



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BEATRICE JONA AFFRON  
APPOINTED ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR  
AT NEW YORK CITY BALLET**

The Current Music Director of the Philadelphia Ballet  
to Join NYCB in August 2026 for the Start of the Company's 2026-27 Season

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New York City Ballet announced today that Beatrice Jona Affron has been appointed the Company's Associate Music Director. Affron, who currently serves as Music Director for the Philadelphia Ballet, will start her position with NYCB on August 1, 2026, as the Company begins preparing for its 2026-27 Season.

In July Affron will appear with NYCB as a guest conductor during the Company's annual summer engagement at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, conducting performances of *Symphonie Espagnole*, a new ballet by Tiler Peck to a score by Édouard Lalo.

As NYCB's Associate Music Director, Affron will work closely with Music Director Andrew Litton to oversee and implement artistic and administrative functions for the Company's Music Department and will regularly conduct the 62-piece New York City Ballet Orchestra. Affron will replace Andrews Sill who is retiring. Sill joined NYCB as a conductor in 2009 and was appointed Associate Music Director in 2014.

Affron's appointment with NYCB is a homecoming for the conductor who was born and raised in New York City. A graduate of Yale University, Affron studied conducting with Robert Spano and Pascal Verrot at the New England Conservatory of Music where she later served on the faculty. Affron joined the Philadelphia Ballet (formerly the Pennsylvania Ballet) as an assistant conductor in 1993 and four years later became the Company's music director. In Philadelphia Affron has conducted numerous ballets by George Balanchine, the co-founder of New York City Ballet, and a large repertory of works including Philadelphia Ballet's full-length productions of *Giselle*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *Swan Lake*.

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Affron has also conducted for Atlanta Ballet, Boston Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Houston Ballet, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, Miami City Ballet, Nashville Ballet, and Oklahoma City Ballet. During NYCB's 2026 Winter Season, Affron appeared with the Company as a guest conductor, leading the NYCB Orchestra for performances of Alexei Ratmansky's *The Naked King* (music by Jean Françaix), Justin Peck's *Everywhere We Go* (music by Sufjan Stevens), and Peter Martins' full-length production of *The Sleeping Beauty* (music by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky).

"In conducting for the premiere of Alexei Ratmansky's *The Naked King*, Beatrice's musicianship, as well as her positive, collaborative spirit, was very impressive," said Litton. "She was immediately at home working with our orchestra on a difficult new ballet and the resulting performances were masterful. I know she will be a wonderful asset to New York City Ballet."

In addition to her work in dance, Affron has extensive experience in contemporary music and opera, where her credits include leading the national tour of Philip Glass' *Les Enfants Terribles* in 1997 and conducting the World Premiere of Glass' *Galileo* in 2002. Affron has also conducted for Opera Theatre Saint Louis, Glimmerglass Opera, and Boston Opera.

New York City Ballet was founded in 1948 by Balanchine and arts patron Lincoln Kirstein, and quickly became world-renowned for its athletic and contemporary style. Jerome Robbins joined NYCB the following year, and, with Balanchine, helped to build the Company's unparalleled repertory. Now under the leadership of Artistic Director Jonathan Stafford, Associate Artistic Director Wendy Whelan, and Executive Director Kathy Brown, NYCB is the largest dance organization in America with an unparalleled repertory that includes more than 500 original ballets created for the Company. NYCB has also commissioned numerous music scores including compositions by Igor Stravinsky, Leonard Bernstein, John Adams, Wynton Marsalis, Paul McCartney, Nico Muhly, Sufjan Stevens, Solange Knowles, and many other composers.

New York City Ballet's 2026 Spring Season performances are taking place at the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center now through Sunday, May 31. For more information visit [nycballet.com](http://nycballet.com).

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