

Scottish Ballet *Spring!* into their 50th anniversary year with a celebratory double bill that opens in the Highlands

To kickstart their 50th anniversary year, Scottish Ballet will launch their 2019/20 season in the Highlands with the world premiere of *Spring!* at Eden Court in Inverness. On Thursday 28 March, everyone's invited to the opening night party to celebrate the launch of the company's 50th year.

A double bill fizzing with energy, *Spring!* will present the world premiere of Sophie Laplane's *Dextera*, alongside *Elite Syncopations*, choreographed by Sir Kenneth MacMillan, and will tour to Inverness, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Edinburgh from 28 March to 4 May 2019.

Commissioned by CEO/Artistic Director Christopher Hampson, *Dextera* is a world premiere from Scottish Ballet's Resident Choreographer, Sophie Laplane. Her biggest creation for the company to date, *Dextera* is set to Mozart and will see her working with the Scottish Ballet Orchestra for the first time.

Her unique and quirky style will be brought to life through collaboration with costume designer Elin Steele, in a work that is inspired by creativity across art forms.

Elite Syncopations, choreographed by Sir Kenneth MacMillan, is an irresistible carnival of colour with characters that are both witty and touching, dressed in vibrant costumes designed by Ian Spurling.

This much-loved whirl of 1920s dancehall glitz takes inspiration from the social dances of the time, such as the Charleston. The choreography takes stylistic influences from silent movie routines and is set to a series of Scott Joplin's tunes, performed live by an onstage ragtime band.

Talking about *Spring!*, CEO/Artistic Director of Scottish Ballet, Christopher Hampson said:

'As a company crafted by Scotland, it's important to us to open our 50th anniversary season in the Highlands, and we're delighted to kick things off in style with this energetic, fun and celebratory double bill.'

Artist in Residence, Choreographer, and Creator of *Dextera*, Sophie Laplane said:

'Having immersed myself within Scottish Ballet as a dancer and resident choreographer, I have embodied the company's ethos in a new work that celebrates artistic craft. It will be the first time I've worked with an orchestra to score a work to Mozart, in a piece that is inspired by creativity – a word that I feel encompasses Scottish Ballet perfectly, especially in their 50th year.'

A celebratory double bill, the opening night in Inverness will take the party atmosphere from the stage to the bar to launch the company's 50th anniversary season. Audience members are invited to join the party and raise a glass with dancers and musicians: <https://www.scottishballet.co.uk/event/spring>

Notes to Editors:

#SBSpring

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scottishballet.co.uk

Scottish Ballet presents *Spring!*

The double bill of Sophie Laplane's world premiere *Dextera*, and *Elite Syncopations* by Sir Kenneth MacMillan.

Creative teams:

Dextera

Choreographer: Sophie Laplane
Music: Mozart
Costume Designer: Elin Steele

Elite Syncopations

Choreographer: Sir Kenneth MacMillan
Music: Scott Joplin
Costume Designer: Ian Spurling
Lighting Designer: John B. Read

Dates: 28 March – 4 May 2019

Eden Court, Inverness
28 – 30 March

Theatre Royal, Glasgow
4 – 6 April

His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen
11 – 13 April

Festival Theatre, Edinburgh
2 – 4 May

For more information and for links to each venue visit: scottishballet.co.uk/event/spring

***Spring!* Press Pack:**

Spring! Press Pack can be downloaded [here](#)

About Scottish Ballet

- Scottish Ballet, founded in 1969, is Scotland's national dance company. Based in Glasgow, the company performs regularly across Scotland, and increasingly throughout the UK and internationally – promoting Scotland's pioneering spirit far and wide.
- Under CEO/Artistic Director Christopher Hampson, Scottish Ballet presents bold, adventurous performances rooted in strong classical technique, accompanied by the Scottish Ballet Orchestra. The company's broad repertoire includes new versions of the classics and ground-breaking commissions, as well as an innovative digital season every two year
- Scottish Ballet runs an extensive engagement programme, tailored to the needs of diverse communities, promotes confidence, fosters well-being and encourages creativity through dance.
- In 2019, Scottish Ballet celebrates 50 years of inspiring audiences on stage and beyond, with a creative vision crafted by Scotland. For more information about the anniversary season, visit: scottishballet.co.uk/50
- Scottish Ballet is funded by the Scottish Government.
- Scottish Ballet warmly acknowledges thanks to The Peter Darrell Trust and Sir and Lady Crombie who have generously supported Sophie Laplane's *Dextera*.

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