

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2014–2015 SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pennsylvania Ballet Announces 2014-15 Season

Including four Company premieres, two world premieres, a salute to Jerome Robbins, and *Swan Lake*

Philadelphia, PA (February 27, 2014) – Pennsylvania Ballet Artistic Director Roy Kaiser announces the Company's powerful 2014-15 Season – highlighting some of the most celebrated choreographers and composers of all time.

The 51st Season will feature the Company premieres of *Beethoven: Symphony No. 9* from former Artistic Director Robert Weiss, *In G Major* by Jerome Robbins, *The Second Detail* by William Forsythe, and *O zlozony / O composite* by dance pioneer Trisha Brown, the first work of hers to enter the repertoire. Also, the Company has commissioned World Premieres from Nicolo Fonte and Choreographer in Residence Matthew Neenan, and audience favorites like Christopher Wheeldon's *Swan Lake* will make a triumphant return.

"Our 51st Season features some of the most ambitious work the Company has ever presented," Artistic Director Roy Kaiser says. "These performances are sure to move you."

Before the 2014-15 Season begins in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Ballet debuts at the **Vail International Dance Festival** in Colorado. The Company will perform George Balanchine's *Rubies* from *Jewels* on Opening Night of the festival, July 27, as well as an all-Balanchine evening on July 28 (*Serenade*, *Tarantella*, and *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*), and a unique benefit "UpClose" on July 30, a rehearsal-style program hosted by Festival Director Damian Woetzel and featuring selections from Balanchine's *Jewels*. For tickets, on sale March 25, please visit <http://www.vvf.org/arts/vail-international-dance-festival>.

Pennsylvania Ballet's 2014-15 Season

Beethoven: Symphony No. 9

October 16-26, 2014

Academy of Music

- *Beethoven: Symphony No. 9* by Robert Weiss, music by Ludwig van Beethoven [Company Premiere]
- *Jeu de Cartes* by Alexei Ratmansky, music by Igor Stravinsky

Epic music propels the opening program of Pennsylvania Ballet's 51st Season. Former Artistic Director Robert Weiss crafts a powerfully pure ballet with ***Beethoven: Symphony No. 9***, a Company premiere. The famous score, featuring a live chorus, culminates with the inspirational "Ode to Joy." Presented for the first time outside Russia by Pennsylvania Ballet, ***Jeu de Cartes*** creates a bold, abstract expression of

Stravinsky's score of the same name. The French title translates to "The Card Game," which for Alexei Ratmansky – one of the world's most sought-after choreographers – simply addresses the "gamble" of choreographing to Stravinsky's musical complexities.

George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™

Supported by First Niagara

December 6-31, 2014

Academy of Music

Choreography: George Balanchine

Music: Peter Ilyitch Tschaikovsky

Escape to the Land of Sweets for the Philadelphia region's most beloved holiday tradition, ***George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™***. For 46 years, families have created yuletide memories with Pennsylvania Ballet's production of this classic tale. The simple story of a girl, a gift, and a fanciful dream is made magical by opulent sets and costumes, the charm of The School of Pennsylvania Ballet students, and the impassioned artistry of Pennsylvania Ballet dancers. The celebrated Philadelphia Boys Choir raises their voices with the magnificent Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra to bring Tschaikovsky's unforgettable score to life.

Prodigal Son

February 5-8, 2015

Merriam Theater

- *Prodigal Son* by George Balanchine, music by Sergei Prokofiev
- *Polyphonia* by Christopher Wheeldon, music by György Ligeti
- WORLD PREMIERE by Matthew Neenan

Witness a moving masterpiece in George Balanchine's ***Prodigal Son***. Set to an original score by Sergei Prokofiev, *Prodigal Son* tells the well-known biblical story through touching dramatic scenes and soaring acrobatic movement. Striking and stripped-down, Christopher Wheeldon's ***Polyphonia*** experiments with traditional ballet, resulting in inventive steps and duets. With an adventurous choice in composer György Ligeti, *Polyphonia* helped solidify Wheeldon's place in ballet history. Heralded by *The New York Times* as "one of today's foremost dance poets," Choreographer in Residence Matthew Neenan conceives his 16th **World Premiere** for the Company to round out this eclectic program.

Swan Lake

March 5-15, 2015

Academy of Music

Choreography: Christopher Wheeldon (after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov)

Music: Peter Ilyitch Tschaikovsky

Behold Pennsylvania Ballet's own stunning version of the world's most renowned ballet. Premiered in 2004 to national acclaim, Christopher Wheeldon's stellar production of ***Swan Lake*** was commissioned and performed to sold-out audiences for the Company's 40th Anniversary Season, followed by sold-out performances at Edinburgh International Festival. Wheeldon's *Swan Lake* is based on the original

Ivanov/Petipa classic and set to the timeless Tchaikovsky score but has been re-imagined for today's audiences. The million-dollar production features spectacular costumes and sets inspired by Edgar Degas. Brilliant choreography and searing moments of drama illuminate ballet's greatest love story.

A Tribute to Jerome Robbins

May 7-10, 2015

Academy of Music

- *In G Major* by Jerome Robbins, music by Maurice Ravel [Company Premiere]
- *The Concert* by Jerome Robbins, music by Frederic Chopin
- *Fancy Free* by Jerome Robbins, music by Leonard Bernstein

Celebrate the versatility and genius of choreographer Jerome Robbins. World famous for his work on Broadway blockbusters like *The King and I* and *West Side Story*, Robbins created superb ballets with the same panache and flair. Two hilarious works anchor this program: ***Fancy Free***, which follows the escapades of three World War II sailors on leave in New York City, and ***The Concert***, observing the outlandish antics and straying thoughts of an audience gathered for a piano recital. Whimsical and serene, the Company premiere of ***In G Major*** features aquatic-inspired sets and costumes and an exquisite central pas de deux, set to Ravel's monumental *Piano Concerto in G Major*.

Brown, Fonte, & Forsythe

June 11-14, 2015

Merriam Theater

- *O zlozony / O composite* by Trisha Brown, music by Laurie Anderson [Company Premiere]
- WORLD PREMIERE by Nicolo Fonte
- *The Second Detail* by William Forsythe, music by Thom Willems [Company Premiere]

Break new ground with a contemporary program of work never before seen on the Pennsylvania Ballet stage. The Company premiere of Trisha Brown's ***O zlozony / O composite*** marks the first piece to enter the repertoire by this dance pioneer. Originally created for three Paris Opera Ballet dancers, the work – which gets its title from a Polish poem – fuses classical and modern dance plus spoken word for a truly unique performance experience. Also a Company premiere, ***The Second Detail*** is quintessential William Forsythe: full of attitude, a pulsating electronic score, and vigorous, unexpected movement.

Choreographer Nicolo Fonte creates a **World Premiere** to complete this electrifying program.

2014-15 Season ticket packages are on sale now at 215.893.1955 and at paballet.org. Save up to 25% on single ticket prices with a full series. Season ticketholders enjoy great benefits: 15% off additional single tickets, FREE exchanges, exclusive events, and discounts on dining and parking.

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.

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

Pennsylvania Ballet's 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.

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.

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