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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET PRESENTS ITS
THIRD REPERTORY PROGRAM OF THE 2008-09 SEASON:**

George Balanchine's ***JEWELS***TM

EMERALDS – RUBIES – DIAMONDS

January 29 – February 7, 2009

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall
321 Mercer Street, Seattle Center
Seattle, WA 98109

January 29 - 31 at 7:30 pm

January 31 at 2:00 pm

February 1 at 1:00 pm

February 5 - 7 at 7:30 pm

SEATTLE, WA - Pacific Northwest Ballet presents George Balanchine's *Jewels*TM, the third repertory program of the 2008-2009 season. Rarely seen as a complete trio, this radiant production of *Emeralds*, *Rubies*, and *Diamonds* in one evening-length production is an homage to the three golden ages of dance and showcases George Balanchine's masterful choreography. Several special events are planned in conjunction with PNB's production of *Jewels*, including a Studio Rehearsal and Conversation with ballet legends Violette Verdy and Mimi Paul, and a lecture in which Costume Shop Manager Larae Theige Hascall will discuss and display the work of legendary costume designer Karinska. (See "Special Events," below, for more information.) *Jewels* runs from January 29 through February 7 at Seattle Center's Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. Tickets to *Jewels* 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 St.

The gems in *Jewels* pay tribute to three golden ages of dance and also to the beauty of the ballerinas adored by Balanchine. Poetic and flowing, *Emeralds* evokes France, the birthplace of Romantic dance. Its ballerinas drift on stage in clouds of tulle, whispering of elegance, fashion and fragrance. *Rubies* mirrors the carefree spontaneity of America, a throwback to the musical comedies and films Balanchine created soon after he arrived in his beloved adopted country: a sassy, jazzy burst of sunshine. *Diamonds* dazzles as Balanchine's tribute to the work of Marius Petipa and evokes the grandeur and precision of the Imperial Ballet of St. Petersburg with each shimmering wave of classical elegance.

At its New York City Ballet premiere in 1967, George Balanchine's *Jewels* was touted as the first

"plotless full-length ballet." The story goes that Balanchine was inspired to create the ballet after a visit to the New York jeweler Claude Arpels of Van Cleef and Arpels. While each of its three ballets may not follow any definitive narrative, like real gems themselves, each can be viewed in multiple ways and from a variety of angles. The great American dance critic, Arlene Croce, described **Jewels** as "unsurpassed as a Balanchine primer, incorporating in a single evening every important article of faith to which this choreographer subscribed and a burst of heresy, too." Balanchine himself, in his typical noncommittal way, stated, "Of course, I have always liked jewels; after all, I am an Oriental, from Georgia in the Caucasus. I like the color of gems, the beauty of stones, and it was wonderful to see how our costume workshop, under Karinska's direction, came so close to the quality of real stones (which were, of course, too heavy for the dancers to wear!)."

Emeralds

Music: Gabriel Fauré (from *Pelléas et Mélisande*, 1898, and *Shylock*, 1889)

Choreography: George Balanchine

Duration: 31 Minutes

Emeralds is a romantic evocation of France. It is also Balanchine's comment of the French school of dancing and its rich heritage. France is the birthplace of classical ballet and French is its language. With a score by Gabriel Fauré and dancers dressed in Romantic-length tutus, ***Emeralds*** can also be a window on the nostalgia inherent in much late 19th-century art, with its idealized view of the Middle Ages, chivalry, and courtly love. Balanchine considered ***Emeralds*** "an evocation of France – the France of elegance, comfort, dress and perfume."

Rubies

Music: Igor Stravinsky (*Capriccio* for piano and orchestra, 1929)

Choreography: George Balanchine

Duration: 22 minutes

Rubies is considered the American jewel, with its Jazz Age score by Igor Stravinsky, stylized flapper costumes by Karinska, and Balanchine choreography in his sophisticated mode. A saucy leading couple plays and competes as equals, and a second, siren-like ballerina takes on the men of the corps de ballet, requiring all four of them to partner her at once.

Diamonds

Music: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (Symphony No. 3 in D major, Op. 29, 1875, first movement omitted)

Choreography: George Balanchine

Duration: 31 minutes

Diamonds is Balanchine's homage to his native St. Petersburg. Echoes of Petipa's *Swan Lake* and *Raymonda* abound, and the centerpiece of the ballet is an intimate pas de deux, potent in its chivalrous reserve, for the ballerina and her cavalier. At its end, the entire cast joins the principal couple for a gloriously spirited polonaise.

Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, **George Balanchine** (1904-1983) is regarded as the 20th century's foremost choreographer in the world of ballet. He came to the United States in late 1933, at the invitation of arts patron Lincoln Kirstein. At Balanchine's behest, the School of American Ballet was founded in 1934, and in the years that followed, several ballet companies directed by Balanchine and Kirstein were created and dissolved, while Balanchine found other outlets for his choreography. In 1948, New York City Ballet was formed and Mr. Balanchine served as its ballet master and principal choreographer from that time until his death. George Balanchine's more than 400 dance works include *Serenade* (1934), *Concerto Barocco* (1941), *Le Palais de Cristal*, later renamed *Symphony in C* (1947), *Agon* (1957), *Symphony in Three Movements* (1972), *Stravinsky Violin Concerto* (1972), *Vienna Waltzes* (1977) and *Mozartiana* (1981). He also choreographed for films, operas, revues, and musicals. As a major artistic figure of the twentieth century, Mr. Balanchine revolutionized the look of classical ballet and asserted an inestimable influence on the growth of dance in America. Although at first his style seemed particularly suited to the energy and

speed of American dancers, especially those he trained, his ballets are now performed by all the major classical ballet companies throughout the world. [Copyright © 2002 The George Balanchine Foundation. Reprinted by permission.]

TICKETS AND SHOWTIME INFORMATION

George Balanchine's *Jewels* runs January 29-February 7 at McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street. Showtimes are 7:30 pm January 29-31 and February 5-7, with matinees at 2:00 pm on January 31, and 1:00 pm on February 1.

TICKET INFORMATION:

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 Street (Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm)
- * Online at **www.pnb.org**
- * 90 minutes prior to each performance at McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street at Seattle Center
- * **Group discounts of up to 40%** are available for groups of ten or more by calling 206.441.2416, e-mailing juliej@pnb.org, or using PNB's Online Group Builder at www.pnb.org.

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE:

\$15 TICKETS FOR AGE 25 & UNDER

Both Friday performances: January 30 and February 6, 7:30 pm

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 *Jewels*. To purchase tickets call PNB's Box Office at 206.441.2424 or visit 301 Mercer St. Each attendee must present valid I.D. upon ticket retrieval. 25 & Under Friday ticket offer is good January 30 and February 6 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 40%. For group tickets, please call 206.441.2416, email juliej@pnb.org or use PNB's Online Group Builder at 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

Emeralds Studio Rehearsal and Conversation

Thursday, January 15, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Studio C, The Phelps Center, 301 Mercer St.

Join Pacific Northwest Ballet for a studio rehearsal and conversation with ballet legends Violette Verdy and Mimi Paul, originators of the ballerina roles in George Balanchine's *Emeralds*, the first ballet in Balanchine's triptych, *Jewels*. Ms. Verdy and Ms. Paul will coach PNB dancers in their *Emeralds* roles and discuss their work with Balanchine and the creation of *Jewels* in 1967. Tickets are \$20 and can 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. Space is limited.

PNB \$5 FRIDAYS

Repertory Program 3: *Jewels*

Friday, January 23 – SOLD OUT

6:00 – 7:00 pm, *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 *Jewels*. (This event is SOLD OUT. Tickets to PNB's popular \$5 Fridays go on sale eight weeks before each event.)

CONVERSATIONS WITH PNB — FREE

Sunday, January 25, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S. Main Street, Seattle

PNB's Sunday afternoon series features an hour-long discussion about *Jewels* with PNB Company members Ariana Lallone, Jodie Thomas and Jeffrey Stanton in the casual atmosphere of the Elliott Bay Book Company reading room. All *Conversations with PNB* are **FREE** of charge.

BALLET PREVIEW — FREE

Tuesday, Jan. 27, 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm

Central Seattle Public Library, 1000 Fourth Avenue, Seattle

Join PNB for a free lunchtime preview lecture in the Microsoft Auditorium at the Central Seattle Public Library. Education Programs Manager Doug Fullington will offer insights about *Jewels*, complete with video excerpts. This event is **FREE** of charge.

PNB LECTURE SERIES & DRESS REHEARSAL

Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009

Lecture 6:00–6:50 pm, *Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall*

Dress Rehearsal 7:00–9:30 pm, *McCaw Hall*

Join us for this engaging interview during the hour preceding the dress rehearsal. Costume Shop Manager Larae Theige Hascall will discuss and display the work of legendary costume designer Barbara Karinska, including her designs for *Jewels* and many other Balanchine ballets. Attend the lecture only, or stay for the dress rehearsal. Tickets are \$10 for the lecture only, or \$20 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, or in person at the PNB Box Office at 301 Mercer Street.

Pre-Performance Lectures

Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall

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. **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.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET'S OUTREACH & EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PRESENTS GEORGE BALANCHINE'S *JEWELS*™ FOR 2009 EYES ON DANCE STUDENT MATINEE

Friday, January 30, 2009, 11:30 am

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall at Seattle Center

PNB's informative EYES ON DANCE student matinee will feature excerpts from George Balanchine's *Jewels*™. Designed with students in mind, EYES ON DANCE is the perfect introduction to ballet. The one-hour matinee includes introductions by PNB Artistic Staff, open set changes, and live orchestra.

Tickets: EYES ON DANCE is available for school groups purchasing 15–200 tickets. \$6.00 per attendee. (Scholarship tickets for those students participating in the free or reduced-price lunch program are \$3.00.) Schools are responsible for their own transportation. To purchase tickets, call the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424 (Mon–Fri 9am–6pm; Sat 10am–5pm)

PNB's Outreach and Education department encourages teachers to pair student matinee performances with additional EYES ON DANCE activities designed to complement and expand students' viewing experiences: PNB study guides, PNB Fieldtrips, and pre-performance or post-performance workshops.

For more information about EYES ON DANCE, please contact Rochelle Rapaszky at 206.441.9411 x4229 or rrapaszky@pnb.org.

Jewels™ is made possible in part thanks to major sponsor Union Bank of California and in-kind partner Dilettante Chocolates. Seasonal support provided by ArtsFund. Thanks also to season sponsors Microsoft and The John Graham Foundation, as well as 4Culture, Mayor's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Scandinavian Airlines and Washington State Arts Commission.

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About Pacific Northwest Ballet

Pacific Northwest Ballet, one of the largest and most highly regarded ballet companies in the United States, was founded in 1972. In July 2005, Peter Boal became Artistic Director, succeeding Kent Stowell and Francia Russell, Co-Artistic Directors since 1977. The Company of forty-six dancers presents more than 100 performances each year of full-length and mixed repertory ballets at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall and on tour. The Company has toured to Europe, Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Canada and throughout the United States, with celebrated appearances at Jacob's Pillow and in New York City and Washington, DC.

Under the direction of Peter Boal, PNB has continued to expand and diversify its repertory to include works by Ulysses Dove, William Forsythe, Susan Marshall, Mark Morris, Victor Quijada, Twyla Tharp, Christopher Wheeldon and others. An annual Spring Dance Festival was inaugurated in April 2007 with the theme Celebrate Seattle. The second festival, the Laugh Out Loud! Spring Dance Festival in April 2008, featured new and classic comedy ballets.

Founded in 1974, Pacific Northwest Ballet School, under the direction of Francia Russell since 1977 and now under Mr. Boal's direction, is nationally recognized as setting the standard for ballet training and offers a complete professional curriculum to over 950 students. The School also provides comprehensive dance education to the greater Seattle area and reaches over 10,000 adults and children each year through DanceChance, Discover Dance and other outreach programs and activities.

Publicity Contact

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Programming subject to change. For further information, please visit: www.pnb.org.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET
301 mercer street seattle, wa 98109 206.441.9411 fax: 206.441.2440 www.pnb.org

George Balanchine's **JEWELS™**

EMERALDS – RUBIES – DIAMONDS

Music: EMERALDS - Gabriel Fauré (from *Pelléas et Melisande*, 1898, and *Shylock*, 1889)
RUBIES - Igor Stravinsky (*Capriccio* for piano and orchestra, 1929)
DIAMONDS - Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (Symphony No. 3 in D major, Op. 29, 1975,
first movement omitted)
Choreography: George Balanchine © The George Balanchine Trust
Staging: Elyse Borne
Costume Design: Karinska
Lighting Design: Mark Stanley
Premiere: April 13, 1976; New York City Ballet
PNB Premiere: June 1, 2006

When: 7:30 pm January 29-31 and February 5-7
Matinees at 2:00 pm on January 31 and 1:00 pm on February 1

Where: Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street, Seattle, WA 98109

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Plus: Visit **pnb.org** for a complete list of special events and offers presented in conjunction with *Jewels*.

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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 *Jewels* to the stage.

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