



Devon Carney, Artistic Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***Dances Daring (Then and Now) Concludes Kansas City Ballet 2014-15 Season***

***TWO KANSAS CITY PREMIERES: Edwaard Liang's *Wunderland* and  
Amy Seiwert's *Concertino*, plus George Balanchine's  
The Four Temperaments and Excerpts from Todd Bolender's *The Still Point*  
Complete Spring Program with Performances May 8-17 at  
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts***

**KANSAS CITY, MO (April 6, 2015)** — The 57<sup>th</sup> season of Kansas City Ballet closes with “Dances Daring (Then and Now),” with four electrifying works in one performance: Edwaard Liang’s *Wunderland*, featuring the music of Philip Glass, is a haunting, visually striking contemporary ballet; performed in celebration of the centennial of his birth, the pas de deux from Todd Bolender’s most revered ballet, *The Still Point*, features the music of Claude Debussy; *Concertino* follows, set to the music of Arcangelo Corelli, by choreographer Amy Seiwert who is gaining national renown for her surprising, remarkable work; and finishing the program George Balanchine’s iconic *The Four Temperaments*, set to the music of Paul Hindemith, is pure energy.

The production runs May 8-17 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts and will be accompanied by Kansas City Symphony conducted by Kansas City Ballet Music Director Ramona Pansegrau.

Artistic Director Devon Carney said: “In continuing my vision to create a season with the broadest range of dance possible, I am thrilled to conclude the 2014-15 season with this repertory program. Each ballet represents either a nod to the grand classical tradition (with Bolender’s gorgeous piece, *The Still Point*, and of course Balanchine’s neoclassical *The Four Temperaments*) or a demonstration of my commitment to new voices as seen with Edwaard Liang’s *Wunderland* and a new work, *Concertino*, by a lovely new talent on the dance scene, Amy Seiwert. I think our audiences will be delighted with the variety of ballets being presented for our final program.”

### ***Wunderland***

The program begins with a Kansas City Premiere, by internationally feted choreographer Edwaard Liang, ***Wunderland*** premiered at Washington Ballet in 2009 and features the music of Philip Glass. This is a haunting, visually striking contemporary ensemble ballet with two contrasting yet beautiful duets, underscoring the perfect control of the dancers through the geometric lines of their movements. The final moments of the second poignant pas de deux are reminiscent of a picturesque land of wonder as snow begins to fall onto the stage.

Liang explains: “While I was in Russia, I was choreographing a new ballet and there was a huge snow globe in the hotel room where I was staying. It was a replica of the city that I was in. I had the music for *Wunderland* with me and I was inspired by the snow globe.”

### ***The Still Point (pas de deux)***

The program continues with the third movement from one of the most recognized works of Todd Bolender, *The Still Point*, with music by Claude Debussy. Mr. Bolender was artistic director of Kansas City Ballet from 1981 to 1995 and Emeritus until his death in 2006. The Ballet is presented in celebration of Bolender’s long and influential career and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

### ***Concertino***

Another Kansas City Premiere, ***Concertino***, set to the music by Arcangelo Corelli follows. Choreographer Amy Seiwert is gaining national renown for her surprising, remarkable work that expands and enriches the manner in which we all view ballet. Named as one of “25 to Watch” by *Dance Magazine* in 2005, she has twice been invited to participate in the NY Choreography Institute by Peter Martins, New York City Ballet’s ballet master in chief. Through masterful and courageous ideas and images, she creates thrilling honesty and emotion, oftentimes mixing genres.

Additionally, ***Concertino*** is a co-commission of the Performing Arts Series at Johnson County Community College and Kansas City Ballet. This marks the second year of the New Dance Partners Project initiated by the prestigious Performing Arts Series. The piece had its world premiere this past fall at the JCCC performing arts center.

## ***The Four Temperaments***

Created in 1946, George Balanchine's neoclassical ***The Four Temperaments*** is musically and choreographically based on the ancient idea that the human organism is composed of four humors of temperaments: Melancholic, Sanguinic, Phlegmatic and Choleric. The dominance of one determines the human disposition. Featuring the music of Paul Hindemith, ***The Four Temperaments*** is pure energy. The ballet sometimes seems an explosion of energetic innovations, a working vocabulary which makes much of jutting angularities, syncopation and asymmetrical moves. The stage is alive with novel footwork and brief spectacular solos. The ballet seems, on reflection, to be particularly and admirably American, given its technical prowess and high-energy demands. That ***The Four Temperaments*** seems today as fresh and exciting as ever confirms Balanchine's artistic genius and creative vision.

Visit [www.kcballet.org](http://www.kcballet.org) for more information about Kansas City Ballet's 2014-2015 season and [www.kauffmancenter.org](http://www.kauffmancenter.org) for a downloadable media kit about the Kauffman Center. High resolution photos of the 2014-2015 season can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/67555847@N06/sets/>

## **Dances Daring (Then and Now)**

May 8-17, 2015 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts | Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

Presenting a classic from Balanchine, plus two exciting Kansas City premieres and a beloved work of Todd Bolender to celebrate his centennial.

### ***Wunderland***

### ***The Still Point: 3<sup>rd</sup> Movement***

### ***Concertino***

### ***The Four Temperaments***

Choreography: Edwaard Liang

Choreography: Todd Bolender

Choreography: Amy Seiwert

Choreography: George Balanchine

Music: Philip Glass

Music: Claude Debussy

Music: Arcangelo Corelli

Music: Paul Hindemith

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.

## **Sponsors**

Presenting sponsor of "Dances Daring (Then and Now)" is the William T. Kemper Foundation, Commerce Bank Trustee; supporting sponsor is Union Station Kansas City. Sponsorship of *The Still Point* and *The Four Temperaments* generously provided by the George and Wendy Powell Fund of the Kuehn Foundation. Sponsorship of *The Four Temperaments* also is supported by the Metropolitan Performing Arts Fund, UMB Bank N.A.

The Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation; Kansas City Ballet Guild; the Missouri Arts Council; The Arts Council of Greater Kansas City and Hotel Phillips, host hotel of Kansas City Ballet, also are among the many supporters of Kansas City Ballet's 57<sup>th</sup> season.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Student Discounts

Student Rush tickets are available for \$15 (with valid ID, one ticket per ID) 90-minutes prior to curtain at all performances based on availability.

### Social Media

Kansas City Ballet's website is mobile and ticket-purchase friendly. Receive daily updates by joining the KCB Fan Page at [www.facebook.com/kcballet](http://www.facebook.com/kcballet) and following @kcballet on Twitter. Follow our blog at [kcballet.org/blog](http://kcballet.org/blog), or on YouTube by visiting [www.youtube.com/kansascityballet](http://www.youtube.com/kansascityballet).

### Belger Footnote Series

Artistic Director Devon Carney and guest artists offer audience members views on the choreography, history, design elements and music prior to each repertory performance. These informal discussions are free for all ticket holders and are held at the theater **one hour prior to curtain** for Kansas City Ballet repertory shows.

## Kansas City Ballet 2015-2016 Season at a Glance

### *The Three Musketeers*

Oct. 9-18, 2015 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts | Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

A rollicking ballet of swashbuckling, swordplay and daring in the French court of Louis XIII. With every major role danced by men, ***The Three Musketeers*** will thrill audiences with magnificent jumps and brilliant bravura. All for one and one for all!

***The Three Musketeers***                      Choreography: André Prokovsky  
Music: Giuseppe Verdi arranged by Guy Woolfenden

Fri., Oct. 9	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 10	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 11	2 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 16	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 17	2 p.m.(*) & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 18	2 p.m.

\* No subscriptions are available for this performance



Fri., April 8                      7:30 p.m.  
Sat., April 9                      2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

## ***Rite of Spring***

May 6-15, 2016 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts | Music performed by Kansas City Symphony  
Presenting Kansas City premieres, classics from Adam Houglan and more....

<b><i>Petal</i></b>	Choreography: Helen Pickett	Music: Thomas Newman and Philip Glass
<b><i>World Premiere</i></b>	Choreography: Viktor Plotnikov	Music: Antonín Dvořák
<b><i>Diving into the Lilacs</i></b>	Choreography: Yuri Possokhov	Music: Boris Tchaikovsky
<b><i>Rite of Spring</i></b>	Choreography: Adam Houglan	Music: Igor Stravinsky

Fri., May 6                      7:30 p.m.  
Sat., May 7                      7:30 p.m.  
Sun., May 8                      2 p.m.  
Fri., May 13                      7:30 p.m.  
Sat., May 14                      7:30 p.m.  
Sun., May 15                      2 p.m.

## **About Kansas City Ballet**

### ***To make Kansas City a destination for dance***

Founded in 1957, Kansas City Ballet is a 29-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](http://kcballet.org/media/releases) for more info.

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