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**“MUSIC AND DANCE: A TROUBLED MARRIAGE?”
The Dance Center Hosts Two Free Panels October 27**

CHICAGO—The relationship between music and dance—both dance creation and dance training—is the focus of a two-part panel discussion, “Music and Dance: A Troubled Marriage?” featuring artists on the faculty of The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago, among others. The panels take place Tuesday, October 27 beginning at 5 p.m. at The Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago.

The Dance Center, in cooperation with The Dance Department of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and The Chicago Seminar on Dance and Performance, hosts this discussion examining current issues related to the role of music in the creation of choreography for stage and in the training of dancers in the technique studio. Panel members will discuss changes in practices and values that characterize contemporary relationships between music and dance and welcome questions and comments from audience members.

The first panel, **Music and Dance Making**, will focus on current relationships between music and dance in the making and presentation of new concert dance works. **John Toenjes**, associate professor and music director, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Department of Dance, will moderate a panel featuring noted dance makers **Shirley Mordine** (founder and artistic director, Mordine & Company Dance Theater), **Atalee Judy** (founder, Breakbone Dance Company) and **Julia Antonick**, (independent choreographer) and composers **Barry Bennett** (founder, Impending Behavior Orchestra) and **Shawn Decker** (associate professor, Technology and Sound Department, School of the Art Institute of Chicago). Questions they will consider include:

- What trends are evident in music use for concert dance today? What drives those trends?
- What roles does music play in the process of creation of new works?
- Is music really meaningful anymore in contemporary dance making?
- What relationship should exist between music education for dancers and contemporary dance making practices?

(more)

“Music and Dance: A Troubled Marriage?” Panels at The Dance Center Oct. 27/Add One

The second panel, **Music and Dance Technical Training**, will focus on the relationship between music and dance in the technique classroom. **Richard Woodbury**, associate professor and music director of the Dance Department, Columbia College Chicago, will moderate a panel featuring noted dance teachers **Jan Erkert** (head of the Department of Dance, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), **Paige Cunningham** (associate professor and technical training coordinator, Dance Department, Columbia College Chicago) and **Lisa Johnson-Willingham** (faculty, Dance Department, Columbia College Chicago) and musician/accompanists **Corbett Lunsford** (independent dance composer) and **Michael Caskey** (accompanist program coordinator, Dance Department, Columbia College Chicago). Questions they will consider include:

- Why do we have music in technique class? What does it offer students and teachers?
- What is musicality? Is it independent of music? Can it be taught?
- Are current relationships between music and dance in dance making reflected in classroom practices? Should they be?

The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago, named “Chicago’s Best Dance Theatre” by *Chicago* magazine and “Best Dance Venue” by the *Chicago Reader*, is the city’s leading presenter of contemporary dance, showcasing artists of regional, national and international significance. Programs of The Dance Center are supported in part by Alphawood Foundation, The Chicago Community Trust, The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince, The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, New England Foundation for the Arts, The Boeing Company Charitable Trust, Arts Midwest, Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, and The Irving Harris Foundation. Additional funding is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Illinois Arts Council. Special thanks to Friends of The Dance Center. All programming is subject to change.

“Music and Dance: A Troubled Marriage?” takes place Tuesday, October 27 at The Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. The first panel, Music and Dance Making, runs from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Following a break, the second panel, Music and Dance Technique Training, runs from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The event is free. For additional information, call Richard Woodbury, 312-369-8322 or rwoodbury@colum.edu.

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