



LOS ANGELES BALLET

LOS ANGELES BALLET DANCES INTO SPRING WITH THREE GLORIOUS BALANCHINE PIECES

SEE THE MUSIC, HEAR THE DANCE

January 12, 2010 -- Los Angeles Ballet [LAB] Artistic Directors Thordal Christensen and Colleen Neary are pleased to present three stunning works by George Balanchine this spring. LAB's spring program *See the Music, Hear the Dance* from George Balanchine includes the Los Angeles Ballet premieres of *Kammermusik No. 2* and *Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 2*, and the return of *Serenade*.

Kammermusik No. 2 is a conceptual work of vast liveliness, momentum and accuracy. The complex eight-man ensemble dances to the composition of the orchestra, while two couples move to the passages of the piano in the counterpart. Balanchine created a role for LAB's Artistic Director, Colleen Neary in the original cast of *Kammermusik No. 2*. Principal casting includes Melissa Barak, Grace McLoughlin, Andrew Brader and Drew Grant.

Another poignant and dramatic Balanchine piece *Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 2* is an existing tribute to Petipa, "the father of classical ballet," as well as to Tchaikovsky, Balanchine's "greatest composer." This piece transmits the strength and splendor of majestic St. Petersburg, and exhibits the classical style and romanticism of Balanchine's early Russian training. Monica Pelfrey and Zheng Hua Li are the principal cast.

Serenade is Balanchine's first original ballet created in America. Originally intended as a stage technique lesson, Balanchine incorporated unanticipated rehearsal events into the work. This beloved ballet articulates the abundant and mystifying score of Tchaikovsky's *Serenade* for Strings in C. Principal casting for *Serenade* will be varied.

The much-anticipated spring repertoire will take place at venues across Los Angeles from February 20 to March 6 (please see full performance schedule below).

For more information, please visit www.losangelesballet.org or call 310.998.7782.

****THE SPRING 2010 PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE****

Freud Playhouse

MacGowan Hall-UCLA Campus

Los Angeles, CA 90024

Saturday, February 20, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 21, 2010 @ 2:00 p.m.

Alex Theatre

216 North Brand Boulevard

Glendale, CA 91203

Saturday, February 27, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.

Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center

1935 Manhattan Beach Boulevard

Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Saturday, March 6, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.

****Performers subject to change**

****The performances of Kammermusik No. 2, Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 2, and Serenade, all Balanchine® Ballets, are presented by arrangements with The Balanchine Trust and have been produced in accordance with the Balanchine Style® and Balanchine Technique® service standards established and provided by the Trust.**

About the Artistic Directors

Thordal Christensen is the co-Artistic Director for the Los Angeles Ballet. The world of dance claims Mr. Christensen as one of its most respected citizens. Mr. Christensen danced with the Royal Danish Ballet, New York City Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet in major roles in the classical and modern repertoire. He was appointed artistic director of the Royal Danish Ballet and the Royal Danish Ballet School in 1999. During his leadership he advanced the company repertoire and school to new levels. In 2002, Mr. Christensen was appointed Knight of Dannebrog by Her Majesty Margrethe II.

Colleen Neary is the co-Artistic Director for the Los Angeles Ballet. Ms. Neary danced as a soloist from 1969 to 1979 in The New York City Ballet under the direction of George Balanchine. She had numerous roles created for her by George Balanchine, Peter Martins, Jacques d'Amboise and others. She was invited in 1979 to be Ballet Mistress and Choreographic Assistant for the Zurich Ballet. During this period she also staged Rudolf Nureyev's Don Quixote and Manfred for La Scala de Milan, Zurich Ballet and Vienna State Opera. In 1984 she was invited to be Principal Guest Artist and company teacher for Maurice Béjart's Ballet du XXième Siecle where he created several roles for her. In 1986 she was invited to join Pacific Northwest Ballet as Principal Dancer. In 1992 she joined The Royal Danish Ballet as Ballet Mistress and company teacher. By 1999 she became First Ballet Mistress in charge of productions, a position she held until 2002. Ms. Neary is a member of the George Balanchine Trust and has staged many of his ballets, including Agon, The Four Temperaments, Theme and Variations, Rubies, Serenade, Tarantella, Stravinsky Violin Concerto, Divertimento no.15, Piano Concerto no. 2, Concerto Barocco, Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux, and Symphony in C, for leading companies around the world.

About Los Angeles Ballet

Los Angeles Ballet made its exciting debut in 2006 as the region's own professional ballet company focused on capturing the creative aesthetic unique to Southern California. The Company's first triumph was "The Nutcracker" followed by dynamic repertoires in Seasons I, II, and III, hailed by critics and audiences alike. With a professional ballet presence in Los Angeles, LAB continues to captivate a large, diverse audience and devoted, supportive patrons. With a home-based outlet for their passion, balletomanes in Los Angeles no longer have to rely on visiting companies to experience world class dance. Additionally, a new generation of dance enthusiasts regularly enjoy the company's dynamic dance productions. LAB was most recently featured in a special showcase on the hit FOX television show, "So You Think You Can Dance."

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