

For immediate release

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## Northern Ballet announces promotions and joiners for 2017/18 season

[Northern Ballet](#) will welcome ten new [dancers](#) for the 2018/19 season and has also announced promotions for existing members of the Company.

Joining the Corps de Ballet are: **Ayça Anil** (Central School of Ballet); **Adam Ashcroft** (Estonian National Ballet); **Harris Beattie** (Central School of Ballet); **Helen Bogatch** (Estonian National Ballet); **Kyungka Kwak** (Universal Ballet, Korea); **George Liang** (The National Ballet of Canada); and **Nina Queiroz da Silva** (Ballet Nacional Sodre, Uruguay). **Matthew Morrell** joins as an Apprentice from the Academy of Northern Ballet's Professional Graduate Programme, alongside former Professional Graduate student **Julie Nunès** who joins from the corps de ballet at *The Phantom of the Opera*, Stockholm, and **Oscar Ainscough** from Tring Park School for the Performing Arts.

In addition, a number of Northern Ballet's existing company dancers have been promoted: [Mlindi Kulashe](#), [Ayami Miyata](#), [Abigail Prudames](#) and [Joseph Taylor](#) to First Soloists; [Nicola Gervasi](#) and [Matthew Koon](#) to Soloists; [Sarah Chun](#), [Riku Ito](#), [Minju Kang](#) and [Dominique Larose](#) to Junior Soloists; and [Filippo Di Vilio](#) to Coryphée.

This year the Company will also be saying goodbye to the following dancers: **Dreda Blow** is returning to her native Canada to study physical theatre and pursue acting, teaching and creating her own work; whilst **Giuliano Contadini** and **Victoria Sibson** have retired from the stage; the three have collectively been performing with Northern Ballet for over 35 years. **Kiara Flavin** leaves to join Royal New Zealand Ballet; **Mathilde Lambert** is joining Columbia Classical Ballet, USA; **Jesse Milligan** has joined the West End cast of *The King and I* at the London Palladium; **Liam Morris** is joining Estonian National Ballet; **Alexander Yap** is joining Birmingham Royal Ballet; **Archie James** leaves to study Sports and Injury Therapy; and **Thomas Holdsworth**, **Darragh Hourrides**, **Carlotta Pini** and **Ailen Ramos Betancourt** are also moving on to new things.

Northern Ballet's new season will commence in September with a new [Mixed Programme](#) in Leeds and Doncaster followed by the return of David Nixon OBE's [The Three Musketeers](#) and [The Nutcracker](#) which will both tour nationally. For details see [northernballet.com/whatson](http://northernballet.com/whatson)

**-ENDS-**

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **Northern Ballet – Company List 2018/19**

#### **Premier Dancers**

Pippa Moore

Javier Torres

#### **Leading Soloists**

Hannah Bateman

Antoinette Brooks-Daw

Ashley Dixon

#### **First Soloists**

Mlindi Kulashe

Ayami Miyata

Abigail Prudames

Joseph Taylor

#### **Soloists**

Nicola Gervasi

Rachael Gillespie

Matthew Koon

Kevin Poeung

**Junior Soloists**

Sean Bates  
Sarah Chun  
Riku Ito  
Minju Kang  
Dominique Larose  
Matthew Topliss

**Coryphée**

Filippo Di Vilio  
Jonathan Hanks

**Dancers**

Miki Akuta  
Eneko Amorós Zaragoza  
Ayça Anil  
Adam Ashcroft  
Harris Beattie  
Helen Bogatch  
Abigail Cockrell  
Ommaira Kanga Perez  
Natalia Kerner  
Kyungka Kwak  
Heather Lehan  
George Liang  
Harriet Marden  
Gavin McCaig  
Nina Queiroz da Silva  
Dale Rhodes  
Mariana Rodrigues  
Teresa Saavedra Bordes  
Andrew Tomlinson  
Lorenzo Trossello

## **Apprentices**

Oscar Ainscough

Matthew Morrell

Julie Nunès

## **Northern Ballet**

### **Artistic Director – David Nixon OBE**

Northern Ballet is one of the UK's leading ballet companies and the widest touring ballet company in the UK. Bold and innovative in its approach, Northern Ballet is prolific at creating new full-length work with a unique blend of strong classical technique and world-class storytelling. Northern Ballet's repertoire embraces popular culture and takes inspiration from literature, legend, opera and the classics, pushing the boundaries of what stories can be told through dance.

A champion for the cultural exports of the North, Leeds-based Northern Ballet is dedicated to bringing world-class story ballets to as many people and places as possible, under the leadership of Artistic Director David Nixon OBE. Northern Ballet's Company of 44 dancers performs a combination of its full-length ballets and specially created ballets for children at almost 50 venues annually.

For more details of Northern Ballet's tour, on sale dates and booking information, please visit [northernballet.com/whatson](http://northernballet.com/whatson)

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