

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 6, 2012

Mark Lamb Dance  
*presents*

Second Saturday Sanctuary Salon Series at 7 p.m. "A Love Letter to Metro"

Metro Baptist Church

410 West 40th street (9th / 10th Aves, A, C, E, 1, 2, 3, N, R, 7 to Times Square 42nd Street)

\$20 suggested donation

Saturday, February 11th, 2012

7:00 - 10:00 pm



Photo: Lois Greenfield '09

Metro Baptist Church.

**New York, NY** - Please join in on Saturday, February 11, 2012, at 7 p.m., for the 22nd edition of the Second Saturday Sanctuary Salon Series at Seven, presented by Mark Lamb Dance and Metro Baptist Church. The pugnacious little church in the heart of Hell's Kitchen serves up **A Love Letter to Metro**, a performance that combines Mark Lamb Dance and talent from Metro Baptist Church. The Salon will be held at Metro Baptist Church, 410 West 40th Street, in Manhattan. Suggested donation \$20, includes wine and light nibbles.

Described by *The New York Times* as "a quintessential New York experience," these monthly Salons bring together an exciting range of musicians, dancers, and other performing artists, sharing their work in a convivial, informal setting. February's Salon will feature the wide-ranging artistry of the genre-bending dance and theater troupe, Mark Lamb Dance, in collaboration with writers, musicians, and actors that are members of

A highlight of the evening will be the premiere of a ballet entitled, **Dancing Through Life Backwards**, conceived by Broadway veteran and choreographer, **Kathleen Conry**. This original ballet is set to Eric Satie's **Gymnopedie** in an arrangement created for the viola, and performed by **Tonya Peterson** on viola and **Conner Brown** on piano.

The new work features over a dozen artists from ballet, jazz, modern and tap dance worlds, including professional dancers and instructors. Notable among these is **Bella Malinka**, recently honored by **Dancers Over 40** for her legacy as a teacher and mentor of such notables as Elliot Feld, Baayork Lee and Christian Holder. Ms. Malinka, retired, was the inspiration for the ballet teacher character in the film **FAME**. She will join dancers in the piece who range in age from six months to 89 years old. Other special performances will be presented by **Deborah Gladstein**, **Mark Lamb**, **Michele Nickens**, **Sarah Pope**, **Nicole Pouliot**, **Alan Sherouse**, and **Jennifer Wilenta**, as well as special guest dancer **Jerron Herman** from the Heidi Latsky GIMP Project who joins the group to share his talents with a tribute to the solace of the Metro Baptist Sanctuary.

Metro Baptist Church, sited by *The New York Times* as "one of New York's unlikely dance havens," has played host to Mark Lamb Dance's Salon Series for the past 2 years. As a celebration and tribute to Metro Baptist during this Valentine weekend, Mark Lamb Dance wanted to say a big thank you to the church by marking this 22nd Salon with **A Love Letter to Metro**. From original poetry, Broadway classics, and improvisational dance to classic choir hymns, the evening will be sure to capture the spirit of this amazing church that, among many of its grass roots service missions, values art as a hallmark of its inclusive philosophy. In the tradition of Metro, "All are welcome!"

Performances will be interlaced with food (much of it homemade) and wine, plus intermingling between performers and audience. Please come and experience the warmth and joy of dance, song and spirit in this inspiring space.

Again, Saturday, February 11, 2012, at 7 p.m., at Metro Baptist Church, 410 West 40th Street, New York, NY.

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