

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2012-2013 SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pennsylvania Ballet Celebrates 25 Years of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™]

December 8-30 at the Academy of Music
Presented by First Niagara

Philadelphia, PA (November 5, 2012) – Celebrate 25 years of the Philadelphia region's most beloved holiday tradition, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™], December 8-30, 2012 at the Academy of Music. *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™] is presented by First Niagara.

“Pennsylvania Ballet first performed *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™] back in 1987, and 25 years later it remains our most beloved production,” Artistic Director Roy Kaiser says. “The brilliance of Mr. B's choreography, the timeless story and score, and spectacular sets and costumes make this ballet a must-see every year.”

Follow Marie and her Prince through the dazzling party scene, a harrowing battle, a glistening forest full of snow, and into the wondrous Land of Sweets. The Philadelphia Boys choir and dozens of local dance students add to the enchantment. See why so many make memories with this production.

New this year! Pennsylvania Ballet is proud to partner with The Salvation Army. At performances of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™], audience members are invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy for a child in need. Once collected at the theater, these toys will be distributed to families across the Delaware Valley throughout the holiday season and beyond.

Starting at just \$20, tickets to all 23 performances of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™] at the Academy of Music are on sale now. 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 8 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 9 at noon and 5 p.m.

Friday, December 14 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 15 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 16 at noon and 5 p.m.

Thursday, December 20 at 7 p.m.
Friday, December 21 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, December 22 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Sunday, December 23 at noon and 5 p.m.
Monday, December 24 at noon
Wednesday, December 26 at noon and 5 p.m.
Thursday, December 27 at 2 p.m.
Friday, December 28 at 2 p.m.
Saturday, December 29 at 2 p.m.
Sunday, December 30 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

“Nutcracker Magic” Children’s Party

Saturday, December 8 at noon

The Bellevue and Academy of Music

Don’t miss Pennsylvania Ballet’s glorious holiday party, a family tradition for the past 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. This annual family party is co-chaired this year by Quyen Mark, Jennifer Shacklett, and Luba Shvayko. Tickets to Nutcracker Magic are \$150 or \$250, and sponsorship opportunities are available from \$500 to \$5,000. All sponsors receive free *George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker*[™] 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, or visit paballet.org.

Tea with the Sugarplum Fairy

Sunday, December 9 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

Join the Sugarplum Fairy in the ballroom at the DoubleTree by Hilton, across the street from the Academy of Music! Enjoy a delectable buffet of sandwiches, desserts, tea and hot cocoa, along with the chance to take photos with the Sugarplum Fairy, and a magical matinee performance of *George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker*[™]. Prices start at \$75 and include your performance ticket and buffet. To order, contact Group Sales Manager Arajua Backman at 215.587.6921 or abackman@paballet.org, or visit paballet.org.

Nutcracker Story Time

Thursday, November 29 at 11 a.m. at Please Touch Museum
Thursday, December 6 at 10:15 a.m. at Philadelphia City Institute Library
Join the Sugarplum Fairy for a reading of the *Nutcracker* story.

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 presented by First Niagara.

PECO is a Lead 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 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.

Online Press Images Library:

The media is invited to download high-resolution photos from the 2012-2013 Season at:

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

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