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DANCE ENSEMBLE CONCERT
TRIBUTE TO STUDENT ARTISTS

DAYTON, Ohio — Mark Cummings is so confident in the skills of his dance students that he’s handed them the reins of the University of Dayton’s “biggest” dance ensemble concert to date.

The spring dance ensemble concert will be at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 7 and 8, in the Kennedy Union Boll Theatre. Tickets are $8 general admission and $5 for faculty and students and are available by calling the theater box office at (937) 229-2545.

The concert caps a year of UD theater that has been brimming with student talent, according to Gina Kleesattel, Tony Dallas and Linda Dunlevy-Shackleford, who have directed this season’s Moon Over Buffalo, Antigone and Bye, Bye Birdie, respectively. Cummings, dance company artistic director and adjunct professor of dance, readily joined the praise bandwagon.

“This is our biggest concert ever, and I’m gearing it for a tribute to our students,” he said. “Typically, we spotlight only one, maybe two student choreographers in our dance concerts, which feature the talents of our student artists and artists from the Dayton dance community. But this year we’ve got such a strong pool of seasoned ensemble members that we’re featuring five student choreographers. I wanted to give them a chance to show their stuff.”

The twice-yearly concerts offer blends of modern, jazz, ballet and other dance styles and music settings to keep the programs fresh and appealing to a wide range of audience tastes, Cummings said. This program will feature a diverse range of music from Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong to Aretha Franklin, Annie Lennox, Janet Jackson and more.

Headlining the student line-up are UD undergraduates Carla Corona, Samantha Scotto and Susan Crocetti and graduate student Damion Smith. They’ll be joined by Wright State University junior Quala Clancy performing to music from the sound track of Romeo and Juliet.

Guest artists include Gary Geis from the Gary Geis Dance Co. of Springfield, Shonna Hickman-Matlock and WSU alumna Jane Renkin. Cummings will also take to the stage with pieces that feature American Indian music and highlights from the musical Fosse.

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For media interviews, call Mark Cummings at (937) 229-3904.

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