

# PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2012–2013 SEASON

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Pennsylvania Ballet Presents *Carnival of the Animals*

Narrated by Tony and Emmy Award winning actor John Lithgow

With George Balanchine's *Ballo della Regina* and *The Four Temperaments*

May 9-12 at the Academy of Music

Philadelphia, PA (April 3, 2013) – Let your imagination soar with Christopher Wheeldon's charming *Carnival of the Animals*, narrated live by Tony and Emmy Award winning actor John Lithgow, May 9-12 at the Academy of Music. The program also includes two George Balanchine masterpieces: *Ballo della Regina* and *The Four Temperaments*.

"*Carnival* is such a clever, beautiful production," Artistic director Roy Kaiser says. "The narration is just brilliant, and we are so honored to have Mr. Lithgow performing with our dancers."

*Carnival of the Animals* follows the dream of a young boy, asleep in the American Museum of Natural History. Wild creatures emerge, and hilarious antics ensue. With witty narration written and performed by Tony and Emmy Award winning actor John Lithgow, *Carnival* unfolds to the well-known Camille Saint-Saëns score.

Opening the performance is the joyous allegro of *Ballo della Regina*. This pageant of pastels and precision is a tour de force of virtuoso variations and ballerina bravura that merits its translation, "Dance of the Queen."

The stunning simplicity and angular architecture of *The Four Temperaments* became the standard for Balanchine works. The ballet is an abstraction of ancient doctrines that enumerated the four aspects of a person's disposition: melancholic, sanguinic, phlegmatic, and choleric. Having performed *The Four Temperaments* countless times throughout its history, the Company has been invited to present this work at Ballet Across America III at The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC this June.

**Tickets to *Carnival of the Animals* at the Academy of Music are on sale now, starting at \$30.**

Tickets are available online at [paballet.org](http://paballet.org), by phone at 215.893.1999, and in person at the Kimmel Center Box Office. Casting is subject to change.

### *Carnival of the Animals* performances at the Academy of Music:

- Thursday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m.

- Friday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 11 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- Sunday, May 12 at 2 p.m.

**Groups of 10 or more get discounts and great seats!** Ask about 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](mailto:abackman@paballet.org).

### About John Lithgow

John Lithgow may be most widely known for his three-time Emmy-winning role as Dr. Dick Solomon on the NBC sitcom *3<sup>rd</sup> Rock from the Sun*. His roots, though, are in theater, having appeared on Broadway more than 20 times and winning the first of his two Tony Awards just weeks after his Broadway debut in David Storey's *The Changing Room*. Among his more than 30 films, Mr. Lithgow received Academy Award nominations for his work as Roberta Muldoon in *The World According to Garp* and as Sam Burns in *Terms of Endearment*. He also won a Golden Globe Award and Emmy for his role on Showtime's *Dexter*. Additionally, Mr. Lithgow has done extensive work for children, including several books and albums. His next kids' book, *Never Play Music Right Next to the Zoo*, will be published by Simon & Schuster in October.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season subscriptions are on sale now at 215.893.1955 and at paballet.org.** The 2013-2014 Season features the much-anticipated Company premiere of George Balanchine's *Jewels*, a special encore presentation of John Butler's *Carmina Burana*, and World Premieres from Trey McIntyre and Matthew Neenan. Save up to 25% on single ticket prices with a full series 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.

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

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*<sup>TM</sup>. For more information, visit [paballet.org](http://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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