

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2012–2013 SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pennsylvania Ballet Presents Balanchine/Wheeldon/Tharp

February 7-10 at the Merriam Theater

Philadelphia, PA (January 9, 2013) – Revel in ballet’s boundless potential as Pennsylvania Ballet presents a trio of diverse works with **Balanchine/Wheeldon/Tharp**, February 7-10, 2013 at the Merriam Theater.

“The three choreographers on this program are nothing short of titans in the dance world,” Artistic Director Roy Kaiser says. “Their distinct styles will showcase our dancers’ incredible artistic adaptability.”

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 artists’ breathtakingly speedy footwork and the brilliant score by Antonio Vivaldi and Arcangelo Corelli.

Christopher Wheeldon’s compelling and intimate *After the Rain*, a Company premiere, 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, all set to the moving music of Arvo Pärt.

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, this piece moves to a lively score by Joseph Haydn and Joseph Lamb and uses a bowler hat as its central prop. *Dance Magazine* praised this work’s crossover capabilities saying, “Tharp made ballet beautiful in a new way, tough and cool.”

Tickets to Balanchine/Wheeldon/Tharp at the Merriam Theater are on sale now, starting at \$30. Tickets are available online at paballet.org, by phone at 215.893.1999, and in person at the Kimmel Center Box Office.

Balanchine/Wheeldon/Tharp performances at the Merriam Theater:

Thursday, February 7 at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 9 at 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.
Sunday, February 10 at 2 p.m.

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.

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

Spring 2013 Season subscriptions are available at 215.893.1955 and at paballet.org. Save up to 20% on single ticket prices with a custom 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.

Generous support for the Company premiere of *After the Rain* was provided by the Wyncote Foundation.

Pennsylvania Ballet's 2012-2013 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.

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*[™]. For more information, visit paballet.org or call 215.551.7000.

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