



# PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 5, 2010

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**PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET PRESENTS**

# ALL THARP

**November 5-14, 2010**

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall  
321 Mercer Street, Seattle Center  
Seattle, WA 98109

November 5-6 at 7:30 pm  
November 6 at 2:00 pm  
November 11-13 at 7:30 pm  
November 14 at 1:00 pm

*"Her architectural command of stage space becomes handsomely evident...the ways in which Ms. Tharp dramatizes space are constantly striking" — Alastair Macaulay, The New York Times*

**SEATTLE, WA** – Pacific Northwest Ballet continues its 2010-2011 season with a program of works by American dance icon Twyla Tharp. The three works on this **ALL THARP** mixed bill each speak with a distinctive voice. Staged together, they offer a striking demonstration of the legendary choreographer's creative fluency. *Opus 111* and *Afternoon Ball*, commissioned by PNB in 2008 just months before Tharp received Kennedy Center Honors, shed their light from opposite ends of a thematic spectrum: the first is a joyous, folk-influenced ensemble work and the second, an unflinching take on urban alienation and redemption. In *Waterbaby Bagatelles*, last seen at PNB in 2006, blue-capped women and bare-chested men flirt and flow under the aqueous glow of rows of florescent light tubes, swept up by the musical currents of seven short compositions. **ALL THARP** runs from November 5 through November 14 at Seattle Center's Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. Tickets start at \$27 and may be purchased by calling the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424, online at pnb.org, or in person at the PNB Box Office at 301 Mercer St.

In his notes at the time of the 2008 world premieres of *Opus 111* and *Afternoon Ball*, PNB artistic director Peter Boal stated that Tharp "has been remarkable, bringing with her discipline, sweat, laughter, and inspiration. She has given us a gift, or two, with the signature works she created for our Company."

The line-up for **ALL THARP** will include:

### **Opus 111**

**Music:** Johannes Brahms (String Quintet No. 2 in G major, Op. 111, 1890)

**Choreography:** Twyla Tharp

**Costume Design:** Mark Zappone

**Lighting Design:** Randall G. Chiarelli

**Premiere:** September 25, 2008; Pacific Northwest Ballet

**Running time:** 28 minutes

Brahms composed this string quintet while on a nature retreat in the summer of 1890. The music has a vivacious folk flavor, with the cello featured in the first movement and the viola, Brahms' favorite instrument, carrying the theme in the second. Tharp has choreographed the quintet's four movements for five couples. "*Opus 111* glides along a shimmering path, allowing Ms. Tharp to demonstrate her ability to mirror complicated music seamlessly while diving beneath its surface" (Gia Kourlas, *The New York Times*).

### **Afternoon Ball**

**Music:** Vladimir Martynov (*Autumn Ball of the Elves*, 1994)

**Choreography:** Twyla Tharp

**Scenic and Lighting Design:** Randall G. Chiarelli

**Costume Design:** Mark Zappone

**Premiere:** September 25, 2008; Pacific Northwest Ballet

**Running time:** 19 minutes

Tharp's *Afternoon Ball* is a ballet set to Martynov's *Autumn Ball of the Elves*, in which he applies a theme and variations structure to a minimalist palette. *Afternoon Ball* is a piece for two women and three men. "An unexpectedly emotional work that reveals its choreographer's romantic leanings" (Moirra Macdonald, *The Seattle Times*). "A compelling work both for its rich display of movement and for its effective conjuring of a place both mundane and magical. There is evident drama in this eccentric dance that while undeniable, defies explication and yet that haunts the memory" (Robert Greskovic, *Dancing Times*).

### **Waterbaby Bagatelles**

**Music:** 20th-century bagatelles (Anton Webern: *Sehr langsam*, excerpt from *Six Bagatelles*, Op. 9; Kevin Volans: *White Man Sleeps #5*; John Lurie: *Bella by Barlight*; David Lang: *The Anvil Chorus*; Astor Piazzolla: *Fear*, from *Five Tango Sensations*; Mickey Hart: *The Hunt*; John Adams: *On the Dominant Divide [Part II of Grand Pianola Music]*)

**Choreography:** Twyla Tharp

**Staging:** Shelley Washington

**Lighting Design:** Jennifer Tipton

**Premiere:** April 30, 1994; Boston Ballet

**Pacific Northwest Ballet Premiere:** November 2, 2006

**Running time:** 28 minutes

Bagatelles are short and unpretentious musical compositions. Tharp's array of ballet bagatelles is danced on the pristine surface of a stage overhung and aqueously lighted by rows of fluorescent light tubes, like those that might illuminate an aquarium. Riding on the music's pulse and the dance's momentum, the dancers occasionally scoot in and out as if jogging, backwards as often as forwards. Taking inspiration from a musical range that goes from 12-tone innovator Anton Webern through Tango man Astor Piazzolla, Tharp's dances curvet over the stage as if the dancers were schools of fish. "Idiosyncratic and terrific even by the best Tharp standards...it refreshes simply by washing right over you" (*The New York Times*).

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Since graduating from Barnard College in 1963, **Twyla Tharp** has choreographed more than 135 dances, five Hollywood movies, and directed and choreographed four Broadway shows. She received one Tony Award, two Emmy Awards, nineteen honorary doctorates, the Vietnam Veterans of America President's Award, the 2004 National Medal of the Arts, the 2008 Jerome Robbins Prize, and a 2008 Kennedy Center Honor. Her many grants include the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

In 1965 Tharp founded her dance company, Twyla Tharp Dance. In addition to choreographing for her own company, she has created dances for The Joffrey Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, The Paris Opera Ballet, The Royal Ballet, New York City Ballet, Boston Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance, The Martha Graham Dance Company, Miami City Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet.

Tharp's work first appeared on Broadway in 1980 with *When We Were Very Young*, followed in 1981 by her collaboration with David Byrne on *The Catherine Wheel* at the Winter Garden. Her 1985 production of *Singin' in the Rain* played at the Gershwin and was followed by an extensive national tour. In 2002, Tharp's award-winning dance musical *Movin' Out*, set to the music and lyrics of Billy Joel, premiered at the Richard Rodgers, where it ran for three years. A national tour opened in 2004 and also ran for three years. For *Movin' Out*, Tharp received the 2003 Tony Award, the 2003 Astaire Award, the Drama League Award for Sustained Achievement in Musical Theater; and both the Drama Desk Award and the Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Choreography. In 2006 Tharp worked with Bob Dylan's music and lyrics to create *The Times They Are A-Changin'* which played at the Brooks Atkinson. Her most recent Broadway production, *Come Fly Away*, opened this year at the Marquis Theatre.

In film Tharp has collaborated with director Milos Forman on *Hair* in 1978, *Ragtime* in 1980, and *Amadeus* in 1984, with Taylor Hackford on *White Nights* in 1985 and with James Brooks on *I'll Do Anything* in 1994. In 1992 Tharp wrote her autobiography *Push Comes to Shove*. In 2003 she wrote *The Creative Habit: Learn it and Use it for Life* and in 2009 she wrote *The Collaborative Habit: Life Lessons for Working Together*, both of which were published by Simon and Schuster. Today she continues to create.

**Johannes Brahms** (1833-1897) was a German composer and pianist, one of the leading musicians of the Romantic period. Born in Hamburg, Brahms spent much of his professional life in Vienna, Austria, where he was a leader of the musical scene. In his lifetime, Brahms's popularity and influence were considerable; following a comment by the nineteenth-century conductor Hans von Bülow, he is sometimes grouped with Johann Sebastian Bach and Ludwig van Beethoven as one of the Three Bs. Brahms composed for piano, chamber ensembles, symphony orchestra, and for voice and chorus.

Born in Moscow in 1946, **Vladimir Martynov** represents a generation of classical Russian composers who worked on the cutting edge of music during the Soviet era. The extraordinary diversity of his interests led him to study folk music, medieval Russian and Western music, religious musicology, minimalism, and rock. By the end of the 1970s, he embarked on a quest of early Russian religious chant, taking up a teaching post at the Theological Institute of the Trinity-Saint Sergius. From 1980 to 1983, his output was mainly devoted to church music. His works range from the experimental to explorations of great religious themes in works.

## **TICKET INFORMATION**

Ticket range: \$27-\$165 (Note: Money-saving season subscriptions are still available.)

Box Office Phone: 206.441.2424 (Mon.-Fri. 9am–6pm)\*

Box Office Location: 301 Mercer Street, Seattle (Mon.-Fri. 10am–6pm)\*

Box Office Online: [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org) (24 hours a day, seven days a week)

Tickets are also available 90 minutes prior to each performance at McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street, subject to availability.

\*Please note that on performance Saturdays, PNB Box Office windows and phone lines are open 10am-6pm)

## **DISCOUNT OFFERS & SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **STUDENT AND SENIOR RUSH TICKETS**

Half-price rush tickets for students and senior citizens (65+) may be purchased in-person with ID, beginning 90 minutes prior to show time at the McCaw Hall box office. Subject to availability.

### **\$15 TICKETS FOR AGE 25 & UNDER**

All Thursday and Friday performances: November 5, 11 and 12 at 7:30 pm

One ticket for \$15 and two for \$25 for patrons 25 years and younger! To purchase tickets, contact the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424 or visit 301 Mercer Street. This offer is good for November 5, 11 and 12 performances only. *Offer is subject to availability and not valid on previously purchased tickets. Each attendee must present valid I.D. upon ticket retrieval.*

### **TEEN TIX**

PNB is a proud participant of Seattle Center's **Teen Tix** program. Young people 13 to 19 years old can purchase tickets to PNB performances and other music, dance, theater and arts events for only \$5. To join Teen Tix or view a list of participating organizations, visit Seattle Center's Teen Tix webpage at [www.seattlecenter.com/teentix](http://www.seattlecenter.com/teentix).

### **GROUP SALES**

Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. For group tickets, please call 206.441.2416, email [juliej@pnb.org](mailto:juliej@pnb.org) or use PNB's Online Group Builder at [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org). (PNB's Online Group Builder is available for audience members to gather friends, family and co-workers to see any performance and save.)

### **FRIDAY PREVIEWS**

Friday, October 29, 6:00 pm

*The Phelps Center, 301 Mercer Street, Seattle*

Join us for an hour-long dance preview led by Artistic Director Peter Boal and featuring PNB dancers performing excerpts from **ALL THARP**. PNB Friday Previews offer an upbeat and up-close view of the Company preparing to put dance on stage. Tickets, \$10 each, go on sale September 7 and may be purchased by calling the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424, online at [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org), or in person at the PNB Box Office at 301 Mercer Street. Friday Previews are sponsored by U.S. Bank.

### **CONVERSATIONS WITH PNB — FREE**

Sunday, October 31, 2:00 pm

*Elliott Bay Book Company, 1521 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Capitol Hill, Seattle*

PNB's Sunday afternoon series features an hour-long discussion about **ALL THARP** with PNB

dancers in the casual atmosphere of the Elliott Bay Book Company reading room. All *Conversations with PNB* are **FREE** of charge.

### **BALLET PREVIEW — FREE**

Tuesday, November 2, 12:00 noon

*Central Seattle Public Library, 1000 Fourth Avenue, Seattle*

Join PNB for a free lunch-hour preview lecture at the Central Seattle Public Library. Education Programs Manager Doug Fullington will offer insights about **ALL THARP**, complete with video excerpts. **FREE** of charge.

### **PNB LECTURE SERIES & DRESS REHEARSAL**

Thursday, November 4, 2010

Lecture 6:00 pm, *Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall*

Dress Rehearsal 7:00 pm, *McCaw Hall*

Join PNB artistic staff, choreographers, and/or stagers during the hour preceding the dress rehearsal. Attend the lecture only or stay for the dress rehearsal. Tickets are \$12 for the lecture, or \$25 for the lecture and dress rehearsal. Tickets may be purchased by calling the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424, online at [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org) or in person at the PNB Box Office at 301 Mercer Street.

### **PRE-PERFORMANCE LECTURES**

*Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall*

Join Education Programs Manager Doug Fullington for a 30-minute introduction to each performance, including discussions of choreography, music, history, design and the process of bringing ballet to the stage. One hour before performances. **FREE** for ticketholders.

### **POST-PERFORMANCE Q&A**

Skip the post-show traffic and enjoy a post-performance Q&A with Artistic Director Peter Boal and PNB dancers. Immediately following each performance in the Norcliffe Room at McCaw Hall. **FREE** for ticketholders.

# # #

Pacific Northwest Ballet's 2008 world premieres of *Opus 111* and *Afternoon Ball* were generously underwritten by Glenn Kawasaki and Peter & Peggy Horvitz, respectively. The 2006 PNB premiere of *Waterbaby Bagatelles* was generously underwritten in part by Aya Stark Hamilton and Carl & Renee Behnke. Special thanks to ALL THARP Opening Night Dinner Sponsors, Citi Private Bank, Regence and Neiman Marcus. Pacific Northwest Ballet's 2010-2011 Season is proudly sponsored by Microsoft Corporation. Additional season support is provided by Artsfund, National Endowment for the Arts, PONCHO, Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, 4Culture - King County Lodging Tax, the Wallace Foundation, Washington State Arts Commission, and William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

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***Schedule and programming subject to change. For further information, please visit [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org).***

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET**

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