

AMERICAN MIDWEST *Ballet*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 2025

Contact: Jim Williams, Marketing Director

(402) 577-0336 • jim@amballet.org • [Download print-quality photos](#) • [Printable PDF](#)



Erika Overturff's Appalachian Song, Gerald Arpino's Ruth, Ricordi Per Due, and Bob Fosse's Sing, Sing, Sing make up Season 16's opening program, Momentum. [More photos...](#)

WIDE-RANGING *MOMENTUM* OPENS BALLET SEASON

The Appalachian Mountains, an underground nightclub, and the interior world of memory will be on the itinerary when American Midwest Ballet [AMB] opens its 16th season **October 18 and 19** at the Hoff Family Arts & Culture Center in Council Bluffs.

"*Momentum*, our season-opening program, is designed to showcase the expressive range of dance," said Erika Overturff, AMB's artistic director. "The three works in this year's edition cover an amazing spectrum of movement styles, musical styles, and emotional moods."

Overturff gave this summary of the three works on the program:

Appalachian Song – Overturff's 2017 ballet explores the heritage of the Appalachian region as told through the music of its people. "The storytelling in this music is so powerful, it comes through in both the lyrics and the instrumentation," she said. "The ballet weaves together life's struggles and celebrations through stories of love, humor, heartache, and perseverance."

Ruth, Ricordi per Due – This 2004 work for two dancers is the final ballet created by Joffrey Ballet co-founder and resident choreographer Gerald Arpino. “‘Ricordi per due’ means ‘remembrance for two,’ Overturff said, describing the ballet as a stirring elegy in which a man recalls his departed love who returns as a ghostly memory.

AMB’s production of *Ruth* marks the company’s second work in cooperation with the Gerald Arpino Foundation, she said, following its 2023 staging of *Confetti* as part of the nationwide centennial celebration of Arpino’s birth. The foundation designated former Joffrey Ballet dancer Willy Shives, for whom Arpino created the ballet along with partner Maia Wilkins, to come to AMB to stage it.

Bob Fosse’s *Sing, Sing, Sing* – “Bob Fosse’s choreography changed the way people move onstage,” Overturff said, “He used unique elements – hip and shoulder rolls, angular knees, tiny finger movements, and moments of complete stillness – to build atmosphere or show how a character was feeling. *Sing, Sing, Sing* epitomizes that style. It’s a crown jewel of Fosse choreography.”

Sing, Sing, Sing, Overturff said, originated as part of Fosse’s award-winning 1978 Broadway musical *Dancin’*, a revolutionary work in which dancing was the entire show. Inspired by the Benny Goodman Orchestra’s famous 1930s performances of the Louis Prima song of the same title, it evokes a clandestine nightclub where people cut loose. “Every movement is precisely choreographed,” Overturff said, “but the ballet still captures the exhilarating feeling of improvisation.”

A live onstage band, led by Omaha jazz trumpeter Doyle Tipler, will help recreate the nightclub atmosphere, she said.

AMB’s production of *Sing, Sing, Sing* is in cooperation with the Verdon Fosse Legacy, an organization that promotes and preserves the work of Fosse and his longtime collaborator Gwen Verdon. Overturff said AMB is the first ballet company that the Verdon Fosse Legacy has authorized to perform this work. Dylis Croman, a protégé of Fosse muse Ann Reinking and a cast member in the 2023 Broadway revival of *Dancin’*, came to AMB’s studios in September to teach the work to the dancers, she said.

Tickets for *Momentum* are on sale now; information is available at <https://amballet.org/tickets/>

ABOUT AMERICAN MIDWEST BALLET

American Midwest Ballet [AMB] is the region's resident professional dance company, bringing work beyond words to audiences in Nebraska, Iowa, and beyond. Performing at home and on tour, our mission is to inspire people through dance programs of the highest quality: breathtaking performances, enriching education, and uplifting community engagement.

AMB's Season 16 is presented with the generous support of premiere benefactors the Holland Foundation, the Iowa West Foundation, the Heider Family Foundation, and Douglas County; season sponsor Omaha Steaks; and major supporters the Nebraska Arts Council, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and the Sherwood Foundation.