

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2013–2014 SEASON



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pennsylvania Ballet Presents *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™] Plus holiday happenings to include first-ever Nutcracker Market gift fair

December 7-29 at the Academy of Music

Supported by First Niagara Foundation

Philadelphia, PA (October 31, 2013) – Delight in the Philadelphia region's most beloved holiday tradition, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™], December 7-29, 2013 at the Academy of Music, and start a new tradition with Nutcracker Market – Pennsylvania Ballet's first-ever holiday gift fair at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, December 6-8, 2013. *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™] is supported by First Niagara Foundation.

"*George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™] puts everyone in the holiday spirit, and now Nutcracker Market extends that spirit to residents, tourists, and ballet followers," Pennsylvania Ballet Executive Director Michael Scolamiero says. "We are thrilled to bring Pennsylvania Ballet's first Nutcracker Market to the Kimmel Center in our 50th Anniversary Season and hope to launch the beginning of a new Philadelphia holiday tradition for years to come."

A must-see for children and adults alike, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™] 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.

New this year! Pennsylvania Ballet is proud to join with the Kimmel Center in collecting coats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for Cradles to Crayons, on campus December 6-8 at both *Nutcracker* performances at the Academy of Music and Nutcracker Market at the Kimmel Center. Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth to age 12, living in low- income and homeless situations, with the essential items they need to thrive - at home, at school, and at play.

Tickets to all 24 performances of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™] at the Academy of Music are on sale now, starting at \$35. Tickets are available online at paballet.org, by phone at 215.893.1999, and in person at the Kimmel Center Box Office.

George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™ performances at the Academy of Music:

Saturday, December 7 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 8 at noon and 5 p.m.

Friday, December 13 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 14 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 15 at noon and 5 p.m.

Thursday, December 19 at 7 p.m.

Friday, December 20 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 21 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 22 at noon and 5 p.m.

Monday, December 23 at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, December 24 at noon

Thursday, December 26 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Friday, December 27 at 2 p.m.

Saturday, December 28 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 29 at noon and 5 p.m.

Groups of 10 or more get discounts and great seats! 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.

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET'S HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Pennsylvania Ballet's First Nutcracker Market

December 6-8

The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

This season, Pennsylvania Ballet presents its first Nutcracker Market on Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8 at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, plus a special Preview Party on Friday, December 6. This festive holiday market – a fundraiser for Pennsylvania Ballet and The School of Pennsylvania Ballet – will feature 50 select exhibitors offering a variety of gifts and hand crafted works such as ornaments, jewelry, photography, and dance-inspired pieces. The Market will include daily activities like origami lessons, raffles, visits from the characters of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™*, a Land of Sweets candy shop, Fleisher Art Memorial's art and crafts experience van, and daily performances on the Community Stage by area school and arts groups including The Lady Hoofers and Three Akshas (Classical Indian) Dance Ensemble.

At the Market, Garces Catering presents the Nutcracker Market Café serving Nutcracker Nosh, a three-tiered stand of bocadillo sandwiches, cheese, grapes, date bread, and desserts. Specialty seasonal beverages, both adult and non-alcoholic, also will be available, including the Sugar Plum Fairy Cocktail, Candy Cane Hot chocolate, and Nutty Nutcracker Coffee Drink. Additionally, Garces Group's pastry chef Jessica Mogardo will host two "Build a Gingerbread House" workshops for children on Saturday, December 7 at 11 a.m. and Sunday, December 8 at 2 p.m. For \$25, each child will receive a gingerbread house kit and then be taught to build it! Café and Workshop reservations can be made at 215.670.2330.

To experience Nutcracker Market before it opens to the public, join Pennsylvania Ballet on Friday, December 6 at 6 p.m. for a ticketed Preview Party. Be the first to shop the Market, enjoy holiday fare and specialty cocktails from Garces Catering, and be entered to win items from Market vendors. To purchase Preview Party tickets at \$100 each, visit paballet.org/nutmarket.

Tea with the Sugarplum Fairy

Sunday, December 8 at 2:30 p.m. (Choose the noon or 5 p.m. performance.)

Saturday, December 22 at noon (2 p.m. performance)

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel

Join the star of Philadelphia's most anticipated holiday tradition for a magical afternoon of tea and tutus. Enjoy a delectable buffet and photo opportunity with the Sugarplum Fairy and experience a captivating matinee performance of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™*! Prices start at \$85 and include your performance ticket and buffet. To order, contact Group Sales Manager Arajua Backman at 215.587.6921 or abackman@paballet.org.

"Nutcracker Magic" Children's Party

Saturday, December 14 at noon

The Bellevue and Academy of Music

Don't miss Pennsylvania Ballet's glorious holiday fundraiser, a family tradition for more than 25 years. Children will be charmed by entertainers, crafts, games, and costumed characters like the Sugarplum Fairy and the Mouse King, plus a delicious lunch, all inside the magnificent ballroom at The Bellevue. All children will be invited to make a holiday card for a patient at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Following the food and festivities, guests will enjoy a performance of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™* at the Academy of Music at 2 p.m. Tickets to Nutcracker Magic are \$150 or \$250, and sponsorship opportunities are available from \$500 to \$5,000. All sponsors receive free Pennsylvania Ballet tickets to donate to the charity of their choice. For more information and tickets, contact Manager of Special Events Barbara Vogdes at 215.587.6916 or bvogdes@paballet.org.

Behind the Scenes of the Nutcracker

On view November 14, 2013 – February 2014

Philadelphia History Museum

The Philadelphia History Museum will celebrate the magic of the holidays with an exhibition that takes a peek behind the curtain of one of Philadelphia's most beloved performances. In the Museum's Philadelphia Voices: Community History Gallery, *Behind the Scenes of the Nutcracker*, tells the story of 45 years of Pennsylvania Ballet's presentation of *The Nutcracker* in Philadelphia. The exhibition is designed by Pennsylvania Ballet along with students in the Graphic Design Program of Drexel University's Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design. Included in the exhibition are actual artifacts and costumes from past Pennsylvania Ballet performances including a glittering tiara worn by the Sugarplum Fairy, a toy soldier's hat, a mouse headpiece, a gorgeous Dewdrop costume, and archival programs. A 10-foot high Christmas tree decorated with pointe shoes greets guests at the entrance, and a video, created especially for the exhibition, will feature past performances and interviews with Philadelphians involved in the creation of the production.

Give the gift of ballet this holiday season! Pennsylvania Ballet's **Children's Enchantment Fund** enables underserved families to see *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™* free of charge. One performance ticket is distributed for every \$35 tax-deductible donation. To make a donation, please call Annual Fund Manager Jessica Holl at 215.587.6913 or visit 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.

George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™ is supported by First Niagara Foundation.

PECO is Program Sponsor of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™*.

The costumes and sets of Pennsylvania Ballet's production of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™* were made possible by major support from The William Penn Foundation and Christa and Calvin Schmidt.

Pennsylvania Ballet's 2013-2014 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.

Maven Communications is Pennsylvania Ballet's 50th Anniversary Season PR Partner.

About Nutcracker Market

Pennsylvania Ballet presents its first **Nutcracker Market** at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia Friday, December 6 through Sunday, December 8. The Market features 50 select exhibitors offering a variety of gifts and hand crafted works such as: ornaments, jewelry, photography and dance-inspired pieces. The entire family can enjoy the Market with daily activities, performances, raffles, holiday fare from Garces Catering, and visits from the characters of Pennsylvania Ballet's performance of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™*.

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™*. 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 2013-2014 Season at:

<https://www.paballet.org/13-14-press-images>

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