



NEWS RELEASE

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Marie Estrada | (818) 677-6691  
marie.estrada@csun.edu

Gary Murphy | (213) 700-9645  
gmurphypr@gmail.com

*“Innovative Kyle Abraham’s new piece takes its inspiration from Mozart’s unfinished Requiem in D minor and repositions it as an exploration of rebirth, ritual, and the afterlife. The result is a stunning and abstracted rewiring of mythology, folklore, and Afrofuturism.”*

## **Visionary Choreographer Kyle Abraham and A.I.M. Join Forces with Electronic Music Composer Jlin for a Los Angeles Premiere**

### ***Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth***

**Saturday, February 18 at 8pm at The Soraya**

***Tickets start at \$39 at [www.TheSoraya.org](http://www.TheSoraya.org)***

(Los Angeles, CA) January 25, 2023—Mozart’s unfinished Requiem is the jumping off point for MacArthur Genius **Kyle Abraham** and pioneering producer, composer, and EDM artist **Jlin**’s latest collaboration, **Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth**. Combining traditions and innovations in both dance and music, they explore folklore, death, and reincarnation in a powerful piece that demands the dancers have command of techniques ranging from ballet to street dance.

**Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth** is an hour of imaginative and ambitious theater, with an electronic Mozart meditation musical score by Jlin, costumes by British fashion designer Giles Deacon, and set and lighting by longtime Abraham associate Dan Scully.

The performance debuts in Los Angeles on [Sat, Feb 18 at 8pm](#) at The Soraya.

#### **About Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth**

Co-commissioned by New York’s Lincoln Center, and featuring 10 dancers from Abraham’s company, A.I.M, the new piece repositions the classical Requiem as an exploration of rebirth, ritual, and the afterlife. The result is a stunning and abstracted rewiring of mythology, folklore, and Afrofuturism. In the wake of 2020 — marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and the worldwide Black Lives Matter protests — Abraham and Jlin explore the central theme of one of the most canonical works of white Western classical music — death and the myths of reincarnation — from an explicitly Black perspective.

In his fluid choreographic language, Abraham draws from the repertoire of classical ballet, hip-hop, modern dance, and street dance while Jlin takes Mozart's classic requiem and turns it into an electronic dance piece, building her sound on a style of house dance and street dance that originated in Chicago in the 1990s.

In collaboration with fashion designer Giles Deacon, an innovator of the Paris couture scene with his expansive prints and pop references for both his own label and numerous fashion houses, 10 dancers and Jlin transform Mozart's music into an electronic opus that memorializes ritual, mourning, and rebirth.

### **About Kyle Abraham's A.I.M**

Contemporary dance company [A.I.M by Kyle Abraham](#), considered "one of the most consistently excellent troupes working today" (*The New York Times*), provides multifaceted performances, educational programming, and community-based workshops across the globe. Led by acclaimed Abraham's innovative vision, the work of A.I.M is galvanized by Black culture and history, and grounded in a conglomeration of unique perspectives; described by Abraham as a "post-modern gumbo" of movement exploration.

A.I.M is one of the most active touring dance companies in the United States, with an audience base as diverse as A.I.M's movement vocabulary, drawing inspiration from a multitude of sources and dance styles. Since A.I.M's founding in 2006, Abraham has created more than 15 original works for and with the company. To expand its repertoire and offer a breadth of dance work to audiences, A.I.M commissions new works and performs existing works by outside choreographers, such as Trisha Brown, Bebe Miller, Andrea Miller, and current A.I.M dancer Keerati Jinakunwiphat.

Abraham's unique vision and illumination of poignant and relevant issues set him apart from his generation of choreographers as a leading creative force in dance. A.I.M extends this vision and amplifies surrounding artistic voices to share movement and community-based work with audiences around the world.

### **About Jlin**

A math lover, a former steel factory worker and a proud resident of Gary, Indiana, **Jlin**, (née Jerrilynn Patton) has risen to become one of the most distinctive composers in America and one of the most influential women in electronic music. Jlin's introduction to producing music stems from Chicago footwork, but diverse influences ranging from Igor Stravinsky and Philip Glass to Miles Davis and Eartha Kitt, give Jlin's complex percussion-driven work a sophisticated polyrhythmic sound all its own.

Jlin's thrilling, emotional, and multidimensional works have earned her a rank as "one of the most forward-thinking contemporary composers in any genre" (Pitchfork). Jlin's signature sound builds on a Chicago footwork style, expanded and warped into a frequency that is solely hers. Her albums *Dark Energy* (2015) and *Black Origami* (2017) received critical acclaim and have been featured "best of" in *The New York Times*, *The Wire*, *LA Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Guardian*, and *Vogue*. Referencing a wide range of musical movements and techniques, Jlin's collaborations with contemporary artists are just as relevant to her practice exemplified by "JSLOIPNIE," the product of Jlin and the late, iconic SOPHIE. Additional collaborators include William Basinski, Dope Saint Jude, Holly Herndon, and Zora Jones. Jlin has since remixed works

for major artists including Björk, Max Richter, Martin Gore (of Depeche Mode), Galya Bisengalieva, Marie Davidson, Nina Kraviz, Ben Frost, and others. Inspired by movement, Jlin has also collaborated with legendary choreographers: Wayne McGregor (2017), and Kyle Abraham (2021).

### **About Kyle Abraham**

Princess Grace Statue Award Recipient (2018), Doris Duke Award Recipient (2016), and MacArthur Fellow (2013) **Kyle Abraham** began his dance training at the Civic Light Opera Academy and the Creative and Performing Arts High School in Pittsburgh, PA. After graduating from Schenley High School, Abraham continued his dance studies in New York, earning a BFA from SUNY Purchase and an MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Abraham later received an honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from Washington Jefferson College. Abraham is currently the Claude and Alfred Mann Endowed Professor in Dance at [The University of Southern California \(USC\) Glorya Kaufman School of Dance](#). Prior to USC, Abraham served as a visiting professor in residence at the University of California, Los Angeles's (UCLA) World Arts Cultures in Dance program (2016-2021). Abraham serves on the advisory board for *Dance Magazine*, and in 2020 was selected to be their first-ever Guest Editor. Abraham sits on the artist advisory board for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the inaugural Black Genius Brain Trust, and the inaugural cohort of the Dorchester Industries Experimental Design Lab. In addition, Abraham was named a Kennedy Center Next 50 Leader (2021), a list of leaders who exemplify the Center's mission to help shape culture and society through the arts.

Rebecca Bengal of *Vogue* wrote, "What Abraham brings ... is an avant-garde aesthetic, an original and politically minded downtown sensibility that doesn't distinguish between genres but freely draws on a vocabulary that is as much Merce [Cunningham] and Martha [Graham] as it is Eadweard Muybridge and Michael Jackson."

In addition to performing and developing new works for his company A.I.M by Kyle Abraham, Abraham has been commissioned by a wide variety of dance companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, The National Ballet of Cuba, New York City Ballet, and the Royal Ballet.

In addition to his work for A.I.M and other major dance companies, Abraham has choreographed for many of the leading dancers of our time. Most recently, *to be seen* (2020), a new solo for American Ballet Theatre Principal Dancer Calvin Royal III, premiered during the virtual Fall For Dance Festival. Of this solo, *The New York Times* observed "how skilled [Abraham] has become at mingling the ballet vernacular with other forms, from hip-hop to West African movement" and his unique talent for "finding the person within the dancer and the bodies within a body." Abraham created *Ash* (2019), a solo work for American Ballet Theatre Principal Dancer Misty Copeland that also had its premiere at Fall for Dance. *The Serpent and The Smoke* (2016) toured as part of *Restless Creature*, a pas de deux for Abraham and acclaimed Bessie Award-winning and former New York City Ballet Principal Dancer Wendy Whelan. Off the stage, Abraham choreographed the music video for Sufjan Stevens' *Sugar* (2020), and for the feature-length film *The Book of Henry* (2016) for acclaimed director Colin Trevorrow.

In his early career, Abraham served as a choreographic contributor for Beyoncé's British *Vogue* cover shoot (2013) and was named a Joyce Creative Residency Artist (2017-18), a City Center Choreographer in Residence (2015), the Jacob's Pillow Dance Award recipient (2012), a USA Ford Fellow (2012), and the New York Live Arts Resident Commissioned Artist (2012–2014). Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater premiered Abraham's *Another Night* (2012) at New York City Center. *OUT Magazine* labeled Abraham as the "best and brightest creative talent to emerge in New York City in the age of Obama" (2011). Abraham is the recipient of a Bessie Award for Outstanding Performance in Dance for *The Radio Show* (2010), a Princess Grace Award for Choreography (2010), and was selected as one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 To Watch" (2009).

Abraham's choreography has been presented throughout the United States and abroad. Notable venues and festivals include Brooklyn Academy of Music, Danspace Project, Fall for Dance Festival at New York City Center, Harlem Stage, The Joyce Theater, and Lincoln Center in New York; Carpenter Performing Arts Center, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and Los Angeles Music Center in California; Dance Center at Columbia College Chicago in Illinois; ICA Boston and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Massachusetts; Bates Dance Festival in Maine; American Dance Festival in North Carolina; The Andy Warhol Museum, The Byham, and The Kelly-Strayhorn Theater in Pennsylvania; Performing Arts Houston and TITAS in Texas; On The Boards and Seattle Theatre Group in Washington; and The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Internationally Abraham's works have toured to Théâtre Paul Eluard, Maison de la Danse, Théâtre de la Ville, and L'Onde in France; Tanz Im August and Kampnagel Festival in Germany; Project Arts Centre in Ireland; The Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum in Japan; and the Royal Opera House and Sadler's Wells in the United Kingdom, among others.

**Calendar Listing:**

**Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth** (2021); Running time 50 minutes

Choreography: Kyle Abraham in collaboration with A.I.M.

Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Requiem in D minor; Jlin, untitled commissioned score

Lighting & Scenic Design: Dan Scully

Costume Design: Giles Deacon

Choreographer and MacArthur Fellow Kyle Abraham and pioneering producer, composer, and electronic dance music artist Jlin have joined forces to create *Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth*, an Afro-Futurist exploration of death, reincarnation, and the after-life, all set to an electronic movement transcription of Mozart's Requiem in D minor.

Jlin transforms Mozart's music into an electronic opus that memorializes ritual, mourning, and rebirth, and performs it live onstage with ten dancers from Abraham's company—A.I.M by Kyle Abraham. This was co-commissioned by Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts; the Boston Celebrity Series; International Summer Festival Kampnagel; Stanford Live at Stanford University; and the University Musical Society of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

**When: Sat, Feb 18 at 8pm**

**Where: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)  
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330**

**Tickets: \$39--\$94**

**Website:** [www.TheSoraya.org](http://www.TheSoraya.org)

**Phone:** 818-677-3000

The complete Kyle Abraham and A.I.M [Press Kit can be found here.](#)

### **About The Soraya**

Located on the vibrant and diverse campus of California State University in the heart of Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, The Soraya continues its vigorous commitment to innovating, exceling, and amplifying access by offering a wide variety of performances that reflect LA's many distinctive communities and featuring new and original work from the Los Angeles region as well as artists from around the world.

### **Press Contact for The Soraya**

Marie Estrada, The Soraya's Communication Associate  
(818) 677-6691 | [marie.estrada@csun.edu](mailto:marie.estrada@csun.edu)

Gary W. Murphy, Public Relations Consultant  
213-700-9645 | [gmurphypr@gmail.com](mailto:gmurphypr@gmail.com)