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Kansas City Ballet Announces 2016 Gala Honorary Chairmen

KANSAS CITY, MO (May 18, 2016) The Kansas City Ballet and the Kansas City Ballet Guild are pleased to announce Jonathan and Nancy Lee Kemper as the 2016 Honorary Chairmen of the annual fundraising gala to benefit the Kansas City Ballet Company and the Ballet School, in addition to Community and Educational Programs.

“There has been an impressive buzz about the Ballet throughout Kansas City following the immensely successful *Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake* performances. Nancy Lee and I are excited to serve as Honorary Chairmen of this year’s celebration and look ahead to a great 2016-17 season,” said Jonathan Kemper. Many members of the Kemper family, Commerce Bank and its associated foundations have supported the Kansas City Ballet for decades as an important part of their continued efforts to sustain and enhance the arts in Kansas City.

The Ballet Guild is unveiling an innovative new concept, “*The Ballet Bash: A Mid Autumn Night’s Fete*. The 2016 gala will be two fold. The main event will be held on Saturday evening, October 1st, at the magnificent Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity. It will feature amazing food and drink from an array of chefs and vendors. A variety of musical choices will be offered with dancing throughout the building.

On Thursday evening, October 13th, an extraordinary benefactor event will take place at the renowned Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. The Shakespearean themed evening will include cocktails on the intimate Level 7 Terrace, overlooking Brandmeyer Hall and the Kansas City skyline. An elegant dinner will follow on the Muriel Kauffman Theatre Stage, amidst the beautiful sets and characters of the season opening production, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

2016 Gala Co-Chairmen are husband and wife team, Erik Bergrud and Kimberlee Ried. Erik is Associate Vice President for Alumni, Constituent and Employer Relations at Park University. Kimberlee is the Public Programs Specialist for the National Archives at Kansas City. She is a Past President of the Kansas City Ballet Guild and is currently Vice Chairman of the organization’s Strategic Planning Committee.

Tickets and additional information are available at www.kcballet.org.

About Kansas City Ballet *To make Kansas City a destination for dance*

Founded in 1957, Kansas City Ballet is a 28-member professional ballet company under the leadership of Artistic Director Devon Carney and Executive Director Jeffrey J. Bentley. The company’s mission is to establish Kansas City Ballet as an indispensable asset in its community through exceptional performances, excellence in dance training and quality community education programs for all ages.

Kansas City Ballet is home to Kansas City Ballet School with an enrollment of 1800+ children and adults offering professional training for the career-minded student as well as for those simply seeking a healthy lifestyle.

Through our professional company, our second company (KCB II) and our many community educational and outreach programs, such as Reach Out and Dance (ROAD) we seek to nurture and develop our artists, audiences and students in the values inherent in the creativity, diversity and joy of dance.

Our home, the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity, in conjunction with our Resident Company status at the world-class Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, truly has positioned Kansas City as a destination for dance.

Visit kcballet.org/media/releases for more info.

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