

Media Contact:

Jim Schiefelbein, Executive Director | Joel Hall Dancers & Center
jim@schiefenterprises.com | (312) 927-3203 | <http://joelhall.org>

**Joel Hall's World Premiere of "Anja: The Unexpected"
Debuts at Logan Center for the Arts in August 2015**

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For Immediate Release

(Chicago, IL) In celebration of his dance company's 40th anniversary, renowned choreographer Joel Hall presents the Joel Hall Dancers in the world premiere of "Anja: The Unexpected" over two weekends this summer — August 7 and 8 and August 14 and 15 — at the University of Chicago's Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, located at 915 East 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637. "Anja" invites audiences to experience the graceful, inexhaustible eye of the unexpected, as live music and dance become one in a seamless performance that will awaken spectators visually, aurally, and spiritually.

Joel Hall's "Anja" is an ambitious collaboration with three Chicago jazz musicians: Charles Heath (percussion), Ray Silkman (saxophone), and up and coming jazz vocalist Jesse Charbonier.

In this full-length concert performance, each musician will perform live alongside Hall's original choreography, creating imagery of every movement, phrase, and note. As a finale, the artists will open up a "jam session" — inviting the audience to find the unexpected dancer and musician in each of their souls. Accompanying the evening's featured music artists, will be Adrian Ruiz on Piano, Aaron Zachary on Bass, Shaun Johnson on Trumpet and others.

Advance tickets range from \$25 to \$80 and may be purchased online at tickets.uchicago.edu, by visiting the UChicago Arts Box Office in the Logan Center, or calling 773.702.ARTS (2787).

Proceeds from "Anja" benefit the ongoing mission of Joel Hall Dancers & Center. A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, the Dancers & Center rely on generous community support to fund programming and performances. "Anja" is sponsored in part by the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts.

About Joel Hall Dancers & Center:

Founded in 1974, the mission of the Joel Hall Dancers & Center (JHDC) is to use the arts to enrich the lives of its community through dance performance and education. JHDC reaches out to the community, targeting those who may not otherwise be exposed to the arts by providing dance classes along with local, national, and international showcase performances. Additional information about Joel Hall Dancers & Center at joelhall.org.

About Jesse Charbonier:

Performing regularly at Chicago venues such as the Drake Hotel's legendary Coq d' Or Lounge to rave reviews since the summer of 2011, Jesse Charbonier has also performed at New York City's Henry's (formerly Birdland) & Chicago's Vic Theatre — as well as for such prestigious organizations as The Chicago International Film Festival & The Make a Wish Foundation. Performed at "Anja" will be songs to be featured in his upcoming CD release. Additional information about Jesse Charbonier at jessecharbonier.com.

About Charles Heath:

Playing anything from jazz and blues to gospel and Latin music, Charles Rick Heath's signature sound is prominent in recording studios, concert settings, and live Broadway theater platforms, currently as the drummer for pianist and jazz legend Ramsey Lewis. Some of his proudest accolades include works with Dee Dee Bridgewater, Phillip Bailey of Earth Wind and Fire, and Mc Coy Tyner. Additional information about Charles Heath at charlesheathpresents.com

About Ray Silkman:

Ray Silkman has been touted as one of the best sax men in the business. Emerging from humble beginnings, Silkman has become a "viable force" in the music industry. He has released five CDs, including his signature work *Sound Check*, which features the hit single "So Saxual." *Sound Check* has received national and international acclaim as an epic work, producing multiple hit songs still receiving airplay on public and NIC radio stations across the US. Additional information about Ray Silkman at raysilkman.com.

About the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts

The Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts presents concerts, exhibitions, performances, programs, and more from world class, emerging, local, and student artists. The Logan Center serves as a hub for the vibrant arts scene at the University of Chicago and a destination on the South Side and greater Chicago. Additional information at logan.uchicago.edu