

  
Portland  
Symphonic Choir  
Artistic Director

push ~~/~~ FOLD  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | SAMUEL HOBBS

# VESPERS



JANUARY 19-21, 2024  
PATRICIA RESER CENTER FOR THE ARTS



## FROM THE DIRECTORS

Welcome to *Vespers*! We are thrilled to share with you this journey and historic production—a convergence of expression that transcends traditional boundaries, inspired by the power of the human voice and movement. *Vespers* marks a departure from our usual compositions for both [push/FOLD](#) and the [Portland Symphonic Choir \(PSC\)](#), weaving a tapestry of movement and sound that delves into a rich and viscous piece of choral music, Sergei Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil*.

The genesis of *Vespers* lies in a profound collaboration between [push/FOLD](#) and the [PSC](#), inspired by a decade-long dream of Samuel Hobbs. This project explores a deep and intricate relationship between movement and sound, bringing out nuances and depths often overlooked in Rachmaninoff's work. *Vespers* is a brave exploration of untold histories, challenging tradition and preconceptions, and pushing the boundaries of artistic expression for our respective forms.

As we embarked on this unique venture, the rehearsal process has been nothing short of exhilarating. With [100](#) vocalists and [five](#) dancers, this collaboration required meticulous planning and dedication. We are so excited to share it with you!

Our deepest gratitude goes to our communities—many of whom have been with us from the beginning, and many others who join us today. To our supporters and donors who have made this production possible, *thank you*. We are profoundly grateful for your support and your belief in our work. Your enthusiasm and camaraderie serve as a constant source of inspiration and encouragement.

Let us all continue to create and share our art together.

[Dr. Alissa Deeter \(PSC\)](#) & [Samuel Hobbs \(push/FOLD\)](#)



## THE COMPANY

[push/FOLD](#) is the vision of multidisciplinary artist and composer-choreographer [Samuel Hobbs](#) (Oregon Arts Commission 2023 Performing Arts Fellow). Founded in 2016 as a multi-tiered dance-arts non-profit, [push/FOLD](#) is known for its signature style of athletic dance performance coupled with abstract storytelling, immersive moodscapes, and original sound compositions. Described by Oregon ArtsWatch as having a "keen awareness of how humans exist, both behind closed doors and out in the open," [push/FOLD's](#) body of work explores deeply rooted sensations of identity, relationships, and the natural world.

Grounded in the somatic movement-partnering method, [Visceral Movement Theory™](#), [push/FOLD's](#) training fuses athletics and dance with visceral biomechanics, revolutionizing the expression of power and efficiency in movement. Working with professional artists, athletes, training programs, and schools, [push/FOLD's](#) programs and productions package education with performance. The company's mission—to develop community power through arts and movement education, support, and advocacy—seeks to address systemic issues around Equity, Access, and Opportunity through education, mentorship, dialogue, and leadership. To further its mission, in 2019, [push/FOLD](#) launched the annual [Union PDX - Festival of Contemporary Dance](#), commissioning artists world-wide from any style to teach and perform in Oregon.

[push/FOLD](#) collaborates with professional artists and companies (nationally and internationally), offering residencies and workshops to a broad spectrum of entities; recently commissioned by [Oregon Ballet Theatre](#) (2020, 2023). [push/FOLD](#) made its international debut in 2021 Vancouver, BC and Mexico City, Mexico. [push/FOLD's](#) eagerly anticipated European debut is set for Fall 2024.

Portland, Oregon is the home of [push/FOLD](#).

📍 [PUSH.FOLD](#)  
[WWW.PUSHFOLD.ORG](#)



## THE CHOIR

The [Portland Symphonic Choir](#) has carried out this mission since its founding in 1945: to sing choral masterworks with excellence and passion and to engage, educate, and inspire its members and the community. A central figure in the legacy of choral music in Portland, the Choir achieves excellence in musicianship, celebrates community through music, builds a sustainable musical legacy, and curates an inclusive musical space. With a notable reputation, our [100-person](#) chorus includes musicians, students, retirees, and an assortment of working professionals ignited by their passion for choral music.

Under the dynamic leadership of Artistic Director [Dr. Alissa Deeter](#) since 2019, the [Portland Symphonic Choir](#) continues this reputation of excellence and dedication by creating powerful and accessible choral experiences for all music enthusiasts. Renowned for electrifying collaborations with major works alongside the [Oregon Symphony](#), [Vancouver Symphony](#), [Andrew Bocelli](#), and [Portland Youth Philharmonic](#), the Choir is pioneering a new wave of interdisciplinary vision with [push/FOLD](#) for the world-premiere of [Vespers](#).

This spring, [PSC](#) also launches our recording initiative for our 80th anniversary year in 2025. Our recordings for this project will elevate and prioritize the work of living composers from our community. Starting in April, our first collaboration will highlight pieces by local composers [Judy A. Rose](#) and [Drew Swatosh](#). [Judy Rose](#) is a conductor, composer, and educator; she presented our workshop [An Introspection of Black Women Composers](#) this past summer and is a long-time friend and collaborator of the Choir and a powerful musical advocate. [Drew Swatosh](#) (they/them) is an autistic, femme trans/non-binary composer, vocalist, and engraver based in Vancouver, WA who also sings with the Choir.

📍 [PSCHOIR](#)  
[WWW.PSCHOIR.ORG](#)

Dancers: Alana Stubbs & Willow Swanson (Top), Briley Jozwiak (Bottom)

Portland Symphonic Choir Singers



## PUSH/FOLD

Samuel Hobbs | Artistic Director, Choreography, Staging

## DANCERS

Maile Crowder, Briley Jozwiak, Ashley Morton, Alana Stubbs, Willow Swanson

## MUSIC

"All-Night Vigil" by Sergei Rachmaninoff

## COSTUMES

Samuel Hobbs | Design

Christine A. Richardson (theARTScentered, Portland Opera) | Coordination

Ashley Morton | Coordination

Jeffery Wilson (Portland Opera) | Fabrication

Eileen Ehlert (Oregon Ballet Theatre) | Fabrication

## PRODUCTION

Samuel Hobbs | Lighting Design

Juniper Zwainlesk (The Reser) | Lighting Technician

Nate Zwainlesk (The Reser) | Sound Technician

## LIVESTREAM

Holly Shaw | Operator

Steven Cady, Anna Rose Deardorff, Jeff Tuyay | Camera Operation

## PORTLAND SYMPHONIC CHOIR

Dr. Alissa Deeter | Artistic Director, Conductor

## SOPRANOS

Megan Conroy-Peters \* | Soloist

Kathy Austen, Rebecca Boyette, Hallie Clark, Jennie Davidson, Laura Debney, Christa Green, Hanna Grishkevich, Nan Haemer \*, Isabella Hanreiter, Cameron Griffith Herbert ~, Laura Hilderbrand, Megan Holt, Natalie Hurley, Madolynn Hurley, Kimberly Iritani, Abigail Krawson \*, Dorothea Lail Katherine Lefever, Kari Liebert, Laura Mather, Sue-Del McCulloch Mollie Solow McReynolds \*, Saffron Mills, Mary Martin Nelson, Patricia Rehm Fernanda Rinza, Zarya Alexandra Rubin, Lani Steppe, Theresa Swanson, Emi Wheelless

## ALTOS

Claire Robertson-Preis | Soloist

Stevie Baker, Emma Bergmann~, Rachel Portnoy \*, Jillian Brazelton \*, Olivia Clemens, Betsy Cooper, Helen Deitz, Annie Gatzlaff, Emily Grandpre Marta Hanson, Leslie Hassberg, Wendy Hein, Kendra Killian, Deborah Murray, Sylvia Nentwick \*, Vanessa Renteria, Dorothy Rowland, Ashley Salisbury, Audra YiHong Sim, Kate Strohecker, Trisha Williams, Kate Withiam, Roomie Wood

## TENORS

Brandon Michael \* | Soloist

Zachary Aldana, Gabe Benton, Andrew Bergh ~, Stephen Black, Dan Boyce Brookes Decker, Palmer Haffner, Abisai Herrejon Gonzalez, Dan Hibbett, Jeffrey Hopp, Bob Kerr, Aaron Lange \*, Gabi Marcus \*, Jerry Nelson, Ralph Nelson, Willa Perlmutter, Jess Preis \*, Evan Reichelt, Zach Stoddard \*, Drew Swatosh, Tim Tatistcheff \*, Vee Tran \*, Dale Webber

## BASSES

Brooks Beaudoin, Chris Brown, Don Coates, Ethan Eisemann\*

Don Embree, Easton Fiser, Jeffrey Friedlander, Jared Hacmac \*, Tom Hard, Arne Hartmann, Joshua Haymond, Karl Hein \*, Jeff Hopper, Phill Hurley ~, Dan Knauss, Tom Licata, Taylor Miles, Linh Nguyen, Brenton O'Hara, Mark Petersen, Kirk Porter, Scott Swope, Gennadiy Tsybikov, Randy Tucker, Dwight Uphaus, Nathan Zbinden

\* Staff Singer | ~ Section Leader

## SPECIAL THANK YOU

Holly Shaw • Briley Jozwiak • Ashley Morton • Claire Robertson-Preis  
Christine A. Richardson • Jeffery Wilson • Eileen Ehlert • Hailey Bill Schademan  
Erin O'Shaughnessy • Bill Whitsell • Ronni Lacroute • George Thorn  
Jeff Hopper • Kathy Austen • Arne Hartmann • Trisha Williams • Kirk Porter  
Dale Webber • Tom Robertson • Christina Grooms • David Herrera  
Toots (aka My Captain)

## SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Ronni S. Lacroute Marie Lamfrom  
Fund of Oregon Community Foundation CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



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### AUDIENCE SURVEY



SCAN WITH PHOTO