Ronald K. Brown pays tribute to Judith Jamison’s profound influence with a moving new work that echoes the title of Jamison’s autobiography. Set to music by Duke Ellington, Wynton Marsalis and War, Brown’s evocative choreography uses movement from Cuba, Brazil and the United States to conjure dancing spirits who embody Jamison’s elegance, dignity and generosity.

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), and Dancing Spirit (2010), which was a special tribute to Judith Jamison. Brown has worked with and learned from Jennifer Muller/The Works, Mary Anthony Dance Theater/Phoenix, Bessie Schönberg, 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, 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 Gershwin’s Porgy and Bess.”

“Watching the dancers spread throughout the stage, you keenly feel his choreography as a three-dimensional art...”
- The New York Times

“... good enough to blindside us.”
- The Financial Times

“A resplendent dance that conjured the spirits of the past by bringing them into the present.”
Generous support for the creation of Dancing Spirit was received from Dr. Crawford Parker and the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey through the generosity of its donors.

**Dancing Spirit Music Credit Information**

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