**News Release - Neos Dance Theatre - March 1, 2018**

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**Hi-res photos are available for download at**[**www.neosdancetheatre.org**](http://www.neosdancetheatre.org/)**or upon request**

**Sylvia photo**

**https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yDldmm0AhXDtE3y2lBJGVAZAyqopXs74/view?usp=sharing**

**Neos announces new programming in Ashland County**

*Taylor Family Foundation and Ashland County Community Foundation offer significant support to kick-off new educational and performance opportunities.*

Neos Dance Theatre highlights Grammy Award winner Sylvia McNair in an upcoming performance at Archer Auditorium in Ashland, Ohio.  *M.A.D.E. in Ashland* will premiere on March 17th at 8PM as the culmination of multiple educational and outreach programs throughout Ashland.  Major funding is provided by the Taylor Family Foundation, supplemented by the Ashland County Community Foundation and additional grants by organizations and individuals.

The public performance and residency activity under the banner of *M.A.D.E in Ashland, (Music,* *Art, Dance, Education)* will feature the artists of Neos Dance Theatre alongside area professional visual artists Marty Bossler Lee, Betty Perry and Susan Shafer.  Also featured will be the Ashland High School Acapella choir, under the direction of Kimberly Wolbert, pianist Susan Gregg and special guests Sylvia McNair and pianist Kevin Cole.   The collaborative performance will include new technology known as projection mapping that will showcase historical images of Ashland County provided by the Ashland County Historical Society.

Neos, composed of 14 dancers including Ashland natives and co-founders Bobby and Brooke Wesner, will perform additional work from their repertoire including audience favorite *Romanian Rhapsody* by Wesner, *Good Night, Day,* a contemporary work en pointe’ choreographed by Joseph Morrissey, and a duet featuring the Wesners titled *necessary.negatives* to music by Bach.

Jan Archer, committee chair of the event, shares her excitement, “With so much outstanding talent in our community and our tradition of valuing the arts, this is a project long overdue.  With Bobby and Brooke getting their start with Opus Dance and Ashland Regional Ballet here, we wanted to showcase them, along with our other musicians and artists, in order to inspire and entertain both young and old.”  Archer played a key role in securing relations with event sponsors Ashland University and Ashland City Schools, each a partner facilitating educational programs led by artists of Neos during the week leading up to the public performance.  She adds, “I have thoroughly enjoyed this project and greatly appreciate the numerous artists, educators, volunteers, and donors who have helped bring this event into being.  I look forward to its success and many more to come.”

Tickets range from $10 to $18.  A link to Ashland University’s online box office can be found at [www.neosdancetheatre.org/madeinashland](http://www.neosdancetheatre.org/madeinashland) , in person during box office hours or by calling (419) 289-5125.

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