

# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 13, 2009

**WHAT:** The Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company  
Another Evening: *Serenade/The Proposition*

**WHEN:** Thursday, November 5 at 7:30 PM

**WHERE:** Fine Arts Center Concert Hall  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or  
go online to [www.fineartscenter.com](http://www.fineartscenter.com)

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### **(Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company Performs Tribute to Abraham Lincoln's Legacy)**

The Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company's performance of Another Evening: *Serenade/The Proposition*, a new piece by Jones on the legacy of Abraham Lincoln, will be performed on Thursday, November 5 at 7:30PM in the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall. This evening-long work marks the beginning of Jones's three-prong exploration of the resonant legacy of Lincoln in commemoration of the Bicentennial of Lincoln's birth. Without introducing the literal character of America's sixteenth president, the work weaves dance, text derived from period writings, video, and new and traditional music to explore the essential and powerful issues Lincoln's presidency raised about the moral, social and political future of the vulnerable young nation. This is an Arts Give Back event so the audience is asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy or non-perishable food item to donate to families through the Amherst and Northampton Survival Centers. Visit [www.thensc.org](http://www.thensc.org) for wish list of needed items.

Jones doesn't list himself as choreographer for *Another Evening* and he doesn't dance in it, but as artistic director and no doubt conceptualizer, he's imprinted the piece with his wide-ranging civic concerns. Of all dance artists, no one is engaged more

seriously with the moral and social crises of our culture. This new work, which he premiered last summer at the American Dance Festival, extrapolates from familiar Lincolnian issues — slavery, racial discrimination, the divided Union — to the still-smoldering troubles of our time: all of the above, plus cultural polarization, violence, international power games, endless war and destruction. Jones doesn't suggest a solution to any of this except, possibly, a new coalition of difference.

Bjorn Guil Amelan, the Company's Creative Director, designed the elegantly dramatic set —towering white columns set on a blazing white stage. Janet Wong, the Company's Associate Artistic Director, created the compelling video and Robert Wierzel designed the lighting. Employing the full company of 10 dancers, *Serenade/The Proposition* integrates performances by actor Jamy! Dobson with music created collaboratively by cellist Christopher Antonio William Lancaster (band leader), vocalist Lisa Komara and keyboardist Jerome Begin. The score combines original music with themes borrowed from Mozart's *Requiem*, American folklore, a Shaker hymn. Komara sings the words, but not the tunes, to "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "Way Down South in Dixie" and "John Brown's Body Lies a-Molderin' in the Ground" while the musicians bang out *Requiem* excerpts that include the "Dies Irae" and "Confutatis Maledictus," with their visions of wrath and damnation.

There will be a post-performance discussion with the company after the performance. A Global Gourmet at the University Club will offer a Taste of Times prior to the performance beginning at 5PM. For a fixed price of \$25, patrons can enjoy a meal that duplicates the menu offered at Lincoln's Inaugural dinner including Beef Wellington, Roast Turkey w/coarse grained mustard sauce or the vegetarian option of Sweet Potato Pie and Roast Root Vegetables.

Tickets for *Another Evening: Serenade/The Proposition* are \$40, \$30, and \$15, tickets for youth 17 and under and Five College/GCC/STCC students are \$15. Tickets are available from the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 413-545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS, or online at [www.umasstix.com](http://www.umasstix.com). This concert is sponsored by The Davis Group, The Rainbow Times and 93.9 The River.

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