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Kansas City Youth Ballet Presents Spring Concert 2013 *at the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity*

KANSAS CITY, MO (March 5, 2013) — Kansas City Youth Ballet (KCYB) performs its *Spring Concert 2013* at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, April 12 and 13 and at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 14 at the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity, 500 W. Pershing Rd., KCMO.

This is the first season under the direction of former Kansas City Ballet Principal Dancer, Kimberly Cowen. The program includes four distinct works ranging from classical ballet to new works choreographed by Kansas City Ballet School faculty and Company dancers.

The Spring program opens with a tribute to choreographer August Bournonville set to the music of Edvard Helsted and Holger Simon Paulli. Cowen and KCYB Ballet Master Hyuk-Ku Kwon will stage the work. It requires a great deal of stamina and precise footwork. “Bournonville is known for his upbeat, delightfully light and happy choreography. At first glance it may appear simple, but it is very demanding on the dancer. Mr. Kwon and I will be staging this work. His innate graciousness and his keen eye for detail will be tremendous gifts to these dancers,” Cowen said.

The Spring Concert also features two world premieres for KCYB by former Kansas City Ballet dancers and current KCBS Faculty Lisa Thorn Vinzant and Marcus Oatis, and a work by current Company dancer, Charles Martin, originally set on Western Oklahoma Ballet Theater in the winter of 2011.

Vinzant’s new work, *Espressivo*, will be performed by six young ladies, dancing to the beautiful and rich music of Saint-Saens. “I really enjoy choreographing on the Kansas City Youth Ballet because the dancers are willing to try new things and want to express themselves as individuals. They light up when we talk about ideas and are eager to add their own thoughts and movement suggestions,” Vinzant said. “I feel they are invested in the dance when we work in this way, and it becomes a piece that includes them and is about them.”

Recess by Martin is the third work on the program. It explores expression and movement based on children’s games like Duck, Duck, Goose!, Red Rover, Freeze Tag and more in a modern way. “I’m trying to bring out some of the girls technically and give them a sense of grounded dancing. Almost all of the 14 dancers have a feature to challenge them technically,” Martin says.

The final piece on the program is a brand new work by KCBS’s Johnson County Campus Manager and former Kansas City Ballet Dancer Marcus Oatis. The ballet, *Symphonie de Printemps* includes the full company in tutus, tunics, and pointe shoes. “The structure of this ballet was derived from an

analysis of the musical score creating movement that represents musical forms such as sonata and rondo form. Each section will display a different mood and meter as well as a dynamic use of counterpoint and unison,” Oatis said.

Single tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 5 and under. Tickets may be purchased by phone by calling the Kansas City Ballet Box Office at 816-931-2232 or online at <http://www.kcballet.org>.

KCYB’s engagement is presented with the generous support of the contributions of the Kansas City Ballet. These performances are funded, in part, by Sherrill Mulhern, an anonymous donor and the Missouri Arts Council.

About Kansas City Youth Ballet

Kansas City Youth Ballet was founded in 1997 by Alecia Good Boresow. It is currently under the direction of Kimberly Cowen, former principal dancer of the Kansas City Ballet. KCYB provides excellence in training and develops a professional performance atmosphere for the dancers. KCYB is made up of 22 dancers ranging in age from 14 to 18, who study under Ms. Cowen, Ballet Master Hyku-Ku Kwon and the faculty of the Kansas City Ballet School. The company presents two major performances each season and educational outreach demonstrations throughout the community, showcasing many original works by local and national choreographers, as well as new emerging artists. The mission of the KCYB is to promote the art of ballet through education and performance for the dancers and the community.

Spring Concert 2013 Performance at a Glance

Kansas City Youth Ballet

Kimberly Cowen, KCYB Director

Hyuk-Ku Kwon, KCYB Ballet Master

Friday, April 12, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 13, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 14, 2013, 2:00 p.m.

Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

500 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO 64108

A Tribute to Bournonville

Choreographer: August Bournonville

Staged by: Hyuk-Ku Kwon & Kimberly Cowen

Music: Edvard Helsted and Holger Simon Paulli

Espressivo

Choreographer: Lisa Thorn Vinzant

Music: Saint-Saëns

Recess

Choreographer: Charles Martin

Music: Domenico Scarlatti

Symphonie de Printemps

Choreographer: Marcus Oatis

Music: Robert Schumann

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 5 and under, and they are available by calling the Kansas City Ballet Box Office at 816-931-2232 or online at www.kcballet.org.

For more information visit www.kcballet.org/school/kcyb.html.

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