

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ANGEL CORELLA, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2014–2015 SEASON

For Immediate Release

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Two Cuban Dancers Take on New Roles at Pennsylvania Ballet

Philadelphia, PA (April 23, 2015) – [Pennsylvania Ballet](#) and Artistic Director [Angel Corella](#) are pleased to announce that Arián Molina Soca will appear with the Company as a guest artist and [Mayara Pineiro](#) has been promoted to Soloist for the remainder of the 2014-2015 Season. Both dancers are native Cubans and bring a unique style and expertise to Pennsylvania Ballet.

“We are thrilled to have such diverse and talented dancers in our company,” said Corella. “Arián’s impressive experience and training make him a standout dancer, who will add a unique style to the Company. Mayara has truly dazzled in her first season, and I am eager to see her grow and develop as a Soloist.”

Mr. Molina Soca began his ballet studies in Matanzas, Cuba at the "Alfonso Pérez Isaac" Vocational School of Art until 2006 when he joined the National Ballet School in Havana. Throughout his schooling, he competed in many events, and won a bronze medal from the International Encounter of Academies for Ballet Teaching. After his 2010 graduation, Mr. Molina Soca joined the Cuban National Ballet. Under the artistic guidance of Alicia Alonso, Mr. Molina Soca quickly rose to First Soloist and performed as the Guest Artist at the “Viva Alicia!” Gala at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, where legendary Cuban dancer Alicia Alonso was honored on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Mr. Molina Soca was promoted to Principal Dancer In 2012 and participated in the 20th Anniversary Gala in honor of Dance Chair “Alicia Alonso,” held at the Teatro de la Zarzuela in Madrid. In homage to Alicia Alonso, he performed at the International Ballet Gala at The Teatro at Montecasino in Johannesburg in 2013.

Arián Molina Soca’s repertoire includes soloist roles in major works of the Romantic-classical period of the 19th century and contemporary works, created by both Cuban and foreign choreographers. Mr. Molina Soca is considered one of the most promising contemporary dancers to emerge from the *Cuban School of Ballet*.

“Coming to Philadelphia to dance as a guest artist with Pennsylvania Ballet is truly an honor,” said Arián Molina Soca. “I’m excited by the opportunity to work with Angel and the talented artists of Pennsylvania Ballet, and to experience all that this culturally-rich city has to offer.”

A native of Havana, Cuba, Ms. Pineiro's artistic development began at the Cuban National Ballet School under the direction of legendary master teacher Ramona de Saa. During her time at the school, she participated in international dance festivals in South Africa, Peru and Canada. At the age of 16, she won a silver medal at the International Ballet Competition held in her native city, as well as a gold medal at the Danza & Mare Competition held in Calabria, Italy.

In 2010, Ms. Pineiro began her professional career as a Soloist with the National Opera of Bucharest. There, she danced many roles, including the Woodland Glade Fairy in *The Sleeping Beauty*, the Russian Girl in *Serenade* and a slave in *Le Corsaire*. She won her second gold medal in 2011 at the Youth American Grand Prix in Tampa, Florida. Balletto del Sud in Italy invited her to perform in 2012 as a guest artist under the direction of Fredy Franzutti. She performed the Blue Bird pas de deux from *The Sleeping Beauty* and the title role in *Carmen*. From 2012-2014, she danced with the Milwaukee Ballet.

"I'm excited to take on the role of Soloist," said Mayara Pineiro. "Working with Angel has been a once in a lifetime opportunity and I look forward to embracing this new opportunity to challenge myself and my skill."

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 www.paballet.org, call 215.551.7000 or connect with us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) to go behind the scenes at any time.

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