

# KansasCityBallet

William Whitener Artistic Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Kansas City Ballet 55<sup>th</sup> Season Concludes with  
World Premiere of  
Karole Armitage's *Energy Made Visible* with music  
Performed by KC Jazz Legend, Bobby Watson**  
*May 3–12 Spring Program at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts includes  
the Kansas City Premiere of Margo Sappington's Common People  
and a Celebration of KC Jazz with Donald McKayle's Hey-Hay, Going to Kansas City*

**KANSAS CITY, MO (April 3, 2013)** — Kansas City Ballet will conclude its 55<sup>th</sup> season May 3 through 12, 2013, with the World Premiere of Karole Armitage's *Energy Made Visible*, featuring music composed and performed by legendary jazz saxophonist, Bobby Watson. The program includes the return of Donald McKayle's, *Hey-Hay, Going to Kansas City* and the Kansas City Premiere of Margo Sappington's *Common People*, featuring the voice of actor, William Shatner to music composed by Ben Folds.

This Spring Program marks the 17<sup>th</sup> and final season with William Whitener as Artistic Director of Kansas City Ballet.

"I am pleased to present a program with three American choreographers who have each made enormous contributions to the field of dance," Mr. Whitener stated. "These three artists have previously worked with our company and have engaged and challenged our audiences and artists. The choreographic selections represent our commitment to new works that enliven and refresh our ongoing repertory."

A new work by internationally acclaimed choreographer Karole Armitage, *Energy Made Visible*, is a collaboration with French filmmaker Gilles Papain, lighting designer, Kirk Bookman and composer/performer, Bobby Watson. It draws inspiration from paintings by artist, Jackson Pollock. By using elements from Pollock paintings to inspire choreography, the stage/canvas will be filmed in segments from above and projected onto a screen so the audience can see the segments of the painting as the dance progresses. This is the second new work that Kansas City Ballet Spring Program to Perform May 3 – 12, 2013 at the Kauffman Center

Ms. Armitage has created for Kansas City Ballet. Her first work, *Arctic Song*, was created in 2009.

Bobby Watson, who will perform simultaneously with recordings of his solo saxophone compositions recently said in an interview with KC Studio: “Jazz can be a conduit to collaboration. Jazz lends itself to theater, dance and drama. Like dance, jazz is a living and constantly vital art form that lives in the present and honors the past. Jazz never forgets its past; it is not just museum music, but it is a living, breathing art form. Karole is progressive and edgy and I like what I have seen of her work. Dancing and playing will be natural and exciting for all of us.”

The Spring Program continues with the nationally acclaimed *Common People*, created by Margo Sappington for the Milwaukee Ballet in 2007. The subject of a feature-length documentary in 2009 called “Gonzo Ballet”, it fuses dance, music, and poetry with spoken text written and performed by actor, William Shatner. This is Ms. Sappington’s third ballet for the company. *Cobras in the Moonlight* was performed in 1997 and *ZuZu Lounge* was created for the company in 2002.

The season closes with Donald McKayle’s *Hey-Hay, Going to Kansas City*, a celebration of the golden age of jazz, nightclubs and dance halls when Kansas City was considered the ‘Paris of the Plains.’ Paul Horsley of *The Kansas City Star* said, “Featuring recordings of Mary Lou Williams, Charlie Parker, and Count Basie, the dance calls upon enormous intricate detail to evoke the urban energy of the jazz age.”

### ***Spring Performances***

#### **May 3–12, 2013 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts**

Celebrate the human spirit and the power of dance, music, poetry and visual art with a world premiere, a Kansas City premiere and the return engagement of a ballet that pays tribute to Kansas City’s colorful era as “the Paris of the Plains.”

<b><i>Energy Made Visible</i></b>	Choreography: Karole Armitage	Music: Bobby Watson
<b><i>Common People</i></b>	Choreography: Margo Sappington	Music: Ben Folds and voice of William Shatner
<b><i>Hey-Hay, Going to Kansas City</i></b>	Choreography: Donald McKayle	Music: Jay McShann, Charlie Parker, Count Basie and more

Fri., May 3	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 4	7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 5	2:00 p.m.
Fri., May 10	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 11	7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 12	2:00 p.m.

Tickets are available by calling the Ballet Box Office at 816-931-2232 or online at [www.kcballet.org](http://www.kcballet.org) where patrons may “select their own seats.”

Kansas City Ballet Spring Program to Perform May 3 – 12, 2013  
at the Kauffman Center

## **Sponsors**

The **Karole Armitage World Premiere: *Energy Made Visible*** on the Spring Program, is sponsored by the Estelle S. Ellis and Robert A. Long Ellis Foundation, the Martha Lee Cain Tranby Music Enrichment Fund, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Metropolitan Performing Arts Fund, and The Lighton Fund. Kansas City Ballet's 2012-2013 season is supported by the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation, the Hall Family Foundation, the Missouri Arts Council—a state agency, and Hotel Phillips—host hotel of Kansas City Ballet.

## **About Kansas City Ballet**

Founded in 1957, Kansas City Ballet is a 28-member professional ballet company under the direction of Artistic Director William Whitener and Executive Director Jeffrey J. Bentley. The company's mission is to offer our community, region and dance profession dance experiences of the highest quality. Kansas City Ballet is home to the Kansas City Ballet School, serving 600 children and adults, and offers professional training for the career-minded student as well as for those seeking a healthy, active lifestyle. Through our professional company, school and community outreach programs such as ROAD, Project X, and Dance INFORMances, we seek to nurture and develop our artists, audiences and students in the creativity, diversity and joy of dance. Our new home, Kansas City Ballet's Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity (just west of Union Station), in conjunction with our new stage at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, is poised to make Kansas City and Kansas City Ballet a true destination for dance.

## **About the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts**

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, a new multi-venue center for music, opera, theater, and dance was designed by Moshe Safdie and opened in Kansas City in September 2011. The Kauffman Center seeks to enrich the lives of all Greater Kansas City residents by presenting vibrant performances, educational programming, and creating a tradition of the performing arts as a catalyst for Kansas City's civic, economic, and educational vitality.

Three of the region's leading performing arts organizations — Kansas City Ballet, Kansas City Symphony, and Lyric Opera of Kansas City — are performing residents at the Kauffman Center. The Center's two performance venues, the 1,600-seat Helzberg Hall and the 1,800-seat Muriel Kauffman Theatre, offer audiences engaging and intimate experiences, while at the same time providing resident companies with dramatically enhanced performance capabilities. Serving as a cultural cornerstone for Kansas City's dynamic downtown, the Kauffman Center brings a new spotlight to the region's performing arts community while simultaneously attracting some of the world's most talented performers and entertainers, further establishing Kansas City as a major cultural destination. More information on the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is available at [kauffmancenter.org](http://kauffmancenter.org).

## **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. Rush sales end 15 minutes prior to curtain.

## Social Media

Receive daily updates by joining the KCB Fan Page at [www.facebook.com/kcballet](http://www.facebook.com/kcballet) and following @kcballet on Twitter. Download our mobile app at <http://airmo.co/kcballet>. Follow our blog at [kcballet.wordpress.com](http://kcballet.wordpress.com), or on YouTube by visiting [www.youtube.com/kansascityballet](http://www.youtube.com/kansascityballet).

## Belger Footnotes Series

Artistic Director William Whitener 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.

## 2013-2014 Season At A Glance

### Kansas City Ballet at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Kansas City Ballet ticket office 816.931.2232

Purchase tickets online at [www.kcballet.org](http://www.kcballet.org).

### *Fall Performances*

October 11-20, 2013 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts | Music performed by Kansas City Symphony  
Presenting classics from choreographers Balanchine, Robbins and composer Bernstein, plus both Kansas City and world premiere ballets.

<i>Allegro Brillante</i>	Choreography: George Balanchine	Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky
<i>Triple Play</i>	Choreography: William Whitener	Music: Francis Poulenc
<i>Fancy Free</i>	Choreography: Jerome Robbins	Music: Leonard Bernstein
<i>World Premiere</i>	Choreography: Jodie Gates	Music: J. S. Bach

### *The Nutcracker*

December 7-24, 2013 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts | Music performed by Kansas City Symphony  
Choreography: Todd Bolender Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky

Kansas City's favorite holiday tradition continues with the presentation of Todd Bolender's delightful family classic *The Nutcracker*. Sponsor: Bank of America

### *Winter Performances*

Kansas City Ballet Spring Program to Perform May 3 – 12, 2013  
at the Kauffman Center

February 21-March 2, 2014 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts | Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

*Dracula*

Choreography: Michael Pink

Music: Philip Feeney

The classic gothic horror story becomes a frightening and bravura work of dance theatre filled with sensuality and danger.

***Spring Performances***

May 9-18, 2014 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts | Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

*Cinderella*

Choreography: Victoria Morgan

Music: Sergei Prokofiev

The delightful fairy tale of the young girl who unexpectedly finds true love and proves that dreams really do come true.

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