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## **Kansas City Youth Ballet Presents Spring Concert 2014 *at the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity***

**KANSAS CITY, MO (March 31, 2014)** — Kansas City Youth Ballet (KCYB) performs its *Spring Concert 2014* at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12, and at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 13 at the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity, 500 W. Pershing Rd., KCMO.

KCYB's Spring Concert features the second act of beloved classic *Swan Lake*, along with three world premieres. Two choreographers for this program are current company members of the Kansas City Ballet, Anthony Krutzkamp and Charles Martin. The third choreographer is KCB School's Johnson County Campus Manager and former KCB Company member, Marcus Oatis.

Providing these young students an opportunity to work with professional dancers is an essential part of the Kansas City Ballet School. Another exciting new addition to this program is live music for Oatis' piece by the local duo The Wires. They will perform on stage with the dancers—an extremely important element for these young dancers to be exposed to. Live music requires the students to listen closely to the music rather than rely on the consistency of a recording. The KCYB dancers will be challenged at every turn of this show.

*Swan Lake Act II* opens the program. It is a timeless beauty, originally choreographed in 1877 by Julius Reisinger. The production was re-choreographed by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov in 1895. Audiences never tire of seeing this ballet and hearing its dramatic score. Across the globe female ballerinas aspire to dance the famous role of Odette. This ballet demands precision, unison and an ethereal nature for the corps de ballet. Odette, the principal female role, requires strength, control, and tremendous artistry—including having a vulnerable side as well as extreme passion.

"I believe that being exposed to *Swan Lake* can transform a dancer into an artist. Once you have danced this ballet, you have a new appreciation for details and what makes ballet truly beautiful... filling it with emotion," says Kansas City Ballet School Interim Director and Kansas City Youth Ballet Director Kimberly Cowen. This is the second season under the direction of Cowen, a former Kansas City Ballet Principal Dancer.

Kansas City Ballet Company member Anthony Krutzkamp's new work set to the music "Spanish Romance" follows. Comprised of four dancers, this contemporary work will get the students moving in new ways. "I enjoy working with the students. They are like sponges. They retain as much as possible until they are saturated. Their motivation is pure and I love watching them

evolve,” Krutzkamp says.

Kansas City Ballet Company member Charles Martin’s new work is made up of 12 KCYB women. “I’m giving them an opportunity to work on moving through their classical technique with my piece that requires technical precision,” Martin says.

Oatis’ work will showcase the whole company. The opportunity for students to dance to the live music of The Wires, an alternative string duo, will stretch students even further. “I am challenging the students through my choreography to explore the different qualities of movement. They will be tasked to find different ways in which they can use the movement of their body to convey a wider spectrum of ideas, thoughts, and emotions,” Oatis says.

All performances will be in the Michael and Ginger Frost Studio Theater at the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity. 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 Kansas City Ballet. These performances are funded in part by ArtsKC and the Missouri Arts Council.

### **About Kansas City Youth Ballet**

Kansas City Youth Ballet, formerly known as Midwest Youth Ballet, was founded in 1997 by Alecia Good Boresow. It is currently under the direction of Kimberly Cowen, former principal dancer of Kansas City Ballet. KCYB provides excellence in training and seeks to develop a professional performance atmosphere for the student dancers. KCYB is made up of 18 students ranging in age from 14 to 18, who study under Ms. Cowen, Ballet Master Hyku-Ku Kwon, Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney, and the faculty of the Kansas City Ballet School. The pre-professional 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 2014 Performance at a Glance

## Kansas City Youth Ballet

Kimberly Cowen, KCYB Director

Hyuk-Ku Kwon, KCYB Ballet Master

Friday, April 11, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 12, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 13, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

500 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO 64108

### *Swan Lake Act II*

Choreographer: Lev Ivanov

Staged by: Kimberly Cowen & Hyuk-Ku Kwon

Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky

### *Premiere*

Choreographer: Anthony Krutzkamp

Music: Fernando Sor

### *Premiere*

Choreographer: Charles Martin

Music: Igor Stravinsky

### *Premiere*

Choreographer: Marcus Oatis

Music: composed and performed live by The Wires

Running time is one hour, 10 minutes with one intermission.

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](http://www.kcballet.org).

For more information visit [www.kcballet.org/school/kcyb.html](http://www.kcballet.org/school/kcyb.html).

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Please direct all media inquiries to Ellen McDonald 816.444.0052.