

KansasCityBallet

William Whitener Artistic Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For Tickets: 816.931.2232

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Kansas City Ballet 55th Season
Continues with William Whitener's
A Midsummer Night's Dream
At the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
March 15 – 24 program will also include Jessica Lang's Splendid Isolation III and
Toni Pimble's Concerto Grosso

KANSAS CITY, MO (Feb. 11, 2013) — Kansas City Ballet continues its 55th season March 15 through March 24, 2013 with Artistic Director William Whitener's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, featuring the music of Felix Mendelssohn. The Winter Program also will include the return of Toni Pimble's dynamic *Concerto Grosso*, plus Jessica Lang's stunning pas de deux, *Splendid Isolation III*. All performed with music by the Kansas City Symphony, conducted by Kansas City Ballet Music Director Ramona Pansegrau.

William Whitener's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which premiered in the Spring of 1998 and returned to the repertory in 2002 and now again in 2013, is based on William Shakespeare's comedy about the romantic misadventures of two mortal couples and the king and queen of the fairies. This encore presentation features the captivating musical score of Felix Mendelssohn with spoken text that narrates portions of Shakespeare's timeless comedy.

"William Shakespeare's play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, is especially well-suited as source material for a ballet," Whitener said. "Combined with Felix Mendelssohn's spirited score, it has charm and tremendous appeal. I am pleased to present this ballet as part of my seventeenth and final season as Artistic Director."

Kansas City Ballet's production features the full company of 28 dancers, 11 students from Kansas City Ballet School, the women of Kansas City Chorale and actors Robert Gibby Brand and Vanessa Severo, who recite excerpts from the play.

Concerto Grosso, choreographed by Eugene (Ore.) Ballet Company’s Founding Artistic Director Toni Pimble, is a dynamic and tender work of sheer joy.

“There’s no narrative, it’s just free association. It’s what the music says to me,” Pimble said. Commissioned by Kansas City Ballet in the Spring of 2010, this piece features seven couples in four movements set to Ernest Bloch’s *Concerto Grosso No.1 for strings and piano*. In fact, the third movement is listed by Bloch as ‘pastorale’ and ‘rustic dances’. Paul Horsley of **Kansas City Independent** described the piece in his review as “a conceptual and visual feast.”

The visually arresting **Splendid Isolation III**, choreographed by Jessica Lang, was first performed by Kansas City Ballet in the Fall of 2009. This romantic duet set to Mahler’s Adagietto from his 5th Symphony, is the third version of the original piece entitled *Splendid Isolation*. The inspiration for this creation came from the life of Gustav Mahler and his wife Alma. In their story, Mahler asked Alma to give up her career as a composer before he would marry her. “Lang’s expressionistic movement vocabulary and ingenious use of the skirt are stunning...” stated critic Lisa Jo Sagallo of **The Kansas City Star**.

Winter Performances

March 15 - 24, 2013 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts | Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

Brilliant choreography shares the stage with the return of two Kansas City favorites and Shakespeare’s enchanting fantasy as interpreted by Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director William Whitener.

Concerto Grosso	Choreography: Toni Pimble	Music: Ernest Bloch
Splendid Isolation III	Choreography: Jessica Lang	Music: Gustav Mahler
A Midsummer Night’s Dream	Choreography: William Whitener	Music: Felix Mendelssohn

Fri., Mar. 15	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Mar. 16	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Mar. 17	2 p.m.
Fri., Mar. 22	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Mar. 23	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Mar. 24	2 p.m.

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

Sponsors

The Winter Program is sponsored in part by The William T. Kemper Foundation, Commerce Bank Trustee. Kansas City Ballet’s 2012-2013 season is supported by the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation, the Missouri Arts Council—a state agency, and Hotel Phillips—host hotel of Kansas City Ballet.

Season Subscriber Information

Kansas City Ballet Winter Program to Perform March 15 – 24, 2013
at the Kauffman Center

Two-show Series Subscription Packages are available for the remaining 2012-13 season performances. Mini-subscriptions for the Winter and Spring repertory shows begin at \$44 and range up to \$198.

All season subscriptions include major savings and patron benefits including: priority seating in the Kauffman Center, ticket discounts, savings on additional single ticket prices, and free ticket exchanges. Subscribers save up to 25% off individual show tickets. Parents, note this great opportunity to introduce the arts to your children: patrons can purchase season tickets for those under 21 years old at half price.

For ticket information, please call the Kansas City Ballet ticket office at 816.931.2232 or visit our website at www.kcballet.org.

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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Kansas City Ballet Winter Program to Perform March 15 – 24, 2013
at the Kauffman Center

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 and following @kcballet on Twitter. Download our mobile app at <http://airmo.co/kcballet>. Follow our blog at kcballet.wordpress.com, or on YouTube by visiting www.youtube.com/kansascityballet.

Footnotes

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.

2012-2013 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.

Fall Performances

October 12-21, 2012 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts | Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

Presenting one new production, one Kansas City premiere and one popular return from three of ballet's most dynamic and innovative choreographers. Sponsor: BMO Harris Bank

Mercury Choreography: Lynne Taylor-Corbett Music: Franz Joseph Haydn

End of Time Choreography: Ben Stevenson Music: Sergei Rachmaninoff

Carmina Burana Choreography: Toni Pimble Music: Carl Orff

The Nutcracker

December 1-23, 2012 | 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

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<i>Splendid Isolation III</i>	Choreography: Jessica Lang	Music: Gustav Mahler
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Choreography: William Whitener	Music: Felix Mendelssohn

Spring Performances

May 3-12, 2013 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Celebrate the human spirit and the restorative power of dance 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."

<i>World Premiere</i>	Choreography: Karole Armitage	Music: Bobby Watson
<i>Common People</i>	Choreography: Margo Sappington	Music: Ben Folds with the vocal stylings of William Shatner
<i>Hey-Hay, Going to Kansas City</i>	Choreography: Donald McKayle	Music: Jay McShann, Charlie Parker, Count Basie and more

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