



Peter Boal
Artistic Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET SCHOOL PRESENTS
THE 27th ANNUAL
SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

See the stars of tomorrow on stage today!

Performances to feature PNB Premiere of George Balanchine's *Cortège Hongrois*

Two Performances: 12:00 noon and 4:00 pm

Saturday, June 14, 2008

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall
321 Mercer Street, Seattle Center

SEATTLE, WA — Pacific Northwest Ballet School presents the 27th Annual **School Performance** on Saturday, June 14 at 12:00 noon and 4:00 p.m. at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall at Seattle Center. Each performance features students from different levels performing programs designed to showcase their skills and accomplishments over the past year. Tickets to the 27th Annual **School Performance** are \$15-\$60 and 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**, 301 Mercer Street.

Both performances will feature Level VII Men, Level VIII and Professional Division students in the PNB premiere of George Balanchine's *Cortège Hongrois*. Set to excerpts from Alexander Glazunov's *Raymonda*, *Cortège Hongrois* ("a courtly parade in the Hungarian style") was created by Balanchine in 1973 as a farewell gift for Melissa Hayden when she announced her retirement from New York City Ballet after more than 20 years of dancing principal roles in the company. The mixture of character dances with classical ballet, including a grand pas de deux, is also a tribute to Marius Petipa, choreographer of the original full-length *Raymonda* (1898).

The 4:00 performance will also include a modern work by Sonia Dawkins and Level VIII and Professional Division students performing excerpts from George Balanchine's *Who Cares?*, set to the music of George Gershwin.

12:00 Noon Performance:

Students from the Phelps Center and the Francia Russell Center
Levels I, II, III, IV, V, VI & Intermediate Boys

VII Men

Dance Chance

Cortège Hongrois, choreography by George Balanchine – **PNB Premiere**

4:00 PM Performance:

Levels VII & VIII

New work by Sonia Dawkins

Level VIII & Professional Division students in excerpts from George Balanchine's *Who Cares?*

Cortège Hongrois, choreography by George Balanchine – **PNB Premiere**

About the School

Founded in 1974, Pacific Northwest Ballet School (PNBS) 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 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, offering classical ballet training on full scholarship to elementary school children in four Seattle Public Schools. 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 28 partner schools in Seattle and Bellevue. This year, 101 third and fourth grade students enrolled in DanceChance. DanceChance students are integrated into PNBS beginning at Level III. Currently, 32 former DanceChance students are enrolled in Levels III through VII. Two DanceChance graduates, Carlos Cruz and Quinn Wharton, have gone on to professional careers at Oregon Ballet Theatre and San Francisco Ballet (respectively), and graduate Eric Hipolito will be joining the PNB Company as an apprentice this fall.

To learn more about Pacific Northwest Ballet School, please visit:

[HTTP://WWW.PNB.ORG/PNBSCHOOL](http://www.pnb.org/pnbschool).

TICKET & SHOWTIME INFORMATION

Pacific Northwest Ballet School's 27th Annual **School Performance** will be presented at **12:00 noon and 4:00 p.m., Saturday, June 14, 2008** at McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street at Seattle Center.

Tickets to individual performances are \$25 - \$60 for adults, \$15 - \$60 for youths under 18. Discounted combo rates are available when purchasing tickets to both performances. 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 at **www.pnb.org**. (Please note: Combo discount tickets are not available online.)
- * 90 minutes prior to the performance at McCaw Hall at 321 Mercer Street

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

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

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