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Third Angle New Music Ensemble Awarded American Masterpieces Grant

From the Oregon Arts Commission with Funds from the National Endowment For the Arts

Portland, Oregon, August 21, 2008 – The Oregon Arts Commission has awarded \$55,000 to *The City Dance of Lawrence and Anna Halprin* with the National Endowment for the Arts Initiative, *American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius*. *City Dance* is produced by Third Angle New Music Ensemble, and is the second Frozen Music series fusing music and architecture.

The National Endowment for the Arts developed the *American Masterpieces* initiative to introduce Americans to the best of their cultural and artistic legacies. The funds will be matched one to one with cash or in-kind equivalents.

City Dance is a groundbreaking approach to celebrating architectural heritage. It is an afternoon of experimental music and dance in urban landscape architecture in an effort to renew awareness for collaboration between landscape architect Lawrence Halprin and choreographer Anna Halprin. The resulting Portland Sequence—Lovejoy Fountain, Pettygrove Park and Forecourt [Keller] Fountain—was completed between 1965 and 1971 and set bold new standards for the design of public space worldwide. Locally, Halprin’s plazas spawned a tradition of playful public squares from Pioneer Courthouse Square to Tanner Springs Fountain.

City Dance is a progressive performance using the Portland Sequence to stage contemporary dance. Third Angle New Music Ensemble is working with dance-based artist Linda K. Johnson and choreographers Cydney Wilkes, Linda Austin and Tere Mathern to develop a 30-minute performance for each plaza. Third Angle Artistic Director Ron Blessinger will program compositions by Oliveros, Riley and Subotnick, all frequent collaborators with the Halprins. Author Randy Gragg is developing a series of tours and discussions around the Sequence. He is also developing a monograph on the Sequence published by Spacemaker Press in Washington D.C. in 2009.

“We are delighted that *The City Dance of Lawrence and Anna Halprin* is Oregon’s American Masterpieces project for this year,” notes Christine D’Arcy, Executive Director for the Oregon Arts Commission. “It is the culmination of one of the most innovative collaborations we’ve seen.”



City Dance is the third recipient of the Oregon American Masterpieces grant. The Oregon Arts Commission sought proposals from all artistic disciplines that demonstrated potential to broaden awareness of a master artist or masterpieces within Oregon. Previous awards were granted for the design and publication of a series of books chronicling the history of photography in Oregon by The Northwest Photography Archive, and for the development of an exhibition, book and public programs on Oregon Tribes by the Hallie Ford Museum of Art.

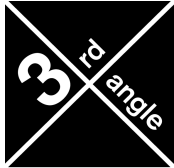
City Dance will take place on Sunday September 14, with tours beginning at the Ira Keller Fountain at 1pm and 4pm at SW Third and Clay. The audience will move between the three public spaces to see the remaining two performances.

For more details see ThirdAngle.org.

Third Angle New Music Ensemble: Over the past 19 years, Third Angle has presented over 90 programs and commissioned 20 new works to become the Northwest's foremost presenter of contemporary American music. Among their critically acclaimed recordings are: Chamber Music of Bryan Johanson, Wild Oranges: Motion Picture Soundtrack by Vivek Maddala, and the complete chamber music version of Aaron Copland's *The Tender Land*. Third Angle presented "Hearing Voices," an innovative merging of spoken word and new chamber music developed and presented with writer Sherman Alexie. In 2005, the ensemble presented its first interaction of music and urban space Frozen Music, an afternoon of music in three different eras of architecture in downtown Portland.

Linda K. Johnson: A dance-based artist who has been creating place-based performance in the Northwest for the past 15 years, Linda K. Johnson explores the conceptual boundaries shared by movement/dance and visual art/objects. Her works have included *Finding the Forest* (1991), *Intersection* (1991), *Transient Habitations* (1995), *Pipe Dreams* (1995), *Evidence* (2000), *The View From Here* – her 1999 work exploring Portland's Urban Growth Boundary Line, *TaxLot #1S1E40DD*, *A Temporary Edible Urban Garden Project* (2000-01), and *Layers of Location* (2003). She has won numerous grants, commissions and private sponsorships that have supported the evolution of her work, including the 1999 Oregon Arts Commission Individual Fellowship for Dance. Her work has been featured on NPR's *Living on Earth* and in *Metropolis Magazine*. She has received artist's residency fellowships from Yaddo in 2001, the Sitka Center For Art and Ecology in 2003-04 and Caldera in 2005. An accomplished dancer, Johnson is a custodian of Yvonne Rainer's seminal post-modern work *Trio A* and Bebe Miller's *Rain*. In 2002, she was a guest of the Kennedy Center's Artists in Education Leadership Forum.

Lawrence Halprin Conservancy: Founded in 2004 by landscape architect Steven Koch and urban designer Marcy McInelly, the conservancy is devoted to the stewardship of the Portland Sequence of Lovejoy and Forecourt fountains and Pettygrove Plaza. It has enlisted neighboring private property owners to contribute to tree pruning and other deferred maintenance and begun an historic assessment of the plazas to determine changes made since original contract documents. The conservancy is in the process of developing a board of directors and membership strategy, a



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work program for restoration, a strategy for achieving national landmark status and future public programming for the plazas.

Randy Gragg has written on culture in the Northwest for over 25 years, 17 of them as the art and architecture critic at The Oregonian, Portland's daily newspaper. He has been a pivotal champion of historic preservation projects and bold design efforts ranging from saving and restoring the Gordon House, Oregon's only building by Frank Lloyd Wright, to Portland's award-winning new aerial tram. Gragg has organized other multidisciplinary collaborative efforts, among them: "Multiplied Light" and "Betweenness", a pair of residency programs in which designers worked with Portland's world-renowned Bullseye Glass and Columbia Wire & Iron to produce chandeliers and partitions for public and corporate spaces; and "Core Sample" in which he organized over 100 independent artists to form an "arts institution for a week" to produce 30 exhibits, installations and performances city-wide, complete with educational programming and collectors' tours. After a 2005 Loeb Fellowship at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, he is currently developing *Portland Spaces*, a new bimonthly city design magazine that debuted in January 2008.

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