

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2011 - 2012 SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pennsylvania Ballet Presents *Messiah*

Music by George Frideric Handel
Featuring The Philadelphia Singers

March 8-17 at the Academy of Music

Philadelphia, PA (February 7, 2012) – Pennsylvania Ballet presents choreographer Robert Weiss’s *Messiah*, set to the universally popular score by George Frideric Handel and featuring The Philadelphia Singers, March 8-17, 2012 at the Academy of Music.

“With *Messiah*, our audience receives an incredibly robust performance experience,” Artistic Director Roy Kaiser says. “A dramatic story told through sublime dancing, enhanced by Handel’s score and a live chorus. It’s a beautiful work.”

Messiah carries a special connection to Pennsylvania Ballet as its choreographer is the Company’s former Artistic Director. In this ballet, Weiss employs more than 50 individual scenes to convey an emotional spectrum of joy, suffering, passion, and redemption. *Messiah* opens with a full choir onstage in a skeletal abstraction of a church. With sun streaming through the bare windows, dancers take the stage in a vivid, moving interpretation of this epic libretto, featuring stunning sets and costumes. The Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra is accompanied by The Philadelphia Singers. Soloists include Suzanne Ramo, Soprano; Jamie Van Eyck, Mezzo Soprano; Steve Sanders, Tenor; and Levi Hernandez, Bass.

Tickets to *Messiah* are on sale now, with prices ranging from \$20 to \$140. Tickets are available online at paballet.org, by phone at 215.893.1999, and in person at the Kimmel Center Box Office.

Messiah performances at the Academy of Music:

- Thursday, March 8 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 10 at 2 p.m.
- Sunday, March 11 at 2 p.m.
- Saturday, March 17 at 2 p.m.
- Saturday, March 17 at 8 p.m.

Groups of 10 or more receive great discounts and unique 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.

Join Pennsylvania Ballet for the **Annual Dress Rehearsal Luncheon** on Thursday, March 8. The event begins at 11:15 a.m. at The Union League at Broad and Sansom Streets with lunch and remarks about the ballet *Messiah*. Then, guests are welcomed to the Academy of Music at Broad and Locust Streets for a 1 p.m. dress rehearsal of the production. Tickets to the luncheon and rehearsal are \$100 per person. For more information, please contact Barbara Vogdes, Manager of Special Events, at 215.587.6916 or bvogdes@paballet.org. Kindly RSVP by March 2.

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

Pennsylvania Ballet's 2011-2012 Season sponsors include DoubleTree by Hilton, The Philadelphia Inquirer, 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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