



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kansas City Ballet Stages Emotion-Packed Season Opener with ***Celts*** Mixed Repertoire Program

Mixed Repertoire Features Three Celebrations of Movement and Music
Oct. 15-24
at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts



KANSAS CITY, MO (Sept. 13, 2021) — Kansas City Ballet's 2021-2022 season opens with a mixed-repertoire performance featuring three acclaimed ballets that celebrate the emotional combination of movement and music. *Celts*, the Kansas City premiere of a fiendish fusion of ballet and Irish step dance, *Wunderland*, a winter wonderland of athletic dancing and intense passion, and *Serenade*, a milestone in dance and the first original ballet George Balanchine choreographed in America, come together Oct.

Kansas City Ballet Presents *Celts* Oct. 15-24 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

15-24 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. This program had been originally scheduled for May 2020 and was postponed due to the pandemic.

“The performance opens with the gloriously transcendent work titled *Serenade* and continues with the intimate and mesmerizing work titled *Wunderland*, and crescendos to *Celts*, a celebration of Irish culture that brings audiences to their feet with its intense jigs and captivating energy,” says Devon Carney, Kansas City Ballet artistic director. “Together, they are a blockbuster combination of athletic, innovative works designed to take dancers and spectators alike on a memorable, emotional journey.”

Health and Safety COVID-19 Protocols

Effective Sept. 6, all patrons who enter the Kauffman Center to attend public performances must provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination. Masks will also be required, regardless of vaccination status, while inside the building, except while eating or drinking in designated locations. At the current time, we are unable to accommodate children under 12, or any unvaccinated patrons for public performances. We continue to evaluate the ever-changing circumstances in hope that children under 12 years of age can safely attend public performances in time for The Nutcracker. Due to the circumstances, all ticket purchases during the 2021-2022 season are refundable prior to the performance.

Kansas City Ballet and the Kauffman Center are closely monitoring federal, state, and local guidelines and as such, our policies and procedures will continue to evolve. For the latest updates on COVID-19 protocols, please visit <https://kcballet.org/frequently-asked-questions/safety-health-policies-for-attending-performances/> prior to your visit. Visit the Kauffman Center to learn more about their health and safety policies at <https://www.kauffmancenter.org/the-center/health/>.

Celts

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Friday, Oct. 15	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 16	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 17	2 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 22	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 23	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 24	2 p.m.

Celts

Choreography by Lila York

Recorded Music by The Chieftains, William J. Ruyle, Bill Whelen and Mason Daring



Lila York debuted *Celts* at Boston Ballet in 1996 — the same year Michael Flatley's *Riverdance* first toured America — and it was an immediate hit. Exuberant, complex, and fantastically fast, its modern and imaginative fusion of Irish step dance and ballet (including pointe work) requires virtuosic technique infused with pure joy. In its Kansas City premiere, the ballet springs across the stage to the irrepressible beat of Irish tunes by the Chieftains and others as the dancers attack speedy pirouettes and leaps. Super-charged roles give individual performers the opportunity to shine, but *Celts* is first

and foremost an ensemble work in which the entire company of dancers is keenly alive.

Wunderland

Choreography by Edwaard Liang

Music by Philip Glass performed by The Opus 76 Quartet

Inspired by Choreographer Edwaard Liang's fascination with a replica of a small Siberian town captured within a snowglobe, *Wunderland* is an abstract experience that allows audience members to find their own way through the beauty, emotion,



and humanity of a winter wonderland. To match the pulsating rhythms of music by Philip Glass, Liang created movement that seamlessly molds striking poses and geometric formations to inspire both tension and harmony.

From its hometown in Kansas City, The Opus 76 Quartet has become recognized in journals worldwide for its entertaining and energetic interpretations of the classics. Artists-in-residence at the Midwest Trust Center at Johnson County Community College, The Opus 76 Quartet perform 50 concerts a year nationwide. For more information, please visit <https://opus76.org>.

Serenade

Choreography by George Balanchine

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Music by Peter I. Tchaikovsky performed by The Opus 76 Quartet and Guests



The first original ballet Balanchine created in America; *Serenade* is considered a milestone in the history of dance. Originated as a lesson in stage technique, Balanchine worked unexpected rehearsal events into the choreography. When one student fell, he incorporated the fall into the dance. When a student arrived late, this too became part of the ballet. The score, Tchaikovsky's 1880 Serenade for Strings in C, reveals the special affinity Balanchine had for the romantic works of the Russian composer. "In everything I

did to Tchaikovsky's music, I sensed his help," Balanchine once told an interviewer. "It wasn't real conversation. But when I was working and saw that something was coming of it, I felt that it was Tchaikovsky who had helped me."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND EVENTS

Dance Speaks: With *Celts* Choreographer Lila York

Sept. 22, 2021

6-7 p.m. — Panel

Facebook LIVE at facebook.com/kcballet

Get a virtual sneak peek of KC Ballet Company dancers rehearsing the ballet *Celts* and gain insightful information from Guest Choreographer Lila York and others. Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney invites you to join an engaging conversation inspired by this dramatic work! Moderated by Devon Carney, the panel includes an audience Q and A. This Dance Speaks will take place on Facebook LIVE. Dance Speaks is part of Kansas City Ballet's commitment to engage the community-at-large through unique educational programs.

Belger Footnote Series

Artistic Director Devon Carney and guest artists offer audience members their views about the choreography, history, design elements and music of the evening's performance. These informal discussions are free for all ticketholders and are held at the theatre **one hour prior to curtain** for Kansas City Ballet repertory shows. No reservations necessary.

Social Media

Kansas City Ballet's website is mobile and ticket-purchase friendly. Receive daily updates by joining the KCB Fan Page, www.facebook.com/kcballet, and following @ballet on Twitter. Follow our blog at www.kcballet.org/blog. Watch videos at

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www.youtube.com/kansascityballet or <https://vimeo.com/kcballet>, and view photos at <https://www.instagram.com/kballet/>.

Ticket Information

Purchase tickets:

- Online at www.kcballet.org with the Select Your Own Seat capability
- By telephone at 816.931.8993.
- At the Kansas City Ballet Box office in the Blender Center, 500 W. Pershing Road (west of Union Station).
- At the Kauffman Center box office and website.

Ticket prices start at only \$34, and subscribers receive a 20-percent discount. There is a \$7.50 Kauffman Center facility fee per ticket and a \$4.00 processing fee per order.

Student Rush discount tickets are available, two for \$19 (with valid student ID, one ticket per ID). Purchase online here – <https://pages.wordfly.com/kcballet/pages/Student-Rush-2021/> or 90-minutes prior to curtain at all performances based on availability.

Seniors aged 62 or older and educators who present valid ID at the box office 90 minutes prior to all repertory performances can purchase available rush tickets for as much as 40-percent off single ticket prices. Restrictions and fees apply. Prices are subject to change.

Parking and Downtown Maps

Find information and maps for Kauffman Center parking and construction updates at www.kcballet.org/planyourvisit. The Arts District parking garage, immediately south of and beneath the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, is the primary parking garage for Kansas City Ballet patrons. Event parking is \$10 per car for the garage or \$18 for valet and may be purchased in advance or upon arrival.

Accessibility

Kansas City Ballet is committed to providing assistance to those with disabilities. Direct questions and requests to Patron Services, 816.931.1348. Callers who are hearing impaired or hard of hearing can get help with telephone access by using the free relay service — 711.

Sponsors

Major underwriting support comes from the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation. The Kansas City Ballet Guild, Missouri Arts Council (a state agency), National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency), and Hallmark Corporate Foundation are among the many other supporters of Kansas City Ballet's 2021-2022 season. Serenade is sponsored in part by the Wendy and George Powell Family Fund.

Media

Visit kcballet.org or kauffmancenter.org for a downloadable media kit about Kansas City Ballet and the Kauffman Center. Find high-resolution photos at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/67555847@N06/sets>.

About Kansas City Ballet

MISSION: To Inspire and Engage Through the Beauty, Power & Passion of Dance

VISION: Outstanding Dance Experiences Accessible to All

Founded in 1957, Kansas City Ballet is a professional ballet company led by Artistic Director Devon Carney and Executive Director Jeffrey J. Bentley. Kansas City Ballet is an indispensable community asset 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 which, with an enrollment of more than 2,000 children and adults, offers professional training for the career-minded student as well as for those simply seeking a healthy lifestyle.

Through the professional company, second company (KCB II & Trainees), and community engagement and education programs, Kansas City Ballet seeks to nurture and develop artists, audiences, and students in the values inherent in the creativity, diversity, and joy of dance. The company's 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, positions Kansas City as a destination for dance. Visit www.kcballet.org/kansas-city-ballet-press-releases/ for more info.

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