

NEW YORK CITY CENTER

AT THE CENTER OF THE ARTS FOR 75 YEARS

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Repertory announced for Balanchine: The City Center Years as part of New York City Center's 75th Anniversary Season

International celebration features
eight of the world's greatest ballet companies in six diverse programs

Special Studio 5 events and archival exhibitions

Balanchine: The City Center Years is sponsored by Barbara and David Zalaznick and American Express

75th Anniversary Season Sponsors are Stacey and Eric Mindich and the Howard Gilman Foundation

June 21, 2018/NEW YORK, NY – Arlene Shuler, New York City Center President and CEO, today announced programming for **Balanchine: The City Center Years**, the centerpiece of the 75th Anniversary Season. Beginning on October 31 (through Nov 4), an international roster of eight prestigious companies—American Ballet Theatre, Joffrey Ballet, The Mariinsky Ballet, Miami City Ballet, New York City Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, The Royal Ballet, and San Francisco Ballet—perform thirteen works over six programs.

In 1948, George Balanchine and Lincoln Kirstein founded New York City Ballet at City Center. A time of incendiary creative revolution and experimentation, it was here that Balanchine continued to develop his definitive style, which remains at the pinnacle of modern ballet. Many of Balanchine's iconic ballets from that time had world or US premieres at City Center. The repertory chosen for City Center's Balanchine tribute (four companies perform on each program to live music by the New York City Ballet Orchestra) ranges from early seminal works and monuments of modernism to essentials of classicism.

Eight ballet companies in six programs

Two of Balanchine's most beloved large-cast ballets (in their only performance during the festival) bookend the opening Program I: Miami City Ballet in the sublimely romantic **Serenade** (1935), the first ballet he made in America,



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and New York City Ballet in *Symphony in C* (1947), a grand study in classicism that filled every corner of the stage when it premiered as part of the company's first season at City Center. Rounding out the bill are two gems: *Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux* (1960), a showcase of virtuosity performed by The Mariinsky Ballet, and The Royal Ballet in *Tarantella* (1964), the charming display of speed and exuberance which was the last ballets created by Balanchine at City Center.

The four programs that follow comprise a diverse roster of quintessential Balanchine pieces. Highlights include *Apollo* (1928), Balanchine's first major collaboration with composer Igor Stravinsky, danced by The Mariinsky Ballet (Programs II and V); New York City Ballet in *Concerto Barocco* (Program II), presented as part of the company's inaugural performance at City Center; San Francisco Ballet performing *Divertimento No. 15* (1956), an eminent study in pristine classicism set to Mozart (Programs II and IV); Joffrey Ballet in *The Four Temperaments* (1946), an icon of modern ballet set to a score that Balanchine commissioned from composer Paul Hindemith (Programs III, IV, and VI); and a second rendering of the revered *Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux* performed by The Royal Ballet.

The celebration will close with a final Program VI bookended by two contemporaneous yet vastly divergent ballets—the revolutionary *The Four Temperaments* (1946) danced by Joffrey Ballet, and the classic standard-bearer, *Symphonie Concertante* (1945), by American Ballet Theatre. Between these two exemplars of Balanchine's virtuosity and vision, Paris Opera Ballet repeats the sublime Act II Divertissement Pas de Deux from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1962), and The Mariinsky Ballet again performs the precise, thrilling *Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux* (1960).

Complete programming is listed below.

Studio 5 on Balanchine

Offering behind-the-scenes conversations and performances with today's great dance artists, two special **Studio 5** programs featuring dancers who worked with Balanchine and others who inherited his legacy will complement the festival. On Thursday, October 25, former NYCB Principal Dancer and "Balanchine ballerina" **Heather Watts** will explore the repertory being presented during the festival with excerpts performed by NYCB principal dancers **Tiler Peck** and **Jared Angle**, accompanied by pianist **Cameron Grant**. When Balanchine was first approached by Kirstein to



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establish an American ballet company, his famous response was, “But first a school.” And so, the School of American Ballet (SAB) was established in 1934 as the first step toward accomplishing their dream. The specialized training that goes into the making of a Balanchine dancer will be presented in partnership with SAB as the festival’s second Studio 5 event on Monday, October 29.

Archival Exhibition

During the 75th Anniversary Season, New York City Center’s rich history is being celebrated in two striking archival exhibitions – one at the **New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center** (Oct 23 – Mar 2), and the other in a revolving installation at City Center itself. During the festival, the exhibit at City Center will shine a special light on Balanchine and New York City Ballet’s historic years as resident ballet company through a range of archival materials including photographs and other ephemera.

Tickets and General Information

Tickets for **Balanchine: The City Center Years**, on sale at noon to Members Monday, June 25 and General Public Monday, July 9, can be purchased online at NYCityCenter.org, by calling 212.581.1212, or in person at the City Center Box Office. The City Center Box Office will be closed July 29 through September 3. New York City Center is located at 131 W 55th St between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

Visit NYCityCenter.org/Balanchine for more information.

Sponsors

The 75th Anniversary Season is made possible by the generosity of our Season Sponsors Stacey and Eric Mindich and the Howard Gilman Foundation.

New York City Center gratefully acknowledges Balanchine: The City Center Years Lead Sponsors Barbara and David Zalaznick and American Express. Major support is provided by Barbara Horgan.

Additional support is provided by Deborah and Charles Adelman for Miami City Ballet’s appearance; First Republic Bank for San Francisco Ballet’s appearance; Trust for Mutual Understanding for The Mariinsky Ballet’s appearance; and The Florence Gould Foundation for The Paris Opera Ballet’s appearance.

Leadership Support for Dance at New York City Center is provided by The Harkness Foundation for Dance.



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Balanchine: The City Center Years

Oct 31 – Nov 4, 2018

Program I—Wed, Oct 31 at 8pm

Miami City Ballet **Serenade** (Tschaikovsky)
The Mariinsky Ballet **Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux** (Tschaikovsky)
The Royal Ballet **Tarantella** (Gottschalk)
New York City Ballet **Symphony in C** (Bizet)

Program II—Thu, Nov 1 at 8pm

The Mariinsky Ballet **Apollo** (Stravinsky)
New York City Ballet **Concerto Barocco** (Bach)
The Royal Ballet **Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux** (Tschaikovsky)
San Francisco Ballet **Divertimento No. 15** (Mozart)

Program III—Fri, Nov 2 at 8pm

San Francisco Ballet **Scotch Symphony** (Mendelssohn)
The Mariinsky Ballet **Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux** (Tschaikovsky)
Paris Opera Ballet Divertissement Pas de Deux from **A Midsummer Night's Dream** (Mendelssohn)
Joffrey Ballet **The Four Temperaments** (Hindemith)

Program IV—Sat, Nov 3 at 2pm

Joffrey Ballet **The Four Temperaments** (Hindemith)
Miami City Ballet **Pas de Trois (Glinka)** (Glinka)
Paris Opera Ballet **Pas de Deux from Agon** (Stravinsky)
San Francisco Ballet **Divertimento No. 15** (Mozart)

Program V—Sat, Nov 3 at 8pm

The Mariinsky Ballet **Apollo** (Stravinsky)
The Royal Ballet **Tarantella** (Gottschalk)
Paris Opera Ballet Pas de Deux from **Agon** (Stravinsky)
American Ballet Theatre **Symphonie Concertante** (Mozart)



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Program VI—Sun, Nov 4 at 3pm

Joffrey Ballet *The Four Temperaments* (Hindemith)

Paris Opera Ballet Divertissement Pas de Deux from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Mendelssohn)

The Mariinsky Ballet *Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux* (Tschaikovsky)

American Ballet Theatre *Symphonie Concertante* (Mozart)

NEW YORK CITY CENTER (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. The landmark 75th Anniversary Season pays tribute to this rich history and celebrates the institution's singular role in the arts today. For 25 years, City Center's Tony-honored Encores! series has been "an essential New York institution" (*The New York Times*), and since 2013, the Encores! Off-Center series has featured seminal Off-Broadway musicals filtered through the lens of today's innovative artists. Dance has also been integral to the theater's mission from the start and programs like the annual Fall for Dance Festival remain central to City Center's identity. Home to a roster of renowned national and international companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (City Center's Principal Dance Company) and Manhattan Theatre Club, New York City Center was Manhattan's first performing arts center, founded with the mission of making the best in music, theater, and dance accessible to all audiences. That mission continues today through robust education and community engagement programs, which bring the performing arts to over 9,000 New York City students each year, and the expansion of the theatrical experience to include art exhibitions, pre-show talks, and master classes that offer an up-close look at the work of the great theater and dance artists of our time. NYCityCenter.org

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