THE NATIONAL Ballet OF CANADA

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

Media Release

Principal Casting Announced for Apollo & Night & The Sea Above, The Sky Below & Paquita

Opens Winter Season

February 15, 2019 ... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada, today announced the principal casting for the winter mixed programme of **George Balanchine**'s *Apollo*, the Canadian premiere of *Night* by **Julia Adam**, Choreographic Associate **Robert Binet**'s *The Sea Above, The Sky Below* and a new adaptation of *Paquita* by Associate Artistic Director **Christopher Stowell**. The programme opens the company's Winter Season and is onstage March 1 – 3 & March 20 – 21, 2019. #ApolloNBC #NightNBC #TheSeaAboveTheSkyBelowNBC #PaquitaNBC

The 2018/19 season marks Principal Dancer **Guillaume Côté**'s 20th anniversary with the company. This milestone achievement will be recognized at the March 2, 2019 performance when he reprises the title role in *Apollo*, Balanchine's masterpiece of neo-classicism. Making their Toronto debuts as Apollo are Principal Dancer **Harrison James** and First Soloist **Brendan Saye**. Principal Dancers **Francesco Gabriele Frola** and **Evan McKie** and Second Soloist **Félix Paquet** will make their debuts as Apollo this season.

Guillaume Côté's Biography >

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Night by Canadian Julia Adam has enchanted audiences in Paris, London and New York. Originally created for San Francisco Ballet in 2000 with two female leads, Ms. Adam reimagines the work for its National Ballet premiere with two male dancers in the lead roles. The opening night performance of *Night* features Principal Dancer **Skylar Campbell** and Second Soloist **Ben Rudisin**.

The Sea Above, The Sky Below is an intricate pas de trois by **Robert Binet**. The opening night will feature Principal Dancer **Heather Ogden**, who makes her debut in the work, with Principal Dancer **Harrison James** and Second Soloist **Félix Paquet**.

The National Ballet first performed *Paquita* in 1991. **Christopher Stowell** has created a new adaptation, after the classic 1881 version by **Marius Petipa**. Making their debuts on opening night will be Principal Dancers **Jillian Vanstone** and **Francesco Gabriele Frola**.

The popular pre-performance Ballet Talk series, **See the Music, Hear the Dance**, returns this March. Led by Principal Conductor and Music Director **David Briskin** and featuring The National Ballet of Canada Orchestra, ticket holders to the March 20, 2019 performance are invited to the talk which will begin at 6:25 pm.

Watch the *Apollo* Trailer

Watch *The Sea Above, The Sky Below* Trailer

Principal Casting

Apollo
Apollo
Brendan Saye (March 1 at 7:30 pm)
Harrison James (March 2 at 2:00 pm)
Guillaume Côté (March 2, 20 at 7:30 pm)
Félix Paquet* (March 3 at 2:00 pm)
Evan McKie* (March 21 at 2:00 pm)
Francesco Gabriele Frola* (March 21 at 7:30 pm)

Terpsichore
Heather Ogden (March 1, 2, 20 at 7:30 pm)
Svetlana Lunkina (March 2, 3, 21 at 2:00 pm/March 21 at 7:30 pm)

Polyhymnia
Jeannine Haller (March 1, 2, 20 at 7:30 pm/March 21 at 2:00 pm)
Jillian Vanstone (March 2, 3 at 2:00 pm/March 21 at 7:30 pm)
Emma Hawes* (March 20 at 7:30 pm)

Calliope
Miyoko Koyasu (March 1, 2, 20, 21 at 7:30 pm)
Calley Skalnik (March 2, 3, 21 at 2:00 pm)

Night
Skylar Campbell and **Ben Rudisin** (March 1, 2, 20, 21 at 7:30/March 21 at 2:00 pm)
Siphesihle November and **Félix Paquet** (March 2, 3 at 2:00 pm)

The Sea Above, The Sky Below
Heather Ogden*, **Harrison James**, **Félix Paquet** (March 1, 2, 20 at 7:30 pm/March 21 at 2:00 pm)
Hannah Fischer*, **Brendan Saye***, **Christopher Gerty*** (March 2,3 at 2:00 pm)
Hannah Fischer, **Brendan Saye**, **Félix Paquet** (March 21 at 7:30 pm)

Paquita
Jillian Vanstone and **Francesco Gabriele Frola** (March 1, 2, 20 at 7:30 pm)
Emma Hawes and **Naoya Ebe** (March 2, 21 at 2:00 pm)
Heather Ogden and Harrison James (March 3 at 2:00pm/March 21 at 7:30 pm)

Pas de Trois
Rui Huang, **Jordana Daumec** and **Naoya Ebe** (March 1, 20 at 7:30 pm)
Jeannine Haller, **Miyoko Koyasu** and **Skylar Campbell** (March 2 at 2:00 pm)
Rui Huang, **Jordana Daumec** and **Jack Bertinshaw** (March 2 at 7:30 pm)
Jeannine Haller, **Miyoko Koyasu** and **Donald Thom** (March 3 at 2:00 pm)
Rui Huang, **Jordana Daumec** and **Jack Bertinshaw** (March 21 at 2:00 pm)
Tirion Law, **Meghan Pugh** and **Skylar Campbell** (March 21 at 7:30 pm)

Variations
I
Jenna Savella (March 1, 2, 20 at 7:30 pm/March 21 at 2:00 pm)
Rui Huang (March 2, 3 at 2:00 pm/March 21 at 7:30 pm)

II
Emma Hawes (March 1, 2, 20 at 7:30 pm)
Hannah Fischer (March 2 at 2:00 pm/March 21 at 7:30 pm)
Kathryn Hosier (March 3, 21 at 2:00 pm)

III
Heather Ogden (March 1, 2, 20 at 7:30 pm)
Jenna Savella (March 2 at 2:00 pm/March 21 at 7:30 pm)
Chelsy Meiss (March 3, 21 at 2:00 pm)

IV
Chelsy Meiss (March 1, 2, 20 at 7:30 pm)
Calley Skalnik (March 2 at 2:00 pm/March 21 at 7:30 pm)
Elena Lobsanova (March 3 at 2:00 pm)
Miyoko Koyasu (March 21 at 2:00 pm)

* Debut

All casting is subject to change.

More Information About *Apollo* & *Night* & *The Sea Above, The Sky Below* & *Paquita* >

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

Night is generously supported by The Gail Hutchison Fund for New Creations, with additional support from The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation and The Producers' Circle.

The Sea Above, The Sky Below costume design by Erdem Moralioglu is generously supported by Suzanne Rogers.

The Producers' Circle: Gail & Mark Appel, John & Claudine Bailey, Inger Bartlett & Marshal Stearns, Gail Drummond & Bob Dorrance, The Thor E. and Nicole Eaton Family Charitable Foundation, Sandra Faire & Ivan Fecan, Kevin & Roger Garland, Ira Gluskin & Maxine Granovsky Gluskin, The William & Nona Heaslip Foundation, Anna McCowan-Johnson & Donald K. Johnson, O.C., Judy Korthals & Peter Irwin, Judith & Robert Lawrie, Mona & Harvey Levenstein, Jerry & Joan Lozinski, The Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain, C.C., Julie Medland, Sandra Pitblado & Jim Pitblado, C.M., Lynda & Jonas Prince, Susan Scace & Arthur Scace, C.M., Q.C., Gerald Sheff & Shanitha Kachan and Noreen Taylor, C.M. & David Staines, C.M., O.Ont.

Skylar Campbell is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Tricia Younger.

Guillaume Côté is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Emmanuelle Gattuso, C.M. and Allan Slaight, C.M.

Naoya Ebe is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Gretchen Ross.

Francesco Gabriele Frola is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Sherry and Edward Drew.

Harrison James is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Lucy White.

Elena Lobsanova is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Sandra Faire & Ivan Fecan.

Svetlana Lunkina is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Anna McCowan-Johnson & Donald K. Johnson, O.C.

Heather Ogden is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Ira Gluskin & Maxine Granovsky Gluskin.

Jillian Vanstone is sponsored through *Dancers First* by George & Kathy Dembroski.

Hannah Fischer is sponsored through *Dancers First* by an anonymous donor.

Chelsy Meiss is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Diana St. B. Weatherall.

Jenna Savella is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Elvio & Marlene DelZotto.

Brendan Saye is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Robin Vaile Robinson.

Christopher Gerty is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Ms. Nancy Viner & Dr. Raymond Stein.

Kathryn Hosier is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Donna Meyers & Doug Richmond.

Félix Paquet is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Stephen Delaney & Robyn McCallum.

Ben Rudisin is sponsored through *Dancers First* by an anonymous donor.

Siphesihle November is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Jerry & Joan Lozinski.

Meghan Pugh is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Cornell Wright & Sarah McEvoy.

Calley Skalnik is sponsored through *Dancers First* by an anonymous donor.

The National Ballet of Canada gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of the Canada Council for the Arts; the Ontario Arts Council; the City of Toronto through the Economic Development & Culture Department; the Government of Canada – Department of Canadian Heritage, through the Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism; and the Government of Ontario through The Honourable Michael Tibollo, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

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THE NATIONAL Ballet OF CANADA

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

Media Release

Canadian Choreographer Julia Adam's Night Makes Company Premiere March 2019

September 4, 2018 … **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada today announced that *Night*, by Canadian choreographer and former National Ballet dancer **Julia Adam**, will make its company premiere during the Winter Season. *Night* will be performed with *Apollo*, *The Sea Above, The Sky Below* and *Paquita* March 1 – 3 and March 20 – 21, 2019 at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

Created for San Francisco Ballet in 2000, *Night* is a contemporary odyssey into one person's nocturnal dreams. Inspired by the dreamscape paintings of **Marc Chagall**, *Night* features an original and commissioned score by **Matthew Pierce** with costume designs by **Benjamin Pierce** and lighting design by **Lisa J. Pinkham**. The work was toured by San Francisco Ballet to the Palais Garnier in Paris, London's Royal Opera House and the City Center in New York City. Since it premiered, *Night* has also been added to the repertoire of The Joffrey Ballet in Chicago.

Ms. Adam trained at Canada's National Ballet School and danced with the National Ballet as a member of the Corps de Ballet from 1984 to 1988 before joining San Francisco Ballet

where she was a Principal Dancer until her retirement in 2002. She is recognized as one of North America's most exciting choreographic voices and has created over 60 works to critical acclaim for numerous companies including San Francisco Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, Houston Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theater, Atlanta Ballet and Nashville Ballet.

More information on *Apollo & Night & The Sea Above, The Sky Below & Paquita* >

– 30 –

Night is generously supported by The Gail Hutchison Fund for New Creations, with additional support from The Producers' Circle.

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

The Sea Above, The Sky Below costume design by Erdem Moralioglu is generously supported by Suzanne Rogers.

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Barry Hughson
Executive Director

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2018/19 Roster

Celia Franca, C.C.
Founder

George Crum
Music Director Emeritus

Karen Kain, C.C.
Artistic Director

Barry Hughson
Executive Director

David Briskin
Music Director and Principal Conductor

Christopher Stowell
Associate Artistic Director

Magdalena Popa
Principal Artistic Coach

Lindsay Fischer
Artistic Director, YOU dance / Principal Ballet Master

Rex Harrington, O.C.
Artist-in-Residence

Peter Ottmann
Senior Ballet Master

Mandy-Jayne Richardson
Senior Ballet Mistress

Skylar Campbell, Guillaume Côté, Jurgita Dronina, Naoya Ebe, Francesco Gabriele Frola, Greta Hodgkinson, O.Ont., Harrison James, Elena Lobsanova, Svetlana Lunkina, Evan McKie, Heather Ogden, Sonia Rodriguez, Piotr Stanczyk, Jillian Vanstone, Xiao Nan Yu

Lorna Geddes, Stephanie Hutchison, Etienne Lavigne, Alejandra Perez-Gomez, Jonathan Renna, Rebekah Rimsay, Tomas Schramek, Hazaros Surmeyan

Jack Bertinshaw, Jordana Daumec, Hannah Fischer, Emma Hawes, Tanya Howard, Alexandra MacDonald, Chelsy Meiss, Tina Pereira, Jenna Savella, Brendan Saye

Joe Chapman, Christopher Gerty, Spencer Hack, Kathryn Hosier, Rui Huang, Miyoko Koyasu Tiffany Mosher, Félix Paquet, Brent Parolin, Ben Rudisin, Donald Thom

Jimmy Coleman, Trygve Cumpston, Brenna Flaherty, Giorgio Galli, Hannah Galway, Selene Guerrero-Trujillo, Jeannine Haller, Peng-Fei Jiang, Soo Ah Kang, Tirion Law, Antonella Martinelli, Mallory Mehaffey, Larkin Miller, Siphesihle November, Jaclyn Oakley, Andreea Olteanu, Clare Peterson, Meghan Pugh, Teagan Richman-Taylor, Nicholas Rose, Kota Sato, Calley Skalnik, Alexander Skinner, Nan Wang, Ethan Watts

RBC Apprentice Programme / YOU dance: Jason Ferro, Alexandra Hall, Nico Janssen, Thomas Leprohon, Noah Parets, Genevieve Penn Nabity, Michael Rinderle, Tene Ward, Jennifer Watembach, Daina Zolty

Robert Binet
Guillaume Côté
Choreographic Associates

Jeff Morris
Liliane Stilwell
Stage Manager

Lorna Geddes
Pointe Shoe Manager / Assistant Ballet Mistress

Joysanne Sidimus
Guest Balanchine Répétitieur

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Apollo

Choreography: George Balanchine (c) The George Balanchine Trust
Staged by: Lindsay Fischer and Christopher Stowell
Music: Igor Stravinsky, *Apollon Musagète*
By arrangement with Boosey & Hawkes, INC., publisher and copyright owner.
Lighting Design: Robert Thomson

Premiere: Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, Théâtre Sarah-Bernhardt, Paris, June 12, 1928
The National Ballet of Canada Premiere: Hummingbird Centre (now Sony Centre for the Performing Arts), Toronto, February 18, 1999

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

All performances of *Apollo*, a Balanchine® Ballet, are presented by arrangement with The George Balanchine Trust and have been produced in accordance with the Balanchine Style® and Balanchine Technique® Service standards established and provided by the Trust.

The company's Canadian tours are made possible with the generous support of The John and Margaret Bahen Fund of The National Ballet of Canada, Endowment Foundation.

Performance Dates:
January 31 – February 2, 2019
National Arts Centre, Ottawa

March 1 – 3 & March 20 – 21, 2019
Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts

Apollo was first performed by Diaghilev's Ballets Russes on June 12, 1928. It was the first ballet choreographed by George Balanchine to receive international recognition and is the earliest work that illustrates Mr. Balanchine's flair for revitalizing 19th-century classicism with a modern dance vocabulary distinctly his own. *Apollo* was his second ballet set to the music of Stravinsky and marked the beginning of his lifelong partnership with the composer.

The ballet depicts Apollo, the young god of music, who is visited and instructed by three Muses, who were also the children of Zeus and therefore his half-sisters: Calliope, Muse of poetry, whose symbol is a tablet; Polyhymnia, Muse of mime, whose symbol is the mask and Terpsichore, Muse of dance and song, whose symbol is a lyre.

Quotes

"Simply put, *Apollo* is on a short list of the greatest ballets ever."
National Post

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"Nothing was more impressive than the revival of George Balanchine's legendary *Apollo*… Apollo's cool, posed beauty seems as fresh and powerful as ever"
Times Colonist

"*Apollo* is an exceptional piece of dance architecture, beautifully danced"
The Globe and Mail

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George Balanchine

Choreographer, *Apollo*

George Balanchine was born in St. Petersburg, Russia in 1904. He joined the State Theatre of Opera and Ballet in St. Petersburg at the age of 17. In 1924, Mr. Balanchine was invited by Serge Diaghilev to join Ballets Russes in Paris and was hired as Ballet Master in 1925, holding this position until the company was dissolved in 1929. Mr. Balanchine formed his own company, Les Ballets 1933, in Paris and shortly thereafter met the American dance connoisseur Lincoln Kirstein, which led him to move to the US. In collaboration with Mr. Kirstein, Mr. Balanchine formed the School of American Ballet and American Ballet, which later became the resident ballet company at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. Mr. Balanchine was choreographer for the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo from 1944 to 1946 and in 1946, he formed Ballet Society, which became New York City Ballet in 1948. He held the title of Ballet Master with New York City Ballet until his death in 1983.

A major artistic figure of the 20th century, Mr. Balanchine revolutionized the look of classical ballet. Taking classicism as his base, he heightened, quickened, expanded, streamlined and even inverted the fundamentals of the 400-year-old language of classical ballet. This had an inestimable influence on the growth of ballet in the US. Although at first his style seemed particularly suited to the energy and speed of American dancers, especially those he trained, his ballets are now performed by all the major classical ballet companies throughout the world.

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Lindsay Fischer

Stager, *Apollo*

Born in New York City, Lindsay Fischer studied at Canada's National Ballet School. After graduating in 1978, he danced with Companhia Nacional de Bailado in Lisbon and then Het Nationale Ballet where he was a Principal Dancer. In 1987, he joined New York City Ballet as a Principal Dancer. After retiring from the stage, Mr. Fischer taught at Canada's National Ballet School until 2007. In 2008, he was appointed Director of the Professional Summer Dance Program at The Banff Centre in Alberta. Mr. Fischer has staged works for and been a guest ballet master with companies in Canada and abroad. He was a guest répétiteur for The National Ballet of Canada from 1997 to 2007 and was appointed Ballet Master with the company in 2007. In 2011, he restaged *Don Quixote* for the National Ballet. Mr. Fischer is currently the Artistic Director of YOU dance, the National Ballet's outreach programme focused on introducing young people to the world of dance and ballet.

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Robert Thomson

Lighting Designer, *Apollo* & *Paquita*

Robert Thomson is one of Canada's most prolific and versatile lighting designers. He has received numerous awards over his 40-year career including four Dora Mavor Moore Awards and the prestigious Siminovitch Prize in Theatre in 2012. For The National Ballet of Canada, Mr. Thomson served as Resident Lighting Designer for 12 seasons. His designs include *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Manon* and *Swan Lake.* Over his 13 seasons at the Stratford Festival, he designed 29 productions. During his 24 seasons at the Shaw Festival he is credited with 55 productions. He designed the Canadian Opera Company's globally acclaimed *Bluebeard's Castle* and *Erwartung*, directed by Robert Lepage. He has worked with a diverse range of companies including the National Arts Centre, Canadian Stage, Citadel Theatre, Lincoln Center Theater, Goodman Theatre, Hartford Stage, American Ballet Theatre, Seattle Opera, Grand Théâtre de Genève, Boston Ballet and Stuttgart Ballet. Mr. Thomson is an Associate Professor at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama.

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Company Premiere

Night

Choreography: Julia Adam
Music: Matthew Pierce
Costume Design: Benjamin Pierce
Lighting Design: Lisa Pinkham

Premiere: San Francisco Ballet, War Memorial Opera House, San Francisco, March 30, 2000
The National Ballet of Canada Premiere: Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, Toronto, March 1, 2019

Lead philanthropic support for *Night* is generously provided by The Producers' Circle.

The Producer's Circle: Gail & Mark Appel, John & Claudine Bailey, Inger Bartlett & Marshal Stearns, Gail Drummond & Bob Dorrance, The Thor E. and Nicole Eaton Family Charitable Foundation, Sandra Faire & Ivan Fecan, Kevin & Roger Garland, Ira Gluskin & Maxine Granovsky Gluskin, The William & Nona Heaslip Foundation, Hal Jackman Foundation, Anna McCowan-Johnson & Donald K. Johnson, O.C., Judy Korthals & Peter Irwin, Judith & Robert Lawrie, Mona & Harvey Levenstein, Jerry & Joan Lozinski, The Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain, C.C., Julie Medland, Sandra Pitblado & Jim Pitblado, C.M., Lynda & Jonas Prince, Susan Scace & Arthur Scace, C.M., Q.C. and Gerald Sheff & Shanitha Kachan.

Performance Dates:
March 1 – 3 & 20 – 21, 2019
Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts

Canadian-born Julia Adam created *Night* for San Francisco Ballet in 2000, a contemporary odyssey into one person's nocturnal dreams. Inspired by the dreamscape paintings of Marc Chagall, Ms. Adam creates the impression of flying, falling and being chased. San Francisco Ballet toured the work to Palais Garnier in Paris, London's Royal Opera House and City Center in New York, further bolstering Ms. Adam's reputation as one of North America's most exciting choreographic voices.

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Julia Adam

Choreographer, *Night*

Julia Adam was born in Ottawa, Ontario, and trained at Canada's National Ballet School, graduating in 1983. She apprenticed with The National Ballet of Canada and was a member of the Corps de Ballet under the Artistic Directorship of Erik Bruhn. In 1988, Ms. Adam joined San Francisco Ballet, where she was as a Principal Dancer known for her lyricism, musicality and broad theatrical range. As a choreographer, Ms. Adam has created over 80 works for numerous companies including San Francisco Ballet, Houston Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, ABT II, Alberta Ballet Company, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Atlanta Ballet, BalletMet and Nashville Ballet. She was Artistic Associate at Ballet Memphis from 2010 to 2013, has worked as a creator with the American Conservatory Theater and also teaches and choreographs for the Marin Ballet. In 2014, Ms. Adam and her husband Aaron Lucich co-founded Julia Adam Dance in West Marin on the Pacific Coast.

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Matthew Pierce

Music, *Night*

Composer and Violinist Matthew Pierce is celebrated for his new classical scores commissioned by major American ballet companies. He has written for The Joffrey Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, BalletMet, Cincinnati Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, New York City Ballet, Houston Ballet and San Francisco Ballet. Julia Adam's *Night*, an orchestral score set to a Chagall-inspired dreamscape ballet, has been seen at the Palais Garnier in Paris, Covent Garden in London and New York City Center. *Alice (in wonderland)*, with choreography by Septime Webre, has been produced by 12 companies across the US and the world and will travel to Hong Kong, Taiwan and Perth, Australia in 2019. The Washington Post called his score for *Alice (in wonderland)*, "The cherry on top: Pierce's visionary result, a shimmering landscape that weaves together bits of our own world — Asian, Middle Eastern, pop riffs, jazz — with a contemporary edge and a spirit of discovery. And, yes, wonder."

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THE NATIONAL Ballet OF CANADA

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

Barry Hughson
Executive Director

On Stage
Four Seasons Centre
for the Performing Arts

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of Canada
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Charitable
Business Number
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Benjamin Pierce

Costume Design, *Night*

Born in Bethesda, Maryland, Benjamin Pierce was a Principal Dancer with San Francisco Ballet from 1996 to 2003. Mr. Pierce attended Canada's National Ballet School as a resident student in the early 1980's. At 15, he moved to New York City where he continued his ballet training at the School of American Ballet under the tutelage of Maggy Black. Mr. Pierce danced with American Ballet Theatre from 1986 to 1996 and began his scenic and costume design career while still dancing at San Francisco Ballet. He has since designed numerous productions for the company including those for Julia Adam's *Imaginal Disc,* Yuri Possokhov's *Study in Motion* and Possokhov and Muriel Maffre's *Ballet Mori*. A graduate of San Francisco State University Film School, Mr. Pierce is also an Emmy Award-winning TV producer.

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Lisa Pinkham

Lighting Design, *Night*

Current resident lighting designer for Houston Ballet, Lisa Pinkham has been designing lighting for dance for more than 30 years, working with classical, contemporary, modern and urban companies. Her lighting can be seen in the repertories of many national companies including American Ballet Theatre, Boston Ballet, Houston Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet and San Francisco Ballet. Internationally her work is included in the repertories of Birmingham Royal Ballet, The Norwegian National Ballet, Hong Kong Ballet, Staatsballett Berlin, Wiener Staatsballett and Singapore Dance Theatre. From 1991 to 1999, Ms. Pinkham was the Lighting Director for San Francisco Ballet and designed the lighting for over 35 of the company's productions. She was the Lighting Designer for Alonzo King's LINES Ballet from 1994 to 2001 and the Lighting Designer for the Julia Adam's Dance summer projects in California.

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The Sea Above, The Sky Below

Choreography: Robert Binet
Music: Gustav Mahler
Costume Design: Erdem Moralioglu
Lighting Design: Jeff Logue

Premiere: The National Ballet of Canada, Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, Toronto, June 6, 2017

Costume Design by Erdem Moralioglu is generously supported by Suzanne Rogers.

Performance Dates:
March 1 – 3 & March 20 – 21, 2019
Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts

The National Ballet of Canada's Choreographic Associate Robert Binet has shown himself to be one of Canada's most inventive and thoughtful dancemakers, an artist of wonderfully original physical imagination and thematic boldness.

The Sea Above, The Sky Below is a captivatingly intricate pas de trois. Created in celebration of Principal Dancer Xiao Nan Yu's 20th anniversary with The National Ballet of Canada in 2017 and remounted this season in honour of Ms. Yu's farewell season, *The Sea Above, The Sky Below* aims to embody the integrity and directness Ms. Yu brings to the creative process and the stage. In this work, the sole woman dances with two men as though she is saying a prayer for them. She guides the men forwards and emboldens them to be strong while retaining their sensitivity. The men in turn support her with gratitude.

Quotes

"A remarkable piece by choreographer-on-the-rise Robert Binet." The Globe and Mail

"Electrifying Toronto choreographer Robert Binet has been turning heads with his bold and risky works." Post City Toronto

"The young choreographer's output over the past five years have been prolific." International Arts Manager

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Robert Binet

Choreographer, *The Sea Above, The Sky Below*

Robert Binet was born in Toronto and is a graduate of Canada's National Ballet School. He was appointed Choreographic Associate of The National Ballet of Canada in 2013 and has created works for the company such as *The Dreamers Ever Leave You*, a co-production with the Art Gallery of Ontario, *Unearth*, set to an original score by Owen Pallett, *Self & Soul, These Worlds In Us* and *Orpheus Becomes Eurydice*, a co-production with The Banff Centre, as well as numerous works for the Choreographic Workshops, YOU dance programme and galas.

In 2015, Mr. Binet spoke and presented excerpts of *Orpheus Becomes Eurydice* at TEDxToronto 2015 and created *The Blue of Distance* for New York City Ballet. Mr. Binet was the first-ever Choreographic Apprentice for The Royal Ballet from 2012 to 2013 and received mentorship from Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor. In 2016, Mr. Binet returned to create *Void and Fire* for The Royal Ballet for Mr. McGregor's 10th anniversary celebrations. In 2017, *The Dreamers Ever Leave You* was presented in London, UK by The Royal Opera House featuring a mixed cast of dancers from The Royal Ballet and The National Ballet of Canada, and in 2018 it was performed on tour in Hamburg, Germany.

Mr. Binet has also created works for Ballett am Rhein, Het Nationale Ballet's junior company, Estonian National Ballet, German National Youth Ballet, The Genée International Ballet Competition and Ballet Black. His works have been presented by Fall For Dance North and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and he choreographed the music video for Owen Pallett's *Song for Five & Six* and Belle and Sebastian's *The Party Line.*

Mr. Binet was mentored by Karen Kain for the 2017 Governor General's Performing Arts Award Mentorship Program.

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Erdem Moralioglu

Costume Design, *The Sea Above, The Sky Below*

Established in London in 2005, ERDEM has come to be synonymous with versatile yet powerful femininity. Founder Erdem Moralioglu trained at the prestigious Royal College of Art in London where he remained to launch the label following his graduation. Known for his use of experimental textiles, vibrant prints, and detailed craftsmanship, Mr. Moralioglu has created a beautiful world of the delicate mixed with the bold. ERDEM has received numerous accolades over the years, including the 2008 British Fashion Council's Fashion Forward Award, 2010 inaugural Vogue / British Fashion Council Designer Fashion Fund Award, 2012 British Fashion Council's New Establishment Award, 2013 British Fashion Council's Red Carpet Award, 2014 British Fashion Council's Womenswear Designer of the Year Award, 2015 British Fashion Council's Establishment Designer Award and the 2016 Fashion Group International Fashion Star Award.

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Jeff Logue

Lighting Designer, *The Sea Above, The Sky Below*

Toronto native Jeff Logue studied theatre production at York University. In 2009, Mr. Logue joined The National Ballet of Canada as Lighting Coordinator. Before joining the company, Mr. Logue worked at the Shaw Festival for over 14 seasons including six productions as Lighting Designer and more than 30 productions as Associate Lighting Designer. In addition, he worked on *I, Claudia*, for which he was nominated for both Dora and Betty Mitchell Awards, the Eastern Canadian tour of *Pelagie* and most recently *The Drowsy Chaperone* at Sudbury Theatre Centre. Mr. Logue was the Associate Lighting Designer for *Urinetown* (Canadian Stage) and Assistant Lighting Designer for *The Producers* (Mirvish Productions). Mr. Logue has worked at most of Canada's larger regional theatres.

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Paquita

Choreography: Christopher Stowell, after Marius Petipa
Music: Ludwig Minkus
Arranged by: John Lanchbery
Set and Costume Design: José Varona
Lighting Design: Robert Thomson

Premiere: Mariinsky Ballet, Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, January 27, 1881
The National Ballet of Canada Premiere: O'Keefe Centre (now Sony Centre for the Performing Arts), Toronto, February 27, 1991

Performance Dates:
March 1 – 3 & March 20 – 21, 2019
Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts

An unabashed celebration of ballet's virtuosic possibilities, *Paquita* revels in the dazzling panache and period exoticism of 19th-century classicism. It reflects classical ballet technique of the highest calibre and transports audiences to the splendor of Imperial St. Petersburg. The variations in the ballet include popular period dances adapted and stylized for classical ballet. The greatest of the Mariinsky Ballet's ballerinas would take to the stage for performances of Paquita attended by the members of the Imperial court and the Tsar himself.

The National Ballet of Canada first performed *Paquita* in 1991. This season, Associate Artistic Director Christopher Stowell creates a new adaptation, after the classic 1881 version by Marius Petipa.

Quotes

"Free-spirited, flirtatious and bubbly… No company in the world could give a more definitive performance of one of the happiest of classics." The Globe and Mail

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Christopher Stowell

Choreography, *Paquita*
Stager, *Apollo*

Christopher Stowell was born in New York City and received his training at Pacific Northwest Ballet School and the School of American Ballet. Upon graduation, Mr. Stowell joined San Francisco Ballet where he became a Principal Dancer and remained for 16 years. In 2003, Mr. Stowell was named Artistic Director of Oregon Ballet Theatre (OBT), a position he held until 2012. During his tenure Mr. Stowell made significant additions to OBT's repertoire, bringing to Portland works from some of the world's most celebrated choreographers. Mr. Stowell has taught and coached in San Francisco, New York City, Japan, China and across Europe. He has created works for San Francisco Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Los Angeles Ballet, Diablo Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet as well as New York City Ballet Choreographic Institute. He has also staged the works of George Balanchine, Mark Morris and Christopher Wheeldon. He served as Ballet Master and Assistant to the Artistic Director at San Francisco Ballet for the 2014/15 season. In 2017, Mr. Stowell joined The National Ballet of Canada as Associate Artistic Director.

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Joanna Berman

Guest Répétiteur, *Paquita*

Joanna Berman was born and raised in San Rafael, California, where she received her dance training at the Marin Ballet under Maria Vegh. In 1984, after one year at San Francisco Ballet School, she joined the company and was promoted to Soloist in 1987. In 1988, Ms. Berman became a Principal Dancer and was one of the most celebrated members of San Francisco Ballet, before her retirement in 2002. During her tenure, she danced lead roles in full-length works such as *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Romeo and Juliet*, in addition to numerous contemporary and classical works. Ms. Berman has had works created for her by choreographers including Mark Morris, Christopher Wheeldon, Helgi Tomasson, William Forsythe, Julia Adam, Yuri Possokhov and many others. In addition to her extensive performance credits, Ms. Berman is in demand as a teacher and has served as a regisseur for San Francisco Ballet, The Australian Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Ballet BC, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Houston Ballet and Atlanta Ballet.

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