

# PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ANGEL CORELLA, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2015–2016 SEASON

## For Immediate Release

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## Angel Corella Kicks-off his First Hand-Picked Season for Pennsylvania Ballet

*Pennsylvania Ballet Presents Speed and Precision: A Program Featuring Concerto Barocco, and Two Company Premieres - Chroma, and DGV*

Philadelphia, PA (August 31, 2015)– [Pennsylvania Ballet](#) and Artistic Director Angel Corella are proud to present a classic masterpiece with George Balanchine's *Concerto Barocco*, as well as two exhilarating and edgy works; Wayne McGregor's *Chroma*, and Christopher Wheeldon's *DGV: Danse à Grande Vitesse* to kick-off the 2015-2016 Season, October 22-25 at The Academy of Music.

"I'm excited to put my creative vision into action in Philadelphia," said Artistic Director Angel Corella. "Our first program of the Season allows our Company to share two edgy and modern pieces that portray an energy that will excite all ages, while also honoring the Balanchine tradition with *Concerto Barocco*."

The program opens with *Chroma*, a modern yet balletic masterpiece originally premiered by The Royal Ballet in London in 2006, features unusually articulated body movements and playful partnering. Created by groundbreaking choreographer Wayne McGregor, the movement choreographer for the film *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, the piece contains breathtaking, high-energy choreography. The music is untraditional for a ballet as it is set to Joby Talbot's arrangements and interpretations of music by alternative rock duo, The White Stripes.

"This piece has a wow factor that takes audiences' breath away," said Antoine Vereecken, Rehearsal Director for Wayne McGregor. "It's great to work with Angel Corella and Pennsylvania Ballet dancers, who are already working on mentally and physically pushing themselves out of their comfort zones. This aligns with what Mr. McGregor has done with the challenging choreography in *Chroma*."

George Balanchine's *Concerto Barocco* is a true Balanchine classic, Pennsylvania Ballet premiered this piece during its inaugural season in 1963. Set to Johann Sebastian Bach's *Concerto in D minor for Two Violins*, the ballet features 11 dancers in costumes inspired by ballet practice clothes. The melody and syncopation in Bach's score is mirrored in the dancers' precise movements and creates a sensory feast in this neo-classical ballet.

Christopher Wheeldon's *DGV: Danse à Grande Vitesse* combines literal allusions to travel, with molded steel sets by Jean-Marc Puissant, with Wheeldon's signature contemporary ballet style. The score for the ballet is arrangements by Michael Nyman, whose music was originally commissioned by the Festival de Lille in France to celebrate the inauguration of the TGV high-speed train line in 1993. Wheeldon was inspired by Nyman's music and told The Royal Ballet (where he is a resident choreographer), "I wanted

to capture that feeling you get when you are traveling – of being suspended in time and space.” His choreography includes sharp, defined steps offset with smooth movement that emphasizes the commonality of the feeling of traveling on a train.

**The performances at The Academy of Music run:**

- Thursday, October 22 at 7:30pm
- Friday, October 23 at 7:30pm
- Saturday, October 24 at 2:00pm
- Saturday, October 24 at 8:00pm
- Sunday, October 25 at 2:00pm

*Tickets are available online at [paballet.org](http://paballet.org) or by phone at 215.893.1999, and in person at the Kimmel Center Box Office.*

**Conversations with Pennsylvania Ballet**

Please join Conversations with Pennsylvania Ballet, a free informal discussion, where a Pennsylvania Ballet dancer will talk about their experience preparing for the Season opening performance. This free event will be held on **Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** at the Philadelphia City Institute Free Library (1905 Locust St, Philadelphia, PA).

**Preludes**

Ignite your passion for dance with **Preludes**- Pennsylvania Ballet’s pre-show discussions. Held in the theater prior to most performances, **Preludes** feature an ever-changing roster of company members, artistic and administrative staff, and visiting artists discussing Pennsylvania Ballet’s performances, taking questions, and offering unmatched behind-the-scenes insights . **Preludes** begin one hour prior to show time and are free and open to all patrons holding a ticket for the performance that follows. **Preludes** are a great way to meet other ballet fans, enhance your knowledge of the art form, and get to know the artists behind Pennsylvania Ballet’s beautiful and thrilling performances.

*Please note: Pre-Show Talks are free and open to all ticket holders for the day listed on the ticket.*

**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](http://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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Pennsylvania Ballet’s season sponsors include DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, The Sporting Club at the Bellevue, and American Airlines

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.

**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).