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alonzo king's  
**LINES BALLE**

## Alonzo King Commissioned By the Royal Swedish Ballet

Alonzo King of LINES Ballet, recently proclaimed “an international ambassador for Bay Area dance” by the San Francisco Chronicle, will bring his elegant choreography of pure lines to Sweden next fall. The Royal Swedish Ballet, founded in Stockholm in 1773, has commissioned Alonzo King to add his recent piece, “Handel,” to the company’s repertory. The fourth-oldest ballet company in the world—after Paris, Copenhagen, and St. Petersburg—the Royal Swedish Ballet is renowned for the dramatic capability and astonishing versatility of its 75 dancers. The Swedish premiere of “Handel” will take place on November 1, 2006, at the Royal Opera House, a stately and beautiful theater. The score, with music by George Friderich Handel, will be played live by the Royal Swedish Opera Orchestra, with interludes created by Leslie Stuck, a noted Bay Area electronic-music composer whose work has been commissioned by the Toyko Ballet, Frankfurt Ballet and New York City Ballet.

“Handel” was created by Alonzo King for LINES Ballet, and had its premiere at the Company’s Fall 2005 Home Season in San Francisco. Exploring Handel’s depth in this piece, Alonzo King works with an entire and complex music of bodies, taking up the dramatic elegance of Baroque expression. Handel found that he could integrate the new homophonic style—with its clarity of melody, rising against the harmonic base—and the tradition of blended polyphony; the boldness of melody is never lost. This balance of thematic richness and simplicity that distinguishes Handel as a composer comes through in the clean, graceful lines of the dancers.

Alonzo King’s choreography is deeply resonant with the nobility of the music. He creates a sense of majesty without opulence, and of dignity that needs no declaration. In 1741, Handel said of his latest composition, “Whether I was in my body or out of my body as I wrote it, I know not. God knows.” Watching the dancers perform this piece gives audience members that same sense of seeing ethereal beauty given shape and form, of being present in the moment when creativity is embodied and experienced.

Compared by the San Francisco Chronicle to a “Gothic cathedral” for its soaring, transcendent quality, “Handel” affirms the praise of the Contra Costa Times: “Alonzo King has developed a standard of 21st-century ballet unique in the Bay Area and perhaps in the country... seductively beautiful.” As “Handel” becomes part of the Swedish Royal Ballet’s repertory, Alonzo King’s original and extraordinary vision of contemporary ballet becomes more visible on the world stage.

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