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Kansas City Ballet 2019-2020 Season Calendar of Events

**WORLD PREMIERE of Adam Hougland's
Carmina Burana,
Record-breaking *Swan Lake* returns, and
KC Premiere of Lila York's *Celts*
Plus return of *The Nutcracker* and New Moves**

KANSAS CITY, MO (August 15, 2019) — Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney today announced the 2019-2020 Season which opens with the WORLD PREMIERE of Adam Hougland's passionate *Carmina Burana*, continues with the enchanting tale of Devon Carney's *Swan Lake*, and closes with Lila York's riveting *Celts*, one of three ballets on that program. The season also includes the annual return of *The Nutcracker* and New Moves. High res photos of the productions, costumes, artists and creative teams can be found [here](#).

Single tickets are on sale now. Tickets for *The Nutcracker* will be available to the public Monday, Aug. 26 at 6 a.m. Purchase tickets online at kcballet.org or through the Kansas City Ballet ticket office 816.931.8993 beginning at 9 a.m.

Devon Carney said: "I am delighted to announce this season, featuring a wide array of works not only sure to entice audiences but also to challenge and inspire the talent of our company. I have long been a fan of Adam Hougland's work and am honored and

thrilled to welcome his WORLD PREMIERE of *Carmina Burana*, with a full spectacle of pulsating choral work and choreography.”

These performances in October also include two audience favorites: *Tulips & Lobster* by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa which premiered at Johnson County Community College’s New Dance Partners event in the fall of 2018 and Helen Pickett’s *Petal* — last seen in May 2016.

Carney went on to say, “Continuing the season is the mesmerizing *Swan Lake*. I am so thrilled to see our dancers get another opportunity to perform this defining work for our audiences. Additionally, the group of swans comprising the corps de ballet must breathe and move almost as one—the quintessential example of precision and timing. It isn’t any wonder this spectacular ballet has withstood the test of time, and it’s an honor and a privilege to present it again.”

When Kansas City Ballet premiered *Swan Lake* in 2016, the highly anticipated production broke all previous box office records for ticket sales (outside of *The Nutcracker*).

Carney also wants this season’s programming to challenge and inspire the artists to new heights with renowned works by some of the most accomplished choreographers. The spring program of mixed repertoire includes Lila York’s *Celts*, George Balanchine’s *Serenade* and Edwaard Liang’s *Wunderland*. “This amazing line up of exciting innovative works have radically influenced the dance world and will be a series that will be memorable for dancers and audiences alike,” Carney said.

Carmina Burana, *Tulips & Lobster*, *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Serenade* and *Wunderland* all will be accompanied by the Kansas City Symphony, conducted by Kansas City Ballet Music Director Ramona Pansegrau.

New Moves, one of Kansas City Ballet’s most popular performances, showcases contemporary ballet in an intimate setting. This limited-run production gives audiences a chance to see tomorrow’s sought after choreographers including several from within the company. It is a very up close and visceral experience for audience and dancer alike.

Visit www.kcballet.org for more information about Kansas City Ballet’s 2019-2020 season and www.kauffmancenter.org for a downloadable media kit about the Kauffman Center. High resolution photos of the 2019-2020 season can be found [here](#).

Kansas City Ballet 2019-2020 Season

Kansas City Dance Day

Saturday, August 24, 2019, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

Kansas City Ballet’s 9th annual celebration of dance features FREE dance performances, dance and fitness classes, demonstrations and FUN for the whole family.

New Dance Partners

Sept. 27-28, 2019 | Johnson County Community College

New Dance Partners, a project for new work in dance, has been produced by the Performing Arts Series at Johnson County Community College since 2013 to further artistic growth in dance by creating new work and encouraging collaboration between Kansas City arts organizations. Local, professional dance companies are featured, and new works, commissioned on their behalf, are set by renowned choreographers. This year Kansas City Ballet will perform a brand new work by Myles Thatcher from San Francisco Ballet.

Dance Speaks: *Carmina Burana*

Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2019

5:30-6:00 pm | Company Open Rehearsal

6:00-7:00 pm | Panel Discussion

Frost Studio Theater | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

Come experience a choreographer at work in the studio creating new movement to well-known music! This inspiring panel and company rehearsal of the ballet *Carmina Burana*, provides the community-at-large an opportunity to hear guest choreographer Adam Houglan, Kansas City Ballet dancers and special guests share their personal insights around bringing this world premiere ballet to the stage. Moderated by Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney, includes an audience Q and A. Tickets only \$12 at www.kcballet.org.

WORLD PREMIERE

Carmina Burana

October 11-20, 2019 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography: Adam Houglan

Music: Carl Orff performed by Kansas City Symphony & Chorus

Sponsored by: Performance Rehab and Onelife Fitness

Power and passion converge with this majestic dance and choral masterpiece! Hugely popular and an insatiably indulgent celebration of life and love, Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* is a pulsating choral work that provides an incredible landscape for choreographed spectacle. Most have experienced *Carmina Burana* in choral presentation, but too few have seen it as it was originally imagined. This program also includes the lighthearted *Tulips & Lobster* by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa (which premiered at New Dance Partners at Johnson County Community College in September 2018), music by Purcell, Albinoni, Lambert and Vivaldi, and the colorful *Petal* by Helen Pickett, with the music of Philip Glass and Thomas Montgomery Newman.

<i>Carmina Burana</i>	Choreography: Adam Houglan	Music: Carl Orff
<i>Tulips & Lobster</i>	Choreography: Annabelle Lopez Ochoa	Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky
<i>Petal</i>	Choreography: Helen Pickett	Music: Philip Glass/ Thomas Montgomery Newman
Fri., Oct. 11	7:30 p.m.	
Sat., Oct. 12	7:30 p.m.	
Sun., Oct. 13	2 p.m.	
Fri., Oct. 18	7:30 p.m.	
Sat., Oct. 19	7:30 p.m.	
Sun., Oct. 20	2 p.m.	

Kansas City Youth Ballet Fall Performance

November 1-3, 2019 | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

Kansas City Youth Ballet is the performing ensemble of Kansas City Ballet School. The group presents two major performances each season showcasing many original works by local and national choreographers, as well as new emerging artists.

The Nutcracker Ball

November 23, 2019 6:30 p.m. | InterContinental Kansas City at the Plaza (401 Ward Parkway, KCMO 64112)

Celebrate the holiday season at the Kansas City Ballet Guild's 52nd annual gala, the festive Nutcracker Ball! The InterContinental provides a magical setting from beautiful décor and elegant cuisine to a performance by Kansas City Ballet and after-dinner dancing music by Michael Beers Band.

Proceeds from the event provide essential support for Kansas City Ballet and its School. Kansas City Ballet is our city's premier professional dance company and provides outstanding dance performances at the Kauffman Center, comprehensive ballet training, and community engagement and education programs for tens of thousands in our city.

Presented by Kansas City Ballet Guild, proceeds from this event benefit Kansas City Ballet and School. kcballetball.org

The Nutcracker

December 5-24, 2019 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
 Choreography: Devon Carney
 Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky performed by Kansas City Symphony
 Sponsored by Bank of America

Kansas City Ballet's *The Nutcracker* awed Kennedy Center audiences in Washington, D.C., and was hailed as "positively oozing charm" and was called "especially lovely with its bright, fresh décor" by *The Washington Post*. The classic, Victorian-era story by E.T.A. Hoffman featuring Clara, the Nutcracker Prince, Dr. Drosselmeier and the Sugar Plum Fairy is a magical theatrical experience wrapped with exquisite costumes, grand sets and captivating choreography.

Thurs., Dec. 5	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 6	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 7	2 p.m.* & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 8	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Thurs. Dec 12	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 13	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 14	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 15	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 18	6 p.m. (Sensory-friendly Performance)
Thurs., Dec. 19	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 20	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 21	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 22	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Mon., Dec. 23	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 24	1 p.m.

(*) Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball Luncheon

***The Nutcracker* Sensory-Friendly Performance**

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

6 p.m.

Muriel Kauffman Theatre | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Partnering with Autism Speaks, Children's Mercy Hospital, First Hand Foundation, Down Syndrome Guild and Breedlove Family Foundation, Kansas City Ballet is pleased to present a sensory-friendly performance of *The Nutcracker* for children, families and adults with sensory sensitivities, autism spectrum disorder or other special needs. Appropriate changes will be made to this performance to create a welcoming and safe space for all in attendance.

What makes this performance sensory friendly?

- Reduced sound levels, especially loud and surprising noises
- House lights will remain half lit
- Relaxed house rules...freedom to get up and move around, use of electronic devices is permitted, and permission to talk freely during the performance
- Designated quiet space will be available throughout the evening
- Trained staff, ushers, and volunteers to assist patrons

We are delighted to be working with the Kansas City Symphony to provide live music for this performance while remaining sensitive to the needs of our audience.

General admission for this event is \$25* per person. Please call Kansas City Ballet Box Office at 816.931.8993 to reserve tickets to this performance.

Dance Speaks: *Swan Lake*

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

5:30-6:00 pm | Company Open Rehearsal

6:00-7:00 pm | Panel Discussion

Frost Studio Theater | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

The most recognized ballet of all time. This Dance Speaks provides an opportunity for the community-at-large to get a sneak peek of a *Swan Lake* rehearsal and gain behind the scenes information regarding KC Ballet's production. Choreographer and Artistic Director Devon Carney and special guests invite you to join them in an engaging conversation inspired by this timeless work. Tickets only \$12 at www.kcballet.org.

Swan Lake

February 14-23, 2020 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography: Devon Carney after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov

Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky performed by the Kansas City Symphony

Perhaps the most recognized romantic ballet of all time, *Swan Lake* makes its highly anticipated return to Kansas City Ballet after breaking box office records in 2016. This immortal love story involves a wicked sorcerer who captures the beautiful Princess Odette and turns her into a swan. His evil spell can only be broken when a young prince pledges his love and marries her. Should he betray her, she will remain a swan forever.

Fri., Feb. 14	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 15	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb 16	2 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 19	7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 20	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 21	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 22	2 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 22	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 23	2 p.m.

The BARRE Soiree

Spring 2019 | 7:00 p.m. | Location TBA

Don't miss the hippest Ballet party/fundraiser – Presented by BARRE KC, proceeds help support Kansas City Ballet's Reach Out And Dance (R.O.A.D.) program. www.barrekc.org

BARRE KC is the premier organization for young adults interested in supporting Kansas City Ballet. Join BARRE KC and enjoy the benefits of discounted ticket prices, networking, and special events with insider access to Kansas City Ballet.

Dance Speaks: *New Voices, New Moves*

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

6:30-7:30 p.m. | Panel Discussion

ArtsKC Gallery | 106 Southwest Blvd.

The Creative Process: Cutting-edge choreographers' works brought to the stage! This Dance Speaks provides up-close and personal insights into the creative process of diverse choreographers creating original, contemporary works for a ballet company. This event, held at ArtsKC Gallery, will include an audience Q and A. Tickets only \$12 at www.kcballet.org.

New Moves

March 26-29, 2020 | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

New Moves, one of Kansas City Ballet's most popular performances, showcases contemporary ballet in an intimate setting. This limited-run production gives audiences a chance to see tomorrow's sought-after choreographers today! It is a very up close and visceral experience for audience and dancer alike, with all performances held in the Bolender Center's Michael and Ginger Frost Studio Theater. Come see our Kansas City Ballet artists and emerging choreographers discover bold new ways of expression and feel the athleticism, beauty, power and passion of never-before-seen dance creations!

Thurs., March 26	7:30 p.m.
Fri., March 27	7:30 p.m.
Sat., March 28	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., March 29	2 p.m.

Kansas City Youth Ballet Spring Performance

April 3-5, 2020 | Todd Bolender Center for Dance and Creativity

Kansas City Youth Ballet is the performing ensemble of Kansas City Ballet School. The group presents two major performances each season showcasing many original works by local and national choreographers, as well as new emerging artists.

Dance Speaks: Celts

April 22, 2020

5:30-6:00 pm | Company Open Rehearsal

6:00-7:00 pm | Panel Discussion

Frost Studio Theater | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

Experience this marriage of ballet and Irish dance! Kansas City Ballet's Artistic Director Devon Carney moderates what promises to be an interesting panel discussion with the choreographer of *Celts*, Lila York, and other special guests. *Celts*, a stunning fusion of Irish Folk Dance and Ballet is set to the music of The Chieftains and more. A celebration of Irish culture, it brings audiences to their feet with its intense choreographed jigs and captivating energy. Come see a rehearsal with Lila York and KCB company dancers before the production opens. Tickets only \$12 at www.kcballet.org.

Second Company @Home

April 23, 2020

Frost Studio Theater | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

7:00 p.m.

This is a full evening of dance with the Kansas City Ballet Second Company performing a variety of both classical and custom made contemporary repertoire. This emerging professionals' program gives extraordinarily talented young dancers a professional company experience as prelude to their joining a professional company. Kansas City Ballet's Second Company performs throughout the region through public performances, lecture demonstrations, residencies and workshops, enabling the community to experience live dance in a public setting.

KANSAS CITY PREMIERE

Celts

May 8-17, 2020 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Lila York debuted *Celts* at Boston Ballet — a year before Michael Flatley's *Riverdance* became a sensation — and was hailed by *The Boston Herald* as “a riveting, imaginative marriage of ballet and Irish folk dance with a modern sensibility.” Set to the music of The Chieftains and more, this celebration of Irish culture has brought audiences to their feet with its choreographically intense jig and captivating energy. This program also features George Balanchine's signature work *Serenade* with the music of Peter I. Tchaikovsky and Edwaard Liang's spellbound *Wunderland*, set to the music of Philip Glass, last performed by Kansas City Ballet in May 2015.

Celts

Choreography: Lila York

Music: The Chieftains; William J. Ruyle;
Bill Whelen; Mason Daring

Serenade

Choreography: George Balanchine

Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky

Wunderland

Choreography: Edwaard Liang

Music: Philip Glass

Fri., May 8	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 9	7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 10	2 p.m.
Fri., May 15	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 16	7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 17	2 p.m.

Student Matinees

Kansas City Ballet presents full-length morning performances for schools designed to enhance interdisciplinary learning, integrating dance with English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Music. For the 2019-2020 Season, student matinees will be as follows:

The Nutcracker

Fri., Dec. 6	10:30 a.m. (student matinee)
Thurs. Dec 12	10:30 a.m. (student matinee)
Fri., Dec. 13	10:30 a.m. (student matinee)

Swan Lake

Fri., Feb. 14	10:30 a.m. (student matinee)
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The Nutcracker and *Swan Lake* Audience: Recommended for 2nd grade and older. For school groups at this special rate; 1 adult/teacher chaperone is required to accompany every 10 students that attend. Reservations are made on a first come first serve basis and groups must have a minimum of 10. Seating at 10:00 a.m.

New Moves

Fri., March 27	10:30 a.m. (Student/Senior Group Matinee)
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New Moves Audience: Recommended for 6th grade and older. For school groups at this special rate, 1 adult/teacher chaperone is required to accompany every 10 students that attend. Reservations are made on a first come first serve basis and groups must have a minimum of 10. Seating at 10:00 a.m.

For more information contact aberry@kcballet.org.

Student Rush Tickets

Students who present valid I.D. at the Kauffman Center Box Office 90 minutes prior to all repertory performances will receive a seat for \$19. You can also pre-purchase your tickets online and show your student id at will call. Rush prices not valid on tickets to *The Nutcracker* or any other special performances. All rush tickets are subject to availability; please keep in mind that some performances sell out in advance. Seating selection is at the discretion of the box office. Call the Box Office 816.931.8993 for more information.

Sponsors

The Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation, Kansas City Ballet Guild, the Missouri Arts Council—a state agency, and ArtsKC support Kansas City Ballet’s 2019-2020 Season.

Season Subscriber Information

For the 2019-2020 Season in the Kauffman Center, a Series Subscription Package is suggested for best pricing and seating. In addition to saving up to 20 percent off single ticket prices by purchasing a 3-Show Subscription, season ticket patrons enjoy benefits including: priority seating in the Kauffman Center, savings on additional single ticket prices, free ticket exchanges and the chance to purchase discounted tickets for *The Nutcracker* and New Moves before they go on sale to the public. For parents, subscriptions for children under 21 are half price with an adult subscription order.

Subscriptions are available now at the Kansas City Ballet ticket office **816.931.8993** or online at kcballet.org. Subscription tickets are a 20% savings on single ticket prices and range from \$137 to \$297 for the 3-ballet package.

About Kansas City Ballet

Making Kansas City a destination for dance

Founded in 1957, Kansas City Ballet is a 30-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 2,000+ children and adults offering professional training for the career-minded student as well as for those simply seeking a healthy lifestyle.

Through the professional company, second company (KCB II & Trainees), and community programs for all ages, Kansas City Ballet seeks to nurture and develop their artists, audiences and students in the values inherent in the creativity, diversity and joy of dance.

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

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