



ZMPR

Media Contact:

Samantha Franco
Zakarin Martinez Public Relations
samantha@zm-pr.com 305.372.2502

MIAMI CITY BALLET ANNOUNCES 2017-2018 SEASON

AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS: A CELEBRATION OF JEROME ROBBINS' 100TH BIRTHDAY; FIVE COMPANY PREMIERES; THE RETURN, AFTER TEN YEARS, OF GEORGE BALANCHINE'S GLORIOUS FULL-EVENING *JEWELS*; AND A STUNNING NEW PRODUCTION OF HIS *NUTCRACKER* WITH SETS AND COSTUMES BY ISABEL AND RUBEN TOLEDO

**Season Opens October 20 In Miami,
October 28 In Ft. Lauderdale And November 17 In West Palm Beach**

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. – (March 6, 2017) – Miami City Ballet presents its 32nd season featuring more company premieres and highlights to build upon its growing national prestige as what The New York Times calls “an exceptional troupe, by Balanchine standards, anywhere in the world.” **Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez** has curated a season that includes several of George Balanchine’s masterpieces, including the full-length *Jewels* – last performed by the company in 2007; a Robbins Celebration honoring the centennial of Jerome Robbins’ birth; an Alexei Ratmansky company premiere; and a new commission by up-and-coming contemporary choreographer Brian Brooks.

The crown jewel of the season will be a new production of *George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker*[®]. The holiday tradition you love will become even more magical, with sets and costumes designed by Cuban-American artistic power couple, **Isabel and Ruben Toledo**. MCB is retiring its 27-year-old *Nutcracker* production to make way for new enchanting sets and costumes, but of course retaining Balanchine's iconic choreography and Peter Tchaikovsky's timeless score. Projection designer Wendall K. Harrington and lighting designer James F. Ingalls, who helped create *The Fairy’s Kiss*, will round out the artistic team.

The new *George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker*[®] is a co-commission with The Music Center in Los Angeles and will have its premiere at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion Dec. 7-10. The Florida premiere on Dec. 15 at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts will feature live music by the **Opus One Orchestra**, and will be preceded by a gala dinner and followed by a cast party on stage.

Says Lopez, “I’m convinced that our new *Nutcracker* will revitalize this Balanchine masterpiece the way our *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* did two years ago!”

Major funding for the new production of *George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker*[®] has been generously provided by: Mary Spencer, Deborah and Charles Adelman, Kristi and Dean Jernigan, Susan D. Kronick and Edward M. Shumsky, and The Music Center.

Program One opens with a Balanchine masterpiece created 50 years ago – the full-length *Jewels*, a triptych of ballet at its most glamorous. First, “Emeralds” – set to the lush music of Gabriel Fauré, is Balanchine at his most romantic and lyrical. Next, “Rubies” – glittering, witty, jazzy: the Balanchine-Igor Stravinsky partnership at its most scintillating. Finally, “Diamonds” – Balanchine reaching back with Tchaikovsky to the classic grandeur of 19th-century Russian ballet at its imperial height.

Program Two is a Robbins Celebration in honor of the 100th birthday of legendary choreographer Jerome Robbins with an entire program of his work, including three company premieres and two returning favorites. For New York City Ballet’s (NYCB) famous Stravinsky Festival in 1972, Robbins concocted *Circus Polka* to celebrate the great composer. MCB will pay similar homage by premiering this enchanting *pièce d’occasion*. In *Other Dances*, he created a lyrical and charming extended duet for the reigning stars of classical ballet: Mikhail Baryshnikov and Natalia Makarova. It was a sensation! Finally, the first hit Robbins created for NYCB more than 65 years ago, *The Cage*, which still shocks with its deadly female and fierce community of voracious creatures.

Returning are *In the Night*, demonstrating three stages of love – flirtation, passion and intimacy – experienced through three *pas de deux* danced against a star-studded night sky; and *West Side Story Suite*, back by popular demand, with its show-stopping music by Leonard Bernstein. MCB’s own Sharks and Jets rumble, fall in love, dance and sing in this abbreviated version one of the greatest, and best loved, of all Broadway musicals.

Program Three features the lavish *Theme and Variations*, set in a spectacular 19th-century ballroom to the soaring music of Tchaikovsky. This is classical ballet at its grandest, with dancing that is technically demanding yet joyous and serene, and with a thrilling finale. Another Robbins favorite *The Concert (Or, The Perils of Everybody)* returns – universally acclaimed as the funniest of all comic ballets, a light-hearted exploration of unspoken human impulses and fantasies.

Lastly in this program, a **World Premiere** conceived and choreographed by **Brian Brooks**, Inaugural Choreographer in Residence at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Chicago. Known for his contemporary work in dance and theater, Brooks expands his adventurous collaborations with classically trained dancers in his first piece for MCB.

Finally: In the wake of his triumphant *The Fairy’s Kiss*, **Program Four** brings the company premiere of **Alexei Ratmansky’s *Concerto DSCH***, an amazingly inventive and exciting ballet, set to a seething Dmitri Shostakovich piano concerto. Alastair Macaulay in The New York Times had this to say: “Its dances pour forth in a continuous stream of galvanizing excitement and affectionate intimacy...The most captivating classical ballet I have seen in years.”

Two Balanchine classics close out the season: in *La Valse*, 34 dancers waltz in a mysterious ballroom to gripping music by Maurice Ravel that projects a mood of impending doom, and *Apollo*, Balanchine’s first great masterwork, which literally transformed the art of 20th-century ballet with its revolutionary neoclassical approach to dance.

The 2017-18 season opens Oct. 20 at the Adrienne Arsht Center in Miami, before moving on to the Broward Center in Ft. Lauderdale and the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach. All repertory programs are danced to live music provided by the distinguished Opus One Orchestra.

Current Miami City Ballet **Subscribers** are now renewing their preferred seats for the 2017-18 Season at www.miamicityballet.org/renew or **877.929.7010**. Single Tickets go on sale in July.

Premier Subscribers receive advance access to the best seats for all four repertory productions, save up to 15% off the regular ticket price, get free ticket exchanges and more. Renew today or get on the waitlist for the **ultimate ballet experience** – call 305.929.7010, toll-free 877.929.7010 or visit miamicityballet.org/subscribe.

###

About Miami City Ballet:

Miami City Ballet recently celebrated its 30th anniversary season, earning critical acclaim from The New York Times: "Bold, light, immediate, intensely musical, the dancing of Miami City Ballet flies straight to the heart." Led by Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez since 2012, MCB was founded in 1985 by Miami philanthropist Toby Lerner Ansin and Founding Artistic Director Edward Villella. The Company has 51 dancers and a repertoire of more than 100 ballets. MCB performs for nearly 100,000 patrons annually during its South Florida home season in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and Naples, and tours to top theaters domestically and internationally.

Miami City Ballet School, the official school of Miami City Ballet, is one of the most respected ballet training academies in America. The School's renowned faculty, challenging syllabus and affiliation with Miami City Ballet make it a place where all students – from children to adults – can receive comprehensive dance training. The School trains approximately 400 students, ages 3-18, in its year-round program, and 400 during its summer programs, granting nearly \$500,000 in scholarships annually. More than 500 adults participate in a vibrant community division.

Miami City Ballet is headquartered in Miami Beach, Fla., at the Ophelia & Juan Js. Roca Center, a facility designed by renowned architectural firm Arquitectonica.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Samantha Franco / samantha@zm-pr.com Zakarin Martinez Public Relations / 305.372.2502

Major funding for Miami City Ballet is provided by the Ford Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Louis B. Mayer Foundation and The Shubert Foundation.

The Brian Brooks World Premiere was commissioned for Miami City Ballet by the Harris Theater for Music and Dance with support from the Jay Franke and David Herro Choreographer in Residence Fund through the *Imagine* campaign.

Miami City Ballet is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. Miami-Dade County support is provided by Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners with additional support provided by the City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs program, and the Cultural Arts Council. Palm Beach County support is provided in part by the Board of County Commissioners, the Tourist Development Council and the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County. Broward County funding is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Miami City Ballet is a registered trademark of Miami City Ballet, Inc.

PROGRAM ONE

Jewels (Balanchine/Fauré, Stravinsky, Tchaikovsky)

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

Ziff Ballet Opera House

Miami, FL

Friday, October 20 at 8 pm

Saturday, October 21 at 8 pm

Sunday, October 22 at 2 pm

Broward Center for the Performing Arts

Au-Rene Theater

Fort Lauderdale, FL

Saturday, October 28 at 8 pm

Sunday, October 29 at 2 pm

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts

Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. Concert Hall

West Palm Beach, FL

Friday, November 17 at 8 pm

Saturday, November 18 at 2 pm & 8 pm

Sunday, November 19 at 1 pm

GEORGE BALANCHINE'S THE NUTCRACKER®**

(Balanchine/Tchaikovsky)

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

Ziff Ballet Opera House

Miami, FL

Friday, December 15 at 8 pm

Saturday, December 16 at 2 pm & 7 pm

Sunday, December 17 at 1 pm & 6:30 pm

Tuesday, December 19 at 7 pm

Wednesday, December 20 at 7 pm

Thursday, December 21 at 7 pm

Friday, December 22 at 2 pm & 7 pm

Saturday, December 23 at 2 pm & 7 pm

Sunday, December 24 at 12 pm

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts

Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. Concert Hall

West Palm Beach, FL

Thursday, December 28 at 7 pm

Friday, December 29 at 2 pm & 7 pm

Saturday, December 30 at 2 pm & 7 pm

****New Production**

PROGRAM TWO

Circus Polka* (Robbins/Stravinsky)

The Cage* (Robbins/Stravinsky)

Other Dances* (Robbins/Chopin)

In the Night (Robbins/Chopin)

West Side Story Suite (Robbins/Bernstein)

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

Ziff Ballet Opera House

Miami, FL

Friday, January 12 at 8 pm

Saturday, January 13 at 8 pm

Sunday, January 14 at 2 pm

Broward Center for the Performing Arts

Au-Rene Theater

Fort Lauderdale, FL

Saturday, January 27 at 8 pm

Sunday, January 28 at 2 pm

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts

Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. Concert Hall

West Palm Beach, FL

Friday, February 2 at 8 pm

Saturday, February 3 at 2 pm & 8 pm

Sunday, February 4 at 1 pm

*** Company Premiere**

PROGRAM THREE

Theme and Variations (Balanchine/Tchaikovsky)

The Concert (Robbins/Chopin)

Brian Brooks World Premiere

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

Ziff Ballet Opera House

Miami, FL

Friday, February 9 at 8 pm

Saturday, February 10 at 8 pm

Sunday, February 11 at 2 pm

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts

Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. Concert Hall

West Palm Beach, FL

Friday, March 2 at 8 pm

Saturday, March 3 at 2 pm & 8 pm

Sunday, March 4 at 1 pm

Broward Center for the Performing Arts

Au-Rene Theater

Fort Lauderdale, FL

Saturday, March 17 at 8 pm

Sunday, March 18 at 2 pm

PROGRAM FOUR

Concerto DSCH* (Ratmansky/Shostakovich)

Apollo (Balanchine/Stravinsky)

La Valse (Balanchine/Ravel)

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts

Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. Concert Hall
West Palm Beach, FL

Friday, April 6 at 8 pm

Saturday, April 7 at 2 pm & 8 pm

Sunday, April 8 at 1 pm

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

Ziff Ballet Opera House
Miami, FL

Friday, April 13 at 8 pm

Saturday, April 14 at 8 pm

Sunday, April 15 at 2 pm

Broward Center for the Performing Arts

Au-Rene Theater
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Saturday, April 28 at 8 pm

Sunday, April 29 at 2 pm

*** Company Premiere**

Miami City Ballet - Home Theater Addresses:

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County

Ziff Ballet Opera House
1300 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, FL 33132

Broward Center for the Performing Arts

Au-Rene Theater
201 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts

Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. Concert Hall
701 Okeechobee Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL 33401