

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Stanford Live Presents the North American Premiere of *Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth* (Dec 4) by Choreographer Kyle Abraham

A reimagining of Mozart's Requiem in D minor features dancers from A.I.M by Kyle Abraham and a score by electronic music composer Jlin



Stanford, CA, November 16, 2021 — *Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth*, a reimagining of **Mozart's Requiem in D minor** by choreographer and MacArthur Fellow **Kyle Abraham** and pioneering producer, composer, and EDM artist **Jlin**, will receive its North American premiere at **Stanford Live on December 4, 2021**. *Requiem* is one of several major dance commissions this season that includes Dimitris Papaioannou's *Transverse Orientation* that will have its North American premiere in May 2022. Stanford Live will also host Abraham and his company **A.I.M by Kyle Abraham** for a week-long residency leading up to the premiere.

In collaboration with costume designer **Giles Deacon**, lighting and set designer **Dan Scully**, and ten dancers from A.I.M, Abraham and Jlin transform one of Mozart's most mysterious compositions into an electronic opus that memorializes ritual, mourning, and rebirth.

The concept for *Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth* emerged from a period of personal grief for Abraham and his deep engagement with death and the afterlife that resulted. In 2018, the concept took shape in the dance studio as a new work exploring death, folklore, and reincarnation. Though the new production was postponed due to the pandemic, it premieres amid a cultural moment of grief that speaks to the same probing questions of the afterlife influencing the early idea of Abraham's *Requiem*.

In his fluid choreographic language, Abraham draws from the repertoire of classical ballet, hip-hop, modern dance, and street dance while Jlin—performing live from an orchestra pit—takes Mozart's classic requiem and turns it into an electronic dance piece, building her sound on a style of house dance and street dance that originated in Chicago in the 1990s. The fusion of choreography styles and music pushes *Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth* into something both contemporary and mythical.

Co-commissioned by Stanford Live; Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts; University Musical Society of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; and International Summer Festival Kampnagel; and generously supported by the Stanford Live Commissions and Programming Fund.

Generous support for A.I.M provided by: The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; The DuBose & Dorothy Heyward Memorial Fund; The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation; The Ford Foundation; The Harkness Foundation for Dance, the Howard Gilman Foundation; Joyce Theater Foundation; New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; New York Community Trust; Princess Grace Foundation-USA; The Rockefeller Brothers Fund; and The Samuel H. Scripps Foundation. Public funding provided by The National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Council on the Arts with support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the NYS Legislature; and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

Tickets and More Information

Tickets are on sale now at live.stanford.edu. To read about health and safety protocols, visit our [website](#).

[Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth](#)

A new work by Kyle Abraham and Jlin | A.I.M

Saturday, Dec 4, 7:30 pm

Memorial Auditorium

Tickets start at \$32

Health and Safety Guidelines

Stanford Live continues to monitor COVID-19 and work closely with health and university officials to ensure a safe experience for patrons and to protect the community, artists, and staff.

Proof of vaccination or a negative PCR COVID-19 test is required upon entry to all Stanford Live venues, including Bing Concert Hall, Bing Studio, Memorial Church, Memorial Auditorium, and Frost Amphitheater.

For indoor shows, masks are required to be worn by all patrons. Please bring your own face coverings that cover your nose and mouth and wear them at all times. Masks with valves will not be allowed.

Patrons should stay home if they are experiencing a fever or any COVID-19 symptoms, have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days, or have had close contact with anyone who is confirmed or is suspected of having COVID-19.

About Stanford Live

Stanford Live presents a wide range of fine performances from around the world, fostering a vibrant learning community and providing distinctive experiences through the performing arts. From its home at Bing Concert Hall and Frost Amphitheater, Stanford Live functions simultaneously as a public square, a sanctuary and a lab, drawing from all Stanford University has to offer to connect performance to the most significant issues, ideas and discoveries of our time.

About A.I.M by Kyle Abraham

Founded in 2006 by choreographer Kyle Abraham, A.I.M by Kyle Abraham is a Black-led contemporary dance company that provides multifaceted performances, educational programming, and community-based workshops. The mission of A.I.M by Kyle Abraham is to create a body of dance-based work that is galvanized by Black culture and history. The work, informed by and made in conjunction with artists across a range of disciplines, entwines a sensual and provocative vocabulary with a strong emphasis on music, text, video, and visual art. While grounded in choreographer Kyle Abraham's artistic vision, A.I.M draws inspiration from a multitude of sources and movement styles.

Since A.I.M's founding, Artistic Director Kyle Abraham has made more than 15 original works for and with the company. In 2018, A.I.M began commissioning new works and

performing existing works by outside choreographers to expand its repertoire and offer a breadth of dance work to both the dancers and audiences. The repertory now includes works by Trisha Brown, Andrea Miller, Bebe Miller, Doug Varone, and A.I.M dancer and early-career choreographer Keerati Jinakunwiphat.

A.I.M's audience base is as diverse as A.I.M's movement vocabulary, which ranges from hip-hop to formal ballet technique. As Abraham says, "I'm interested in a really wide range of folks from the brother who owns the corner store to the woman who has never even heard of a corner store. I want those people to interact, and I want them to be sitting next to each other sensing the other person's experience. And then, I want them to stick around for the post-performance discussion and hear the other person's perspective and learn more about each other. That's what is most exciting for me."

We take a moment to recognize that Stanford sits on the territory of Huichin, the ancestral and unceded land of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, who are the successors of the historic and sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to the Ohlone people. We recognize that every member of the community has benefited—and continues to benefit—from the use and occupation of this land. Consistent with our values of community and diversity, we have a responsibility to acknowledge and make visible the University's relationship to Native people.

The Stanford Live season is sponsored by Stanford Medicine

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