

Peggy Baker's dance project



Peggy Baker will perform in Nanaimo March 19 at the Port The-

For the Star
Crimson
Coast Dance
Society and the

Longwood Brew Pub present Peggy Baker Dance Projects' *Unfold* – an evening of inspired collaborations and virtuoso performances

Unfold is an evening of three exquisite duets with dancer Peggy Baker and pianist Andrew Burashko, performed in a dramatic setting at Nanaimo's Port Theatre March 19 at 7:30 p.m.

The program opens with Baker's *Unfold*, a deeply personal and riveting work, created in 2000 and danced to Scriabin's *Opus 11 Preludes*.

Also on the program is her latest creation, a six-minute piece danced without accompaniment, a way to master silence.

The third work, *Heaven*, is by acclaimed New York choreographer Doug Varone. Created in

2003 to music by Cesar Franck, this is the fourth of his works to be produced by Baker's company.

Varone also choreographed the spare and harrowing movement play *The Volpe Sisters* for Baker in 1989 and has contributed two other masterful duets to her repertoire: *In Thine Eyes* and *Home*. Varone and Baker have been collaborators for nearly a quarter of a century. She says, "His influence on my dancing has been enormous."

The Disappearance of Right and Left was created for Baker in 2004 by the inimitable dance artist Sarah Chase, now based on Hornby Island. This is a first commission by Baker from a choreographer who is neither part of her own generation nor senior to her.

"The creative process has been refreshing and deeply inspiring," she says. "Sarah's works for herself and others have been based primarily in autobiography and composed of movement layered with text and music.

"This duet continues in the same rich vein as I draw on very personal material. The frankness and structure of this new dance are unlike anything I've tackled in the past so it is a thrilling, and scary, departure."

Baker has been a vibrant presence in the world of contemporary dance since the early Seventies. She was a founder and artistic director of *Dancemakers* and toured internationally with Lar Lubovitch before joining Mikhail Baryshnikov and Mark Morris for the inaugural season of the *White Oak Dance Project*.

Her concerts have been presented across North America and Europe including New York's *St. Mark's Danspace*, the *Copenhagen International Dance Festival*, and *Belgium's Time Festival*. She has received the *Order of Ontario*, two *Dora Awards* for *Outstanding Performance*, and the *Toronto Arts Council 2002 Margot Bindhardt Award*.

Russian-born Canadian pianist Burashko is among the most distinguished artists of his generation, highly acclaimed for his lyricism.

A sought-after soloist who has performed in every major city in Canada as well as in New York, Los Angeles, Budapest, Helsinki, Paris and other European centres, he is also the Artistic director of the *Art of Time Ensemble*, a chamber music society comprised of the finest players on the Canadian scene.

Tickets: call the box office at 754-8550.