

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING AND CINEMATIC ARTS

Boyer College of Music and Dance

MFA Thesis Concert:
Anna Mele and Jaelyn Stewart

Natsukashii

*Dance performances are sponsored in part by
Temple University's General Activities Fund and
the Rose Vernick Fund*

Friday, October 17, 2025 at 7:30 PM
Saturday, October 18, 2025 at 7:30 PM
Conwell Dance Theater
1801 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122

Program

Prosody in Jazz

Choreography by Anna Mele

Dancers: Angeliese Ribbe, Jaelyn Stewart, Kayla Bailey, Ella Orzechowski,
Lily Santana and Hannah Kieserman

Composer: Daniel Virgen

Live Musicians: Daniel Virgen, bass; Josh Klamka, keys;
Carter Miles, drums; Akash Singh, saxophone

Music: *Chitlins Con Carne* by Kenny Burrell, *Mule* - Remastered 1999/Rudy Van Gelder Edition by Kenny Burrell, *Midnight Blue* - Remastered 1999/Rudy Van Gelder Edition by Kenny Burrell, *K Twist (Take 35)* - Remastered 1999/Rudy Van Gelder Edition by Kenny Burrell and *Wavy Gravy* - Remastered 1999/Rudy Van Gelder Edition. All other music is composed by Daniel Virgen.

Lighting: Nylah Jackson

Intermission

Overcome

Choreography by Jaelyn Stewart

Dancers: Anna Mele, Esmeralda Luciano, Kieran Cooke, Victoria Grimaldi,
Lily Santana, Dani Sala, Endia Banks, Tanysia Rivera and
Sinai Hands

Music: *Recomposed* by Max Richter, *Heart Cry* by Drehz, *This Bitter Earth/*
On the Nature Of Daylight by Dinah Washington, *Agape* by Nicholas
Britell, *Hometown Glory* by Adele, *Pray You Catch Me* by Smooth Jazz
All Stars, *Aqua y Puerta* by Lechuga Zafiro, *Touch* by Ase Manual

Lighting: Nylah Jackson

The use of photographic, audio and video recording is not permitted.

Please turn off all electronic devices.

Twenty-third and twenty-fourth performance of the 2025-2026 season.

Production Crew

Production Manager: Laurie Benoit Mitchell

Stage Manager: Zhaisia Lessey

Backstage Crew: Kolby Bauman, Aleah Feggins, Yihang Li, Benja Newnam,
Dani Sala and Madison Wells-McFee

House Crew: Dasha Klim, Ary Koch and Eduarda Melgar

Special Thanks

“I would love to give a huge thank you to my thesis advisor Jillian Harris in addition to my thesis committee members Sherril Dodds and Laura Katz Rizzo. I truly appreciate the insight and assistance they’ve offered during this process. I would also love to thank my family and friends for their love and support throughout my journey. Lastly, I’m very grateful for my incredible cast for bringing my vision to life with passion and strength .”

Anna Mele

“Thank you to my advisor Xiang Xu and committee members Jillian Harris and Karen Bond for guiding me and supporting me through this process. Thank you to my friends and family for your constant motivation and encouragement. Most importantly thank you to my cast for your time and dedication towards bringing my vision to life.”

Jaelyn Stewart

About the Artists



ANNA MELE graduated in the spring of 2023 from Dean College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance and minor in Business. Originally from Pittsburgh, she is trained in ballet, pointe, modern, tap, jazz, lyrical, contemporary and hip hop. She has trained under Jill Silverman, Kristina Berger, Todd Shanks, Russell Clark, and guest artists such as Jay T. Jenkins. During her time at Dean College, she has found a love for performance and choreography as she has choreographed multiple pieces on students within the Joan Phelps Palladino School of Dance and the Mercersburg Academy Dance Program.

She has since moved to Philadelphia to pursue a performing career dancing under Kelli Moshen in her company Project Moshen. She is thankful to have the opportunity to perform alongside incredible women at Project Moshen's home season shows, fundraising events and dance festivals in the Philadelphia area. While living in Philadelphia, she discovered a true joy in working with children through her teaching at the Institute of Dance Artistry located in Fort Washington and Plymouth Meeting, PA. Teaching has become a passion for her, which she intends to pursue further following her graduation this winter.

Amongst all, Anna is proud to be completing her final semester at Temple University this fall. Upon graduation, she intends to teach in higher education to build meaningful connections with students and encourage their artistic development.



JAELYN STEWART (she/her) is a dance educator, artist, mentor and scholar. She is interested in the use of dance as a form of expression and creative therapy. Through her teaching and choreography, she challenges herself to use movement material in class to motivate and encourage her students, giving them tools that will not only help them in their dance education but in their everyday lives. She believes that the arts have

the ability to save our youth. Remembering the ways in which the art of dance changed her life at a young age, she is intentional about giving future artists similar opportunities and experiences. Jaelyn obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts at Fordham University where she trained with the Ailey School in New York City. During her time there she had the pleasure of training with artists such as Graciela Lebow (Kozak), Milton Myers, Hollie Wright and Tracy Inman. She also performed for multiple artists such as Nai Ni Chen, Earl Mosley and Jamar Roberts. Currently based in Mullica Hill, New Jersey, Jaelyn is a Master of Fine Arts in dance candidate at Temple University as well as a Jazz Dance teacher at Jazz Hands Dance.

Boyer College of Music and Dance

The Boyer College of Music and Dance offers over 500 events open to the public each year. Students have the unique opportunity to interact with leading performers, composers, conductors, educators, choreographers and guest artists while experiencing a challenging and diverse academic curriculum. The Boyer faculty are recognized globally as leaders in their respective fields. Boyer alumni are ambassadors of artistic leadership and perform with major orchestras, opera and dance companies, teach at schools and colleges and work as professional music therapists, choreographers and composers. Boyer's recording label, BCM&D records, has produced more than thirty recordings, five of which have received Grammy nominations.

boyer.temple.edu

The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts

The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts consists of the Boyer College of Music and Dance, School of Theater, Film and Media Arts, the George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater and the Temple Performing Arts Center. The School of Theater, Film and Media Arts engages gifted students with nationally and internationally recognized faculty scholars and professionals. A hallmark of the School of Theater, Film and Media Arts is the Los Angeles Study Away program, housed at historic Raleigh Studios. The George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater engages visiting performers, guest artists, set designers, playwrights and other Broadway professionals. The Temple Performing Arts Center (TPAC), a historic landmark on campus, is home to a state-of-the-art 1,200 seat auditorium and 200 seat chapel. More than 500 concerts, classes, lectures and performances take place at TPAC each year.

arts.temple.edu

Temple University

Temple University's history begins in 1884, when a young working man asked Russell Conwell if he could tutor him at night. It wasn't long before he was teaching several dozen students—working people who could only attend class at night but had a strong desire to make something of themselves. Conwell recruited volunteer faculty to participate in the burgeoning night school, and in 1888 he received a charter of incorporation for "The Temple College." His founding vision for the school was to provide superior educational opportunities for academically talented and highly motivated students, regardless of their backgrounds or means. The fledgling college continued to grow, adding programs and students throughout the following decades. Today, Temple's more than 35,000 students continue to follow the university's official motto—*Perseverantia Vincit*, or "Perseverance Conquers"—with their supreme dedication to excellence in academics, research, athletics, the arts and more.

temple.edu

Boyer College of Music and Dance

Upcoming Events

Faculty Recital: Works by Maurice Wright

Monday, October 20 at 7:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

Electronic Music Ensemble

Tuesday, October 21 at 5:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

CPCA Arts Interdisciplinary Research (AIR):

Manuel Cuellar (George Washington University)

Wednesday, October 22 at 5:00 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Chapel

Rite of Swing Jazz Café: TC the 3rd - Tribute to "Mr. C" Bill Carney

TC the 3rd, vocals

Marcus Persiani, piano

Nimrod Speaks, bass

Byron Landham, drums

Thursday, October 23 at 4:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Lobby

Temple University Symphony Orchestra

José Luis Domínguez, conductor

Rachel Anemone, piano

RACHMANINOV Piano Concerto No. 2

RACHMANINOV Symphony No. 2

Thursday, October 23 at 7:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center

Music Studies Colloquium: Dylan Principi (Florida State University)

Friday, October 24 at 1:00 PM

Presser Hall 142

All events are free unless otherwise noted. Programs are subject to change without notice.

For further information or to confirm events, please call 215.204.7609

or visit www.boyer.temple.edu.