



PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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Pacific Northwest Ballet Announces New Company Members for 2011-12 Season

SEATTLE, WA – Pacific Northwest Ballet Artistic Director Peter Boal is pleased to announce that he has hired three dancers to join the company: When the company returns to the rehearsal studios today they will be joined by Leta Biasucci, Elizabeth Murphy and Matthew Renko as the newest members of the corps de ballet. Additionally, two new apprentices will join the company in mid-September: Steven Loch and Sarah Pasch, both of whom were most recently two-year members of the PNB School Professional Division. (Mr. Loch and Ms. Pasch's official start-date is September 19.)

Additional hires and promotions will be announced at a later date.

Leta Biasucci is from Carlisle, Pennsylvania. She studied under Marcia Dale Weary at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet and became a trainee at San Francisco Ballet School in 2006. She joined Oregon Ballet Theatre in 2008. At Oregon Ballet Theatre, Ms. Biasucci performed leading and featured roles in George Balanchine's *Emeralds*, *The Four Temperaments*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Tarantella*; Nicolo Fonte's *Left Unsaid*; James Kudelka's *Hush*; Trey McIntyre's *Speak*; Yuri Possokov's *Raymonda*; and Dennis Spaight's *Gloria*. She originated leading roles in the collaborative *Stravinsky Project* by Jamey Hampton, Anne Mueller, Ashley Roland, and Rachel Tess, and Christopher Stowell's *A Holiday Revue*.

Elizabeth Murphy is from Chelmsford, Massachusetts. She studied at Academy of Ballet Arts and the Rock School for Dance Education, and she attended summer courses on scholarship at Pacific Northwest Ballet School and Chautauqua Summer Program. She was an apprentice with North Carolina Dance Theater and also danced with Pennsylvania Ballet before joining Ballet West II in 2006 and Ballet West in 2007. At Ballet West, Ms. Murphy danced leading and featured roles in George Balanchine's *Agon*, *The Four Temperaments*, *Serenade*, and *Stars and Stripes*; William Christiansen's *Nutcracker*; Nicolo Fonte's *Bolero*; Jiri Kylian's *Sinfonietta*; Helen Pickett's *But Never Doubt I Love*; and Adam Sklute's *Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake*.

Matthew Renko was born in Tampa, Florida and raised in Sumter, South Carolina. He studied at Columbia Conservatory of Dance, North Carolina School of the Arts with Warren Conover, Kee-Juan Han, and Melissa Hayden, and on scholarship at the School of American Ballet with Peter Boal. He became an apprentice with New York City Ballet in 2007 and was promoted to corps de ballet in 2008. In 2009, he joined the Suzanne Farrell Ballet. At New York City Ballet, Mr. Renko performed featured roles in George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker* and Jerome Robbins' *Watermill*. With the Suzanne Farrell Ballet, he performed leading and featured roles in Balanchine's *La Sonnambula* and *La Source* and Paul Mejia's *Eight by Adler*. Mr. Renko has choreographed for the School of American Ballet Student Choreography Workshop and the New York Choreographic Institute.

Steven Loch is from Dallas, Texas. He studied at Ballet Conservatory in Lewisville, Texas, and on scholarship at Harid Conservatory and Pacific Northwest Ballet School. While a student at PNB School, Mr. Loch performed corps de ballet roles with Pacific Northwest Ballet in George Balanchine's *Coppélia*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Square Dance*; Peter Boal's *Giselle*; Ronald Hynd's *The Sleeping Beauty*; Alexei Ratmansky's *Concerto DSCH*; Jerome Robbins' *West Side Story Suite*; Kent Stowell's *Cinderella* and *Nutcracker*; and Twyla Tharp's *Waterbaby Bagatelles*. He performed leading roles in Balanchine's *Chaconne* and *Western Symphony* for PNB School's annual School Performances and also performed leading roles in Bruce Wells' *Hansel and Gretel* and *Pinocchio*. He originated roles in ballets by Andrew Barteo, Kiyon Gaines, Paul Gibson, Barry Kerollis, Margaret Mullin, and Seth Orza for PNB School's annual School Performance and PNB's Choreographers' Showcase and Next Step performances. Mr. Loch has performed as a guest artist at the International Ballet Festival of Miami and the Youth America Grand Prix *Stars of Today Meet the Stars of Tomorrow* Gala. He has performed the role of Albrecht in *Giselle*, opposite ABT soloist Sarah Lane, Prince Désiré in *The Sleeping Beauty*, and the lead in Balanchine's *Valse Fantaisie* with LakeCities Ballet Theatre.

Sarah Pasch is from Dublin, California. She studied at San Ramon Valley Dance Academy, Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy, and on scholarship at Pacific Northwest Ballet School. She attended summer courses at Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy, Lines Ballet, the Kirov Academy, and PNB School. While a student at PNB School, Ms. Pasch performed corps de ballet roles with Pacific Northwest Ballet in George Balanchine's *Coppélia*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Serenade*; Peter Boal's *Giselle*; Ronald Hynd's *The Sleeping Beauty*; Jerome Robbins' *Glass Pieces* and *West Side Story Suite*; Kent Stowell's *Cinderella* and *Nutcracker*; and Twyla Tharp's *Waterbaby Bagatelles*. She performed leading roles in Balanchine's *Chaconne* and *Western Symphony* for Pacific Northwest Ballet School's annual School Performances, and she originated roles in ballets by Andrew Barteo, Kiyon Gaines, and Margaret Mullin for PNB's 2011 Next Step performance. She has also performed with Houston Ballet.

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