

# PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2013–2014 SEASON

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Marissa Montenegro, Public Relations Manager

Office: 215.587.6923

Cell: 215.873.7891

[mmontenegro@paballet.org](mailto:mmontenegro@paballet.org)

## **PENNSYLVANIA BALLET ANNOUNCES 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON** **AT NEW LOUISE REED CENTER FOR DANCE**

*Season Performances and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events Announced*

*New Louise Reed Center for Dance Officially Opens its Doors on Avenue of the Arts*

Philadelphia, PA (February 28, 2013) – Pennsylvania Ballet Executive Director Michael Scolamiero and Artistic Director Roy Kaiser have announced the Company's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration events and a memorable performance schedule for the special 2013-2014 Season in the newly opened Louise Reed Center for Dance.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration will kick off in October with Pennsylvania Ballet dancers ringing the NASDAQ closing bell in Manhattan. The celebration comes back to Philadelphia when the season opens October 17<sup>th</sup> with the Company premiere of George Balanchine's full-length masterpiece, *Jewels*. The annual season opening gala will be held on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> in the Wanamaker building's Crystal Tea Room, followed the next day by a free public performance for the City of Philadelphia that will include excerpts from the season and signature pieces from Pennsylvania Ballet's past 50 years.

December brings the annual holiday performance of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*<sup>TM</sup> to the stage. For the first time, Nutcracker Market will be added for the entire family to enjoy on opening weekend (December 7-8). This festive market includes numerous local artisans and vendors selling a mix of handmade crafts and one of a kind gift items in the Kimmel Center's Commonwealth Plaza.

Throughout the city, Pennsylvania Ballet will be celebrated during the entire 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season with special exhibits at the Philadelphia History Museum at Atwater Kent, Philadelphia International Airport, and the Free Library of Philadelphia. Speaker series and cultural collaborations will also be held at Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Barnes, and the Bryn Mawr Film Institute. Details around these and other upcoming partnerships will be available at [paballet.org](http://paballet.org) throughout the year.

"Pennsylvania Ballet strives to bring the highest-quality performances and programs to the community in hopes of inspiring the current and future generations of Philadelphia," said Michael Scolamiero, Executive Director of Pennsylvania Ballet. "We would not be able to successfully carry out this mission without the support of local government officials, companies, colleges, and our fellow arts organizations like those that are helping us commemorate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary."

## **Pennsylvania Ballet – Looking to the Next 50 Years with Center for Dance Debut**

Today, Pennsylvania Ballet also unveiled the first phase of the \$17.5 million Louise Reed Center for Dance located at 323 N. Broad Street on the Avenue of the Arts. This facility provides state-of-the-art rehearsal studios for the professional Company and the recently reestablished School of Pennsylvania Ballet. The building also offers ample space for storage and the seamstress equipment used for the maintenance and upkeep of Pennsylvania Ballet's handmade costumes. The final phase of the Center, once completed, will bring the headquarters for administrative and artistic staffs together on the Avenue of the Arts.

"Finally a home for this extraordinary company," said Louise H. Reed, Donor and Chair Emerita of Pennsylvania Ballet. "The establishment of a permanent headquarters for Pennsylvania Ballet and its pre-professional ballet school are incredibly important next steps for the Ballet. I could not be more excited and optimistic about its future!"

In addition to providing a place for rigorous ballet training for aspiring dancers, the Louise Reed Center for Dance will also be a hub of dance in Philadelphia, offering adult recreational ballet classes and providing opportunities to participate in community programs, thus creating year-round visibility for the organization, and generating a new source of revenue.

## **Pennsylvania Ballet's 2013-2014 Season**

The main attraction for Pennsylvania Ballet's anniversary is the performances. In addition to the season in Philadelphia, the Company will also tour, including performances of *Coppélia* at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, Canada in May 2014. A true homage to Pennsylvania Ballet's past, present, and future, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season will be unlike any other in the Company's history.

"In crafting our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, I was really looking to pay tribute to the history of the Company, the people who have played an important role in its development," Artistic Director Roy Kaiser says, "then at the same time look towards the future, with ballets from choreographers like Jiří Kylián and William Forsythe, whose bodies of work we are just beginning to explore."

### ***JEWELS***

**[Company Premiere]**

**October 17-27, 2013 - Academy of Music**

**George Balanchine // Music by Gabriel Fauré, Igor Stravinsky, Peter Ilyitch Tschaikovsky**

Be dazzled by George Balanchine's full-length masterpiece, *Jewels*. Inspired by the artistry of jewelry designer Claude Arpels, *Jewels* unfolds in three distinct sections – *Emeralds*, *Rubies*, and *Diamonds* – each with its own music and mood. *Emeralds* evokes the elegance of France, to the music of Gabriel Fauré. *Rubies* is influenced by Balanchine's experiences in America. The jazz-inflected Stravinsky score sends dancers zipping through the stage in Balanchine's definitively neoclassical style. The grandeur and regality of Imperial Russia are the inspiration for *Diamonds*, a nod to Balanchine's own heritage, as is the sumptuous Tschaikovsky score.

### ***GEORGE BALANCHINE'S THE NUTCRACKER™***

**December 7-29, 2013 – Academy of Music**

**Music by Peter Ilyitch Tschaikovsky**

Delight in the Philadelphia region's most beloved holiday tradition, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*™. A must-see for children and adults alike, this production boasts glittering sets and costumes, world-class dancing, dozens of young students from The School of Pennsylvania Ballet, and all the flair of a Broadway spectacular. The Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra and Philadelphia Boys Choir bring the masterful Tchaikovsky score to life. Get lost in the story of Marie's magical gift, a suspenseful battle between soldiers and mice, and the dreamy Land of Sweets. Plus, there's no more enchanting setting than the breathtaking Academy of Music.

### **SERENADE AND OTHER DANCES**

**February 6-9, 2014 – Merriam Theater**

- *Serenade* by George Balanchine // Music by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky
- *Afternoon of a Faun* by Jerome Robbins // Music by Claude Debussy
- *Under the Sun Pas de Deux* by Margo Sappington // Music by Michael Kamen
- *Petite Mort* by Jiří Kylián // Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart [Company Premiere]

Experience the sweeping breadth of Pennsylvania Ballet's repertoire with *Serenade* and Other Dances. This program opens with a timeless Balanchine classic: *Serenade*, a romantic, plotless ballet with striking moments of drama throughout. *Afternoon of a Faun* by Jerome Robbins has been called "a miniature masterpiece." Set in a ballet studio, a male and female dancer meet, with the audience as their mirror. *Under the Sun* became an iconic work for the Company when commissioned from choreographer Margo Sappington in 1976. Inspired by artist Alexander Calder, the pas de deux features hypnotic music and inventive partnering. Jiří Kylián's aggressive and athletic *Petite Mort* receives its Company premiere in closing this deeply varied program.

**CARMINA BURANA** by John Butler // Music by Carl Orff

**with Stravinsky Violin Concerto** by George Balanchine // Music by Igor Stravinsky [Company Premiere] [Subscription Add-On] **COPPÉLIA** after Petipa // Music by Leo Delibes

**March 6-16, 2014 – Academy of Music**

Don't miss a special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season encore presentation of John Butler's *Carmina Burana*. A signature of the Pennsylvania Ballet repertoire since the 1960s and performed with a live chorus, Butler's *Carmina* remains contemporary and fresh today. The evening opens with the Company premiere of Balanchine's *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*. One of Balanchine's black and white ballets, this work showcases its choreographer and composer's legendary collaborative relationship.

As an addition to this series, the whole family can enjoy special matinee performances of ballet's greatest comedy, *Coppélia*. This charming story of a toymaker, his doll, and a young couple in love finds new fans in every generation.

### **DIRECTOR'S CHOICE**

**May 8-11, 2014 – Academy of Music**

- **WORLD PREMIERE** by Trey McIntyre
- *Grieg: Piano Concerto* by Robert Weiss // Music by Edvard Grieg [Company Premiere]
- *Franklin Court* by Christopher d'Amboise // Music by Johann Sebastian Bach

Embrace Pennsylvania Ballet's living legacy with a program inspired by its intrepid leaders. Former Artistic Director Christopher d'Amboise anchors the program with his Philadelphia-flavored *Franklin Court*. A magnificent set of hanging beams resembling the outline of Benjamin Franklin's home floats above the stage. The choreography is an abstract reflection of Franklin's inventions with movements

called “Bifocals,” “Swim Fins,” “Spark,” and “Electricity.” The evening also includes the Company premiere of *Grieg: Piano Concerto* by former Artistic Director Robert Weiss, now Artistic Director at Carolina Ballet. Plus, see a World Premiere from award-winning choreographer Trey McIntyre, whose early dancemaking was showcased at the Carlisle Project, created by Pennsylvania Ballet founder Barbara Weisberger.

## **A 50<sup>TH</sup> FINALE**

**June 12-15, 2014 – Merriam Theater**

- *In the middle, somewhat elevated* by William Forsythe // Music by Thom Willems
- **WORLD PREMIERE by Matthew Neenan**
- **TBD**

Celebrate the culmination of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season with a forward-thinking finale. Nuance and depth saturate *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*, William Forsythe’s frenetic experiment in abstract movement, set to Thom Willems pulsating, electronic soundscape. An American choreographer, Forsythe spent most of his working life in Europe, and has become known for his unusual language of dance. It’s classical ballet, but with an off-kilter edge: off-balance positions, extreme extensions, and increased hip action. Also on this program, Choreographer in Residence Matthew Neenan’s 15<sup>th</sup> commission for the Company and a work soon to be announced.

## **About Pennsylvania Ballet**

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), call 215.551.7000 or connect with us on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube to go behind the scenes at any time.

Pennsylvania Ballet’s season sponsors include DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, The Sporting Club at the Bellevue, and US Airways.

Pennsylvania Ballet receives support from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts – a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency – and The Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

The 2013-2014 Season can be viewed at [paballet.org](http://paballet.org). Subscriptions will go on sale in March. 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.

**Groups of 10 or more get discounts and great seats!** Ask about 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).

## **Online Press Images Library**

The media is invited to download high-resolution photos from the Press Conference at:

<https://www.paballet.org/pressimages>

Username: paballet

Password: 12tutu!@

###