

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

The Call (World Premiere 2018)

Choreography: Ronald K. Brown

Rehearsal Associate: Arcell Cabuag

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach, Mary Lou Williams, Asase Yaa Entertainment Group

Costumes: Keiko Voltaire

Lighting Design: Tsubasa Kamei

Ronald K. Brown describes his seventh work for the Ailey company as “a love letter to Mr. Ailey.” Brown – Recipient of the prestigious 2018 Dance Magazine Award – seamlessly blends modern and West African dance idioms in this quintet, set to recordings by Johann Sebastian Bach (performed by Chrise Thile, Edgar Meyere & Yo-Yo Ma), Mary Lou Williams, and Asase Yaa Entertainment group.



AAADT in Ronald K. Brown's *The Call*.
Photo by Paul Kolnik.

“Through his dances, he speaks to the spirit of Ailey, and for nearly 20 years now he has enriched Ailey’s company with unaffected, soulful choreography that gives the dancers dimension and depth...[“The Call” is] **Mr. Brown at his essence...**”

The New York Times

“Ronald K. Brown’s “The Call” is a **formal gem, quietly spiritual...**”

The New Yorker

“luminous... *The Call*’s steps seem to trail light.”

Financial Times

Ronald K. Brown

Brooklyn-born Ronald K. Brown has created and presented dances since 1985, with his NY-based company Evidence, to promote understanding of the human experience in the African Diaspora through dance and storytelling. Brown’s choreography has been performed by a wide variety of dance companies, including Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Philadanco, and Ailey II. For Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, he has created the world premieres *Grace* (1999), *Serving Nia* (2001), *IFE/My Heart* (2005), *Dancing Spirit* (2010), and *Four Corners* (2013). Brown has worked with and learned from Jennifer Muller/The Works, Mary Anthony Dance Theater/Phoenix, Bessie Schonberg, Ann Carlson, and Judith Jamison.

He is the recipient of numerous awards including a New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie), National Endowment for the Arts Choreographers Fellowship, a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, the American Dance Festival Humphrey/Weidman/Limon Award, Black Theater Alliance Award, The Ailey Apex Award for teaching, and fellowships from the Edward and Sally van Lier fund.

In addition, Brown was named Def Dance Jam Workshop Mentor of the Year in 2000. In 2003, he received an AUDELCO (Black Theatre Award) for his choreography *Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats*, originally produced by the McCarter Theater and presented off-Broadway in 2003. In fall 2006, Brown received The United State Artists Rose Fellowship. He was one of only four choreographers of 50 artists to receive the inaugural award. In 2012, Brown received a Fred and Adele Astaire Award for his outstanding choreography in “The Gershwins’ *Porgy and Bess*,” adapted by Suzan Lori Parks, arrangement by Diedre Murray and directed by Diane Paulus.



Ronald K. Brown.
Photo by Julia Cervantes

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The Call
Music Credit Information

“Trio Sonata No. 6 in G Major” by Johann Sebastian Bach, performed by Chris Thile, Edgar Meyer & Yo-Yo Ma. Used by arrangement with Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., publisher and copyright owner.

“Blues for Timme” (Live) by Mary Lou Williams Trio’s album “Live at Nice ‘Grand Parade Jazz’”, music used for choreography by permission of Cecilia Music Publishing Company.

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