

For Immediate Release

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**Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company Announce
25th Anniversary Celebration
Focusing on Live Music for Dance with
9 Musicians, 4 Composers and 8 Dancers**

Fort Lee, NJ - The Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company celebrates its 25th anniversary season on April 26th at 8pm and April 27th at 3pm at the Peridance Capezio Theater on 126 East 13th Street with a program that samples the live music the Company has commissioned for Nai-Ni Chen's work in the past fifteen years. Ticket prices are \$15 for students and seniors, and \$25 for the general public.

The program features Ms. Chen's most recent collaboration, *Not Alone*, with composer Chen Yi and the Prism Saxophone Quartet. *Not Alone* is Nai-Ni Chen's exploration into the realm of identity, independence and introspection. She questions if one can truly be alone with the multiple identities and roles we play every day and every moment, and with our heroic struggle to be independent. A famous Tang Dynasty Poem by Li Bai, *Drinking Alone Under the Moon*, served as the beginning of the exploration.

Besides the internationally acclaimed Prism Saxophone Quartet, Nai-Ni Chen has invited five world renowned musicians to join the performance: the Ahn Trio, Glen Velez and Joan La Barbara, all of whom will perform live to showcase their work with the Company. Joined by Joan La Barbara, the Company performs *Incense*, a quartet to the composer's voice over tape, commissioned by the Company in 2011. *Incense* has toured all over the world to Asia, Europe and North America. The Ahn Trio and Nai-Ni Chen created a production, *Temptation of the Muses*, in 2010 that has toured across the United States and Canada. The Company will perform the poetic sextet, *Concrete Stream*, composed by Kenji Bunch for the production. Glen Velez, one of the world's leading hand-drum masters and an expert in Central Asian Music, wrote the music for *Whirlwind* that was choreographed for 8 dancers by Nai-Ni Chen in 2013. Mr. Velez will share an excerpt of the new work in this concert. Company dancers to appear in this concert are: Greta Campo, Justin Dominic, Jenna Graves, Eun Kyung Hong, Daniel Johnson, James Johnson, Yoosik Kim and Kristen Lau.

After the concert, the choreographer, composers and musicians will share their thoughts with the audience about the unique experience in creating and performing a concert of live music and dance, crossing genre and culture together.

The Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company would like to thank New Music America (formerly American Music Center), and the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust* for supporting live music for dance for the past fifteen years. Ms. Chen has developed other works with great composers: *Unbroken Thread* with Jason Kao Hwang, *Earth* with Gerald Chenoweth and *Dream of Duanhuang* with Tao Chen. Each of these dance/music collaborations has made significant impacts on the

Company and the audience. Ms. Chen is also thankful to the late Doris Rudko, who introduced her to the unbroken ties between music and dance when she came to America to study at New York University. Additional commissioning support for her effort came from the National Endowment for the Arts, The New Jersey Performing Arts Center's Alternate Routes program curated by Baraka Sele. The Company also gratefully acknowledges the support from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Joanne Rile Artists Management and the many presenters who brought our works to their communities. Last, but not least to its many fans and audiences throughout the world.

About the Artists

A blossom of color, energy and motion, "like endlessly proliferating forces of cosmic energy," says the New York Times, the dances of Nai-Ni Chen fuse the dynamic freedom of American modern dance with the grace and splendor of Asian art. The **Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company's** productions take the audience beyond cultural boundaries to where tradition meets innovation and freedom arises from discipline. With support from audience and presenters, the Company has grown to be one of the most important resources for Asian American contemporary and traditional culture in America. It is one of a few professional Asian American dance companies that maintain an active national and international touring schedule with presentations and commissioned works. In addition to 35 States in the US, Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company has toured 7 countries in Europe, plus China, Guatemala, Korea and Mexico. Well known for Nai-Ni's work with contemporary musicians and composers to integrate live music with dance, the Company is constantly challenging the boundaries between discipline, genre and cultures. Website: nainichen.org

Composer/performer **Joan La Barbara** is renowned for her unique vocabulary of experimental and extended vocal techniques (her "signature sounds" including multiphonics, circular singing, ululation, and glottal clicks), influencing generations of composers and singers. Awards and prizes: Premio Internazionale "Demetrio Stratos"; DAAD-Berlin Artist-in-Residency; Civitella Ranieri, Guggenheim and 7 NEA Fellowships; numerous commissions for chamber ensembles, theater, orchestra, chorus, interactive technology, soundscores for dance, video and film, including an electronic/vocal score for Sesame Street. Her multi-layered textural compositions premiered at Festival d'Automne à Paris, Brisbane Biennial, Lincoln Center, MaerzMusik Berlin, Warsaw Autumn, and many other international venues. Exploring ways of immersing the audience in her music, La Barbara placed the American Composers Orchestra around and among the audience in Carnegie's Zankel Hall, building her sonic painting "in solitude this fear is lived", inspired by Agnes Martin's minimalist art. La Barbara teaches music composition at NYU and is composing a new opera. Website: joanlabarbara.com

Four-time Grammy Award-winner **Glen Velez** is an internationally-acclaimed soloist and seminal figure in the modern history of the Frame Drum. For over three decades, Velez has brought a new genre of drumming to the Western world by creating his own performance style, inspired by years of studying frame drumming techniques from various cultures. Regarded as a legendary figure among musicians and audiences world-wide, even twentieth century composer John Cage acknowledged Velez' mastery of the instrument by writing a piece especially for him in 1989. After fifteen years performing and recording with the Steve Reich Ensemble and the

Paul Winter Consort, Velez maintains an international touring schedule as a soloist while teaching in a wide variety of schools and universities. Website: glenvelez.com

Two-time winners of the Chamber Music America/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming, **PRISM** has performed in Carnegie Hall on the Making Music Series, in Alice Tully Hall with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and throughout Latin America under the auspices of the United States Information Agency. PRISM has also been presented to critical acclaim as soloists with the Detroit Symphony and Cleveland Orchestra, and conducted residencies at the nation's leading conservatories, including the Curtis Institute of Music and the Oberlin Conservatory. Champions of new music, PRISM has commissioned over 150 works, many by internationally celebrated composers, including Pulitzer Prize-winners William Bolcom, Jennifer Higdon, Zhou Long, and Bernard Rands; Guggenheim Fellows William Albright, Martin Bresnick, Chen Yi, Lee Hyla, and Steven Mackey; MacArthur "Genius" Award recipient Bright Sheng; and jazz masters Greg Osby and Tim Ries. PRISM's discography is extensive, documenting more than sixty works commissioned by the Quartet on Albany, innova, Koch, Naxos, New Dynamic, and New Focus. Website: prismquartet.com

Hailed as "exacting and exciting musicians" by the LA Times, the three sisters of the **Ahn Trio** (Lucia on the piano, Angella on the violin, and Maria on the cello) have earned a distinguished reputation for embracing 21st century classical music with their unique style and innovative collaborations. Born in Seoul, Korea, and educated at the Juilliard School in New York City, the Trio brings a new energy and excitement to the music world. Such luminary composers as Mark O'Conner, Michael Nyman, Maurice Jarre, Pat Metheny, Paul Schoenfield, Kenji Bunch, Nikolai Kapustin, and Paul Chihara have written works for them. The Ahns have performed in all 50 states and in over 30 countries, and have recorded six albums. The Trio formed LAMP (Lucia Angella Maria Productions), producing "Lullaby For My Favorite Insomniac," which led to a fruitful relationship with Sony. Whether performing in Vienna's Musikverein, New York's Lincoln Center, Leipzig's Gewandhaus, Beijing's Concert Hall, Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires or Istanbul's Aya Irini in Topkapi Palace, The White House at a State Dinner or touring in China or throughout Korea, they share their innovative spirit and ever-evolving vision of music. Website: ahntrio.com

*The Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust is no longer in operation.

Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company
25th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 8:00 PM
Sunday, April 27, 2014 at 3:00 PM
Salvatore Capezio Theater at Peridance
126 East 13th St., New York, NY
Tickets: \$25 General Admission / \$15 Students & Seniors
www.nainichen.org/NYSeason
(800) 650-0246