



**Peter Boal**  
Artistic Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET PRESENTS TWO WORLD PREMIERES BY TWYLA THARP AS CURTAIN RISES ON THE 2008-2009 SEASON**

## **ALL THARP**

**September 25 – October 5, 2008**

*Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, Seattle Center*

September 25 – 27 at 7:30 p.m.

September 27 at 2:00 p.m.

October 2 – 4 at 7:30 p.m.

October 5 at 1:00 p.m.

**SEATTLE, WA** — Pacific Northwest Ballet's 2008-2009 season opener, **ALL THARP**, features three works by American dance icon **Twyla Tharp**. Tharp has permanently expanded the horizons of contemporary dance with her fusion of meticulous classical rigor and elements from jazz, modern dance, and pop culture. Her movement vocabulary—characterized by high energy, humor, and an unpredictable physical daring—is imbued with dynamic inventiveness and a singular musical intelligence. As a thrilling start to the season, PNB has commissioned two original works for an ALL THARP program that also welcomes the return of *Nine Sinatra Songs*, her delicious ballroom homage to Ol' Blue Eyes.

**ALL THARP** will run from September 25–October 5. Tickets may be purchased by calling the PNB Box Office at **206.441.2424**, online at **www.pnb.org** or in person at the **PNB Box Office** at 301 Mercer Street. ALL THARP is made possible through generous sponsorship from Wells Fargo and supporting sponsor Moss Adams LLC.

"We are most fortunate to have Twyla here with us," said PNB Artistic Director Peter Boal. "She has been remarkable, bringing with her discipline, sweat, laughter, and inspiration. She has given us a gift, or two, with the signature works she created for our Company and the magnificent *Nine Sinatra Songs*. In turn, she has reminded us that PNB is composed of artists who exist through the creation of new material."

### ***Opus 111 - World Premiere***

**Music:** Johannes Brahms (String Quintet No. 2 in G major, Op. 111, 1890)

**Choreography:** Twyla Tharp

**Costume Design:** Mark Zappone

**Lighting Design:** Randall G. Chiarelli

**Assistant to the Choreographer:** Charlie Neshyba-Hodges

**Duration:** 20 minutes

Brahms composed this string quintet (unusually scored for two violins, two violas, and cello) while on a nature retreat in the summer of 1890. The music has a vivacious folk flavor, with the cello featured in the first movement and the viola, Brahms' favorite instrument, carrying the theme in the second. Tharp has choreographed the quintet's four movements for six couples.

The world premiere of Twyla Tharp's *Opus 111* is generously underwritten by Glenn Kawasaki.

### ***Afternoon Ball - World Premiere***

**Music:** Vladimir Martynov (*Autumn Ball of the Elves*, 1994)

**Choreography:** Twyla Tharp

**Scenic and Lighting Design:** Randall G. Chiarelli

**Costume Design:** Mark Zappone

**Assistant to the Choreographer:** Charlie Neshyba-Hodges

**Duration:** 19 minutes

Vladimir Martynov's *Autumn Ball of the Elves*, for string orchestra, represents a Russian mix of minimalism and post-romanticism that can also be heard in the music of Estonian composer Arvo Pärt. (Both composers abandoned academic compositional styles following religious conversions and developed individual voices influenced by personal interests and convictions.) In *Autumn Ball of the Elves*, Martynov applies a theme and variations structure to a minimalist palette.

The world premiere of Twyla Tharp's *Afternoon Ball* is generously underwritten by Peter & Peggy Horvitz.

### ***Nine Sinatra Songs***

**Music:** Songs sung by Frank Sinatra ("Softly As I Leave You," "Strangers in the Night," "One For My Baby (And One More For the Road)," "Somethin' Stupid," "All the Way," "Forget Domani," "That's Life," "My Way")

**Choreography:** Twyla Tharp

**Staging:** Shelley Washington

**Original Costume Design:** Oscar de la Renta

**Original Scenic Design:** Santo Loquato

**Original Lighting Design:** Jennifer Tipton

**Duration:** 30 minutes

**Premiere:** October 14, 1982; Twyla Tharp Dance, Vancouver, British Columbia

**PNB Premiere:** February 2, 2006

Choreographed in 1982, Twyla Tharp's *Nine Sinatra Songs* has become a popular classic, presenting its view of 1950s social dancing through the nostalgic but sharpened eyes of the 1980s. Oscar de la Renta's dresses and tuxedos flash with a similar double edge of past and present eras. Choreographing to classic Sinatra—including "One for My Baby," "Strangers in the Night," and "My Way"—Tharp upscales traditional ballroom dancing with the active participation of the female dancer in styles ranging from tango to flamenco to exhibition disco.

The performance of *Nine Sinatra Songs* a **Tharp<sup>sm</sup>** Ballet, is presented under license with W.A.T., Limited, and has been produced in accordance with **Tharp<sup>sm</sup>** Standard services.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Twyla Tharp** has choreographed more than 125 dances, five Hollywood movies, directed and choreographed two Broadway shows, written two books and received one Tony Award, two Emmy Awards, seventeen honorary doctorates, and numerous other awards. In 1965, Ms. Tharp founded the dance company Twyla Tharp Dance, for which she made 80 pieces, including *Nine Sinatra Songs* and *In the Upper Room*. In 1988, Twyla Tharp Dance merged with American Ballet Theatre, where Ms. Tharp created more than a dozen works. Since that time, Ms. Tharp has choreographed dances for many companies, including Paris Opera Ballet, the Royal Ballet, New York City Ballet, Boston Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance and the Martha Graham Dance Company. In 1991, Ms. Tharp regrouped Twyla Tharp Dance and the company has been touring internationally to critical acclaim since 1999. Ms. Tharp's work first went to Broadway in 1980 with *When We Were Very Young*. In 2002, Ms. Tharp's and Billy Joel's award-winning dance musical, *Movin'Out*, premiered on Broadway and a national tour opened in January 2004. In film, Ms. Tharp has collaborated with director Milos Forman on *Hair* (1978), *Ragtime* (1980) and *Amadeus* (1984); with Taylor Hackford on *White Nights* (1985); and with James Brooks on *I'll Do Anything* (1994). Ms. Tharp continues to create works and lecture around the world.

**Vladimir Martynov** (Composer, *Afternoon Ball*) was born in 1946 in Moscow, Russia. Vladimir Martynov is a leader of the post-World War II generation of composers who pursued avant-garde styles in spite of official Soviet disfavor. As a child, he was enrolled in the Moscow Conservatory where he studied piano and graduated in 1971. He used the serial (or twelve-tone) technique in his earliest compositions, such as the String Quartet of 1966, the Concerto for Oboe and Flute (1968), and *Hexagramme* for piano (1971). In 1973, Mr. Martynov went to work at the studio for electronic music of the Scriabin Museum—a meeting ground for contemporary artists—where he also helped form a rock group called Boomerang, for whom he wrote a rock opera, *St. Francis of Assisi* (1978). He began studying early Russian religious chant in the late 1970s and studied Renaissance music of such composers as Machaut, Gabrieli, Isaac, Dufay, and Dunstable, publishing editions of their music. He became interested in the brand of minimalism developing in the Soviet Union in the late 1970s and incorporated the timeless quality of chant and elements of Renaissance polyphony into his version of minimalism. He also began teaching at the Theological Institute of the Trinity-Saint Sergius, where he has remained since composing original music in his minimalist style.

**Charlie Neshyba-Hodges** (Guest Artist and Assistant to the Choreographer) graduated as valedictorian of Walnut Hill School for the Performing Arts in Natick, Massachusetts. As a soloist/principal with Sacramento Ballet, he performed such roles as the lead in George Balanchine's *Theme and Variations* and Melancholic in *The Four Temperaments*, Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*, and the Roper in Agnes de Mille's *Rodeo*. In 2002, he joined the international touring company Twyla Tharp Dance, followed by the First National Tour and Broadway casts of Tharp's *Movin' Out*, and later the Broadway musical *The Times They Are A-Changin'*. Charlie has assisted choreographers Ron Cunningham, Dwight Rhoden (Complexions Contemporary Ballet), Amy Seiwert, Alan Hineline, and Twyla Tharp. He has notated Ms. Tharp's choreography for archival purposes and served as an assistant for the past four years, traveling to New York, California, Washington, and Australia to stage her pieces. Currently a student at the University of Washington, he is working toward a degree in architecture.

**Shelley Washington** (Stager, *Nine Sinatra Songs*) studied with Twyla Tharp at Wolftrap Academy, American University, prior to being invited to join Twyla Tharp Dance Company in 1975. She had previously danced as a member of the Martha Graham Dance Company. A

graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy, Ms. Washington furthered her training at the Juilliard School. She performed in the 1977 film *Hair* and served as dance captain for the 1985 Broadway production of *Singing in the Rain*. In 1987, she was honored with a New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie). From 1988 to 1992, Ms. Washington worked with American Ballet Theatre as soloist and rehearsal director in association with Ms. Tharp. In 1993, she was rehearsal director for Ms. Tharp's *Cutting Up* tour, starring Ms. Tharp and Mikhail Baryshnikov, Twyla Tharp and Dancers' City Center season in New York, and Tharp Dances' international tour. Ms. Washington continues to work with Ms. Tharp as rehearsal director by setting, staging and directing Ms. Tharp's ballets for many companies internationally.

**Mark Zappone** (Costume Designer, *Opus 111* and *Afternoon Ball*) initially served Pacific Northwest Ballet from 1983–1988 as costume designer, shop supervisor and wardrobe master. He then moved to Monte-Carlo where he managed costume shops for Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo and Le Cabaret de Monte-Carlo. Zappone has collaborated with renowned choreographers and designers such as Lucinda Childs, Maurice Sendak, Kent Stowell, The Balanchine Trust, Molissa Fenley, Martin Pakledinez, Christopher Stowell, Nicolo Fonte, Kevin O'Day, Nuno Corte-Real and Paul Gibson. As well as his numerous designs for PNB's repertory, he has designed for San Francisco Ballet, Peter Boal Solos, Pennsylvania Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Les Ballets De Monte-Carlo, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Alberta Ballet, Spectrum Dance Theatre, Teatro Zinzanni, Wear Moi Dancewear of London and Holiday on Ice, Switzerland.

**Randall G. Chiarelli** (Scenic and Lighting Designer *Autumn Ball*; Lighting Designer *Opus 111*) served as PNB's lighting designer and technical director from 1979 to 2005. He served as technical director of San Francisco Ballet from 2005 to 2006 and returned to PNB in November 2006. He has created the lighting designs for most of PNB's repertory, including Kent Stowell's full-length *Swan Lake*, *Firebird*, *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*, *Carmina Burana*, *Cinderella* and *Carmen*, and re-created the lighting designs for PNB's entire Balanchine repertory. His scenic designs for PNB include *Les Biches*, *Divertimento No. 15*, *Capricious Night* and *Carmen*. Student and apprentice to pioneer lighting designer Thomas R. Skelton, Mr. Chiarelli is a Seattle native and received painting and sculpture degrees from the University of Washington.

## TICKET INFORMATION

**ALL THARP** runs September 25 – October 5 at McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street at Seattle Center. Show times are 7:30 p.m. September 25 - 27 and October 2 - 4, with matinees at 2:00 p.m. on September 27, and 1:00 p.m. on October 5.

Tickets range in price from \$25 to \$155 and may be purchased:

- \* By calling the PNB Box Office at **206.441.2424** (Mon.-Fri. 9am–6pm; Sat. 10am–5pm)
- \* In person at the **PNB Box Office**, 301 Mercer St. (Mon.-Fri. 10am–6pm; Sat. 10am–5pm)
- \* Online at **[www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org)**
- \* 90 minutes prior to each performance at McCaw Hall at 321 Mercer Street
- \* Discounts of **up to 40%** are available for **groups** of 10 or more by calling **206.441.2416**, emailing **[juliej@pnb.org](mailto:juliej@pnb.org)**, or using PNB's **Online Group Builder** at **[www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org)**.

## **SPECIAL DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE:**

### **\$15 TICKETS FOR AGE 25 & UNDER**

Both Friday performances: September 26 and October 3, 7:30 p.m.

PNB is pleased to once again offer single tickets priced at **\$15 for patrons 25 and under** (two for \$25) for the Friday performances of **ALL THARP**, September 26 and October 3.

To purchase tickets contact the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424 or visit 301 Mercer Street. Each attendee must present valid I.D. upon ticket retrieval. 25 & Under Friday ticket offer good September 26 and October 3 only. *Subject to availability. Not valid on previously purchased tickets.*

In addition, **group rates** plus day-of-show **senior and student rush** discounted tickets are available. Discounts are also available for groups of 10 or more. PNB's **Online Group Builder** is now available for audience members to gather their friends, family and co-workers to see any performance and save up to 20%. For group tickets, please call **206.441.2416**, email [juliej@pnb.org](mailto:juliej@pnb.org) or use PNB's Online Group Builder at [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org). PNB is also a proud participant of Seattle Center's **Teen Tix** program. Young people 13 to 18 years old can join Teen Tix and purchase tickets to PNB performances and other music, dance, theater and arts events for only \$5. To join Teen Tix or view a list of participating organizations, visit Seattle Center's Teen Tix webpage: <http://www.seattlecenter.com/teentix/>

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **FIRST LOOK 2008**

Saturday, September 20, 6:30 p.m.

*Marion Oliver McCaw Hall*

Toast PNB's new season with the annual Season Preview Performance as an intoxicating aperitif to the upcoming programs. Patrons can choose to enjoy the season-sampling performance (including a preview of one of the new Tharp pieces) with a champagne intermission, or opt to make it a complete red carpet evening by joining the artists for a Gala supper in the wings, followed by Seattle's best-dressed on-stage post-performance dance party. Tickets \$55 - \$5,000. To purchase performance tickets contact the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424 or visit 301 Mercer Street, or contact [events@pnb.org](mailto:events@pnb.org) for post-performance party information.

### **TWYLA THARP LECTURE-DEMONSTRATION**

Thursday, September 18, 5:30 – 7:00 pm

*Marion Oliver McCaw Hall*

Choreographer Twyla Tharp will discuss her new works for PNB, with excerpts performed onstage by Company dancers and the PNB Orchestra. Ms. Tharp will also field questions from the audience. This special event is FREE for full season subscribers; subscribers may purchase additional tickets for \$15; general admission \$20. To purchase tickets contact the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424 or visit 301 Mercer Street.

### **BALANCHINE'S PETIPA LECTURE-DEMONSTRATION**

Wednesday, October 1, 2008

5:30–7:00 p.m., *Studio C, The Phelps Center, 301 Mercer Street, Seattle*

Education Programs Manager Doug Fullington will discuss the influence of Balanchine's Russian training on his choreography, with a particular focus on pas de deux and corps de ballet choreography. Excerpts from PNB's 2008–2009 repertory will be performed by Company dancers and students from Pacific Northwest Ballet School. Ballets include Balanchine's *Symphony in C* and *Jewels* and, as a reference, Marius Petipa's *La Bayadère*.

Tickets are \$20. To purchase tickets contact the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424 or visit 301 Mercer Street.

### **BALLET 101 LECTURE-DEMONSTRATION**

Saturday, October 4, 2008

2:00–5:00 p.m., *The Phelps Center, 301 Mercer Street, Seattle*

Robert Greskovic, acclaimed dance writer for the *Wall Street Journal*, will participate in this seminar on ballet basics, drawing from his popular book, *Ballet 101: A complete guide to learning and loving the ballet* (Hyperion, 1998). Tickets are \$20. To purchase tickets contact the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424 or visit 301 Mercer Street.

### **PNB \$5 FRIDAYS**

Repertory Program 1: **ALL THARP**

Friday, September 12, 2008 – SOLD OUT

6:00–7:00 p.m., *Studio C, The Phelps Center, 301 Mercer Street, Seattle*

Join us for an hour-long dance preview led by Artistic Director Peter Boal and featuring PNB dancers performing excerpts from **ALL THARP**. PNB \$5 Fridays offer an upbeat and up-close view of the Company preparing to put dance on stage. To purchase tickets contact the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424 or visit 301 Mercer Street.

### **CONVERSATIONS WITH PNB – FREE**

Sunday, September 21, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

*Elliott Bay Bookstore, 101 S. Main Street, Seattle*

PNB's Sunday afternoon series features an hour-long discussion with Tharp assistant and PNB guest artist Charlie Hodges, PNB Ballet Master Paul Gibson and soloist Chalnessa Eames in the casual atmosphere of the Elliott Bay Book Company reading room. **Following the conversation, Ms. Tharp will sign copies of her book "The Creative Habit"** (Simon & Schuster, 2003). All *Conversations with PNB* are FREE of charge.

### **BALLET PREVIEW**

Tuesday, September 23, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

*Central Seattle Public Library, 1000 Fourth Avenue, Seattle*

Join PNB for a free lunchtime preview lecture at the Central Seattle Public Library. Education Programs Manager Doug Fullington will offer insights about ALL THARP, complete with video excerpts. FREE of charge.

### **PNB LECTURE SERIES & DRESS REHEARSAL**

Wednesday, September 24

Lecture 6:00–6:50 p.m., *Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall*

Dress Rehearsal 7:00–9:30 p.m., *McCaw Hall*

Join Artistic Director Peter Boal for an engaging preview during the hour preceding the ALL THARP dress rehearsal. Attend the lecture only or stay for the dress rehearsal. Tickets are \$12 for the lecture only, or \$25 for the lecture and dress rehearsal. Tickets may be purchased by calling the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424, online at [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org) or in person at 301 Mercer Street.

### **PRE-PERFORMANCE LECTURES**

Join Education Programs Manager Doug Fullington for a 30-minute introduction to each performance, including discussions of choreography, music, history, design and the process of bringing ballet to the stage. One hour before performances, Nesholm Family Lecture Hall, McCaw Hall. **FREE** for ticketholders.

## POST-PERFORMANCE Q&A

After the show, skip the traffic and enjoy a post-performance Q&A with Artistic Director Peter Boal and PNB dancers. Immediately following each performance, Norcliffe Room, McCaw Hall. **FREE** for ticketholders.

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Special thanks to season sponsors Microsoft and The John Graham Foundation, as well as 4Culture, ArtsFund, Mayor's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Scandinavian Airlines and Washington State Arts Commission.

### **Publicity Contact**

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Programming subject to change. For further information, please visit: [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org).  
To view the online version of this release [Click Here](#)

### **SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

Prized repertory favorites combined with bold new additions create an adventurous season of world-class performances. In addition to two premieres by Twyla Tharp created specially for PNB, 2008–2009 subscribers can anticipate the full-evening George Balanchine *Jewels*™, a Broadway festival of works celebrating the Great White Way, Kent Stowell's hugely popular *Swan Lake*, new works by such dance luminaries as Benjamin Millepied, Mark Morris, and Christopher Wheeldon...and more!

The full subscription season includes:

- **ALL THARP** September 25–October 5, 2008
- **NEW WORKS** November 6–16, 2008
- **George Balanchine's Jewels**™ January 29–February 7, 2009
- **BROADWAY FESTIVAL** March 12–22, 2009
- **Kent Stowell's Swan Lake** April 9–19, 2009
- **DIRECTOR'S CHOICE** May 28–June 7, 2009

Full season subscriptions start at \$120 and vary based on seating and performance dates.

You can also choose to subscribe to PNB's Mini Seasons. Choose from these three options to make up your perfect mini season:

- The First Four - **ALL THARP, NEW WORKS, Jewels**, and **BROADWAY FESTIVAL**
- The Final Four - **Jewels, BROADWAY FESTIVAL, Kent Stowell's Swan Lake**, and **DIRECTOR'S CHOICE**
- Choose Your Own - customize the season your way by choosing any four programs on any four performance dates.

Mini season subscriptions start at \$100 and vary based on seating and performance dates.

To purchase a season subscription or for questions you can come by the **PNB Box Office** at 301 Mercer Street, Call **206.441.2425** or visit **[www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org)**.

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