


Portland
Symphonic Choir
Alissa Gieseler, Artistic Director

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

VESPERS



APRIL 18 & 19, 2026
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 long held 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](#) and co-directed with founding member and Managing Director [Holly Shaw](#). With the focus to uplift our communities through creation, education, and advocacy, to develop community power through arts and movement education, [push/FOLD](#) is a multi-tiered dance-arts non-profit launched in 2018.

Known for its signature style of athletic dance performance coupled with immersive moodscapes, physical dramaturgy, and original sound scores, [push/FOLD](#) performs and teaches nationally and internationally. Grounded in the somatic movement-partnering method, [Visceral Movement Theory™](#), [push/FOLD's](#) training fuses athletics and dance with visceral biomechanics, reforming the expression of power and efficiency in movement. Our body-of-work explores the tension between power and collective identity.

Working with professional artists, athletes, training programs, and schools, [push/FOLD's](#) programs and productions package education with performance. 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. The festival seeks to address systemic issues around Equity, Access, and Opportunity through education, mentorship, dialogue, and leadership.

[push/FOLD](#) collaborates with professional artists and companies (nationally and internationally), offering residencies and workshops to a broad spectrum of entities.

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

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



THE CHOIR

Established in 1945, the [Portland Symphonic Choir](#) has carried out this mission for almost eight decades: "To sing choral masterworks with excellence and passion and to engage, educate, and inspire its members and the community." With a notable reputation and long-standing commitment to the Pacific Northwest, our 100-person chorus includes musicians, students, retirees, and an assortment of working professionals.

Under the direction of Artistic Director [Dr. Alissa Deeter](#) since 2019, the [Portland Symphonic Choir](#) continues a reputation of excellence and dedication by creating powerful and accessible choral experiences for all music enthusiasts. Dr. Deeter has prepared the chorus for concerts and major works with ensembles including [Vancouver Symphony Orchestra](#), [push/FOLD](#), the [Oregon Festival Orchestra](#), and in concert with [Andrea Bocelli](#). Additionally, the [Portland Symphonic Choir](#) has a long history of commissioning and premiering new works, including our [Summer Sings New Works](#) series and recording project.

The [Portland Symphonic Choir](#) continues to engage with our Portland area community through its educational programming. One of the Choir's lasting traditions is an annual concert bringing together alumni, local high school choirs, and audience-goers in an act of music-making across multiple generations called [Wintersong](#). By connecting choral scholars in high school with this educational arts opportunity, the Choir educates and inspires the next generation of musicians.

📍 [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

Briley Jozwiak, Alana Rae, Holly Shaw, Willow Swanson, Marina Vianello

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

LIGHTING

Michael Mazzola & Samuel Hobbs

LIVESTREAM

Paige Geissler | Operator

Susi Mendler, Lukas Nause | Camera Operation

PORTLAND SYMPHONIC CHOIR

Dr. Alissa Deeter | Artistic Director, Conductor

SOPRANOS

Megan Conroy-Peters | Soloist

Kathy Austen, Rebecca Boyette, Jennifer Davidson, Emma Davis, Laura Debney, Whitney Frisch, Jaime Galli, Audrey Goodman, Christa Green, Nan Haemer, Isabella Hanreiter, Laura Hilderbrand, Megan Holt, Madolynn Hurley, Kimberly Iritani, Miriam Kilian, Caitlin Klenz, Abigail Krawson, Dannie Kyle, Dorothea Lail, Anna Leander, Katherine Lefever, Annie Luttrell, Laura Mather, Sue-Del McCulloch, Mollie McReynolds, Ulla Muenzel, Josephyne Patten, Ruth Reding Hoffart, Patricia Rehm, Andrea Browne Robertson, Zarya Rubin, Lani Steppe, Natalie Tieu, Emi Wheelless

ALTOS

Claire Robertson-Preis | Soloist

Bobbie Bowser, Jillian Brazelton, Maggie Burden, Olivia Clemens, Adrienne Cohen, Betsy Cooper, Helen Deitz, Diana DeTar Marchand, Jamie Freyer, Brittney Fulgham, Annie Gatzlaff, Shani Harris-Bagwell, Wendy Hein, Rachel Mohr, Deborah Murray, Christy Rauhen, Dorothy Rowland, Ashley Salisbury, Malia Scharer, Audra Sim, Andrea Smith, Rachel Squires, Robyn Story, Kathleen Strohecker, Trisha Varley-Leavitt, Trisha Williams, Kate Withiam, Teryn Yazdani, Vanessa Zmolek

TENORS

Brandon Michael | Soloist

Effy Adams, Gabe Benton, Stephen Black, Cris Buzas, Willie Curtis, Aryn Freeman, Graham Hartlaub, Michael Jay Miguel Hernandez, Abisai Herrejon Gonzalez, Jeffrey Hopp, Bob Kerr, Noah Kilian, Aaron Lange, Kevin Lighthouse, Gabi Marcus, Shaffer McGee, Michael Murray, Willa Perlmutter, Jesse Preis, Evan Reichelt, Gavin Shettler, Drew Swatosh, Tim Tatistcheff, Vee Tran, Andrew Waugh, Dale Webber, Jeff Weener

BASSES

Christopher Brown, Caleb Christofferson, Ethan Eisemann, Donald Embree, Jeffrey Friedlander, Jared Hacmac, Thomas Hard, Arne Hartmann, Joshua Haymond, Karl Hein, Jeff Hopper, Phill Hurley, Nikolas Johnson, Daniel Knauss, Tom Licata, Jimmy Matsuura, Taylor Miles, Linh Nguyen, Mark Petersen, Kirk Porter, Paul Rose, Paul Sadilek, William Skaff, Scott Swope, Randy Tucker, David Youn, Nathan Zbinden, Bill Zimmerman

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Holly & Mia Shaw • Alana Rae • Marina Vianello • Paige Geissler • Briley Jozwiak
Michael Mazzola • Jeffery Wilson • Eileen Ehlert • Abigail Krawson • Jeff Hopper
Ronni Lacroute • Janet Shaw • Bill Whitsell • Hailey Schademan
Erin O'Shaughnessy • Christina Grooms • Carolen Hope & Steve Lyford
Connie Guist • George Thorn • Susan Gendein-Marshall & Lee Marshall • Alan Jones
Walter Barillas-Schwartz • Jaime Galli • Will Skaff • Karl Hein • Natalie Tieu
Trisha Williams • Kirk Porter • Kevin Lighthouse • David Xiques • Ralph Nelson

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Ronni S. Lacroute
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Marie Lamfrom
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AUDIENCE SURVEY



CLICK OR SCAN

Program Photography: Samuel Hobbs
Front Cover - Top: Willow Swanson, Ashley Morton, Alana Stubbs
Front Cover - Bottom: Dr. Alissa Deeter, Briley Jozwiak, Maile Crowder