



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET SCHOOL PRESENTS A DAY OF DANCE

Saturday, June 19, 2010
Marion Oliver McCaw Hall
321 Mercer Street, Seattle Center

1:30 pm and 7:00 pm

The 29th Annual PNBS School Performances **See the stars of tomorrow on stage today!**

Featuring the world premiere of a new work by Kiyon Gaines; George Balanchine's *Chaconne*; and excerpts from *Stars and Stripes*

Performances will also feature Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of conductor Stephen Rogers Radcliffe

And between the performances: The Second Annual PNBS Celebration Dinner

SEATTLE, WA —While Pacific Northwest Ballet's 2009-2010 season draws to a close with the final performance of *Coppélia* on June 13, audiences don't have to go into immediate withdrawal for another week; On Saturday, June 19, Pacific Northwest Ballet School presents two full programs of dance, featuring the talented students of the Pacific Northwest Ballet School. The 29th Annual **School Performances** will be presented at 1:30 and 7:00 pm. Both shows will feature PNB's most advanced students performing George Balanchine's *Chaconne* and excerpts from Balanchine's *Stars and Stripes*. Music for *Stars and Stripes* and *Chaconne* will be performed live by the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of conductor Stephen Rogers Radcliffe. Audiences at both performances will also get to see the world premiere of *10: "Un" A-Frayed Edges*, choreographed by PNB Company dancer Kiyon Gaines to a score by composer Aaron Severini.

In between the two performances PNB School will host the Second Annual **Celebration Dinner**, to honor and commemorate the successes of PNBS students over the past year, and raise necessary funds to support promising young ballet students. Former PNB principal dancer Patricia Barker will be the honorary guest at this celebratory benefit dinner.

All three events take place at Seattle Center's Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. Tickets may be purchased from the PNB Box Office: 206.441.2424, online at www.pnb.org, or in person at 301 Mercer Street. (See **TICKET AND SHOWTIME INFORMATION** below for more details.)

"School Performance offers the chance to see the broad range of accomplishment from our gifted students," says PNB School director Peter Boal. "The simplest of movements are executed with the utmost precision by our youngest, while the top tier demonstrates complicated choreography with ease."

Pacific Northwest Ballet School's 29th Annual **School Performances** feature students of all levels performing programs designed to showcase their skills and accomplishments over the past year. This year, the 1:30 pm performance will feature students in Levels I-VIII, DanceChance, and Intermediate Boys classes. The 7:00 pm performance will feature Levels VII, VIII and Professional Division students. Both performances will feature PNB School's most advanced students performing George Balanchine's *Chaconne*, excerpts from Balanchine's *Stars and Stripes*, and the world premiere of **10: "Un" A-Frayed Edges** by PNB Company dancer Kiyon Gaines.

10: "Un" A-Frayed Edges

Music: Aaron Severini (*10*)

Choreography: Kiyon Gaines

Costumes: Larae Hascall and PNB Costume Shop

Lighting Design: Randall G. Chiarelli

World Premiere

10: "Un" A-Frayed Edges is the latest work created by PNB corps de ballet dancer and choreographer Kiyon Gaines, and his first collaboration with New York-based composer Aaron Severini. Gaines frequently creates new works on PNB School's Professional Division students and, on occasion, his fellow Company members. His choreography is as compelling as his seemingly endless positive energy; his movement is filled with intricate direction changes and angles. Dancers' limbs are unfurled and flung, they slice and spoke through the air. *10* promises to challenge these young dancers who are on the cusp of professional careers, energize audiences, and continue to evolve the contemporary ballet aesthetic.

Chaconne

Music: Christoph Willibald von Gluck

Choreography: George Balanchine © The George Balanchine Trust

Staging: Peter Boal, assisted by Marisa Albee and Elaine Bauer

Costume Design: Karinska

Lighting Design: Randall G. Chiarelli

Premiere: January 22, 1976; New York City Ballet

Pacific Northwest Ballet Premiere: March 3, 1983

Throughout his career, George Balanchine was called upon by opera companies around the world to stage the ballet portions of their productions, and on occasion an entire opera. *Chaconne* has its origin in one of these occasions—Balanchine's staging of Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice* for the Hamburg Opera in 1963. Thirteen years later, in 1976, the choreographer consolidated most of the dances from that production into a complete ballet for his own company, adding only the initial *pas de deux* and, somewhat later, the introductory ensemble. In this form, *Chaconne* (which takes its title both from an ancient dance and from the popular name for ballet music used to end an opera), is a series of ensemble numbers and variations—*pas de deux*, *pas de trois*, *pas de cinq*—which capture brilliantly the rococo spirit of 18th century music and movement even as that spirit is re-created by Balanchine's 20th century sensibility.

Stars and Stripes

Men's Regiment

Music: John Philip Sousa, adapted and orchestrated by Hershy Kay

Choreography: George Balanchine © The George Balanchine Trust

Staging: Timothy Lynch

Lighting Design: Randall G. Chiarelli

Premiere: January 17, 1958; New York City Ballet

Pacific Northwest Ballet Premiere: March 3, 1983

George Balanchine loved the military band tunes of John Philip Sousa; his marches were irresistible to the choreographer. What better way to make the point that America, not Europe or Russia, was now ballet's natural home than to combine brilliant classical dancing with rousing popular music evocative of every American's childhood? The result was a splashy, uninhibited spectacle containing some of the most demanding and ingenious choreography Balanchine ever invented.

Ticket & Showtime Information

All three events take place on Sat., June 19, 2010 at McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street at Seattle Center.

Pacific Northwest Ballet School's 29th Annual **School Performances** will be presented at 1:30 & 7:00 pm. Tickets to a single School Performance are \$25-\$65 for adults, \$15-\$60 for youth 0-17; tickets to both School Performances are \$40-\$100 for adults, \$25-\$100 for youth.

The Second Annual **PNB School Celebration Dinner** begins at 5:00 pm, and is preceded by a cocktail reception beginning at 4:30 pm. Tickets are \$125 for adults and \$70 for youth. Patrons can also **sponsor a PNB School scholarship student** to attend the benefit dinner held in their honor for just \$75. For more information about this event, contact PNB's Special Events office at 206.441.2429 or events@pnb.org.

Discounts are available for patrons who purchase tickets to both School Performances or one of the performances and the School Celebration Dinner. Contact the PNB Box Office for more details.

Tickets may be purchased:

- * By calling the PNB Box Office at **206.441.2424** (Mon.-Fri. 9am-6 pm; Sat. 10am-5pm)
- * In person at the **PNB Box Office**, 301 Mercer St. (Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm)
- * Online 24/7 at **www.pnb.org**. (Please note: Combo discount tickets are not available online.)
- * 90 minutes prior to the performance (subject to availability) at McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street.

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, 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. [*Reprinted by permission of The George Balanchine Foundation.*]

Kiyon Gaines is from Baltimore, Maryland. He trained at Baltimore School of the Arts, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School, the School of American Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet School. He joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as a member of the corps de ballet in 2001. In addition to his performing career, Mr. Gaines is an accomplished choreographer. He created *blitz...Fantasy* for PNB's 2005 Choreographers' Showcase, and *{SCHWA}* for the 2006 Choreographers' Showcase. *{SCHWA}* was taken into PNB's repertory during the 2007 Celebrate Seattle Spring Dance Festival. For the 2007 Choreographers' Showcase he choreographed *Infinite Intricacies*. He has choreographed for Tri-Cities Academy, and participated in the prestigious New York Choreographic Institute. Mr. Gaines choreographed *Interrupted Pri'si'zh'en* and *Threefortwoinone* for the 2008 Choreographers' Showcase, and made his PNB season repertory debut in 2008 with the premiere of *M-Pulse*.

New York-based composer **Aaron Severini** was born in Greenfield, Massachusetts and began studying piano and composition at age eight. Severini's teachers have included Kendall Briggs, Bright Sheng, and Jeffrey Middleton. His concert works have been performed at The National Arts Club, The Ailey Studios, and Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall and David H. Koch Theater. He has collaborated with many choreographers including Adam Hendrickson, Christopher Wheeldon, Albert Evans, Melissa Barak, and Benjamin Millepied. In 2008, his piece *Flit of Fury* for two pianos, performed by pianists Steven Beck and Stephen Gosling, had its world premiere with New York City Ballet with choreography by City Ballet soloist Adam Hendrickson. Film scoring credits include Jerome Robbins' *NY Export: Opus Jazz*, *Lessons from a Tailor*, *Make Yourself at Home*, and *The Art of Leaving*. Mr. Severini is currently working on a film score for director Godofredo Astudillo, and composing a new work for the *New York à Paris* festival. Mr Severini is a recipient of the ASCAP Morton Gould Award.

With a 67-year tradition of excellence and innovation in arts education, the **Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestras** (SYSO) brings life-changing musical experiences to thousands of families throughout the Puget Sound. SYSO is the largest youth orchestra training program in the America, serving over 1,100 diverse students each year through four full orchestras, three summer festival programs and a nationally recognized partnership with local public schools. SYSO's flagship orchestra, the Seattle Youth Symphony, is made up of the finest young musicians in the region, and its annual Benaroya Hall concert season presents professional caliber performances that are infused with the unrivaled energy and passion of youthful artistry. Internationally recognized guest conductors and soloists frequently perform with the orchestra, and its distinguished graduates and alumni can be found in major symphony orchestras in America and abroad.

About the School

Founded in 1974, Pacific Northwest Ballet School is recognized as one of the top three ballet training institutions in the United States. Under the direction of Peter Boal, the School offers a complete, professional curriculum to more than 900 students. The School's Open Program attracts 600 teens and adults who wish to pursue recreational dance instruction in a supportive and encouraging setting. With two locations – The Phelps Center in Seattle and The Francia Russell Center in Bellevue – the School maintains a faculty of over 20 instructors, each with extensive performing backgrounds, and professional piano accompanists.

Pacific Northwest Ballet School is divided into three divisions that are designed to challenge students with each year of study:

Creative Movement and Pre-Ballet students (ages 5-7) are introduced to music, movement and group interaction. The **Student Division** offers eight levels of instruction. Auditions are required for admission and placement is based on age, strength, and physical development. The School's **Professional Division** offers advanced instruction for students planning a professional dance career. This intensive dance instruction includes all aspects of classical ballet technique as well as modern, jazz, and character dance. The Professional Division program is complemented by courses in dance, history, music, choreography, special conditioning, and other related subjects. Students also receive physical and nutritional guidance from the School's staff and professional consultants.

Students benefit from the close ties with Pacific Northwest Ballet's professional Company, half of which received training in the School. Professional Division students often perform with the Company. Apprentices are drawn from the School's Professional Division. In addition to the School Performance, the annual production of *Nutcracker* gives students of all ages valuable performing experience.

In 1994, PNBS launched the **DanceChance** program with four partner schools, and has since been able to offer classical ballet training on full scholarship to over 900 elementary school children. The goal of the program is to discover talented youngsters and provide them with an opportunity that they might not otherwise have had to pursue dance. Currently, DanceChance has 26 partner schools in Seattle and Bellevue. This year, 102 third and fourth grade students enrolled in DanceChance, selected from the falls auditions of 1650 students in the partner schools. DanceChance students are integrated into PNBS beginning at Level III. Currently, 43 DanceChance graduates are enrolled in Levels III through Professional Division. In the Fall of 2008, Eric Hipolito became the first

DanceChance graduate to join Pacific Northwest Ballet as a corps member, joining two other DanceChance graduates who have gone on to professional ballet careers.

To learn more about Pacific Northwest Ballet School, please visit www.pnb.org/pnbschool.

Kudos

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