

CHOREOGRAPHERS AND COMPOSERS

A seminar celebrating the collaborative process between dancers and musicians taught and supervised by composer Ricardo Llorca and choreographer Henning Rübsam

Music and dance are two different languages with a common goal. Music speaks through symbols we hear; dance speaks mainly to the eye. So the two art forms can speak at once. Composers and choreographers face unique problems as they collaborate on interactive performance works. Great composers have always been associated with choreographers and their ballet companies. Among them we have the works of Tchaikovsky and Petipá; the collaboration between Maurice Ravel and Mikhail Fokine; Igor Stravinsky and Balanchine, etc. In the world of modern dance we have the successful collaborations between Martha Graham and Aaron Copland or Merce Cunningham with John Cage.

Our goal is to illuminate factors that have a decisive impact on the outcome of collaboration between composers and choreographers. This class will examine their working relationship with attention to basic processes, idiosyncrasies and opportunities. The class will have a series of group discussions with musicians, choreographers, dancers and critics. We will also discuss and analyze some of the existing barriers between composer and choreographer and will explore how both worlds have influenced and changed the shape of contemporary artistic production.