

ARTICLE

Best feet forward: Wellspring's Fall Concert includes challenging premiere of 'Ladino Rondo'

By Blake Thorne

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This year, Cori Terry will abandon her preference to choreograph to music without vocals. The piece was just too beautiful to resist.

Terry will premiere "Ladino Rondo" and stage two revival pieces at the Wellspring/Cori Terry and Dancers Fall Concert of Dance next weekend and Nov. 20 to 22 in the Epic Center's Wellspring Theatre. "It's a pretty complex piece," Terry said of "Ladino". "We're still working the kinks out."

Also in the Fall Concert, company member Rachel Miller will premiere "I am Not Where She Is," and artistic associate Michael Miller will reprise "Suggest Not".

Terry founded Wellspring/Cori Terry and Dancers in 1981. Every year she choreographs and premieres a new piece. For "Ladino Rondo," Terry constructed a challenging piece, one she knew would be a considerable undertaking.

"That's the life of the artist," she said. "There's a huge difference between what you have in your head and what you manifest."

"Ladino Rondo" involves six dancers. Terry chose to choreograph the piece after hearing its music, "Ey Eshqhe", by Francoise Atlan. Atlan sang the piece in the language of Ladino, or Judeo-Spanish, a Romance language spoken mostly among the Sephardi Jews. It was the language barrier that allowed Terry to choreograph to music with voice; she has always felt that singing in a piece might distract from the dancing.

After choosing the music, Terry set about to find an artistic vision in it. "The biggest way that I deal with creating a new piece is by listening to it over and over again," she said.

This year's premiere has been particularly rough for Terry: "Ladino Rondo" is woven with complexities. "It's not as easy as it looks, and it's not all about fun and creative play," she said.