



# **POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL**

# **TRIPLE BILL**

**SOWING THE SEEDS OF INTERNATIONAL TRAD DANCE**

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**28 APRIL 2023**  
**19:00**

**SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE**  
**43-45 HIGH STREET, EDINBURGH, EH1 1SR**

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TRADITIONAL  
DANCE  
FORUM OF  
SCOTLAND

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# **POMEGRANATES**

**SOWING THE SEEDS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL DANCE**

TRADITIONAL  
DANCE  
FORUM OF  
SCOTLAND

SPRINGTIME FESTIVAL CURATED BY ILIYANA NEDKOVA, ELEANOR SINCLAIR AND WENDY TIMMONS

**[LINKTR.EE/POMEGRANATESFEST](https://linktr.ee/pomegranatesfest)**

# WHY POMEGRANATES

INTRODUCTION BY LIYANA NEDKOVA AND WENDY TIMMONS



We are delighted to welcome you to Pomegranates – the springtime festival initiated by the Traditional **Dance** Forum of Scotland. Established in 2022 as part of Edinburgh Tradfest, Pomegranates returns in spring 2023 to once again sow the seeds of international traditional dance in Scotland and culminate into a celebration of UNESCO's International Dance Day (29 April) with three days full of dancing around the world but also filled with art and music, films and poetry.

Just like our inaugural Pomegranates, the festival weekend in 2023 kicked off with an intensive day of world dance workshops. This year the workshops were led by over 30 trad dance artists and choreographers with whom we circumnavigated the globe from Scotland to Zambia in just eight hours while learning from each other.

What is new at Pomegranates 2023? A wealth of events which we curated around the workshops, including the Triple Bill – the first of three nights of live dance shows weaving in trad and contemporary dance, the new and the rarely seen.

Another new feature of this year's festival? Not one but three. Firstly, *Duets* – the dance and drawing exhibition by our artist-in-residence **Gabriel Schmitz**, as well as the related live duets of the artist with traditional and contemporary dance in Edinburgh and Glasgow, alongside the free exhibition tours.

Also, two new publications commissioned and produced by Traditional **Dance** Forum of Scotland. *A Sequins of Poems to Dance To* by our festival poet-in-residence **Ian McMillan** is a booklet of 10 new poems which will come alive at our festival weekend finale. Trad Dance Cast is our new trad dance podcast. It goes behind the scenes of *To Begin the Dance Once More* – our screen dance production due receive its world premiere at Pomegranates.

Here is to Pomegranates once more!

## POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY



# TRIPLE BILL PROGRAMME

LINKTR.EE/POMEGRANATESFEST



## WISH UPON A FALLING STAR

A SOLO DANCE BY YUXI JIANG

DURATION: 3.30 MINUTES

The first sharing in Scotland of this award winning solo with accolades from the 15th Beijing Dance Competition. It is based on the folk dance of the Qiang ethnic minority who lived in the Sichuan Province of China. This dance forms part of the research towards *The Last Leaf on Earth* – a new choreography in the making based on Chinese folk dance by **Yuxi Jiang** for three Scottish dancers co-commissioned by Traditional **Dance** Forum of Scotland and Hidden Door Festival.

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Dancer: **Yuxi Jiang** Choreographer: **Lili Deng** Costume: **Xiangzhi Bing** Composer: **Xubin Ma**

## STEAL AWAY AND PRAY

A SOLO DANCE BY VINCENT HANTAM

DURATION: 3 MINUTES

A rare opportunity to see **Vincent Hantam** perform this solo choreographed by the late Artistic Director of Margaret Morris Movement International (MMM) and a close friend of **Margaret Morris**, the dance pioneer who established Celtic Ballet in 1947, a forerunner of Scotland's national dance company. See Vincent embody the iconic natural, barefoot movement of MMM set to the classic American Spiritual which the title refers to.

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Dancer: **Vincent Hantam** Choreographer: **Jim Hastie** Composer: **Wallace Willis**  
Arrangement: **Alexander Reid** Music performed by **Golden Gate String Orchestra**

## THISTLES AND SUNFLOWERS

DANCES BY ARIANA STOYANOVA AND ALEXIS STREET + FRIENDS

DURATION: 40 MINUTES

One of the highlights of the Thistles and Sunflowers festival which premiered as part of Scotland's Year of Stories 2022. Choreographed and performed by the trad dance duo **Ariana Stoyanova and Alexis Street**, supported by dancers and musicians from the lands of thistles and sunflowers, this newly revived live show draws on the parallels between Scottish and Bulgarian folk dance traditions, regional variations and friendships. Co-commissioned by Traditional **Dance** Forum of Scotland and the Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Centre Scotland.

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Choreographers: **Ariana Stoyanova** and **Alexis Street** Dancers: **Ariana Stoyanova, Alexis Street, Desislava Davidkova, Vesela Pandezova, Callie, Laris and Abbie** Harp: **Tsvetelina Likova** Scottish Bagpipes: **Robert Burns**