Lausanne, January 6th, 2020: the Prix de Lausanne will honour the American choreographer Carolyn Carlson with The 2020 Life Time Achievement Award. The 2019 Choreographic Project will be presented once again at the Youth Olympic Games Opening Ceremony in Lausanne. The traditional photo exhibition on the Grand-Pont will take place from January 27th to February 10th, 2020. For the first time, the Prix de Lausanne is organising a Preselection in Japan, which will be held in Osaka on September 5th and 6th, 2020.

The 2020 Life Time Achievement Award

“Dance is an art and a passion that requires discipline, dedication and a lot of sweating! Furthermore, you need to dance with mindfulness.” Carolyn Carlson. After the Finals, the American choreographer Carolyn Carlson will receive The 2020 Life Time Achievement Award. Beneficiary of Alwin Nikolaïs’ ideas about movement, composition and teaching, Carlson has had significant influence and success in many European countries for four decades. She played a key role in the birth of French and Italian contemporary dance through the GRTOP (theatre research group) at Paris Opera Ballet and Teatrodanza at La Fenice. She has created over 100 pieces, a large number of which are landmarks in dance history. The legendary choreographer will be present at this 48th edition in Montreux.

The Prix de Lausanne at the Youth Olympic Games

The Prix de Lausanne is invited to participate at the Openings of the Youth Olympic Games, organised in Lausanne from January 9th to 22nd, 2020. On January 9th, 14 students from the Royal Ballet School of London will dance an adaptation of the piece Is To Be by Didy Veldman created during the 2019 Prix de Lausanne Choreographic Project. Furthermore, the Prix de Lausanne’s artistic and executive director, Kathryn Bradney, has been selected to relay the Olympic flame in Lausanne on January 8th at 3:15pm at the Place de la Riponne.

Photo Exhibition

The photographs taken at the Beaulieu Theater by Fred Merz during the 2019 Prix de Lausanne will be exhibited on the Grand-Pont, in Lausanne, from January 27th to February 10th, 2020 and at the entrance of the Auditorium Stravinski, in Montreux, during the week of the competition. In 2019, the Prix de Lausanne gave the Swiss photographer Fred Merz a “carte blanche” to document the event in his own way. Merz wanted to focus on the emblematic and historical Beaulieu Theater as it was the last Prix de Lausanne’s edition that could be held there before its important renovations. His work reflects the very unique backstage atmosphere, neo-classical architecture and the many details that make Beaulieu such a rich and authentic place.
Preselection in Japan
For the first time, the Prix de Lausanne is organising a Preselection in Japan, which will be held in Osaka on September 5th and 6th, 2020. The aim of this Preselection is to support talented ballet students from Japan on their way towards a professional career by selecting some candidates who will be invited to Prix de Lausanne 2021, free of charge. The online registration will open on June 1st, 2020.

*It is my pleasure to organise the first Prix de Lausanne pre-selection in Japan. I am looking forward to this new collaboration in a country that I admire very much and to promote the art of dance towards dedicated and talented young dancers in Japan. (Kathryn Bradney, Prix de Lausanne’s artistic and executive director).*

Created in 1973, the Prix de Lausanne is an annual international competition for young dancers aged 15 to 18 years old. Its goal is to discover, promote and support the finest talents. More than 70 of the world’s most prestigious dance schools and companies, such as the Royal Ballet in London, the Paris Opera Ballet School, the Hamburg Ballet School (John Neumeier), the Princess Grace Academy in Monaco, the Vaganova Ballet Academy in St. Petersburg, the Ballet Nacional Sodre in Montevideo, the Hong Kong Ballet, the San Francisco Ballet School and the Australian Ballet, are associated with the Prix de Lausanne and support its activities.

One of a kind, the Prix de Lausanne offers – for almost 48 years - an exceptional experience for a yearly selected group of youthful talents to nurture their skills and step towards a professional career. It is also an opportunity for dance professionals who can observe and establish contacts with the candidates.