

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2009 - 2010 SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PENNSYLVANIA BALLET PRESENTS BACK-TO-BACK PROGRAMS IN MARCH INCLUDING *CARMINA BURANA* AND CHOPIN CELEBRATION

Program II

March 4-13 at the Academy of Music

The Four Temperaments, Carmina Burana

Program III

March 13-14 at the Academy of Music

The Crossed Line, In the Night, The Concert

Philadelphia, PA (January 22, 2010) – Pennsylvania Ballet, one of the premier ballet companies in the country, brings two compelling programs to the Academy of Music this March. Program II features Choreographer in Residence Matthew Neenan's acclaimed *Carmina Burana*, March 4-13. Program III, March 13-14, is a collection of works set to the music of Frédéric Chopin, celebrating the 200th anniversary of the composer's birth.

Program II unites Matthew Neenan's bold and fiery reimagining of *Carmina Burana* with the stunning simplicity of George Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*. For his interpretation of one of the Company's signature works, Neenan invigorates *Carmina Burana*'s classic text with explosive movement and modern costumes and sets. The sumptuous voices of the Philadelphia Singers Chorale intensify Carl Orff's thunderous score. Complimenting *Carmina Burana* is the purity and angular architecture of *The Four Temperaments*. Set to Paul Hindemith's commissioned score, *The Four Temperaments* has become a standard in the Balanchine repertoire. The ballet is inspired by the medieval belief that humans are made up of four different humors that determine their temperament: melancholic, sanguinic, phlegmatic, and choleric.

Program III is a celebration of Chopin: three diverse works set to the composer's timeless music, in honor of his 200th birthday. Neenan's *The Crossed Line* premiered in 2004 and explores the boundaries and shifting nature of relationships. An abstract work for six couples, *The Crossed Line* is choreographed to excerpts from Chopin piano concertos that Neenan had transcribed for piano and violin and piano and cello. Jerome Robbins's *In the Night* interprets the graduated stages of love and romance – tender, young love, mature and balanced love, and intense passion – in three intimate *pas de deux*. Completing the salute to Chopin is Robbins's comedic masterpiece *The Concert*. Set at a piano recital, *The Concert* envelopes audiences with its sidesplitting humor, witty timing, and satirical choreography. The onstage accompanist engages in the antics, which send everyone home laughing.

Tickets for both Program II and Program III are on sale now, with prices ranging from \$24 to \$129. Choose your own seats online at paballet.org. Tickets are also available at the **Kimmel Center Box Office** or by phone at **215.893.1999**.

Program II performances (*The Four Temperaments, Carmina Burana*):

- Thursday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 6 at 2 p.m.
- Saturday, March 6 at 8 p.m.
- Sunday, March 7 at 2 p.m.
- Thursday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 13 at 2 p.m.

Program III performances (*The Crossed Line, In the Night, The Concert*):

- Saturday, March 13 at 8 p.m.
- Sunday, March 14 at 2 p.m.

Custom Packages of two or more ballets for the 2009-2010 Season are on sale now at paballet.org or by calling Subscriber Services at 215.893.1955. Receive up to 25% off single ticket prices and enjoy subscriber benefits such as priority seating, flexible ticket exchanges, discounts to Philadelphia restaurants, shops, hotels, museums, and more.

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, and join us in the studio and on stage, 24/7.

The Company premiere of *In the Night* was funded by the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage, through Dance Advance.

Pennsylvania Ballet's sponsors include the Omni Hotel at Independence Park, the Philadelphia Inquirer, The Sporting Club at the Bellevue, and US Airways.

Pennsylvania Ballet receives state arts funding through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Founded in 1963 by Balanchine student and protégée Barbara Weisberger, **Pennsylvania Ballet** is one of the nation's leading ballet companies. Headquartered in Philadelphia, the Company's annual local season features six programs of classic favorites and new works, including the Philadelphia holiday tradition, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*. For more information, visit paballet.org or call 215.551.7000.

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