

Mercyhurst University Department of Dance and
SoMar Dance Works present



Snow White and the Seven Deadly Sins

an evening of dance, music, and serious sins

SoMar Dance Works
live jazz with AZQ and Kelly Armor

Saturday Feb 21 @ 7:00 pm

FREE

Mercyhurst University | Walker Recital Hall



SoMar Dance Works

Mark Santillano (co-director), Solveig Santillano (co-director),
Sara Lawrence-Sucato, Maya Richards, Jo Theisen.

AZQ (Allen Zurcher Quartet)

Bradley Amidon, Liz Sesler-Beckman, Chris Von Volkenburg, and Allen Zurcher

And Kelly Armor

Technical Director and Lighting design

Harold Hotchkiss

Audio mixing

Scott Meier



Good evening,

As we gather tonight for this performance it is our sincere hope that we can come together with gratitude and respect. Our world seems to be in dire need of both. Our concert shines a light on some of the darker aspects of human nature, the foibles that can kill the soul. While our choreography addresses seven evils, remember there are an equal number of virtues on the flip side. The Yang balances the Yin, so to speak. How we choose to live our lives is up to each of us. We at SoMar Dance Works aspire to spend our precious time connecting with others, making art, and sharing our humanity. So it is with gratitude that we welcome you to our concert.

Snow White and the Seven Deadly Sins

Quadratic Time

Music: "3147" by Micheal Wall

Choreographed by Solveig Santillano, in collaboration with the cast

Envy

Music: "Nightclub 1960" by Astor Piazzola

Lust

Music: "The Source" by Chris Potter

Featuring Maya Richards

Greed

Music: "Leap of Faith" by Dick Oatts

Gluttony

Music: Kelly Armor & Bradley Amidon

Choreographed and performed by Sara Laurence-Sucato

Pools

Music: "Pools" by Don Grolnick

Sloth

Music: "Café 1930" by Astor Piazzolla

Pride

Music: "Bounce, Parts 1 and 2" – Nate Smith

Wrath

all

All dances collaboratively choreographed by the company (except where noted)

Video production: Mark Santillano with Solveig Santillano

Costumes: Solveig Santillano

Bios



Bradley Amidon earned a music education degree from Edinboro University and an MFA in percussion performance from SUNY at Buffalo. His teachers include Robert Falkewitz, Cosmo Barbaro, Alan Zimmerman, Jan Williams, Lynn Harbold, and M'Baye Rama Diagne. Mr. Amidon is instructor of percussion at Mercyhurst University and is currently principal percussionist in the Erie Philharmonic Orchestra and the Presque Isle Pro Musica. He also performs with the Misery Bay Big Band and the group West Indian Revelation.



Kelly Armor is singer, multi-instrumentalist, storyteller, folklorist, and educator. Since 2020 she regularly performs original compositions with Erie's Dafmark Dance Theater. She currently serves as the Folklorist in Residence at Erie Arts Culture, building on her 25 year career working intensively with Erie's New American community, identifying artists and supporting their work to preserve their culture and traditions in their new home. Her ensemble, Kelly's World, with Liz Sesler-Beckman and Victoria Angelo, features original songs, jazz standards, and music from East Africa and beyond.



Sara Lawrence-Sucato is a Cleveland-based dancer, educator, and arts leader from Columbus, Ohio. She holds a B.A. in Dance Teaching and Choreography ('06) and an M.S. in Organizational Leadership ('24) from Mercyhurst University. Sara has performed with The Dance Cure and Columbus Dance Theatre in Columbus, and with Mercyhurst Dancers, Lake Erie Ballet, SoMar Dance Works, and Shen and Bones Performance Group in Erie. She spent 16 seasons with Cleveland's The Dancing Wheels Company, performing works by nationally and internationally recognized choreographers. Sara is Dancing Wheels' Director of Education and Marketing Manager, serves on the board of Creative Spaces Cultural Arts, and owns Sustaining Movement Services, LLC.

IG: @sustainingmovementsvcs



Maya Richards began dancing at age five and brings over 20 years of experience to her work as a performer and educator. She earned her B.F.A. in Dance and B.A. in Mathematics from Mercyhurst University. Passionate about teaching, Maya values the opportunity to inspire growth and empower individuals to apply what they learn in their own unique ways. She serves as Teaching-Artist-In-Residence with Seiche Dance Collective, balancing performance with mentorship. Beyond the stage, Maya is the Marketing Manager for the Erie Philharmonic, where she supports the arts through administrative leadership. She is thrilled to perform with SoMar Dance Works for her fourth season.



Mark Santillano has enjoyed a rich and varied career in the arts. With a background of gymnastics, martial arts, music, and theatre, Mark earned a BFA in Dance and BS in Communications from Southwest Missouri State University, and his master's from Wesleyan University. As a dancer he has performed around the world. With Pilobolus Dance Theatre, Mark was dance captain, soloist, choreographic collaborator, danced at the Olympics, appeared in commercials, on television, and won an Emmy. He was also a member of Indianapolis' Dance Kaleidoscope. As a member of Actor Equity Association his credits include the (inter)national tours of The King and I, West Side Story, and A Chorus Line. As an educator, Mark has served as an Artist-in-Residence at SMSU and is currently an Assistant Professor at Mercyhurst University. Along with his wife, Solveig Santillano, Mark is co- director/founder of SoMar Dance Works. Established in 1999, SoMar has received numerous grants from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and Erie Arts and Culture. The company is in-residence at Mercyhurst. He has choreographed for a number of companies and university performing ensembles across the country and served on the board of directors of the American College Dance Association, and as president of the Erie Dance Consortium. In 2016, Mark became the recipient of the inaugural Erie Arts & Culture Artistic Fellowship.



Solveig Santillano, Associate Professor of Dance at Mercyhurst; Co- Director/Choreographer of SoMar Dance Works; holds an MFA (Hollins); MALS (Wesleyan/Rulewater Prize winner); a BFA from Juilliard; multiple certifications in yoga, is RYT @ 500 hours certified through Yoga Alliance; CET/Certified Evans Teacher; trained in Stott Pilates; is a CLMA/Certified Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analyst (Integrated Movement Studies) and RSMT (Registered Somatic Movement Therapist) through ISMETA. Originally from SD, early studies revolved around theatre (Circle in the Square, NHSI), followed by a decade of performing (Anna Sokolow's

Player's Project, Ruby Shang and Dancers, Prometheus Dance, Spencer/Colton), culminating in six years of touring internationally with MOMIX. Now based in Erie, Santillano lives, teaches, dances, collaborates with her partner on and off the dance floor, Mark, her students, friends, colleagues, and company, SoMar. Her work has been presented by/at/in Dance Across Borders (Gothenburg Sweden), Austria's Young! Tanzsommer dance festival, Grand Valley State University (Allendale, MI), Dancing Wheels (Cleveland, OH), Lake Erie Ballet and Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre; Instinct DanceCorps (Scottsdale, AZ); the San Diego Civic Dance Company (CA), conferences including American College Dance Association, East West Somatic and William Evans Somatic Conferences. She has a passion for collaborations that build community, raise awareness over issues of social concern including cancer (Laura's Grace), mental health (Dis-Ease: A Coming Out), human trafficking (Project Abolition), gender (In Her Shoes), and environmental science (The National Water Dance Erie: The Ripple Effect) and was the recipient of the (2016) inaugural Erie Arts & Culture Artistic Fellowship.



Liz Sesler-Beckman is a versatile pianist with an extensive background as a performer, music director, and educator. She has performed in Japan, Europe, and throughout the United States. Liz has been a member of several distinguished jazz groups, including the Stan Kenton Alumni Band and the Baltimore-based Jazz Caravan. Liz was the Associate Director of Music at Second Presbyterian Church in Baltimore for over two decades. She also served as Chair of the Fine

Arts department at Boys' Latin School of Maryland. More recently, she directed numerous choral ensembles and musicals during her fifteen years of teaching at Gilman School, including six international tours with the Gilman Chorus.



Jo Theisen has performed professionally with Ballet Concerto in Fort Worth, Texas, Ballet Theater of Ohio, Albany Berkshire Ballet, SoMar Dance Works, and Dafmark Dance Theater. Jo graduated from Mercyhurst University with a B.A. as a Double Major in Dance and World Languages and Cultures and earned her J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law. Jo is a partner at Amicangelo & Theisen, LLC, practicing family law and immigration. She is also a founding Board Member, Company Manager and performing artist with Seiche Dance Collective in Erie, PA.



Chris Von Volkenburg is a bassist and educator based in Erie, Pennsylvania. He earned his Bachelor of Music summa cum laude from Mercyhurst University and a Master of Science in Education from Wilkes University. An active performer, he plays with the Misery Bay Big Band, Presque Isle Jazz Orchestra, and the Allen Zurcher Quartet (AZQ), and regularly performs with The Rooftop Project, winners of the Rock Erie Music Awards. He currently teaches music in the Millcreek Township School District and has taught adjunct courses in music education and technology at Mercyhurst University, as well as graduate-level education courses through PLS 3rd Learning. He was honored with the Golden Apple Award for excellence in music education.



Allen Zurcher has wide and varied musical experiences in his more than forty years as a professional musician, composer, arranger and educator; including holding teaching positions in saxophone and jazz studies at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA and Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, LA, where he was the program director for the Bill Evans jazz festival. Dr. Zurcher has been a saxophonist with the Erie Philharmonic and the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra as well as Music Dir. and bandleader for Premier and Princess Cruise Lines. He has performed with notable musicians and entertainers such as The Manhattan Transfer, Bryan Lynch, Conrad Herwig, Clark Terry, Don Menza, Vic DDeMon, and Diane Carroll.

Allen can be heard on recordings *Waiting in the Alley* (2001) with Andy Nevala, *For the Last Time* (2001) with the University of Northern Colorado Jazz Lab I, *Armed and Dangerous* (2008) with One World Tribe, *Soundtrack of a Daydreamer* (2018) with Stephen Trohoske, and the just released *Fun Under the Covers* with Julie Moore (2026). Dr. Zurcher currently teaches World Music/Jazz History and theory at Mercyhurst University. In addition, he maintains an active career as a performer and clinician in the Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York tri-state area.

HAROLD HOTCHKISS, Technical Director, has been working in technical theater for 2 years. Harold is a native of Buffalo, New York, and a graduate of the University of Buffalo. He completed his MFA in theatre design from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. During Harold's time in theater he has worked with many educational institutions such as Mercyhurst University, Penn State Behrend, Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward, California, University of Buffalo, and more. Currently he divides his time working as an assistant technical director in Erie, Pennsylvania, and production manager/technical director in Hayward, California. Outside of the theater Harold enjoys working in the garden with his wife, Gillian.

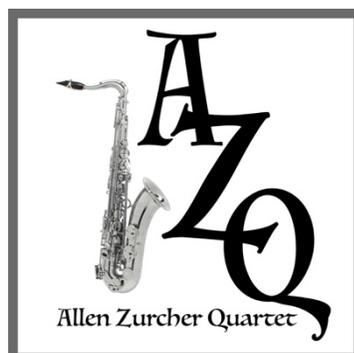
Thanks...

Mercyhurst Department of Dance – C. Noelle Partusch, Chair
School of the Arts – Jodi Staniunas Hopper, Dean
... for the ongoing support

SoMar Dance Works is accepting contributions through GOFUNDME

Visit: <https://gofund.me/ad1e4ed1f>
Thank you in advance for your generosity

This program is sponsored in part by:



The Mercyhurst Department of Dance Presents



XXVIII RAW EDGES

May 1 at 7 p.m.

May 2 at 2 and 7 p.m.

May 3 at 2 p.m.

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center



TICKETS

To purchase scan QR code or
visit: mhu.st/rawedgesxxviii

Adults: \$15 | Seniors: \$10 | Students: \$10
Youth: \$5 | Mercyhurst Students: \$5

DANCER: Olivia Showers '26, Moira Sullivan '26, Madison Wanamaker '26
PHOTO: Mark Santillano