the finest singer in the alt-country / Americana scene right now, striking the perfect balance between earthy sensuality and ethereal grace." The band graces its faithful fans with affection and humor from the stage, carrying on a powerful relationship that keeps fans connected. The band's most recent album, the fan-supported *The Long Surrender* features many songs from this performance. The album was recorded in California with Grammy winning producer, Joe Henry and contains a duet with country/folk singer-songwriter Lucinda Williams. Over the Rhine tours all over the U.S. and the world, always returning to Cincinnati a few times a year to perform and visit in their hometown.

### **Donald Byrd**

Donald Byrd has served as Seattle's Spectrum Dance Theater's artistic director since 2002. He studied at Yale University, Tufts University, Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, Cambridge School of Ballet, London School of Contemporary Dance, Harvard Summer Dance Center and with Mia Slavenska. Byrd performed with Twyla Tharp Dance and Gus Solomon Jr. Company/Dance. In 1978 Byrd formed his own contemporary dance company, Donald Byrd/The Group. His group toured extensively, nationally and internationally until it closed in 2002. Byrd has choreographed more than 80 works for a variety of groups including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Philadelphia Dance Company, Dallas Black Dance Theater, Joffrey Ballet, San Francisco Opera, New York City Opera, Nederlandse Opera and Seattle Opera. He is well known for *The Harlem Nutcracker*, a new interpretation of the holiday classic. *The New York Times* called this work "exuberant, stylish entertainment." Byrd's choreography for the Broadway musical *The Color Purple* earned him a Tony Award nomination. The Dallas Morning News referred to Donald Byrd's choreography for *The Color Purple* as "highly inventive." His accomplishments also include a Bessie Award for the Minstrel Show and an Emerging Dance Award from Metropolitan Life Foundation. Byrd has served on the faculty of the California Institute for the Arts and has taught at Wesleyan University, the School of Visual Arts, Harvard Summer Dance Center, California State University Long Beach and the University of California at Santa Cruz, and currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Dance Theater Workshop in New York. He was for three years a fellow at The Institute on the Arts and Civic Dialogue at Harvard. He was appointed to the Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs in Seattle in July 2003.

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### **Devon Carney, Cincinnati Ballet Associate Artistic Director**

Devon Carney has been with Cincinnati Ballet since 2003. He trained with Harvey Hysell and danced with the New Orleans Ballet. He was a principal dancer for 12 of his 25 years with Boston Ballet. Carney has performed many leading roles in well-known classical ballets and in 20th century classical works, and in roles by cutting-edge choreographers such as Mark Morris, Maurice Béjart and Merce Cunningham. In addition, he performed a diverse Balanchine repertoire and toured extensively with greats such as Rudolph Nureyev and Fernando Bujones. At Boston Ballet, he was Ballet Master and directed the Boston Ballet Summer Dance Program for 8 years. Carney's teaching credits include Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and Pittsburgh Ballet, among many others. He has choreographed for Boston Ballet, Boston Ballet II, and the Boston Ballet Summer Dance Program, for BalletMet Columbus, and the Cincinnati Opera. At Cincinnati Ballet, where he is currently Associate Artistic Director, he choreographed *U Too?*, *Just You and Me*, *Another Time Another Space*, *Blue Rondo*, *Convergent Sight*, and *World Citizen*. Acts II and IV of *Swan Lake*, *Giselle* and *Dracula* are his full-length credits.

### **Andrew Hubbard**

The 2010 *New Works* series featured a sneak preview of the choreography Andrew Hubbard and partner Missy Lay Zimmer are creating for *Infamous Love Songs*, live with *Over the Rhine* in April 2011. Hubbard and Zimmer co-founded Exhale Dance Tribe, one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 to watch" and Planet Dance, a dance education performance project. Hubbard's dance and choreography credits include Broadway companies of *CATS* and *Footloose*, Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular, Dr. Pepper commercial, *Guiding Light* and *The Young and the Restless*. He's appeared on the Today Show, Good Morning America, in *Dance Magazine*, *Dance Spirit* and *Anatomy 2*. Hubbard was on faculty at the acclaimed Broadway Dance Center in New York City and has taught at numerous colleges and universities including Cincinnati Ballet, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and SCPA. Hubbard's work for *New Works* has been a fulfilling experience, he says, because of "the chance to collaborate with *Over the Rhine*, another husband-and-wife duo for a second time."

### **Missy Lay Zimmer**

Missy Lay Zimmer is co-founder of Exhale Dance Tribe and Planet Dance with partner Andrew Hubbard. Her choreography and dance credits include the Broadway and national companies of *CATS* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and co-choreography for Mariah Carey's video *All I Want for Christmas*. Zimmer's choreography earned her an award for Broadway Cares Equity Fight AIDS' Easter Bonnet Competition. She also holds the 2007 CEA for Critical Achievement in Choreography. Zimmer trained at SCPA, CCM Preparatory Department and Joffery Ballet. She was a faculty member at the Broadway Dance Center (NYC) and has taught master classes for Cincinnati Ballet and CCM. *New Works 2010* marks Zimmer's second *New Works-Over the Rhine* collaboration, a sneak preview of April's *Infamous Love Songs*, featuring the band live at each performance. "Our work has a sensual, soulful and individual way of expression that we feel *Over the Rhine* also possess, so the combination feels fulfilling to us as movement architects," she says.

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## PERFORMANCE DATES AND INFORMATION

- WHO:** Cincinnati Ballet  
Choreography: Donald Byrd, Devon Carney, Andrew Hubbard, Missy Lay Zimmer  
Music: Over the Rhine
- WHAT:** *Infamous Love Songs*  
**[3 WORLD PREMIERES]** Artistic Director & CEO Victoria Morgan offers an audacious and adventurous series. Linford Detweiler and Karin Bergquist's internationally beloved band Over the Rhine performs live for three performances. Three choreographers bring artistic movement to this exciting live performance. Devon Carney, Associate Artistic Director, blends classical vocabulary and contemporary energy. Exhale Dance Tribe's co-founders and artistic directors Missy Lay Zimmer and Andrew Hubbard offer their daring lyrical and narrative style. Donald Byrd, artistic director of Spectrum Dance Theater in Seattle and former artistic director of Donald Byrd/The Group brings his internationally acclaimed contemporary vision.
- WHEN:** Friday, April 29, 2011 8 PM  
Saturday, April 30, 2011 2 PM  
Saturday, April 30, 2011 8 PM
- WHERE:** Aronoff Center for the Arts  
650 Walnut Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202
- HOW:** Call 513-621-5282 or visit [cballet.org](http://cballet.org) to purchase tickets.  
\$30 - \$70 at the Cincinnati Ballet Box Office

## **About Cincinnati Ballet**

Since 1963, Cincinnati Ballet has been the cornerstone professional ballet company of the region, presenting a mix of important classical full-length ballets and an adventurous, vibrant mix of repertory ballets, regularly with live orchestral accompaniment. Cincinnati Ballet's mission is to inspire hope and joy in our community and beyond through the power and passion of dance. Our mantra is "Everybody dances." To that end, Cincinnati Ballet presents exhilarating performances, extensive education outreach programs (including professional lecture-demos, residencies, scholarship programs and student matinees), and offers top level professional ballet training at Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy, which enjoys an enrollment of more than a thousand participants in multi-level programs across two studio campuses. BRAVO! is the Ballet Resource and Volunteer Organization committed to the financial stability and the artistic excellence of Cincinnati Ballet.

Cincinnati Ballet's 2010 -2011 Season is generously sponsored by Season Sponsor The Otto M. Budig Family Foundation, Music Sponsor The Louise Dieterle Nippert Musical Arts Fund, Associate Sponsor Rhonda and Larry A. Sheakley Family Foundation and Season Funder ArtsWave.

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*Infamous Love Songs* is sponsored by the Peter T. Joseph Foundation, Rosemary & Mark Schlachter, Ernst & Young – GE Aviation, Loretta & David Cook and Megen Construction.

### Special Thanks to

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