

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2011 - 2012 SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT

Marissa Montenegro, Public Relations Manager

Office: 215.587.6923

Cell: 215.873.7891

Fax: 215.551.7224

mmontenegro@paballet.org

Pennsylvania Ballet Presents Company Premiere of *N.Y. Export: Opus Jazz*

with
Barber Violin Concerto
and
Beside them, they dwell, a World Premiere

Final Performances of the 2011-2012 Season

May 31-June 3 at the Merriam Theater

Philadelphia, PA (May 8, 2012) – Pennsylvania Ballet presents the grand finale of the 2011-2012 Season, the Company premiere of Jerome Robbins's *N.Y. Export: Opus Jazz*, with Peter Martins's *Barber Violin Concerto* and the World Premiere of Matthew Neenan's *Beside them, they dwell*, May 31-June 3, 2012 at the Merriam Theater. Fred Alger Management is the Presenting Sponsor.

"What better way to close our season than with a triple bill that showcases the Company's diverse strengths," Artistic Director Roy Kaiser says.

Feel the flavor of the city that never sleeps with Jerome Robbins's *N.Y. Export: Opus Jazz*. Robbins's "ballet in sneakers" celebrates the youth and vitality of the era in which it emerged: the distinctly cool 1950's. *N.Y. Export: Opus Jazz* adopts the spirit of Robbins's renowned musical, *West Side Story*, with Broadway-style theatricality saturating this series of dances to the music of Robert Prince.

Also on the bill, Peter Martins's *Barber Violin Concerto* features two couples, bathed in white, performing a brilliant series of pas de deux. The piece embodies the lyrical movement of Samuel Barber's inventive score that bridges from an opening adagio to its final scherzo, exploring the dichotomy between classical ballet and modern dance in three movements.

To complete the program, Choreographer in Residence Matthew Neenan mounts his much-anticipated World Premiere, *Beside them, they dwell*. Neenan's 13th commission for the Company, and first since 2009, is set to music by French composer Pierre Boulez, with costumes designed by Christine Darch.

Tickets to *N.Y. Export: Opus Jazz* are on sale now, with prices starting at \$20. Tickets are available online at paballet.org, by phone at 215.893.1999, and in person at the Kimmel Center Box Office.

***N.Y. Export: Opus Jazz* performances at the Merriam Theater:**

- Thursday, May 31 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, June 2 at 2 p.m.
- Saturday, June 2 at 8 p.m.
- Sunday, June 3 at 2 p.m.

Groups of 10 or more receive great 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.

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

Fred Alger Management is the Presenting Sponsor of *N.Y. Export: Opus Jazz*.

Major support for the World Premiere of *Beside them, they dwell* was provided by the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, as recommended by Linda and David Glickstein. This gift will help Pennsylvania Ballet meet its *Challenge for New Work*, established by an anonymous donor to raise a total of \$600,000 for repertoire enrichment and expansion.

Pennsylvania Ballet's 2011-2012 Season sponsors include DoubleTree by Hilton, 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; the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development; 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.

Online Press Images Library:

The media is invited to download high-resolution photos from the 2011-2012 Season at:

http://www.paballet.org/press_images/201112_Season.html

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