

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2009

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TUNE IN TOMORROW!

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET PARTNERS WITH CLASSICAL KING FM
FOR FOUR LIVE BROADCASTS OF SEASON BALLETS!

98.1 fm or www.king.org/listen.

Roméo et Juliette

7:30 pm, Friday, September 25, 2009

Music by Sergei Prokofiev (Op. 64, 1935-36)

Nutcracker

7:30 pm, Friday, November 27, 2009

Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (Op. 71, 1891-92)

The Sleeping Beauty

7:30 pm, Friday, February 5, 2010

Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (Op. 66, 1889)

Coppélia

7:30 pm, Friday, June 4, 2010

Music by Leo Delibes (*Coppélia*, ou la Fille aux Yeux d'Émail, 1869-70; with excerpts from *Sylvia*, ou la Nympe de Diane, 1876, and *La Source* [Naïla], 1866)

SEATTLE, WA – Pacific Northwest Ballet is proud to announce a new partnership with KING FM, bringing the classical music station's listeners live performances by the PNB Orchestra performing some of the most popular ballet scores of all time. Tune in this season to hear *Roméo et Juliette*, *Nutcracker*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *Coppélia*. The live broadcasts begin tomorrow with *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare's tragic tale of tenderness and violence, stunningly scored by Sergei Prokofiev. Listen to KING FM on Friday, September 25 at 7:30 pm on 98.1 fm or online at www.king.org/listen.

For the rest of the season's broadcasts, see the listings above.

[Continued]

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Sergei Prokofiev (1891–1953) was a leading Soviet composer and brilliant pianist. He left Russia in 1918 and lived in Germany and Paris for the next sixteen years, with frequent trips to America for concert appearances. In 1934, he settled in Moscow and composed prolifically until his death. Among his best known works are the ballet scores *Romeo and Juliet*, *Cinderella* and *Prodigal Son*; the opera *The Love for Three Oranges*; the children's classic, *Peter and the Wolf*; the film score and cantata for *Alexander Nevsky*; and the *Classical Symphony*.

The first Soviet performance of *Romeo and Juliet* was given at the Kirov Theater on January 11, 1940. Preceding the first performance there were many disagreements between the choreographer, Leonid Lavrovsky, and Prokofiev. The dancers failed to understand the music; and the orchestra, in a last-ditch effort to avoid a disaster, tried to cancel the performance. Despite so little hope for success, the ballet was well received and has been popular ever since. Prokofiev's glorious ballet score is frequently called his masterpiece. Its thematic melodies— by turns sweetly tender, sweepingly passionate, hotly fierce and chillingly eerie—provide counterpoint and impart eloquent support to the narrative.

Léo Delibes (1836–1891) was born in St. Germain de Val and died in Paris. He learned music as a child from his mother and uncle. Renowned as a composer for dance, he had a gift for illustrating action, creating atmosphere, and inspiring movement. Although he spent many years as a church organist, he was drawn more to the theater, and he composed many light operas. The decisive advance in his career came in 1870, with his full-length ballet *Coppélia*, which includes melodic national dances, descriptive passages introducing the main characters, and musical effects that have captures audiences for more than 100 years.

George Balanchine wrote, “I have often said that Delibes is one of my favorite composers for dance. In our new *Coppélia*, we used the entire score of the three-act version. The first dance drama of really uniform excellence deserves no less! No part of the ballet is subordinate to any other; most important of all, ballet music in *Coppélia* participates in the dance drama as never before. Delibes’ charming, melodic music assisting the plot and unifying the music and dance. Tchaikovsky was greatly inspired by Delibes’ score to write his own ballet music. Delibes is the first great ballet composer; Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky are his successors.”

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) studied at the Conservatory in St. Petersburg, where George Balanchine later studied piano in addition to his studies in dance. Tchaikovsky is one of the most popular and influential of all romantic composers. His work is expressive, melodic, and grand in scale, with rich orchestrations. His output was prodigious and included chamber works, symphonies, concerti for various instruments, operas, and works for the piano. His works for the ballet include *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Nutcracker*, the latter two composed in close collaboration with choreographer Marius Petipa.

Balanchine had a special affinity for Tchaikovsky. “In everything that I did to Tchaikovsky’s music,” he told an interviewer, “I sensed his help. It wasn’t real conversation. But when I was working and saw that something was coming of it, I felt that it was Tchaikovsky who had helped me.”

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Pacific Northwest Ballet's 2009-2010 season is proudly sponsored by Microsoft Corporation. Additional season support is provided by Artsfund, the Mayor's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, 4Culture - King County Lodging Tax, and Washington State Arts Commission.

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

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