

"A night at the ballet can turn into lifelong inspiration when Dance Theatre of Harlem comes to town. The excitement the company generates onstage has a way of radiating into every corner of the dance community," — The Miami Herald

Dance Theatre of Harlem Leads 2026-27 Dance Series at The Soraya

The celebrated company makes its Soraya debut with the
LA Premiere of Robert Garland's *Higher Ground*

Sat, Nov 14 at 8PM; Tickets start at \$56 at [TheSoraya.org](https://www.thesoraya.org).

(Los Angeles, CA) Oct. 14, 2026 — Dance Theatre of Harlem, the globally acclaimed dance institution, will make its Soraya debut on Sat, Nov 14 at 8PM with a program featuring Robert Garland's *Higher Ground*, George Balanchine's *Donizetti Variations*, and William Forsythe's *Blake Works IV*. This performance marks the launch of The Soraya's 2026-27 Dance Series, which also includes **DIABOLO: Architecture in Motion** on Nov 21 & 22; **Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández** on Jan 30 & 31; **Step Afrika!** on Feb 6; **Siudy Garrido Flamenco Company** on Mar 6; **Jacob Jonas The Company & Delirium Musicum** on Mar 13; and **Ballet BC** on Apr 24.

Nov 14 Program

Renowned in the ballet world, Dance Theatre of Harlem makes its Soraya debut with the Los Angeles premiere of Robert Garland's *Higher Ground* (2022). Named one of the best performances of 2022 by *The New York Times*, *Higher Ground* is a joyous, critically acclaimed piece that combines classical ballet and vernacular Black dance to sharpen the social commentary found in six influential Stevie Wonder songs from the 1970's.

Opening the performance is William Forsythe's *Blake Works IV* which was commissioned and created specifically for the company in 2023. A part of Forsythe's continuously evolving series, "The Barre Project," *Works IV* was choreographed to highlight the diverse and formidable talents of the ensemble. The work derives its inspiration from the propulsive and rigorously structured electro-soul songs of British singer and composer James Blake.

The company will also perform George Balanchine's *Donizetti Variations* (1960), set to the lively and effervescent music of Gaetano Donizetti's 1843 opera *Don Sebastian*. Originally choreographed in 1960 for the New York City Ballet, the work was set for Dance Theatre of Harlem by Balanchine répétiteur Kyra Nichols, bringing a high-energy, technically demanding challenge to the company's dancers.

About Dance Theatre of Harlem

Dance Theatre of Harlem stands as a dynamic force in the ballet world, captivating audiences both nationally and internationally. Their repertoire is a thrilling blend of treasured classics, neoclassical masterpieces by George Balanchine and artistic director Robert Garland, and cutting-edge contemporary works that embody founder Arthur Mitchell's belief that ballet is for everyone. Through electrifying performances, community engagement, and arts education programs, Dance Theatre of Harlem champions the power of the arts to inspire and empower.

Since its founding in 1969 by Arthur Mitchell and Karel Shook, Dance Theatre of Harlem has been hailed as "one of ballet's most exciting undertakings" (*The New York Times*). Inspired by the work of The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mr. Mitchell established a school to provide Harlem's youth with the opportunity to explore dance and the allied arts. Now celebrating over fifty-five years of excellence, DTH has evolved into a globally renowned ballet company, setting new standards in the performing arts and leaving an indelible mark on the world stage. Its extraordinary legacy continues to open doors for creative expression and artistic brilliance.

Among the season's most significant milestones is the company's early October debut in Morocco debut, at the newly opened Royal Theatre of Rabat. Those performances marked the company's first time on the African continent since the 1990s, when the company it performed in South Africa at the request of Nelson Mandela — and underscores the company's continued commitment to expanding its global reach and deepening its connection to the African diaspora.

"This season reflects who we are as a company: rooted in Harlem, but reaching every corner of the world that wants to see themselves in this art form," said company Executive Director Anna Glass.

For Calendar Listing - The Soraya's Dance Series:

DIABOLO: Architecture In Motion

Escape

Sat, Nov 21 at 8PM

Sun, Nov 22 at 3PM

Tickets \$49-99

DIABOLO: Architecture in Motion returns to The Soraya for its fifth engagement, this time with *ESCAPE*, a visceral and heart-pounding live show following a group of humans as they struggle to break free from the chaos around them, ultimately escaping into a surreal landscape of infinite possibilities. *ESCAPE* features

a collection of the company's most famous architectural structures, some of which Soraya audiences may recognize from the 2024 Soraya-commissioned *Existencia*, and gravity-defying moves by the company's dynamic performers.

Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández

Sat, Jan 30 at 3PM

Sun, Jan 31 at 3PM

Tickets \$42-95

Ballet Folklórico de México makes a home at The Soraya and the San Fernando Valley, continuing a celebrated legacy of tradition. Founded in 1952 by dancer and choreographer Amalia Hernández, the company is known as the first professional folkloric dance company in the world. It is permanently in residence at the iconic Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City, and has choreographed over 120 ballets, bringing together the music, dance, and costume of Mexican folklore from pre-Colombian civilizations to the modern era, performing across Mexico and around the world.

Step Afrika!

The Fruits of Our Labor

Co-commissioned by The Soraya

Sat, Feb 6 at 3PM

Tickets \$46-84

Step Afrika! returns to The Soraya for its third engagement with the LA premiere of *The Fruits of Our Labor*, blending the power of stepping, body percussion, and contemporary dance with the vibrant energy of South Africa's IsiPantsula and gumboot dances. This Soraya co-commission brings together a cast of virtuosic dancers who merge rhythm and ritual, history, and storytelling. The bold new production by South African choreographer Vusi Mdoyi and collaborator Jakari Sherman makes a musical statement through the ensemble's work of becoming instruments themselves, as they clap, strike and step in unison.

Siudy Garrido Flamenco Company

Bailaora

Sat, Mar 6 at 8PM

Tickets \$46-84

Venezuelan-born Siudy Garrido advances traditional flamenco performance as a living and breathing language of movement and sound. While both honoring the roots of this timeless art form and breaking boundaries that captivate a global audience, Garrido has created a new multidimensional vision of flamenco that has been described as "mesmerizing," "brilliant," and "vibrant." Most recently, she has collaborated with fellow Venezuelan Gustavo Dudamel and the LA Phil for his "Gracias" farewell season at the Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Hollywood Bowl. And now she brings her two-time Latin GRAMMY-nominated production, *Bailaora*, to The Soraya for its debut. Composed and directed by fifth-generation flamenco maestro Juan Parrilla, the production features an ensemble of world-class Spanish musicians, stunning costumes, and the unmistakable passion of flamenco.

Jacob Jonas The Company and Delirium Musicum

Sat, Mar 13 at 8PM

Tickets \$42-84

Two Los Angeles companies and longtime Soraya collaborators unite on a double bill of groundbreaking works. Choreographer, filmmaker, and artistic director Jacob Jonas expands his piece *River*, and Delirium Musicum founder and violinist Etienne Gara premieres his first piece composed for movement, *As Eternity Flows*, featuring dance soloist Shu Kinouchi. The collaboration between these two burgeoning artists, Jonas and Gara, is the first to be funded by the newly established [Thor Steingraber Fund for Artistic Innovation](#).

Note - This performance is part of The Soraya's second annual LA Seen Festival, running March 13 through March 19. Learn more at TheSoraya.org/LASeen

Ballet BC

An Evening of Works by Crystal Pite

Sat, Apr 24 at 8PM

Tickets \$46-94

Program:

The Statement

Solo Echo

Angels' Atlas

Growing up in Victoria, British Columbia, Crystal Pite would study dance as a child and choreograph her classmates on the weekends. By the time she was 17, she joined Ballet BC as a dancer and performed with the company for eight years before choreographing and performing around the world with companies such as Ballett Frankfurt, Ballets Jazz Montreal, and her own company Kidd Pivot. Soraya audiences were left speechless by the performance of her work *The Statement* by Ballet BC in 2022. And now her work, including a reprise performance of a segment from *The Statement*, is the centerpiece of the company's 40th anniversary celebration.

About The Soraya

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya) is one of Los Angeles' most prominent performance venues, recognized globally as the intellectual and cultural hub of the San Fernando Valley and its 1.8 million residents. The stunning, architecturally significant building was designed by HGA Architects and Engineers and launched as the Valley Performing Arts Center in 2011. In 2017, a transformative gift from Los Angeles residents and philanthropists Younes and Soraya Nazarian resulted in the venue being renamed The Soraya.

Today, The Soraya remains committed to innovation and amplifying access by presenting diverse performances representing LA's many distinctive communities, along with new works from local and international artists.

The Soraya's 2026-27 Season continues its journey by presenting the world's finest symphonic orchestras, innovative dance companies, the freestyle and vast vibes of jazz, innovations of dance luminaries, and as always, a vast array of global voices.

Located on the vibrant campus of California State University, Northridge (CSUN), The Soraya and the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication share an integral link that enhances student

opportunities in the arts and performing arts. This partnership fosters academic opportunity and artistic excellence, elevating the talents of CSUN's students. A \$5 million contribution from record producer and former California Lieutenant Governor Mike Curb was pivotal in ensuring The Soraya was completed and opened in 2011. For his founding support and in acknowledgment of the integral relationship between the Mike Curb College and The Soraya, Mike Curb is recognized as one of The Soraya's Cornerstone Benefactors.

The relationship between The Soraya and the Mike Curb College continues to grow, with robust offerings for students through master classes, student tickets, concerts of student ensembles, and students appearing alongside renowned artists such as jazz legends Wynton Marsalis and Jason Moran, Queen of Ranchera music Aida Cuevas, superstar violinist Joshua Bell, and the Martha Graham Dance Company whose Centennial Celebration was launched at The Soraya in 2025.

What: Dance Theatre of Harlem

When: Sat, Nov 14 at 8PM

Where: The Soraya
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330

Website: www.TheSoraya.org

Tickets: Tickets are \$56-\$119 and can be purchased by visiting TheSoraya.org or by calling (818) 677-3000.

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