



pro *arte* **danza**
P A S S I O N I N P E R F O R M A N C E

THE 9TH!

2025 TOUR

JANUARY 30

FIRSTONTARIO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE, ST CATHARINES

FEBRUARY 4

GRAND THEATRE, KINGSTON

FEBRUARY 6

OAKVILLE CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

FEBRUARY 7

FLATO MARKHAM THEATRE

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Beethoven's 9th Symphony is arguably the most famous, most revered, most performed and most beloved work in the classical music repertoire. It is also the first symphony to include text, and it is, perhaps, the choral "Ode to Joy" finale which is what draws generations of people to Beethoven's masterpiece. Schiller's stirring poem is a hymn to unity between peoples, and joy is the agent that will bring us together. We all should follow joy's trail of roses, Schiller tells us.

Beethoven's musical works speak about the heroic struggle of the individual against injustice and oppression. Beethoven believed that only through unity could humankind defeat hardship.

Co-choreographer, Robert Glumbek, knows about struggle and hardship first hand. He grew up in Communist Poland during the Cold War, and when the Polish National Ballet toured Canada in 1987, he defected in Toronto. Although it meant leaving his family behind, with only telephone contact available to him, Robert yearned for artistic and personal freedom. For him, Beethoven's 9th Symphony is more than a piece of music. He feels a personal connection on a very visceral level because he relates to its underlying theme of individual struggle.

My personal connection happened in 2011. While in Berlin, for work, I visited the exhibit that commemorates the fall of the Berlin Wall. One black and white video image made an indelible impression on me. The wall was just being built, and members of the same family were on different sides waving at each other. In particular, one little boy was jumping up and down trying to reach out to the other side. The families were so close they could almost touch each other, yet there was an ocean between them. That image haunts me to this day.

Creating The 9th!, as we call our piece, has been almost a decade long labour of love. Robert and I were determined to go slowly because we wanted more than just a physical response to the music. Our goal was to express the epic ideas and themes inherent in the symphony itself.

And now, at long last, we have completed all four movements, and we invite you, the audience, to join us in our journey through Beethoven's monumental masterpiece.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roberto Campanella". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Roberto Campanella

AFTER THE WALL

In 2019, ProArteDanza unveiled a performance piece to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Berlin Wall's destruction; *The 9th!*
After the Wall explores the personal and artistic inspirations utilized by a troupe of young dancers to bring a historical saga to life.

Awards & Accolades

Best First-Time Director: Europe Film Festival 2021

Best Documentary Short: Calgary Independent Film Festival 2021

Best Documentary/Best Producer (Moze Mossanen): Phoenix Shorts Festival 2021

Official Selection for Lift-Off Global Toronto Film Festival 2021

Official Selection Montreal Independent Film Festival 2021

Director & Editor	Darcy Tithecott
Performers	Roberto Campanella, Taylor Bojanowski, Tori Mehaffey, Ryan Lee, Robert Glumbek, Daniel McArthur, Kelly Shaw, Sasha Ludavicius, Kurumi Yoshimoto, Connor Mitton, Jake Poloz
Music	A Golden Morning - performed by Jon Geggelman, courtesy of Artlist.com HVERFJLL - performed by Kevin Graham, courtesy of Artlist.com Depth Perception - performed by Michael FK, courtesy of Artlist.com While You're Mine - performed by Adam & Darcie, courtesy of Artlist.com Movement - Piano 2 - composed by Phil Strong, courtesy of Moze Mossanen and Phil Strong
Producer	Moze Mossanen
Cinematographers	Darcy Tithecott, Max Kirsh, Moze Mossanen, Conor Nishimura
Sound Editor	Darcy Tithecott

THE 9TH!

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 - 1827)
Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125 (Choral)
First performance – Vienna, Theater am Kärntnertor, May 7, 1824

Choreographers:	Roberto Campanella and Robert Glumbek
Performers:	Demetri Apostolopoulos, Sarah Di Iorio, Griffen Grice, Sasha Ludavicius, Andrew McCormack, Katherine Semchuk, Petra Toop, Christopher Valentini
Lighting Designer:	Noah Feaver (based on original designs by Arun Srinivasan)
Production Manager:	Taylor Zalik-Young
Costume Designer:	Krista Dowson-Spiker
Music:	1st movement Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, Op. 125 - "Choral": 1. Allegro ma non troppo, un poco maestoso (Live). Claudio Abbado & Berlin Philharmonic 2nd movement Symphony No. 9 in D Minor "Choral", Op. 125: II. Molto vivace Orchestre Symphonique De Montreal & Kent Nagano 3rd movement Symphony No. 9 in D Minor "Choral", Op. 125: III. Adagio molto e d. X d. X. Xx. X. ct Specialist

Animation Design

Virtual Production Lead	Spencer Idenouye
Production Lead	Jason Hunter
Jr. Project Coordinator	Cindy Cardozo
Jr. Film Production Specialist	Kevin Santos
Jr. Film Post – Production Specialist	Emerson Chan

THE 9TH!

Written by Paula Citron

First Movement – Allegro ma non troppo, un poco maestoso

Mirrors reflect and refract our hopes and fears. We see ourselves as individuals, even within a group. We begin to put up personal walls.

Second Movement – Molto vivace (Scherzo)

Separation is built between us. Chairs are the metaphor that impedes the connection between us. There is a light shining but we cannot reach it.

Third Movement – Adagio molto e cantabile

We are isolated. Each of us is on our own. Yet, bit by bit, we begin to move past the impediments that separate us, and we start to support each other. We will no longer be passive.

Fourth Movement – Finale (Choral)

We join together in unity, unity and peoplehood, unity and humanhood. The walls can be destroyed. Everyone breaks out into a joyous song and the sky becomes a radiant blue, it's freedom.

An die Freude/Ode to Joy

By Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller
(1785, revised 1808, with additional text by Ludwig van Beethoven)

Oh friends, not these sounds!

Let us instead strike up more pleasing and more joyful ones!

Joy! Joy!

Joy, beautiful spark of divinity, daughter from Elysium,

We enter, burning with fervour, heavenly being, your sanctuary!

Your magic brings together what custom has sternly divided.

All men shall become brothers, wherever your gentle wings hover.

Whoever has been lucky enough to become a friend to a friend,

Whoever has found a beloved wife, let him join our songs of praise!

Yes, and anyone who can call one soul his own on this earth!

Any who cannot, let them slink away from this gathering in tears!

Every creature drinks in joy at nature's breast;

Good and evil alike follow her trail of roses.

She gives us kisses and wine, a true friend, even in death;

Even the worm was given desire, and the cherub stands before God.

Gladly, just as His suns hurtle through the glorious universe,

So you, brothers, should run your course, joyfully, like a conquering hero.

Be embraced, you millions! This kiss is for the whole world!

Brothers, above the canopy of stars must dwell a loving father.

Do you bow down before Him, you millions?

Do you sense your Creator, O world?

Seek Him above the canopy of stars!

He must dwell beyond the stars.

COMPANY BIOS



ROBERTO CAMPANELLA
Artistic Director /
Co-choreographer

Born in Rome, Roberto Campanella trained at the Scuola Italiana di Danza Contemporanea. He began his career with Compagnia Italiana di Danza Contemporanea and the prestigious Aterballetto. In 1993, he joined The National Ballet of Canada as a Soloist, excelling in classical and contemporary roles. Roberto debuted as a choreographer at the 1995 National Ballet of Canada's Choreographic Workshop and retired in 1996 to pursue choreography and teaching. A graduate of the National Ballet School's Teacher Training Program with distinction, he co-founded ProArteDanza in 2004, cultivating its reputation for bold innovation, blending contemporary and classical influences, and mentoring emerging artists. Roberto's choreography has earned widespread recognition. He received the Dora Mavor Moore Award for *In Between* (2010), the Fellowship Initiative Award from the New York City Ballet Choreographic Institute (2007), and a Chalmers Professional Development Grant (2008). Beyond the stage, Roberto has choreographed for film and TV, contributing to *The Strain*, *Silent Hill*, Academy Award winner film, *The Shape of Water*, and more. ProArteDanza is celebrated for its "passion in performance" and for pushing artistic boundaries while fostering inclusivity and education.



ROBERT GLUMBEEK
Associate Director /
Co-choreographer

After graduating from Bytom State Ballet School in Poland, Robert Glumbek joined The Great Theatre of Opera and Ballet in Warsaw. In 1987, Glumbek came to Canada and worked for companies including Theatre Ballet of Canada, Ottawa; Judith Marcuse Company, Vancouver; and Myth Productions - before dancing with Desrosiers Dance Theatre (1990 - 2000). Glumbek has appeared in works, most notably: Greece's 1998 Gala des Etoiles festival with Karen Kain, directed by Dominique Dumais; the role of Mars, Canadian Opera Company's 2001 production of *Venus and Adonis*, choreographed by Serge Bennathan; and *32 Silver Pieces*, DanceMakers, choreographed by Marie Josee Cartier (Dora winner). Robert has worked with choreographers: Kevin O'Day, Bill James, Peter Chin, Michael Downing (Dancefront), Dominique Dumais, Christopher House, Serge Bennathan, Holly Small, Learie McNicolls, and Tedd Robinson. Robert became Artistic Associate of ProArteDanza in 2004 where he has since created a number of acclaimed original works. Robert has also created works for Mannheim Ballett, Ballett Vorpommern, Ballet British Columbia, princess productions, Toronto Dance Theatre, Opera na Zamku w Szczecin, L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec, Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts, CCDT, Arts Umbrella, York University and Ryerson University, where he is also a faculty member for over 10 years. Awards include: finalist in the Hanover Choreographic Competition and Stuttgart Choreographic Competition; recipient of the Now Magazine award for Best Dancer of the Year (2006); K.M. Hunter Artist Award; Clifford E. Lee Choreography Award; and Jan Kiepura award for best choreographer in Poland. Robert is currently performing on tour as King Claudius in the Robert Lepage and Guillaume Côté creation of *The Tragedy of Hamlet: Prince of Denmark*.

COMPANY BIOS



DEMETRI
APOSTOLOPOULOS
Performer

Demetri Apostolopoulos, born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, is a dancer, choreographer, Pilates enthusiast and intuitively driven artist. Now based in Toronto, he has recently graduated with Distinction from Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson) with a BFA in Performance Dance. Since joining TMU, Demetri has worked with Alysia Pires, Daileidys Carrazana, Guillaume Côté, Julia Cratchley, Kelly Shaw, Rodney Diverlus and Vicki St-Denys. He is recognized for his exceptional promise for a distinguished career in performance as the nominee for the Hnatyshyn Award for contemporary dance and is the recipient of the Orly Watkin and Nick Cordero Awards. Mr. Apostolopoulos has attended Orsolina28, Arts Umbrella International Summer Intensive and Rutherford Movement Exchange, where he has expanded his repertoire knowledge of known works of Crystal Pite, Jiří Kylián, Marcos Morau, Medhi Walerski, Sharon Eyal, and Roy Assef. Most recently, Demetri performed at the prestigious Fall for Dance North Festival with Malpas Dance Company in their signature program, as well as Côté Danse's Toronto premiere of their new creation of Burn Baby, Burn.



GRIFFEN GRICE
Performer

Griffen Grice is a Toronto based artist who takes passion in dance. He began training in competitive dance at the age of 12 and this ignited his passion for dance artistry. Griffen has completed his dance education at Toronto Metropolitan University and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in the Performance Dance program. Griffen has performed in numerous live dance shows as part of the TMU Dance program and worked with choreographers such as Louis Laberge-Cote and Rock Bottom Movement led by Alyssa Martin. He has had the opportunity to work with Gibney Company artistic associate Jesse Obremski in the contemporary dance piece titled LightPrint, featured in the Fall For Dance North 2023 Signature Program. Griffen is a dancer on the Argos A-Team and performs at CFL games at BMO Field. Most recently, Griffen has performed with Côté Danse in a piece titled Burn Baby, Burn by Guillaume Côté at the Saint-Sauveur Arts Festival and the 2024 Fall For Dance North festival in Toronto.



SARAH DI IORIO
Performer

Sarah Di Iorio is a movement artist holding a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Toronto Metropolitan University. She has performed at renowned dance festivals such as Jacob's Pillow and Le Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur, and has toured with Red Sky Performance across North America. Her newest creation, Meet You At The Surface, recently made its debut in the Night Shift 2024 festival, co-presented by Citadel + Compagnie and Fall For Dance North. Locally, she has showcased her talent in works by Angela Blumberg, Hanna Kiel, Canadian Stage/Dusk Dances, and Little Pear Garden. Sarah is enthusiastic about sharing her passion and knowledge of this art form. She has done so through teaching at multiple performing arts high schools across the GTA, as well as choreographing in residency for professional and pre-professional artists in Toronto.

COMPANY BIOS



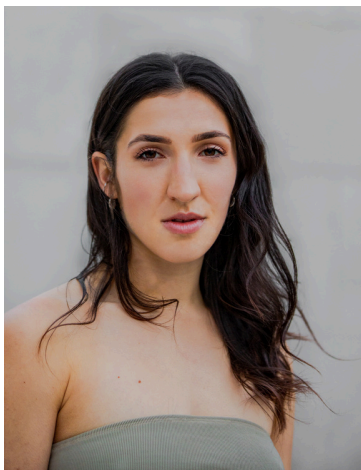
SASHA LUDAVICIUS
Performer

Sasha Ludavicius is a professional Contemporary dance artist and teacher in Toronto. In 2016, she graduated from the School of Toronto Dance Theatre and started working with the ProArteDanza Company during their 2015 season. She had the opportunity to dance with Peggy Baker Dance Projects, Red Sky Performance, The Chimera Project and the Hit&Run Dance Productions. Ludavicius has been the Training Manager and Rehearsal Director for the ProArteDanza's Summer Intensive Program (SIP) since 2020. Additionally, she rehearsal directed for The Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre during their 2022 Season. Her passion for movement influenced her to become a Fitness and Pilates instructor, a personal trainer as well as a certified Yoga/Barre instructor. During this past year, she offered Contemporary dance workshops and choreographed in performing Art High Schools across Toronto. Ludavicius was a part of ProArteDanza's 20th Anniversary Season in 2024 and performed in Echoes of In Between.



ANDREW MCCORMACK
Performer

Andrew McCormack began his training at the Sean Boutilier Academy of Dance in Toronto. After graduating from Toronto Metropolitan University (Formally Ryerson) Performance Dance program (2011- 2015) he has gone on to work with many Canadian choreographers including: Laurence Lemieux, James Kudelka, Angela Bloomberg, William Yong, Roberto Campanella, Robert Glumbek, Valerie Calam, Marie Josee-Chartier, Apolonia Velasquez, Ofilio Portillo and more. Apart from dance Andrew also works other aspects of theatre and Concerts working a Lighting Designer, Technician, Operator and High Rigger. Andrew is grateful to be able to work in as many aspects of live entertainment as possible and excited to be working with ProArte for their tour of The 9th!.



KATHERINE SEMCHUK
Performer

A graduate of Victoria School of the Arts (Edmonton) and The School of Toronto Dance Theatre, Katherine is a Tkaronto-based dancer, choreographer, educator and rehearsal director. She has worked in multiple cities across the country, dancing with artists and collectives such as Good Women Dance Collective, Project InTandem, Kaeja d'Dance, Mateo Galindo Torres, Sasha Ivanochko, Tia Kushniruk, Naishi Wang and William Yong. She has the ongoing privilege of working closely with mentor Peggy Baker through assisting, learning repertoire and creating new works. In 2023, she toured her Dora-Award nominated duet 'Maybe we Land' nationally with Meghann Michalsky. Currently, she is a company member with Radical System Art (Shay Kuebler/Vancouver) and Côte Danse (Guillaume Côté/Toronto), and is a faculty member and rehearsal director at Dance Arts Institute. Katherine is excited to be joining ProArte Danze for their Ontario Tour of The 9th!

COMPANY BIOS



PETRA TOOP
Performer

Petra Toop began training in ballet, jazz, contemporary, and hip hop at the age of 8, but it wasn't until 2016 when she participated in her first Summer Intensive Program (SIP) with ProArte, that she found her passion for contemporary dance. She grew a strong appreciation for the vulnerability, risk taking, physicality and athleticism that ProArte demanded of their dancers, as she continued to train at SIP over 3 more summers. While dancing and performing, Petra is completing her undergraduate degree in Bio-Medical Science at The University of Guelph. Her knowledge in biomechanics and kinesthetics inspires much of her movement dynamic. Some of Petra's notable performances include 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at Danzarts Festival in Sicily, Italy, under the direction of Ermanno Sbezso, as well as her most recent performance in the 2024 Guelph Dance Festival with Tara Butler's Dust and Soul Dance Projects. Her TV and film experience includes The Next Step Live on stage tour in Toronto, A Nutcracker Christmas movie, Backstage season 2, and the Peacock network original, Copenhagen.



CHRISTOPHER VALENTINI
Performer

Christopher Valentini is a graduate of the BFA Performance dance program at T.M.U., formerly Ryerson University. During his time studying he has had the opportunity to work with many choreographers including Robert Glumbeck, Hanna Kiel, William Yong, Vicky St.Denys, David Earle, Gadfly, Hit&Run Dance Productions, and D.A. Hoskins. He joined ProArteDanza in 2016 and worked with Mauro Alstofi, Kevin O'Day, and Matjash Mrozewski. In 2021, he was apart of ProArteDanza's VirtualTO Project. He performed a duet called "Falconers" by Diane Bordato and Valerie Calam and had the opportunity to work with real birds. Christopher is looking forward to being apart of the 9th tour with ProArteDanza.



DARCY TITHECOTT
Director

Darcy Tithecott is an independent Canadian filmmaker who has worked on both narrative and documentary films. Since graduating from Humber College in 2017 he has been working on small scale projects as a director and editor with various artists in the Toronto film scene. His collaboration with ProArteDanza began in 2019 during the production of, After the Wall (2021); a a short documentary about the artistic and historical spirit behind the company's critically acclaimed performance, The Ninth.

COMPANY BIOS



KRISTA DOWSON
Costume Designer

Krista Dowson retired from the National Ballet of Canada after a fulfilling 14 year career. She remains situated within the dance world, designing and building costumes. She has had the pleasure of designing costumes for James Kudelka's Psalms and Canticles, part of Canada's National Ballet School's Spring Showcase, The National Ballet of Canada's production of Guillaume Cote's Being and Nothingness, as well as designing and building the costumes for Toronto Dance Theatre's production of Alyssa Martin's Bin Chicken, Citadel + Compagnie's Julie En L'Univers, Robert Stephen's ballet adaptation of Kat Sandler's Mustard for Ballet Kelowna, and the Bicycle Opera Company's film Sweat. Krista is the Resident Costume Designer and Producer for Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre and has a long standing creative relationship with ProArteDanza. Costumes help artists share stories that matter.



NOAH FEAVER
Lighting Designer

Noah Feaver is a Dora Award nominated lighting designer. He works frequently in Dance and Opera and has designed for companies such as: The National Ballet of Canada, Edmonton Opera, Toronto Dance Theatre, Tapestry Opera, Souleppper Theatre Company, Holla Jazz, Citadel + Compagnie, The Royal Conservatory of Music, Against the Grain Theatre, and Rock Bottom Movement. Noah holds a BFA from Toronto Metropolitan University's Performance Production program and spent two summers as a lighting design practicum at The Banff Centre. He works as a Lighting Design Coach at The National Theatre School of Canada. Noah is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada.



TAYLOR ZALIK-YOUNG
Production Manager/
Stage Manager

Taylor Zalik-Young is a Toronto-based Stage Manager and Production Manager, originally from Calgary, AB. He holds a BFA from TMU in Performance Production. He is currently the Arts Encounters Producer at dance: made in Canada. Some of his recent credits include: Stage Manager, Silly Billy, The Chimera Project Dance Theatre at the Rubaboo Arts Festival, 2024; Stage Manager, Directors Lab North 2024; Stage Manager, NOMADA 2024 Tour, Canadian Stage & Danceworks, Public Energy, PuSh Festival; Stage Manager, White Muscle Daddy, Pencil Kit Productions & Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, 2024; Stage Manager, Hypothetical Baby, The Howland Company, 2023; Stage Manager, ProArteDanza Fall Season, 2023; Stage Manager, Encounters, BoucharDanse, 2023; Production Stage Manager, I Love the Smell of Gasoline, Pencil Kit Productions & Nightwood Theatre, 2023. Upcoming: Stage Manager, I Love the Smell of Gasoline, Pencil Kit Productions presented at the Expanse Festival.



pro*arte*danza
**TRAIN
WITH US!**

**2025 INTENSIVE
PROGRAMS**

TORONTO

Reading Week Intensive

Ages 18+

February 18 - 22, 2025

9:30am - 1:00pm

March Break Intensive

Ages 14 - 17

March 10 - 14, 2025

9:30am - 4:30pm

Summer Intensive

A 4-week exclusive summer training
program tailored to ages 14+

July 28 - Aug 24, 2025

Mon to Fri: 9:30am - 5:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am - 2:00pm

Locations: CCDT, 509 Parliament St / 80 Winchester Street / Citadel 304 Parliament St/
Artists Play 388 Carlaw Ave, Unit 205, Toronto

Audition required for Summer Intensive.

For more information and to register visit www.proartedanza.com

FOR PROARTE DANZA

Founders	Roberto Campanella & Joanna Ivey
Artistic Director	Roberto Campanella
Associate Director	Robert Glumbek
General Manager	Adina Herling
Education Manager	Sasha Ludavicius
Social Media Manager	Cait Feanny
Bookkeeper	Karen Bennedsen
Board of Directors	Cathy Lace (Chair), Joanna Ivey (Vice Chair), Wendy Chiles, Al Nasturzio, Moze Mossanen, Jane Spooner

Thank you to: Judy Harquail, our wonderful dancers, technical team, Board of Directors and volunteers, Sara Palmieri, Diana Moser, Jennie DiMarco, Rob Nicholls & Russ Donohue (FOPAC) Jayson Duggan, Jenny Pedler, Keith MacVicar, Alex Boxall & Dave Vanderlip (Kingston Grand Theatre), Ronnie Brown, Christopher Mei, Andrew Moyer & Diana McCoy (Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts), Scott Hill, Siobhain Fray, Andrew Rosenfarb & Vince Rotondi (Flato Markham Theatre)

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