

# KANOPY DANCE

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**For Release on or after March 3, 2024**

## ***ConFluence: A Prelude***

*A World Premiere Collaboration for Three Seasons*

*A Nexus of Dance and the Environment*

*Set to **Regeneration: A Pentalogy***

*A New Symphony by Madison Composer*

**Michael Bell**

*April 19-21, 2024*

*at the Overture Center for the Arts*

***Celebrate the Earth***

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***Kanopy Dance Company to be featured at the July 24<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra's  
Concerts on the Square®***

Madison, WI- March 3, 2024...Kanopy Dance will open **ConFluence: A Prelude**, April 19-21, 2024, at the Overture Center for the Arts. The production is the launch of a world premiere and a multi-phased, creative partnership between Kanopy Dance and Madison composer, Michael Bell (Bell). Opening in conjunction with Earth Day, and set to Bell's new symphony, "Regeneration: A Pentalogy", **Confluence: A Prelude** celebrates the regenerative power of connecting to our natural world through a prism of dance performance and music.

The project will evolve over several stages. This summer, (on July 24, 2024), selections from **ConFluence: A Prelude** will be part of the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra's Concerts on the Square® season as a special collaboration with the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra and Kanopy Dance. And next spring, Apr 24- 26, 2025, Kanopy will debut the second phase of the project, **Confluence: Inner Passages**, as part of its 2024/25 mainstage season at the Overture Center.

In his symphony "Regeneration: A Pentalogy," Bell musically recounts five movements of life across the "spiral" of time: birth, youth, career, crisis, and realization. Bell describes his composition as an "ecological dialogue" that prompts us to attune to the needs of nature - particularly in the face of environmental upheavals like climate change.

For the initial phase of this "master work in progress", Kanopy's co-artistic directors, Robert E. Cleary and Lisa Thurrell, will choreograph original dances, (solos, duets, group ensembles), for three principal movements (birth, crises, realization) in Bell's symphony. The choreography will artfully move dancers through the "spiral of time", and on a rhythmic journey towards achieving enlightenment ---harmony with the world we share.

This is Cleary and Thurrell's 3<sup>rd</sup> collaboration with Bell-- the first two were staged at Wisconsin's celebrated Fermentation Festival and Art DTour to his eclectic blend of acoustic folk, bluegrass, and jazz.

By day, Michael Bell is the Philip David Lowe Professor of Community and Environmental Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. But by night, he is a composer and performer.

**ConFluence: A Prelude** is partially sponsored by SHALL, the Soil Health and Agroecological Living Lab at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Evjue Foundation, charitable arm of The Capital Times.

### **ConFluence: A Prelude**

Apr 19-21, 2024 (Fri-Sun)

Friday, 7:30PM, Saturday, 4:30PM & 7:30 PM, Sunday, 1 PM & 4 PM

Tickets (reserved seating): \$40; Groups: 4 or more \$35; Ages 18 & under and Students \$20

[Overture.org](https://overture.org) (608) 258-414

## Special Programming: **ConFluence: A Prelude**

Kanopy LabWorks: a behind the scenes series exploring the making of dance.

Saturday, Apr 6, 2024, 4:30-5:15PM, with informal excerpts from the program and remarks by Madison composer Michael Bell at the Kanopy Center for Modern and Contemporary Dance, 329 W. Mifflin Street, Madison, WI. Free, but space is limited. To make reservations, please contact, Susanne Voeltz, [susivoeltzpr@gmail.com](mailto:susivoeltzpr@gmail.com).

### Earth Fest Kick-Off Event

Kanopy Dance will be performing at part of the Earth Fest Kick-Off Event, Friday, April 19, 2024, from 1-6 p.m. at the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery. More details and registration March 1, 2024, at [earthfest.wisc.edu](https://earthfest.wisc.edu). Earth Fest is presented by the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and Office of Sustainability. Earth Fest will feature a variety of different events from April 19-26, 2024.

### About Kanopy Dance

*Kanopy Dance is a quintessential modern dance company. While the company “informs” its works through its roots in the Martha Graham tradition, Kanopy has cultivated its own brand, working to forward a new dimension and visual language to advance American Modern dance. Kanopy’s artistic directors, Robert E. Cleary, (former principal dancer for Ballet Minnesota and Minnesota Dance Theater) and Lisa Thurrell, (former dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company, NYC), not only strive to preserve the best of Graham; but also, to cultivate the dynamic growth of American dance by training professional dancers, choreographing new works and collaborating with artists to establish new creative benchmarks. Kanopy is comprised of Kanopy Dance Company, Kanopy 2, (Kanopy’s second company and pre-professional training program), and the Kanopy Dance Academy housed at the new Kanopy Center for Modern and Contemporary Dance. Kanopy is a resident company of Overture Center for the Arts. Please visit us at <https://kanopydance.org/>*