21:3 PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2025

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PNB Shines Bright like a Diamond with 2025-26 Season-Opener



September 26 - October 5, 2025

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

Seven Performances Only!

Friday, September 26 at 7:30 pm Saturday, September 27 at 2:00 and 7:30 pm Friday, October 3 at 7:30 pm Saturday, October 4 at 2:00 (audio-described performance) and 7:30 pm Sunday, October 5 at 1:00 pm

SEATTLE, WA - Pacific Northwest Ballet raises the curtain for its 53rd season with *Jewels*, George Balanchine's dazzling homage to three golden ages of music and dance. *Emeralds* whispers of grace, courtesy, and French perfume; *Rubies* sizzles with American sass; and *Diamonds* conjures the glittering magnificence of old St. Petersburg. PNB's production of *Jewels* is adorned with costumes and scenic designs created exclusively for the company in 2017 by Jérôme Kaplan (*Roméo et Juliette*, *Cendrillon*, *Giselle*, *Don Quixote*.) *Jewels* runs for seven performances only, September 26 through October 5 at Seattle Center's Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. Tickets start at just \$44. (The program will also stream digitally October 9 thru 13; Digital access is available by subscription only. See TICKET INFORMATION, below, for details.) For tickets and additional information, contact the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424, in person at 301 Mercer Street, or online at PNB.org.

During the opening weekend of *Jewels*, PNB will be joining forces with Seattle Opera, as well as the Fifth Avenue Theatre, Seattle Rep, Union Arts Center, and Village Theatre, for a massive sale of costumes, accessories, and fabric from past productions. The sale is scheduled for Saturday, September 27 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. Admission is by timed-entry: See SPECIAL EVENTS, below, for additional information.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Jewels

Music: Gabriel Fauré, Igor Stravinsky, and Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky *Choreography*: George Balanchine © The George Balanchine Trust

Staging: Philip Neal, Jonathan Porretta, and Peter Boal

Scenic and Costume Design: Jérôme Kaplan Lighting Design: Randall G. Chiarelli

Running Time: Two hours and 15 minutes, including two intermissions

Premiere: April 13, 1967; New York City Ballet

PNB Premiere: June 1, 2006 (Rubies premiere: February 3, 1988); New production, September 22, 2017

Jewels. The name sounds expensive. But when Balanchine's "plotless full-length ballet," as it was touted, premiered at New York City Ballet in 1967, it had no title, only three sections called *Emeralds*, *Rubies*, and *Diamonds*. (Balanchine explained, "I thought of doing sapphire, too – I had Schoenberg in mind, but the color of sapphire is so hard to get across on stage.")

The printed program offered the following note by Lincoln Kirstein: "The idea for a new ballet using highly jeweled costumes was started over fifteen years ago but it was not until early 1966, after a visit by Mr. Balanchine to Van Cleef & Arpels' Fifth Avenue Salons, that the idea of the ballet really began to grow. So impressed was Mr. Balanchine by the beauty of the jewels he saw there, that he decided to try to capture it forever."

Emeralds is a romantic evocation of France, the birthplace of classical ballet. It is also Balanchine's comment on the French school of dancing and its rich heritage. With a score by Gabriel Fauré and dancers dressed in Romantic-length tutus, *Emeralds* can also be a window on the nostalgia inherent in much late 19th-century art, with its idealized view of the Middle Ages, chivalry, and courtly love. Balanchine considered *Emeralds* "an evocation of France – the France of elegance, comfort, dress and perfume."

Rubies is considered the American jewel, with its Jazz Age score by Igor Stravinsky, stylized flapper costumes, and Balanchine's choreography in his sophisticated mode. A saucy leading couple plays and competes as equals, and a second, siren-like ballerina takes on the men of the corps de ballet, requiring all four of them to partner her at once.

Diamonds is Balanchine's homage to his native St. Petersburg. Echoes of Petipa's *Swan Lake* and *Raymonda* abound, and the centerpiece of the ballet is an intimate pas de deux, potent in its chivalrous reserve, for the ballerina and her cavalier. At its end, the entire cast joins the principal couple for a gloriously spirited polonaise.

For additional *Jewels* program notes, visit PNB.org.

Jerome Kaplan, costume and scenic designer of PNB's production, studied at L'Ecole de la Rue Blanche and in 1991, he met the choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot who introduced him to the world of dance. Since then he has created sets and costumes for numerous ballets, including Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo's Scheherazade; Roméo et Juliette and Cendrillon, Shanghai Ballet's In the Mood for Love; the National Ballet of Finland's The Wood Nymph; the National Ballet of Korea's La fille mal gardée; and Northern Ballet's A Sleeping Beauty Tale, among others. In 2010, he designed sets and costumes for Alexei Ratmansky's Don Quixote for the Dutch National Ballet and Christopher Wheeldon's The Sleeping Beauty for

the Royal Ballet of Denmark. In 2011, he designed sets and costumes for Ratmansky's *Lost Illusions* for the Bolshoi Ballet. Recent commissions include *The Nutcracker* for the Mikhailovsky Ballet, *Giselle* for PNB, and Ratmansky's *Paquita* for Bayeriches Staatsballet. For additional info, visit jeromekaplan.com.

TICKET INFORMATION & DISCOUNT OFFERS

Tickets to Jewels as well as the rest of PNB's 2025-26 season are now on sale through the PNB Box Office:

- Phone 206.441.2424
- In Person 301 Mercer Street at Seattle Center
- Online 24/7 PNB.org

Subject to availability, tickets are also available 90 minutes prior to show times at McCaw Hall. Advance tickets through the PNB Box Office are strongly suggested for best prices and greatest availability.

Tickets to *Jewels* are \$44 – \$248, with discounts available for children 14 and under. Groups of ten or more may enjoy discounts of up to 20% off regular prices (not valid on lowest-priced tickets or combined with other offers.) Visit PNB.org/season/group-sales for more information.

PNB offers select **audio-described performances** for visually-impaired and blind patrons at \$20 per ticket. The audio-described performance of *Jewels* is Saturday, October 4 at 2:00 pm. PNB's Audio Dance Description program is generously underwritten by the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust and Jolene McCaw Family Foundation. Thanks also to Darkroom Ballet, Seattle Cultural Accessibility Consortium (SCAC) and PNB's I.D.E.A. Committee for support of this program. For additional accessibility info, visit PNB.org/accessibility.

PNB's digital presentation of *Jewels* (October 9 – 13) is available by subscription only. For tickets (\$300, tax inclusive) and more information, <u>click here</u>. (Some digital season programming may vary from the onstage performances.)

For information about special ticket offers including group discounts, The Pointe, Pay-What-You-Can, rush tickets, Beer & Ballet night, TeenTix, and more, visit PNB.org/offers.

Caveat Emptor: Like many other performing arts, PNB struggles with ticket resellers. At their most benign, third-party sites buy up less expensive tickets and sell them for a profit. At their most malignant, they sometimes sell invalid tickets. For ease of mind and to enjoy the show at the best available prices, always purchase tickets directly from PNB. Suspected scams should be reported to the Better Business Bureau.

The show must go on! PNB is committed to honoring its performance calendar. Shows will not be cancelled for weather, traffic, or acts of Congress. In the unlikely event that the status of a performance does change, an announcement will be posted on PNB.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS

PNB CONVERSATIONS & DRESS REHEARSAL

Thursday, September 21

Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall

Join dance historian Doug Fullington with guests for our first PNB Conversations of the season. PNB Conversations offer in-depth interviews with artists involved in putting our programs on stage. Attend the

conversation only, or stay for the dress rehearsal: The conversation begins at 5:30 pm, followed by the dress rehearsal at 7:00 pm. Tickets (suggested donation of \$25) may be purchased through the PNB Box Office.

BALLET TALK

Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall

Join dance historian 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.

MEET THE ARTIST

Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall

Skip the post-show traffic and enjoy a Q&A with Artistic Director Peter Boal and PNB dancers, immediately following each performance. FREE for ticketholders.

THEATRICAL COSTUME SALE

Saturday, September 27, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

The Opera Center, 363 Mercer Street (just east of McCaw Hall)

During the opening weekend of *Jewels*, PNB will be joining Seattle Opera, as well as the Fifth Avenue Theatre, Seattle Rep, Union Arts Center, and Village Theatre, for a massive sale of costumes, accessories, and fabric from past productions. The sale, in Seattle Opera's Tagney Jones Hall at The Opera Center, is scheduled for Saturday, September 27 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. Tickets (\$40 to \$10 - admission based on timed entry) may be purchased in advance beginning August 25 at Seattleopera.org/costumesale.

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Pacific Northwest Ballet's 2025 performances of George Balanchine's *Jewels* are supported by the Cordelia Corporation. The works of George Balanchine performed by Pacific Northwest Ballet are made possible in part by The Louise Nadeau Endowed Fund.

Pacific Northwest Ballet's 2025-26 season is proudly sponsored by 4Culture, ArtsFund, Microsoft, and The Shubert Foundation. PNB's digital season is made possible by Katherine Graubard and William Calvin. PNB media sponsorship provided by *The Seattle Times*.

Publicity Contact

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Everything is subject to change. For further information, please visit PNB.org.

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