

**For Immediate Release**

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**Canton Ballet Offers Japanese Dances in April**

Canton Ballet director Cassandra Crowley announces *Japanese Dances* in celebration of the Canton Museum of Art's *Kimono As Art* with performances on Friday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 4, at 2:00 p.m. at the Palace Theatre in Canton.

Canton Ballet's spring performances will feature *Whispering Winds*, a new work by acclaimed New York City choreographer Saeko Ichinohe. Also to be seen are the ballet's *Three Japanese Dances* by the late Lisa Nowak of the Detroit area and three Japanese-themed works by Canton Ballet choreographer in residence Angelo Lemmo including *Warison*, *Look Out!* and a new work not yet titled.

In January Ms. Ichinohe, who directs her own company in NYC, spent 10 days in the Canton Ballet studios with the ballet's company dancers setting her newly commissioned piece to the sounds of Japanese wind chimes and Japanese contemporary music composed by Katsutoshi Nagasawa for Japanese traditional instruments. *Whispering Wind* centers on a man walking among the trees who feels the wind against his face and body. The

female dancers are the wind. Male dancers dressed in black will carry the girls against a black backdrop, giving the illusion they are flying.

Lemmo's *Warison* is a Japanese war ballet. His *Look Out!*, set to Japanese drums, was performed at the Regional Dance America/NE festival gala and won a best performer award for the lead dancer.

Admission is \$18 to \$22 for adults, \$14 to \$18 for seniors and students and \$8 to \$10 for children under 12. Reserved seat tickets may be purchased online at [cantonballet.com](http://cantonballet.com) and in person or by telephone at 330-455-6880 at the ballet box office in the Cultural Center for the Arts.

The beautifully restored historic Palace Theatre, located at 605 Market Ave. N. in downtown Canton, is the ballet's performing home. There is wheelchair seating on the main floor. The theatre box office opens one hour before curtain time for walkup sale.

Canton Ballet studios and offices are located in the Cultural Center for the Arts, 1001 Market Avenue North in Canton. Business hours are Mondays through Thursdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information about Canton Ballet call 330-455-7220 or visit [cantonballet.com](http://cantonballet.com).

*Japanese Dances* is made possible by a generous grant from the Stark Community Foundation. Ms. Ichinohe's work is the result of an ArtsinStark special project grant. Other support in part is by Ohio Arts Council, 89.7 WKSU, The Repository, Mix 94.1 WHBC, Arts in Stark.

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