



# PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 29, 2010

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Gary Tucker

206.441.2426

gtucker@pnb.org

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET PRESENTS**

# ALL BALANCHINE

**April 15-25, 2010**

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

April 15-17 at 7:30 pm

April 17 at 2:00 pm

April 22-24 at 7:30 pm

April 25 at 1:00 pm

**SEATTLE, WA** – Pacific Northwest Ballet pays tribute to the greatest choreographer of the 20th century and its own artistic heritage with **ALL BALANCHINE**, an homage to the man who revolutionized an art form in ways that have changed it forever. The three works on this season's **ALL BALANCHINE** program—*Serenade*, *Square Dance*, and *The Four Temperaments*—exemplify the incredible range of George Balanchine's work. **ALL BALANCHINE** runs April 15-25 at Seattle Center's Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. Tickets to **ALL BALANCHINE** start at \$25 and may be purchased by calling the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424, online at PNB.org, or in person at the PNB Box Office at 301 Mercer Street.

In conjunction with **ALL BALANCHINE**, PNB Education Programs Manager Doug Fullington will be giving a special presentation of *Balanchine's Petipa*. The presentation's lecture-demonstration format will feature performances by PNB company members and discussion of dances by both Marius Petipa (1818-1910) and George Balanchine (1904-1983), and the influence of Petipa and his colleagues at the Imperial Ballet in St. Petersburg on Balanchine's choreography. The program's Balanchine excerpts have been staged by Peter Boal, Elyse Borne, Frederic Franklin, and Francia Russell. The 19th-century dances have been reconstructed by Mr. Fullington using notations made in St. Petersburg in the Stepanov notation method at the turn of the 20th century. *Balanchine's Petipa* will be presented one time only on Tuesday, May 11 at 6:00 pm. After its Seattle presentation, *Balanchine's Petipa* will be presented in New York City on May 14 and 15 as part of the Guggenheim Museum's popular Works and Process Series. See "Special Events & Offers," below, for ticket information.

[Continued]

The line-up for **ALL BALANCHINE** will include:

### ***Serenade***

**Music:** Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (*Serenade in C for string orchestra*, Op. 48, 1880)

**Choreography:** George Balanchine © The George Balanchine Trust

**Staging:** Francia Russell

**Costume Design:** Karinska

**Lighting Design:** Randall G. Chiarelli

Premiere: June 10, 1934, School of American Ballet

Pacific Northwest Ballet Premiere: September 29, 1978

Running time: 35 minutes

Originally choreographed in 1934 for his students at the newly-founded School of American Ballet, *Serenade* is a milestone in the history of dance as the first original ballet Balanchine created in America. Originating as a lesson in stage technique, Balanchine worked unexpected rehearsal events into the choreography. When one student fell, he incorporated it. Another day, a student arrived late, and this too became part of the ballet. The ballet is performed by 26 dancers in blue costumes in front of a blue background. An ideal manifestation of Tchaikovsky's soaring score, its transcendent purity endures and renews itself as a primary testament to the choreographer's genius.

### ***Square Dance***

**Music:** Antonio Vivaldi (*L'estro Armonica*, Op. 3, No. 10, RV 580 and No. 12, RV 265) and Arcangelo Corelli (*Sarabanda, Badinerie e Giga*, i.e., *Sonatas for Violin and Continuo*, Op. 5, No. 9 [*Giga*] and No. 11 [*Gavotta*])

**Choreography:** George Balanchine © The George Balanchine Trust

**Staging:** Peter Boal

**Lighting Design:** Randall G. Chiarelli

Premiere: November 21, 1957, New York City Ballet (Revised May 20, 1976)

Pacific Northwest Ballet Premiere: March 5, 1981 (Restaged September 20, 2007)

Running time: 25 minutes

*Square Dance* is a buoyant and intricate work that combines classical ballet with the patterns of 17th-century court dance, and American folk dance. In the original 1957 production, the musicians were on stage and a square dance caller was brought in to call out the steps. Balanchine revived *Square Dance* in 1976, dispensing with the caller, putting the orchestra in the pit, and adding a celebrated solo for the principal male dancer.

### ***The Four Temperaments***

**Music:** Paul Hindemith (*Theme with Four Variations [According to the Four Temperaments]* for string orchestra and piano, 1940)

**Choreography:** George Balanchine © The George Balanchine Trust

**Staging:** Francia Russell

**Lighting Design:** Randall G. Chiarelli

Premiere: November 20, 1946, Ballet Society (New York)

Pacific Northwest Ballet Premiere: February 23, 1978

Running time: 33 minutes

*The Four Temperaments*, a quintessential "black and white" Balanchine ballet, is an early experiment in spare abstraction based on the medieval belief that human beings are made up of four different humors that determine a person's temperament. In a series of plotless variations executed by dancers in practice clothes on a bare stage, Balanchine fused classical steps with a lean and angular style, and proclaimed a new era in ballet with some of the most uniquely evocative images ever created. *The Four Temperaments* was recognized immediately as a work without precedent in choreographic history. It is Balanchine's first—and phenomenally powerful—announcement of the spare, dislocated classicism that he would employ throughout his career in works such as *Agon*, *Episodes*, and *Stravinsky Violin Concerto* and that would have such a profound influence on the emerging American style.

## About The Artists

Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, **George Balanchine** (1904-1983) is regarded as the foremost contemporary choreographer in the world of ballet. He came to the United States in late 1933, at the age of 29, accepting the invitation of the young American arts patron Lincoln Kirstein (1907-1996), whose great passions included the dream of creating a ballet company in America. At Balanchine's behest, the School of American Ballet was founded in 1934, the first product of the Balanchine-Kirstein collaboration. Several ballet companies directed by the two were created and dissolved in the years that followed, while Balanchine found other outlets for his choreography. Eventually, with a performance on October 11, 1948, the New York City Ballet was born. Balanchine served as its ballet master and principal choreographer from 1948 until his death in 1983.

Balanchine's more than 400 dance works include *Serenade* (1934), *Concerto Barocco* (1941), *Le Palais de Cristal*, later renamed *Symphony in C* (1947), *Orpheus* (1948), *The Nutcracker* (1954), *Agon* (1957), *Symphony in Three Movements* (1972), *Stravinsky Violin Concerto* (1972), *Vienna Waltzes* (1977), *Ballo della Regina* (1978), and *Mozartiana* (1981). His final ballet, a new version of *Stravinsky's Variations for Orchestra*, was created in 1982. He also choreographed for films, operas, revues, and musicals. Among his best-known dances for the stage is *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*, originally created for Broadway's *On Your Toes* (1936). The musical was later made into a movie.

A major artistic figure of the twentieth century, Balanchine revolutionized the look of classical ballet. Taking classicism as his base, he heightened, quickened, expanded, streamlined, and even inverted the fundamentals of the 400-year-old language of academic dance. This had 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 © The George Balanchine Foundation. Reprinted by permission.]

**Francia Russell** served Pacific Northwest Ballet as Artistic Director and Director of the School from 1977 until her retirement in June, 2005. She is responsible for the addition to the Company's repertory of many works of George Balanchine. Born in Los Angeles, Ms. Russell grew up in San Francisco, London, Nice, and New York. Her teachers included Felia Doubrovskaya, Antonina Tumkovskaya, Vera Volkova, Robert Joffrey, and George Balanchine. In 1956, Ms. Russell joined New York City Ballet, where she was promoted to soloist in 1959 and appointed Ballet Mistress in 1964. She was also a member of the faculty of the School of American Ballet and performed with Jerome Robbins' Ballets U.S.A. From 1975 to 1977, Ms. Russell and Kent Stowell were Co-Artistic Directors of Frankfurt Ballet.

Ms. Russell was one of the first ballet masters chosen by George Balanchine to stage his works and has staged over one hundred productions of Balanchine ballets throughout North America and Europe. In 1987, she staged the first Balanchine ballet in the People's Republic of China for the Shanghai Ballet. During the 1988/89 season, she staged the historic first authorized performance of Balanchine's work in his homeland for the Kirov Ballet in St. Petersburg. Ms. Russell's numerous awards include the Washington State Governor's Arts Award, the Dance Magazine Award, an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Seattle University, and the Brava Award from Women's University Club of Seattle. In 2004, Ms. Russell received the ArtsFund Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award, the Seattle Mayor's Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement, and the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award and was recognized by the King County Council for her achievements in the arts.

## TICKET INFORMATION:

Tickets (ranging from \$25 to \$160) may be purchased through the PNB Box Office:

- By phone, 206.441.2424 (Mon.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm)
- In person at 301 Mercer Street, Seattle (Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm)
- Online 24/7 at [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org)

- Tickets are also available 90 minutes prior to each performance (subject to availability) at McCaw Hall, located at 321 Mercer Street. Discounted rush tickets for senior citizens and students (with valid ID) may be purchased 90 minutes prior to showtime.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS & OFFERS:**

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

One ticket for \$15 and two for \$25 for patrons 25 years and younger at all Thursday and Friday evening performances! To purchase tickets, contact the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424 or visit 301 Mercer Street. This offer is good only for the 7:30 pm performances on **April 15, 16, 22 and 23**. Offer is subject to availability and not valid on previously purchased tickets. Each attendee must present valid I.D. upon ticket retrieval.

### **TEEN TIX**

PNB is a proud participant of Seattle Center's Teen Tix program for young people 13 to 19 years old. Teen Tix members can 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 their webpage at [seattlecenter.com/teentix](http://seattlecenter.com/teentix).

### **GROUP SALES**

Ticket discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. For group rates, 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's Online Group Builder is for audience members to gather friends, family and co-workers to see any performance and save.)

### **FRIDAY PREVIEWS**

Friday, April 9, 6:00 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 **ALL BALANCHINE**. PNB Friday Previews offer an upbeat and up-close view of the Company preparing to put dance on stage. 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 the PNB Box Office. (This event sells out in advance.)

### **CONVERSATIONS WITH PNB — FREE**

Sunday, April 11, 2:00 pm

*SPECIAL LOCATION: Sorrento Hotel, 900 Madison Street, Seattle\**

PNB's Sunday afternoon series features an hour-long discussion about **ALL BALANCHINE** with principal dancers Carrie Imler and Jonathan Porretta in the elegant atmosphere of the Sorrento Hotel's Penthouse Suite. All *Conversations with PNB* are **FREE** of charge. \**Special thanks to the Sorrento Hotel for hosting this event while Elliott Bay Book Company completes its move to Capitol Hill.*

### **BALLET PREVIEW — FREE**

Tuesday, April 13, 12:00 noon

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

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

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

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

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

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

Join PNB Founding Artistic Director Francaia Russell for an engaging conversation on George Balanchine during the hour preceding the dress rehearsal. Attend the lecture only or stay for the dress rehearsal. Tickets are \$12 for the lecture, 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**

*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&As**

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 in the Norcliffe Room at McCaw Hall. **FREE** for ticketholders.

## **LECTURE-DEMONSTRATION: Balanchine's Petipa**

Tuesday, May 11, 6:00 pm

*The Phelps Center, 301 Mercer Street, Seattle*

*Balanchine's Petipa* explores the influence of the choreography of Marius Petipa and his colleagues at the Imperial Ballet in St. Petersburg on the choreography of George Balanchine. Excerpts performed by PNB company members include works from 19th-century ballets and Balanchine ballets. See this presentation in Seattle before it goes to New York as part of Works & Process at the Guggenheim Museum. Tickets are \$20 and 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 the PNB Box Office.

# # #

**ALL BALANCHINE** is made possible by presenting sponsor Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, major sponsor the National Endowment for the Arts, and supporting sponsors Moss Adams LLP and PONCHO. Pacific Northwest Ballet's 2009-2010 Season is proudly sponsored by Microsoft Corporation. Additional season partners include ArtsFund, the Wallace Foundation, the Washington State Arts Commission, and 4Culture-King County Lodging Tax.

### **Publicity Contact**

Gary Tucker, Media Relations Manager

Tel: 206-441-2426 / E-mail: [gtucker@pnb.org](mailto:gtucker@pnb.org) / Website: [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org)

***Programming subject to change. For further information, please visit: [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org).***

## **PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET**

301 mercer street seattle, wa 98109 206.441.9411 fax: 206.441.2440 [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org)