



MEDIA RELEASE – For immediate release

## New music and dance team at the Conservatory – New gala in Halifax

### **Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts presents** Winter Gala Fundraiser & Premiere of *Alice: The Ballet*

Jan. 25, 2019 (Halifax, NS) -- Embarking upon a new path after a complete administrative changeover in 2018, the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts will host its first Winter Gala Fundraiser on Saturday, February 16th – featuring the premiere performance of *Alice: The Ballet*, performances by top emerging musicians, and a silent auction. The event will be held in the Portia White Memorial Atrium and Spatz Theatre, 1855 Trollope Street, Halifax.

With new Operations Manager John Murray, new Dean of Dance Diana Rutherford, and new Music Coordinator Neven Prostran at the helm, there is a fresh team ready and eager to connect with generations of musicians, dancers, parents, faculty, alumni and supporters of the MCPA.

“We want to ‘wow’ people with our very first gala,” says Murray. “We intend to give them a wonderful night to remember – a night to enjoy and celebrate the talent of young emerging East Coast artists, and a night to feel truly appreciated for supporting them.”

“Those who attend the gala will be treated to the premiere of *Alice: The Ballet*, the Conservatory School of Dance’s flagship production of 2019,” says Rutherford. “Our dancers have been rehearsing since the fall and are thrilled to be performing for an audience of their biggest supporters.”

“We are excited to be showcasing performances by top emerging musicians, faculty and alumni during both the gala’s White Carpet Reception and After-Party,” says Prostran. “These are the music professionals of today – and the up-and-coming musicians of tomorrow.”

The MCPA Winter Gala program will begin with a catered White Carpet Reception at 6:00 p.m. in the Atrium, move to Spatz Theatre for the premiere of *Alice: The Ballet*, then back to the Atrium at 8:00 p.m. for an After-Party. The reception will feature a silent auction and musical performances. After *Alice: The Ballet*, attendees will enjoy an After-Party in the company of performers, alumni and faculty; more musical performances; coffee, tea and dessert.

Tickets to the MCPA Winter Gala Fundraiser and Premiere of *Alice: The Ballet* are available at Ticket Halifax ([tickethalifax.com](http://tickethalifax.com)). Priced at \$90, there is no HST as the MCPA is a non-profit, charitable organization. The MCPA will also provide tax receipts for the donation portion of each ticket.

- 30 -

Media: For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact the Conservatory’s Communications Manager at [mcpacommunications@maritimeconservatory.com](mailto:mcpacommunications@maritimeconservatory.com) or 902-704-1744.



## **FACTS**

- The MCPA offers approximately \$30,000 in scholarships, bursaries and fellowships for young music and dance students. This financial assistance is made possible through the support of individual donors and the independently-run MCPA Association, a group that promotes and supports the MCPA, its students, and its teachers.
- The MCPA is the only dance education institution in Maritime Canada with a full-time professional dance training program and a private career college registered with the Labour and Advanced Education department of Nova Scotia. The MCPA School of Dance-Teacher Training Program is an approved diploma program under the Private Career College Act, 2018.
- The MCPA is the only performing arts institution in Maritime Canada combining both professional dance and music programs in the same building, a physical reality that provides students with valuable opportunities for creative development and collaboration.

## **HISTORY**

- In 1887, an Act of the Nova Scotia Legislature transformed the Halifax Ladies' College into the Halifax Conservatory of Music. Its founders included Rev. Robert Laing, the Premier of Nova Scotia, three future Lieutenant Governors, numerous provincial and federal politicians, Supreme Court judges, clerics and moderators from the big churches, and senior professors from Dalhousie University. The Halifax Conservatory Symphony is considered to be the predecessor of modern-day Symphony Nova Scotia.
- In 1954, The Halifax Conservatory of Music (1887-1954) was amalgamated with the Maritime Academy of Music (1934-54) to establish the Maritime Conservatory of Music. This name was changed in 1998 to the current Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts.
- The Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts has fostered excellence in arts education in Nova Scotia for more than 130 years, a significant milestone in the history of arts education in Nova Scotia. Before Dalhousie University established its Music Department, the Conservatory was conferring Bachelor of Music degrees in affiliation with Dalhousie. The Conservatory's Ballet Department was created under the direction of Juris and Irene Gotshalk who were later instrumental in the development of the National Ballet of Canada. Today, the Conservatory sets the standard for quality education in Music and Dance and continues to work closely with community Arts organizations.
- The MCPA is currently located in the former Chebucto Road School, built in 1910 and opened as a public school in 1912. The Chebucto Road School served as a morgue after the 1917 Halifax Explosion.