



# PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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## **PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET ANNOUNCES DANCER PROMOTIONS FOR 2010-2011 SEASON**

**SEATTLE, WA** — As the company returns to the rehearsal studios today following their post-season break, Pacific Northwest Ballet Artistic Director Peter Boal is very pleased to announce six dancer promotions for the 2010-2011 season. Seth Orza, who joined PNB as a member of the corps de ballet in 2007, has been promoted to the rank of principal dancer. Corps de ballet member Laura Gilbreath, who joined PNB as an apprentice in 2003, was promoted to the rank of soloist as was Sarah Ricard Orza, a member of PNB's corps de ballet since 2007. Mr. Boal is also happy to announce that Chelsea Adomaitis, Ryan Cardea, and Ezra Thomson, who joined PNB as apprentices in 2009, have all been promoted to the corps de ballet.

**Seth Orza** is from San Francisco, California. He trained at San Francisco Ballet School and on full scholarship at the School of American Ballet. In 1999, he joined New York City Ballet as an apprentice. He became a corps de ballet member in 2000, and in 2007 he was promoted to soloist. At New York City Ballet, Mr. Orza danced leading roles in George Balanchine's *Agon*, *Emeralds*, *The Four Temperaments*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Nutcracker*, *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*, *Symphony in C*, and *Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 2*; Peter Martins' *Reliquary* and *Romeo + Juliet*; Jerome Robbins' *Fancy Free*, *Fanfare*, *In Memory Of...*, *Interplay*, and *Piano Pieces*; and Christopher Wheeldon's *Carousel (A Dance)*, *Evenfall*, and *Polyphonia*. Mr. Orza joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as a member of the corps de ballet in 2007 and was promoted to soloist in 2008. He has originated leading roles in Benjamin Millepied's *3 Movements*, Jonathan Porretta's *Lacrymosa*, and Susan Stroman's *TAKE FIVE...More or Less* and danced leading roles in George Balanchine's *Agon*, *Coppélia*, *Diamonds*, *Emeralds*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*, and *Symphony in C*; Val Caniparoli's *The Seasons*; William Forsythe's *One Flat Thing, reproduced*; Paul Gibson's *Sense of Doubt*; Ronald Hynd's *The Sleeping Beauty*; Jiri Kylian's *Petite Mort*; Jean-Christophe Maillot's *Roméo et Juliette*; Jerome Robbins' *Dances at a Gathering*, *Fancy Free*, *In the Night*, and *West Side Story Suite*; Kent Stowell's *Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake*; Twyla Tharp's *Nine Sinatra Songs*; and Christopher Wheeldon's *Carousel (A Dance)* and *Variations Sérieuses*. In April 2009, Mr. Orza performed as a guest artist with San Francisco Ballet in Balanchine's *Emeralds*.

**Laura Gilbreath** is from Hammond, Louisiana. She trained with Phoebe Brantley in Baton Rouge, Joseph Jacobbe and Richard Rholdon in New Orleans, and on scholarship at the School of American Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet School. She joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as an apprentice in 2003 and was promoted to corps de ballet in 2004. She has danced leading roles in George Balanchine's *Diamonds*, *Prodigal Son*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Serenade*, *Rubies*, and *Symphony in C*; Ulysses Dove's *Dancing on the Front Porch of Heaven* and *Red Angels*; William Forsythe's *One Flat Thing, reproduced*; Ronald Hynd's *The Sleeping Beauty*; Jiri Kylian's *Petite Mort*; Brian Reeder's *Lost Language of the Flight Attendant*; Jerome Robbins' *In the Night* and *West Side Story Suite*; Kent Stowell's *Nutcracker* and *Silver Lining*; and Susan Stroman's *TAKE FIVE...More or Less*. Ms. Gilbreath has performed as a guest artist with Lafayette Ballet Theatre.

**Sarah Ricard Orza** is from Amherst, Massachusetts. She trained at Amherst Ballet School and on full scholarship at the School of American Ballet. In 1999, she joined New York City Ballet as an apprentice. She became a member of the corps de ballet in 2000 and danced with the company until 2006. At New York City Ballet, Ms. Orza danced leading roles in Balanchine's *Coppélia*, Peter Martins' *The Sleeping Beauty*, and Jerome Robbins' *Fanfare* and *Interplay*. In 2007, she joined Pacific

Northwest Ballet as a corps de ballet dancer. She has danced leading roles in George Balanchine's *Agon*, *Coppélia* and *Emeralds*; Val Caniparoli's *The Seasons*; Ronald Hynd's *The Sleeping Beauty*, Jiri Kylian's *Petite Mort*; Jerome Robbins' *Dances at a Gathering*, *In the Night*, and *West Side Story Suite*; Kent Stowell's *Nutcracker*; Susan Stroman's *TAKE FIVE...More or Less*; and Twyla Tharp's *Nine Sinatra Songs* and *Opus 111*.

**Chelsea Adomaitis** is from Boston, Massachusetts. She studied with Wayne Stewarte in Massachusetts and at Harid Conservatory and Pacific Northwest Ballet School, and she attended summer courses at Pacific Northwest Ballet School, Harid Conservatory, the Royal Ballet School (London), and National Ballet School (Canada). While a student at Pacific Northwest Ballet School, Ms. Adomaitis performed leading roles in George Balanchine's *Cortège Hongrois* and *La Source* and originated roles in ballets by Sonia Dawkins, Kiyon Gaines, and Olivier Wevers. In 2009, Ms. Adomaitis won a National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts youngARTS Level I award. She was also a Youth America Grand Prix finalist in 2003, 2004, and 2005.

**Ryan Cardea** is from New York City. He studied on scholarship at the School of American Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet School, and he attended summer courses at American Ballet Theatre, Chautauqua School of Dance, Miami City Ballet School, San Francisco Ballet School, and Pacific Northwest Ballet School, where he was a 2009 recipient of the Flemming Halby Exchange with the Royal Danish Ballet School. While a student at Pacific Northwest School, Mr. Cardea performed leading roles in Bruce Wells' *Pinocchio* and originated roles in ballets by Barry Kerollis and Jonathan Porretta.

**Ezra Thomson** is from San Bernardino, California. He studied on scholarship at Riverside Ballet Arts, Orlando Ballet School, and Pacific Northwest Ballet School and attended summer courses at Pacific Northwest Ballet School, the School of American Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, National Ballet School (Canada), the Rock School, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, and Burklyn Ballet Theatre. Mr. Thomson was a 2009 recipient of the Flemming Halby Exchange with the Royal Danish Ballet School. He danced with Orlando Ballet before joining Pacific Northwest Ballet as an apprentice in 2009. While a student in Pacific Northwest Ballet School, Mr. Thomson performed the lead in George Balanchine's *La Source* and also originated roles in ballets by Kiyon Gaines, Stanko Milov, and Olivier Wevers, as well as the role of Geppetto in Bruce Wells' *Pinocchio*. In 2007, Mr. Thomson won the gold medal in the regional Youth America Grand Prix competition.

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