

# PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2012-2013 SEASON

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **PENNSYLVANIA BALLET ANNOUNCES 2012-2013 SEASON**

**49<sup>th</sup> SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Marius Petipa's *Giselle***

**Company Premieres by Christopher Wheeldon, William Forsythe,  
and Jiří Kylián**

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Presentation of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*<sup>TM</sup>**



Philadelphia, PA (March 14, 2012) – Pennsylvania Ballet Artistic Director Roy Kaiser announces the Company's powerful 2012-2013 Season – highlighting some of the most revered classics and groundbreaking choreographers of all time.

The 49<sup>th</sup> Season opens with Marius Petipa's gripping classic *Giselle* and features George Balanchine's whimsical *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Christopher Wheeldon's imaginative *Carnival of the Animals*. Plus, three Company premieres will invigorate the repertoire: Wheeldon's *After the Rain*, William Forsythe's *Artifact Suite*, and Jiri Kylian's *Forgotten Land* – the first work by the Czech choreographer to be presented by Pennsylvania Ballet.

This season also marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Company presenting *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*<sup>TM</sup>. As one of only seven companies world-wide currently licensed to present Mr. Balanchine's version of this timeless ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet is reaching a milestone.

“Our 49<sup>th</sup> Season will challenge each dancer to develop a new aspect of his or her craft,” Artistic Director Roy Kaiser says. “I hope you will join us on the journey.”

To subscribe to Pennsylvania Ballet's 2012-2013 Season today, call 215.893.1955 or visit [paballet.org](http://paballet.org). Single tickets to *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*™ will go on sale on June 11, 2012 and to the rest of the season on September 4, 2012.

### **PENNSYLVANIA BALLET'S 2012-2013 SEASON**

*Giselle* by Marius Petipa

Music by Adolphe Adam

October 18-28, 2012

Academy of Music

Featuring the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra

Surrender your heart to the ultimate ballet of the Romantic era. Haunting and poetic, *Giselle* tells the story of a peasant girl who falls in love with a prince, but heartbreak and despair follow. With a dramatic score by Adolphe Adam and choreography by the French master Marius Petipa, *Giselle* offers both the promise of young love and the tragedy of it slipping away, in one evening of stunning classical dance.

*George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*™

Music by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

December 8-30, 2012

Academy of Music

First Niagara Bank, Presenting Sponsor

Featuring the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra

Journey to the wondrous Land of Sweets for the Philadelphia region's most beloved holiday tradition, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*™. Follow Marie and her Prince through the dazzling party scene, a harrowing battle, a glistening forest full of snow, and into the Sugarplum Fairy's kingdom. Spectacular sets and costumes make this 44-year-old tradition sparkle like new. The Philadelphia Boys choir and dozens of local dance students add to the enchantment. The Company began performing Balanchine's full-length *Nutcracker* in 1987, making this our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the production.

**Balanchine/Wheeldon/Tharp**

February 7-10, 2013

Merriam Theater

Featuring the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra

- *Square Dance* by George Balanchine, music by Antonio Vivaldi and Arcangelo Corelli
- *After the Rain [Company Premiere]* by Christopher Wheeldon, music by Arvo Pärt
- *Push Comes to Shove* by Twyla Tharp, music by Joseph Haydn

Revel in ballet's boundless potential with an evening of diverse works by three renowned choreographers. George Balanchine's *Square Dance* is a favorite of many dancers. Its title comes from the structure of American folk dance, which Balanchine found made a

complementary frame for classical ballet movement. Dancers wear simple leotards and tights, allowing audiences to focus on the dancers' breathtakingly speedy footwork and the brilliant score by Antonio Vivaldi and Arcangelo Corelli.

The Company premiere of Christopher Wheeldon's compelling and intimate *After the Rain* showcases inventive partnering and heartfelt emotion. The first section of this piece features three couples. The second, most-identifiable part is a pas de deux. The ballerina is dressed in a pink leotard and her partner is bare-chested. At times they are close and tender with one another, while at other times they are separated and searching for one another. The moving score by Arvo Pärt sets a poignant, touching mood.

The legendary Twyla Tharp anchors this program with the quirky and fun *Push Comes to Shove*, originally created for Mikhail Baryshnikov and featuring Tharp's trademark theatrical style. Here, Tharp fuses the wit of jazz with the sophistication of ballet.

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* by George Balanchine  
Music by Felix Mendelssohn  
March 7-17, 2013  
Academy of Music  
Featuring the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra

Visit the vibrant, mystical fantasy of George Balanchine's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Set to Felix Mendelssohn's lush score, this enchanting ballet brings William Shakespeare's classic comedy to life. The hilarious tale follows the adventures and misadventures of a group of mortals and immortals in their quest for love. More than 20 child dancers fill the forest as fireflies and fairies. A choir adds to the magic of this elaborate production, fit for all ages. This season, the Company will use updated sets and costumes designed by Martin Pakledinaz.

*Carnival of the Animals* by Christopher Wheeldon  
Music by Camille Saint-Saëns

With George Balanchine's

- *Ballo della Regina*, music by Giuseppe Verdi
- *The Four Temperaments*, music by Paul Hindemith

May 9-12, 2013  
Academy of Music  
Featuring the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra

Let your imagination soar with Christopher Wheeldon's charming *Carnival of the Animals*. The story follows the dream of a boy, asleep in the American Museum of Natural History. Wild creatures emerge, and hilarious antics ensue. With witty narration written by Tony-Award winning actor John Lithgow, *Carnival of the Animals* unfolds to the well-known Camille Saint-Saëns score.

Two Balanchine masterpieces open the evening. *Ballo della Regina* is a joyous collection of allegro variations set to the music of Giuseppe Verdi. Its title translates to “dance of the queen,” and it is a tour de force for the principal ballerina – an action-packed piece.

Complimenting these lush works is the purity and angular architecture of *The Four Temperaments*. Set to Paul Hindemith’s commissioned score, *The Four Temperaments* has become a standard in the Balanchine repertoire. The ballet is inspired by the medieval belief that humans are made up of four different humors that determine their temperament: melancholic, sanguinic, phlegmatic, and choleric.

**Forsythe & Kylián**  
June 13-16, 2013  
Academy of Music

- ***Artifact Suite* [Company Premiere]** by William Forsythe, music by Johann Sebastian Bach & Eva Crossman-Hecht
- ***Forgotten Land* [Company Premiere]** by Jiří Kylián, music by Benjamin Britten

Celebrate the evolution of Pennsylvania Ballet’s repertoire with Company premieres by two of today’s most influential choreographers. *Artifact Suite* offers William Forsythe’s singular brand of aggressive, angular movement. His daring interpretation of the ballet lexicon boasts lightening-quick rhythm, to-the-hilt extension, and unmatched precision.

Equally kinetic yet strikingly soulful, Jiří Kylián’s seamless, fluid vocabulary propels his somber *Forgotten Land*. New to the Pennsylvania Ballet repertoire, Kylián found inspiration for this piece in a painting of water eroding the shore by Norwegian Expressionist painter Edvard Munch.

**2012-2013 Season subscriptions are on sale now at 215.893.1955 and at [paballet.org](http://paballet.org).** Save up to 25% on single ticket prices with a full series subscription. Subscribers enjoy the best seats at the best prices, personalized service, lost ticket insurance, flexible ticket exchanges, a monthly payment plan, discounted parking, and more.

**NEW! Free Pre-Show Talks** will enrich your experience. Dancers, choreographers, musicians, and special guests offer audiences an insider’s view during pre-show talks, one hour prior to Friday and Saturday evening performances at The Doubletree by Hilton Hotel. No pre-registration required.

**Groups of 10 or more receive great discounts and unique perks.** Ask about backstage tours, special talks with staff and dancers, and dining options near the theater for your group. For tickets and more information, contact Group Sales Manager Arajua Backman at 215.587.6921 or [abackman@paballet.org](mailto:abackman@paballet.org).

**Join the Building Beyond 50 campaign!** As Pennsylvania Ballet approaches its 50th Anniversary Season in 2013-2014, the Company plans to revitalize and reshape its relationship to the Philadelphia community. With a \$25 million goal, Building Beyond 50 will help the

Company bring a rich diversity of work to Philadelphia audiences, make the art form more accessible, maintain live orchestral music, and educate the next generation of dancers. The centerpiece of the campaign is the construction of the Louise Reed Center for Dance, along Philadelphia's celebrated Avenue of the Arts. For more information or to contribute to the Campaign, please contact Hilary Alger, Director of Development, at 215.587.6912 or [halger@paballet.org](mailto:halger@paballet.org).

**The School of Pennsylvania Ballet is set to re-launch in Fall 2012!** In addition to providing rigorous, exceptional training for children and adults throughout the area, the School of Pennsylvania Ballet also will nourish the professional Company with talented dancers trained in the aesthetic of Pennsylvania Ballet, as developed and approved by Artistic Director Roy Kaiser. Stay tuned for more information on how to register.

Connect with us! Follow Pennsylvania Ballet on **Twitter**, **Facebook**, and **YouTube** to go behind-the-scenes anytime, day or night.

Pennsylvania Ballet receives support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. Pennsylvania Ballet also receives support from The Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

Founded in 1963 by Balanchine student and protégée Barbara Weisberger, **Pennsylvania Ballet** is one of the nation's leading ballet companies. Headquartered in Philadelphia, the Company's annual local season features six programs of classic favorites and new works, including the Philadelphia holiday tradition, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*<sup>TM</sup>. For more information, visit [paballet.org](http://paballet.org) or call 215.551.7000.

**Online Press Images Library:**

The media is invited to download high-resolution photos from the 2012-2013 Season at:

[http://paballet.org/press\\_images/201213\\_Season.html](http://paballet.org/press_images/201213_Season.html)

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