

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2010-2011 SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pennsylvania Ballet Presents Classic Innovations

***The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude* by William Forsythe [Company Premiere]
Polyphonia by Christopher Wheeldon [Company Premiere]
In the Upper Room by Twyla Tharp**

February 3-6 at the Merriam Theater

Philadelphia, PA (January 7, 2011) – Three of today’s strongest choreographic voices unite for one cutting-edge program as Pennsylvania Ballet presents Classic Innovations, a showcase of three contemporary works: *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude* by William Forsythe, *Polyphonia* by Christopher Wheeldon, and *In the Upper Room* by Twyla Tharp. Classic Innovations will be presented at the Merriam Theater at 250 South Broad Street in Philadelphia, February 3-6, 2011.

“The three works on Classic Innovations are all relatively modern ballets in that they were created in the past 25 years, but they’ve already earned their place in dance history,” Artistic Director Roy Kaiser says. “Forsythe, Wheeldon, and Tharp each put the athleticism and artistry of our dancers at center stage in their own ways. Ballet novices and loyal patrons alike can appreciate this program.”

William Forsythe’s *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude* makes its Company premiere on Classic Innovations. Employing the last movement Franz Schubert’s Ninth Symphony, Forsythe manipulates steps from the ballet classroom into a powerful, contemporary piece. A prolific American-born choreographer, Forsythe created *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude* while at the helm of Ballet Frankfurt. Vibrant costumes including futuristic, plate-like tutus are a hallmark of this singular work.

Bold and stripped-down, *Polyphonia*, also a Company premiere, has helped solidify Christopher Wheeldon’s place among the great choreographers of his time. The polyphony (variety of sounds) of the György Ligeti score is mirrored by Wheeldon’s mix of ballet and modern movement. Inventive partnering highlights this abstract masterpiece fashioned for the 21st century.

In the Upper Room by the legendary Twyla Tharp is a tour-de-force of energy and finesse. A Phillip Glass score propels this demanding display of continuous, in-your-face agility and stamina. Wearing running shoes or ballet slippers, two groups of dancers shift through a stage filled with billows of smoke, their steps ranging from classical to unconventional.

Tickets to Classic Innovations are on sale now, with prices ranging from \$20 to \$139. Tickets are available online at paballet.org, by phone at 215.893.1999, and in person at the Kimmel Center Box Office.

Classic Innovations performances at the Merriam Theater:

- Thursday, February 3 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, February 4 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, February 5 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- Sunday, February 6 at 2 p.m.

Enrich your experience at Classic Innovations with two enlightening lecture series, both held at the Doubletree Hotel at Broad and Locust Streets and featuring a light dinner buffet. On opening night, Thursday, February 3 at 6 p.m., enjoy the brand new **Before the Curtain** series. Dance scholar Brenda Dixon Gottschild hosts a guest from Pennsylvania Ballet for an insider's view into the performance. On Friday, February 4 at 6 p.m., don't miss our ever-popular **Prologue** series, hosted by Artistic Director Roy Kaiser. Tickets to Before the Curtain or Prologue can be purchased in addition to your Classic Innovations performance ticket for \$30 each by calling 215.893.1999. Reservations must be made no later than January 24, 2011.

Groups of 10 or more receive great discounts and unique perks! 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.

Join the movement... subscribe! Spring 2011 Season subscriptions are on sale now at 215.893.1955 and at paballet.org. Subscribers enjoy the best seats at the best prices, personalized service, lost ticket insurance, flexible ticket exchanges, and discounted parking.

Connect with us! Follow Pennsylvania Ballet on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, and **YouTube** to go behind-the-scenes. Plus, text "PABALLET" to 77950 to join our mobile club, **MyPABallet**, and receive special offers and news about the Company.

A note to patrons: a water-based fog is deployed inside the theater during *In the Upper Room*.

The William Penn Foundation has provided support for the Company premieres of *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude* and *Polyphonia*.

The Company premieres of *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude* and *Polyphonia* and performances of *In the Upper Room* are made possible by support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Pennsylvania Ballet's 2010-2011 Season sponsors include The Omni Hotel at Independence Park, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Sporting Club at the Bellevue, and US Airways.

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the Arts, and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

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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