Celebrating 50 Years

Karen Kain

Artist. Leader. Icon.

THE NATIONAL Ballet OF CANADA

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

Artist.

Leader.

Icon.

BMO

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Swan Lake

To mark her 50th anniversary with The National Ballet of Canada, Artistic Director Karen Kain brings her unique vision to one of the greatest classical ballets of all time. Based on Erik Bruhn's landmark version, Karen stages and directs a new *Swan Lake* that powerfully dramatizes the complex emotional core of this classic tale.

Celebrate Karen and Subscribe!

19
20

Jillian Vanstone and Naoya Ebe. Photo by Bruce Zinger.

Giselle

November 6 – 10, 2019

A mainstay of The National Ballet of Canada's repertoire since the 1950s, *Giselle* has lost none of its power to move and enthrall audiences, continuing to invite new readings and responses and reveal surprising aspects of itself to new generations of ballet lovers.

The title role has always been a touchstone and a proving ground for the world's greatest prima ballerinas, not simply for the enormous technical demands the choreography poses, but for the intensity and depth of emotional commitment that it requires. The work also affords the Corps de Ballet the opportunity to shine, with the ghostly diagonal procession of the Wilis remaining one of the most haunting and moodily evocative images in all of ballet.

Endowed with tantalizing interpretive possibilities and replete with moments of indelible dramatic power, *Giselle*, in all its spectral, mist-shrouded glory, is one of the great and enduring examples of classical narrative ballet.

Choreography and Production: Sir Peter Wright after the choreography of Jean Coralli and Marius Petipa
Music: Adolphe Adam, revised by Joseph Horovitz
Set and Costume Design: Desmond Heeley
Lighting Design: Gil Wechsler

Giselle was produced as a memorial to the late William P. Walker and was made possible through the courtesy of many generous friends of the National Ballet.

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Karen Kain as Giselle (1989).
Photo by David Street.

Emma Hawes and Harrison James in *Orpheus Alive*. Photo by Karolina Kuras.

World Premiere

Orpheus Alive

with the Company Premiere of Chaconne
November 15 – 21, 2019

The myth of Orpheus and Eurydice has long fascinated artists of all disciplines. It is the story of a gifted musician who, against all odds, travels to the underworld to bring his beloved back to life only to lose her again because of a moment of doubt. National Ballet Choreographic Associate Robert Binet has created a rich body of work characterized by an instinctive elegance, poetic phrasing and conceptual strength. In his latest work, *Orpheus Alive*, the acclaimed choreographer gives us a fresh re-telling of this tragic tale by casting Orpheus as a woman and Eurydice as a man. We are enveloped in a narrative at once familiar and unsettling, but which is at its heart, a story of first love and first loss.

Also on the programme is George Balanchine's *Chaconne*, which is based on the choreography he created for a 1963 Hamburg State Opera production of Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*. The work contains some of the choreographer's most beautiful passages for both pas de deux and ensemble and is perhaps as pure a statement of his neo-classical aesthetic as we have.

Orpheus Alive World Premiere

Choreography: Robert Binet
Composer: Missy Mazzoli
Librettist and Dramaturge: Rosamund Small
Set and Costume Design: Hyemi Shin
Lighting Design: Tom Visser
Projection Design: Karolina Kuras

Chaconne Company Premiere

Choreography: George Balanchine ©The George Balanchine Trust
Staged by: Lindsay Fischer and Christopher Stowell
Music: Christoph Willibald Gluck, *Orfeo ed Euridice*
Costumes Design: Karinska

Lead philanthropic support for *Orpheus Alive* is provided by The Producers' Circle with additional support from Susanne Boyce and Brendan Mullen.

Orpheus Alive is produced and commissioned by The National Ballet of Canada.

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Karen Kain with choreographer Robert Binet (2016).
Photo by Karolina Kuras.

Etudes

with Piano Concerto #1 & the Company Premiere of Petite Mort
November 27 – December 1, 2019

Etudes, by the Danish choreographer Harald Lander, is an affectionate and exhilarating tribute to the art of classical ballet. Using the routine of the dance class, the work begins with dancers at the barre and then sees them perform increasingly intricate and difficult exercises, culminating in a rapturous and celebratory climax.

Piano Concerto #1 is the final section of Alexei Ratmansky's magisterial Shostakovich Trilogy, a work that premiered in 2013. The ballet as a whole is an homage to the life and work of the renowned Soviet composer and his ceaseless struggles against the dictates of Stalinist ideology. The final section stands on its own as perhaps the most abstract and hopeful of the three segments, with some of the most dynamic and exuberant choreography Ratmansky has yet created.

Jiří Kylián's *Petite Mort*, from 1991, is in many ways the quintessence of the great Czech choreographer's style. Using movements from two of Mozart's most famous piano concertos, the work masterfully evokes both the intense yearning and the latent eroticism of the music, with the cast dramatizing with both passion and vulnerability the famously ambiguous implications of the work's title.

Lead philanthropic support for *Piano Concerto #1* is provided by an anonymous friend of the National Ballet and The Producers' Circle.

Etudes is a gift from The Volunteer Committee, The National Ballet of Canada.

Artists of the Ballet in *Etudes*. Photo by Cylla von Tiedemann.

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Karen Kain with choreographer Alexei Ratmansky (2011).
Photo by Aleksandar Antonijevic.

Etudes
Choreography: Harald Lander
Staged by: Thomas Lund
Music: Carl Czerny, arranged and orchestrated by Knudäge Riisager
Set Design: Georg Schlogl
Lighting Design: Harald Lander
Artistic Advisor: Lise Lander

Piano Concerto #1
Choreography: Alexei Ratmansky
Staged by: Felipe Diaz
Music: Dmitri Shostakovich
Set Design: George Tsypin
Costume Design: Keso Dekker
Lighting Design: Jennifer Tipton

Petite Mort Company Premiere
Choreography: Jiří Kylián
Staged by: Roslyn Anderson
Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Set Design: Jiří Kylián
Costume Design: Joke Visser
Lighting Design: Jiří Kylián, Joop Caboort (Realisation)

presents

The Nutcracker

December 12, 2019 – January 4, 2020

James Kudelka's vibrant, entertaining, touching and spectacular re-imagining of the timeless Christmas classic has been an indispensible part of the rituals and pleasures of the holiday season since its premiere in 1995. In Kudelka's re-telling of the well-known story, events are situated in 19th century Russia, where the rhythms of the natural world and rural life provide the backdrop for the wondrous dream journey of Misha and Marie, the brother and sister at the heart of the narrative. As the pair move through an astonishing landscape of ever more fantastic visions, finally arriving at the magical palace of the Sugar Plum Fairy, we come to understand that the dream journey they have been on is also a journey of growth, maturation and the attainment of wisdom.

Choreography and Libretto: James Kudelka, O.C.
Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Set and Costume Design: Santo Loquasto
Lighting Design: Jennifer Tipton

The Nutcracker is made possible by generous financial support from production underwriters Sandra Pitblado & Jim Pitblado, C.M., Lawrence and Ann Heisey and an anonymous friend of the National Ballet.

Christopher Gerty with Students of Canada's National Ballet School. Photo by Karolina Kuras.

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Karen Kain as
The Sugar Plum Fairy in
The Nutcracker (1975).
Photo by Anthony Crickmay.

New Work by Crystal Pite World Premiere
Choreography: Crystal Pite
Set Design: Jay Gower Taylor
Costume Design: Nancy Bryant
Lighting Design: Tom Visser

Chroma
Choreography: Wayne McGregor
Music: Joby Talbot and Jack White, The White Stripes
Set Design: John Pawson
Costume Design: Moritz Junge
Lighting Design: Lucy Carter

World Premiere

New Work by Crystal Pite

with Chroma and the Company Premiere of Marguerite and Armand
February 29, March 1 & March 18 – 21, 2020

Crystal Pite, the choreographer of *Emergence*, creates a brand-new work for The National Ballet of Canada to premiere in March 2020. One of the world's most in-demand dance artists, the British Columbia-born choreographer has astonished and enthralled audiences both at home and abroad with her nuanced, thematically provocative and often haunting work. A world premiere by this enormously gifted artist will be one of the most highly-anticipated events of the 2019/20 season.

Wayne McGregor has created some of the most intellectually challenging and visually ravishing dance works of recent decades. *Chroma* is a stunning example of his artistry, questioning the very nature of choreographed movement and infusing each moment with an utterly unique and surprising gestural vocabulary.

Inspired by the famous French novel *La Dame aux camélias*, Frederick Ashton's *Marguerite and Armand* portrays in flashback the life and loves of Marguerite, a Parisian courtesan, specifically her tragic and ill-fated love for the young Armand. Set to Liszt's B Minor piano sonata, the ballet was originally performed by and long associated with Rudolf Nureyev and Margot Fonteyn.

Lead philanthropic support for a New Work by Crystal Pite is provided by The Producers' Circle.

A New Work by Crystal Pite is produced and commissioned by The National Ballet of Canada.

Chroma is produced in association with The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London.

Svetlana Lunkina and Evan McKie in *Chroma*. Photo by Karolina Kuras.

Marguerite and Armand Company Premiere
Choreography: Frederick Ashton
Staged by: Grant Coyle
Music: Franz Liszt
Orchestrated by: Dudley Simpson
Set and Costume Design: Cecil Beaton
Original Lighting Concept: John B. Read

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Karen Kain with choreographer Crystal Pite (2009).
Photo by Alex Felipe.

Guillaume Côté and Elena Lobsanova. Photo by Bruce Zinger.

Romeo and Juliet

March 5 – 15, 2020

Created to celebrate The National Ballet of Canada's 60th anniversary in 2011, Alexei Ratmansky's *Romeo and Juliet* is a brilliantly imagined interpretation of Shakespeare's tender and tragic tale of two young lovers and the warring households that keep them apart.

Known especially for his mastery of the classical idiom, Ratmansky is equally adept at employing that idiom for fresh, contemporary effects. Full of bold and emotionally vivid characterization and taking full advantage of the play's rich theatrical possibilities, Ratmansky's *Romeo and Juliet* finds a natural home in Prokofiev's famous and achingly affecting score, a work that provides the perfect underpinning for this landmark version of Shakespeare's timeless, universal tale of youthful, ill-starred love.

Choreography: Alexei Ratmansky
Music: Sergei Prokofiev
Set, Costume and Properties Design: Richard Hudson
Lighting Design: Jennifer Tipton

Lead philanthropic support for *Romeo and Juliet* is provided by Sandra Pitblado & Jim Pitblado, C.M., with additional generous support from Sandra Faire & Ivan Fecan, The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation, an anonymous friend of the National Ballet and Walter Carsen, O.C.

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Karen Kain and
Rex Harrington in
Romeo and Juliet (1992).
Photo by Cylla von Tiedemann.

World Premiere

Swan Lake

June 5 – 21, 2020

To mark her 50th anniversary with The National Ballet of Canada, Artistic Director Karen Kain directs and stages a new production of one of classical ballet's most seminal and revered works, *Swan Lake*. Basing her new approach on Erik Bruhn's landmark version of the ballet, a version she performed to unforgettable acclaim as a dancer, Kain accentuates the romantic core of the ballet and the love story that provides it with its powerful emotional life and which has made the work the enduring classic that it has been for generations of audiences.

With stunning new sets and costumes by renowned designer Gabriela Tylešová and lighting by multi-Tony Award winner Natasha Katz, this fresh and vibrant staging of *Swan Lake* retains all of the mystery, tragic feeling and rich psychological undercurrents that form such an inextricable part of the ballet's thematic texture. It also brings its symbolic elements to fuller dramatic life through attentive characterization and an unerring evocation of the inner power and radiance of its narrative and choreography. A fitting celebration of a great ballet and a tribute to and from one of Canadian ballet's greatest artists.

Directed and Staged by: Karen Kain, C.C., LL.D., D.Litt., O.Ont.
after Erik Bruhn, Lev Ivanov and Marius Petipa

Additional choreography and staging by Christopher Stowell and Robert Binet
Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Set, Property and Costume Design: Gabriela Tylešová
Lighting Design: Natasha Katz

Lead philanthropic support for *Swan Lake* is provided by The Walter Carsen New Creations Fund, with additional support from The Producers' Circle.

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Swan Lake is produced and commissioned by The National Ballet of Canada.

Hannah Fischer. Photo by Karolina Kuras.

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Karen Kain and
Rudolf Nureyev in
Swan Lake (1972).
Photo by Anthony Crickmay.

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Greta Hodgkinson. Photo by Karolina Kuras.

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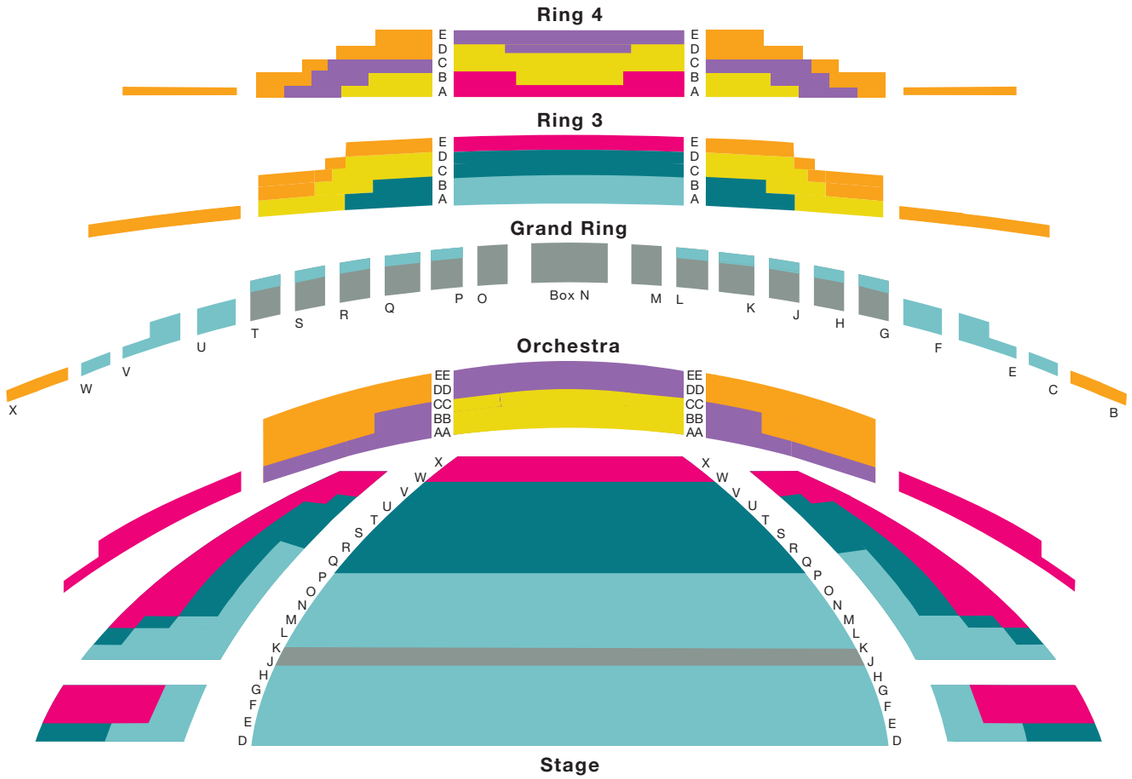

Price Zone A
Price Zone B
Price Zone C
Price Zone D
Price Zone E
Price Zone F
Price Zone G

All performances take place at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts located at 145 Queen Street West (at University Avenue).

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Single tickets go on sale September 17, 2019.

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Heather Ogden. Photo by Karolina Kuras.

Performance	Wednesday Evening 7:30 pm	Thursday Evening 7:30 pm	Friday Evening 7:30 pm	Saturday Afternoon 2:00 pm	Saturday Evening 7:30 pm	Sunday Afternoon 2:00 pm
Giselle	Nov 6	Nov 7	Nov 8	Nov 9	Nov 9	Nov 10
Orpheus	Nov 20	Nov 21	Nov 15	Nov 16	Nov 16	Nov 17
Etudes	Nov 27	Nov 28	Nov 29	Nov 30	Nov 30	Dec 1
Romeo	Mar 11	Mar 5	Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 7	Mar 8
New Pite	Mar 18	Mar 19	Mar 20	Mar 21	Feb 29	Mar 1
Swan Lake	Jun 17	Jun 11	Jun 5	Jun 6	Jun 6	Jun 7

Section	Premium Adult	You Save	Premium Senior/ Student/Child	You Save	Premium Senior/ Student/Child Sat Mat - save 45%	You Save
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Price Zone G	$342	$66	$324	$84	$231	$177

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The Weekend 4

Saturday Evenings or
Sunday Afternoons
Four Ballets

Performance	Saturday Evening 7:30 pm	Sunday Afternoon 2:00 pm
Giselle	Nov 9	Nov 10
New Pite	Feb 29	Mar 1
Romeo	Mar 14	Mar 15
Swan Lake	Jun 13	Jun 14

Section		You Save
Price Zone A	$956	$104
Price Zone B	$759	$105
Price Zone C	$596	$144
Price Zone D	$516	$124
Price Zone E	$448	$92
Price Zone F	$343	$69
Price Zone G	$242	$30

Piotr Stanczyk. Photo by Karolina Kuras.

The Weekend 3

Saturday Evenings or
Sunday Afternoons
Three Ballets

Performance	Saturday Evening 7:30 pm	Sunday Afternoon 2:00 pm
Giselle	Nov 9	Nov 10
Romeo	Mar 14	Mar 15
Swan Lake	Jun 13	Jun 14

Section		You Save
Price Zone A	$717	$78
Price Zone B	$570	$78
Price Zone C	$447	$108
Price Zone D	$387	$93
Price Zone E	$336	$69
Price Zone F	$258	$51
Price Zone G	$180	$24

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Friday Evenings – Save 40%
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Performance	Friday Evening 7:30 pm
Orpheus	Nov 15
Etudes	Nov 29
New Pite	Mar 20

Section		You Save
Price Zone A	$477	$318
Price Zone B	$390	$258
Price Zone C	$333	$222
Price Zone D	$288	$192
Price Zone E	$243	$162
Price Zone F	$186	$123
Price Zone G	$123	$81

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Thursday Afternoon

Four Ballets

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Performance	Thursday Afternoon 2:00 pm
Giselle	Nov 7
Romeo	Mar 12
New Pite	Mar 19
Swan Lake	Jun 11

Section		You Save
Price Zone A	$530	$530
Price Zone B	$432	$432
Price Zone C	$370	$370
Price Zone D	$320	$320
Price Zone E	$270	$270
Price Zone F	$206	$206
Price Zone G	$136	$136

Family Time

Three Ballets

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Performance	Sunday Afternoon
The Nutcracker	Dec 29 at 1:00 pm
Romeo	Mar 15 at 2:00 pm
Swan Lake	Jun 14 at 2:00 pm

Section	Family Time Adult	You Save	Family Time Child	You Save
Price Zone A	$588	$117	$471	$234
Price Zone B	$474	$118	$378	$214
Price Zone C	$423	$92	$339	$176
Price Zone D	$369	$76	$294	$151
Price Zone E	$303	$67	$243	$127
Price Zone F	$243	$53	$195	$101
Price Zone G	$168	$48	$135	$81

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*Excluding the Gala on June 9

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Price Zone B	$759	$105
Price Zone C	$636	$104
Price Zone D	$548	$92
Price Zone E	$448	$92
Price Zone F	$343	$69
Price Zone G	$244	$28

Skylar Campbell. Photo by Karolina Kuras.

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Sonia Rodriguez. Photo by Karolina Kuras.

Jillian Vanstone backstage at *Giselle.* Photo by Karolina Kuras.

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Fall Season November / December 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
4	5	6 Giselle 7:30 pm	7 Giselle 2:00 pm 7:30 pm	8 Giselle 7:30 pm	9 Giselle 2:00 pm 7:30 pm	10 Giselle 2:00 pm
11	12	13	14	15 Orpheus 7:30 pm	16 Orpheus 2:00 pm 7:30 pm	17 Orpheus 2:00 pm
18	19	20 Orpheus 7:30 pm	21 Orpheus 7:30 pm	22	23	24
25	26	27 Etudes 7:30 pm	28 Etudes 7:30 pm	29 Etudes 7:30 pm	30 Etudes 2:00 pm 7:30 pm	1 Etudes 2:00 pm

Holiday Season December 2019 / January 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9	10	11	12 Nutcracker 7:00 pm	13 Nutcracker 7:00 pm	14 Nutcracker 2:00 pm 7:00 pm	15 Nutcracker 1:00 pm 5:30 pm
16	17 Nutcracker 7:00 pm	18 Nutcracker 7:00 pm	19 Nutcracker 7:00 pm	20 Nutcracker 7:00 pm	21 Nutcracker 2:00 pm 7:00 pm	22 Nutcracker 1:00 pm 5:30 pm
23	24 Nutcracker 1:00 pm	25	26	27 Nutcracker 1:00 pm	28 Nutcracker 1:00 pm 5:30 pm	29 Nutcracker 1:00 pm 5:30 pm
30	31 Nutcracker 1:00 pm	1	2 Nutcracker 7:00 pm	3 Nutcracker 2:00 pm 7:00 pm	4 Nutcracker 1:00 pm 5:30 pm	5

Winter Season February / March 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
24	25	26	27	28	29 New Pite 7:30 pm	1 New Pite 2:00 pm
2	3	4	5 Romeo 7:30 pm	6 Romeo 7:30 pm	7 Romeo 2:00 pm 7:30 pm	8 Romeo 2:00 pm
9	10	11 Romeo 7:30 pm	12 Romeo 2:00 pm 7:30 pm	13 Romeo 7:30 pm	14 Romeo 2:00 pm 7:30 pm	15 Romeo 2:00 pm
16	17	18 New Pite 7:30 pm	19 New Pite 2:00 pm 7:30 pm	20 New Pite 7:30 pm	21 New Pite 2:00 pm	22

Summer Season June 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5 Swan Lake 7:30 pm	6 Swan Lake 2:00 pm 7:30 pm	7 Swan Lake 2:00 pm
8	9 Gala 6:30 pm	10	11 Swan Lake 2:00 pm 7:30 pm	12 Swan Lake 7:30 pm	13 Swan Lake 2:00 pm 7:30 pm	14 Swan Lake 2:00 pm
15	16	17 Swan Lake 7:30 pm	18 Swan Lake 7:30 pm	19 Swan Lake 7:30 pm	20 Swan Lake 2:00 pm 7:30 pm	21 Swan Lake 2:00 pm
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Celebrate

Karen Kain's Illustrious and Inspiring 50-year Career with The National Ballet of Canada

Calley Skalnik, Karen Kain and Jack Bertinshaw in rehearsal. Photo by Karolina Kuras.

As Artistic Director, Karen Kain has forged a vision to invest in artistic development, commission new works, re-assert The National Ballet of Canada's role on the international stage and strengthen our place in the hearts and minds of our audience and community.

With the dedication of subscribers and the generosity of donors, Karen has achieved many of her goals for the National Ballet, engaging more audiences and community members than ever before. As a result, the company has soared artistically while also remaining financially stable, a remarkable accomplishment that balances vision, risk and sustainability.

Honour Karen's commitment, energy and success by making a special gift with your subscription.

"I am extremely grateful for the tremendous support offered by our community of subscribers, donors and volunteers. Over my career, I have been inspired by this deep passion for our beautiful company, for the art form and for the place of culture within our country. Thank you for creating the conditions for us to dream and the resources to make these dreams possible."

– Karen Kain

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Jenna Savella. Photo by Karolina Kuras.

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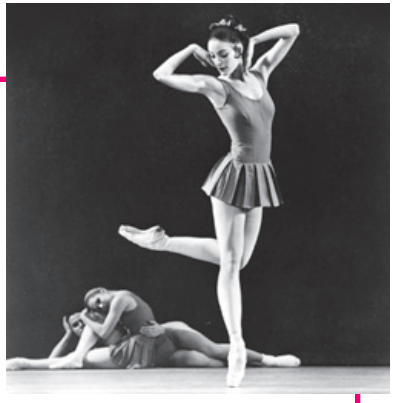
Celebrating 50 Years



1969

Graduates from Canada's National Ballet School and joins the Corps de Ballet.

Awarded the Silver Medal in the Women's Category at the Second International Ballet Competition in Moscow, also winning first prize for Best Pas de Deux with Frank Augustyn. The duo performed the Bluebird Pas de Deux from *The Sleeping Beauty*.

1973

Debuts in the role of Princess Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty* with Rudolf Nureyev and they begin a celebrated partnership.

1971

Debuts in *Swan Lake* at the age of 19 while still a member of the Corps de Ballet, replacing an injured Veronica Tennant and is promoted to Principal Dancer.

With Frank Augustyn in *Afternoon of a Faun* (1977).

Elite Syncopations (1978).

1980

Photographed by Andy Warhol for commissioned silk screen portrait.

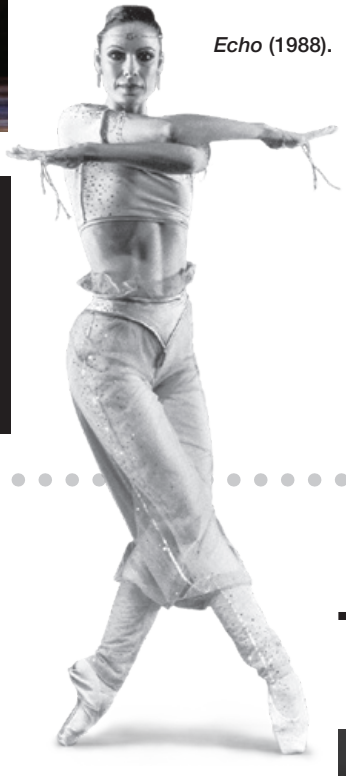
With Reid Anderson in *Onegin* (1984).

The Merry Widow (1986).

1989

CBC TV airs *Karen Kain: Prima Ballerina* directed by Norman Campbell.

La Ronde (1987).



Echo (1988).

1994

Performs her final *Swan Lake* on November 25.

1991

Made a Companion of the Order of Canada, the highest honour in the country.

With Jeremy Ransom in *The Taming of the Shrew* (1992).

With Graeme Mears in *Now and Then* (1993).

A Month in the Country (1995).

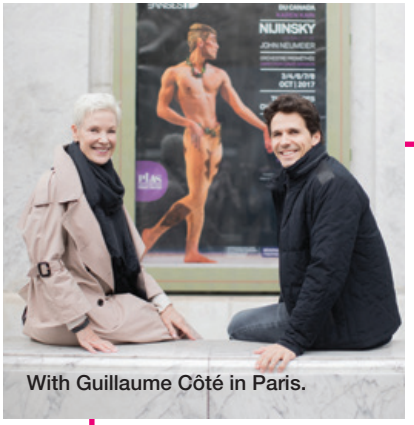
1997

Embarks on a cross Canada Farewell Tour performing James Kudelka's *The Actress*.

With Rex Harrington.

2013

Returns The National Ballet of Canada to the international stage with successful tours to London, England and Washington and to Los Angeles and New York City the following year.



With Guillaume Côté in Paris.

Appointed Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada.

2005

2015

Awarded a 2015 Dance Magazine Award, presented by Mikhail Baryshnikov in New York City.

2017

Tours the company to Paris, France for the first time in 45 years with John Neumeier's *Nijinsky* at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées.

Invites Canadian and internationally acclaimed choreographers to work with The National Ballet of Canada.

Christopher Wheeldon

Dominique Dumais

Wayne McGregor

Sabrina Matthews

2018

Tours the company to San Francisco, Hamburg, Germany and Moscow and St. Petersburg in Russia.

2019

Celebrates 50 glorious years with The National Ballet of Canada.

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Giselle

World Premiere

Orpheus Alive with Chaconne

Etudes

with Piano Concerto #1 & Petite Mort

The Nutcracker

World Premiere

New Work by Crystal Pite

with Chroma & Marguerite and Armand

Romeo and Juliet

World Premiere

Swan Lake

Directed and Staged
by Karen Kain

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Gatefold: Karen Kain in *Romeo and Juliet* (1982). Photo by
Andrew Oxenham. Karen Kain (2018). Photo by Karolina Kuras.
Karen Kain by Andy Warhol (1980).