

**Media Contact**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:****AFA Presents a Concert of World Premieres**

HOUSTON, TX (June 30, 2014) – AFA’s final weekend of summer concerts will feature “**World Premieres**”, a mixed-media performance consisting of new music, dance and film at the **Houston Ballet Center for Dance (601 Preston, 77002) on Friday, July 11 at 7:00pm**. Admission to the concert is free and open to the public.

This 17<sup>th</sup> annual World Premieres concert is the culmination of a five-week-long collaboration between AFA student composers, choreographers from the **Houston Ballet Academy Summer Intensive** and short films selected by **Aurora Picture Show Education Director Camilo Gonzalez**. To date, “World Premieres” has presented over 80 new works composed exclusively for this special occasion. This eclectic evening of music, dance and film is always an audience favorite of the summer.

AFA Executive and Artistic Director Michael Remson states, “The thrust of this concert series is to show not only the great talent within the AFA faculty and students, but also the power and importance of artistic collaboration in bringing fresh performances to our summer audience each year.”

For a complete listing of all AFA summer concerts and other community outreach events, please visit **AFAatexas.org**.

**About Houston Ballet Academy Summer Intensive:**

Since its founding in 1955, the Houston Ballet Academy has provided the highest quality ballet training to aspiring dancers. Students are completely immersed in dance for three to six weeks and obtain invaluable training that will enrich and complement their previous dance education. It is an opportunity to train in a professional environment, where students can dance for six to eight hours a day, six days per week, learning from world-class teachers and Houston Ballet company members. Through a 15-year collaboration with the AFA, students have the opportunity to work closely with young composers in producing an original work. This is an invaluable experience offering students the chance to explore the techniques and challenges of creating, rehearsing and performing short pieces of original choreography.

**About Aurora Picture Show:**

Aurora Picture Show is a non-profit media arts center that presents artist-made, non-commercial film and video dedicated to expanding the cinematic experience and promoting the understanding and appreciation of moving image art. Since its founding in 1998, Aurora Picture Show has been a home for community exchanges about film and video, encouraging media literacy, hosting artist talks and community gatherings that are

the foundation of their education initiatives. Lead by Camilo Gonzalez, Media Arts Education Manager, Aurora's education outreach has taken a more active role in helping encourage the artistic concepts of aesthetics and experimentation in filmmaking to young people as well as adults. Aurora Picture Show provides community education programs and services for all ages and all levels of expertise in film, video and new media.

**About AFA:**

American Festival for the Arts (AFA) offers Houston's finest music education programs for youth, assembles renowned faculty with a passion for teaching, offers challenging curricula that enhance student skills and provides performance opportunities that benefit our students and our community. Our approach makes musical development and accomplishment a vehicle for learning and personal growth – growth that impacts every area of our students' lives.

Each year, AFA presents its signature Summer Music Conservatory and a variety of outstanding year-round experiences including the Houston Girls Chorus, the Chamber Music Academy and the Composer Institute. In addition, AFA's Community Partnerships bring the best of AFA's curriculum to area schools and community centers, including KIPP Houston High School and the Center for Hearing and Speech. Many AFA programs are offered in collaboration with Houston's world-class arts presenters including Houston Grand Opera HGOco, Da Camera of Houston's Young Artist Program, The Houston Ballet Academy and Houston Symphony. Taken together, AFA serves more than 1,500 young people every year and presents dozens of free performances and outreach concerts throughout the greater Houston area. For more information, visit [AFAtexas.org](http://AFAtexas.org).

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