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## **HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS MARK 2007 FOR CINCINNATI BALLET**

*Milestone year for artistic director, sold-out performances, acquisition of modern dance classic, collaboration with famous muse to Balanchine, plus repeat and first-ever performances in venues across the country marked calendar year*

(CINCINNATI, OH) – December 28, 2007 - During 2007, a significant milestone was achieved when Cincinnati Ballet fêted artistic director Victoria Morgan’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March 2007, with performances of *Boléro*. The program included a well-received celebratory world premiere of the same name choreographed by Morgan and danced by the entire company.

Also during 2007, which spanned its 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> seasons, Cincinnati Ballet continued to thrill audiences in Cincinnati with sold-out performances during February’s presentation of *The Sleeping Beauty* at The Aronoff Center, and during September’s *New Works* series, at the company’s intimate Mickey Jarson Kaplan Performance Studio.

During May, *Twyla Tharp, Plus* included *Baker’s Dozen*, Cincinnati Ballet’s first-ever piece from modern dance icon and famed Broadway choreographer Twyla Tharp.

Under Morgan’s guidance, Cincinnati Ballet has established a national and international presence, in addition to an increased local impact.

In July, sixteen dancers, representing over half of the company’s full-time season roster, were employed by The Cincinnati Opera. “This figure represents the largest number of Cincinnati Ballet dancers that have ever worked with the Opera off-season,” says Cincinnati Ballet Master-in-Chief Devon Carney.

Morgan’s delightful family classic *Cinderella* was presented by Ballet Hawaii in August, in Honolulu. Eight Cincinnati Ballet dancers were cast in featured roles, and Cincinnati Ballet Music Director Carmon DeLeone conducted the Honolulu Symphony.

In March, Morgan and principal dancers Kristi Capps, Janessa Touchet, Dmitri Trubchanov and Cervilio Amador were featured in the company’s first New York City performance in over 30 years at The Guggenheim Museum’s “Works & Process” series.

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In November, in partnership with The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet presented performances of *Chaconne*, George Balanchine's masterpiece at Cincinnati's Aronoff Center and at The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., where Farrell's company is based. Farrell, a Cincinnati native, was the original lead dancer of the piece, and a famous inspiration to Balanchine, one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most esteemed choreographers, during her performing career.

Cincinnati Ballet webisodes, premiered during the 2006-07 season continue to popular acclaim. Those who watch the entertaining shorts cast a vote according to the webisode's storyline, and get discounted tickets. "People think that we can't get down and be lively," says Morgan. "Webisodes give off the tone that we're hip and cool and interesting. We are serious about being part of the young community today."

Morgan is also extremely proud of Cincinnati Ballet's *Frisch's presents The Nutcracker*, which was presented in December 2007 at downtown Cincinnati's Aronoff Center. "In the past, this amazing version, by one of my favorite choreographers, Val Caniparoli, has traveled to Alaska, Detroit, and Cleveland. We have received rave reviews and have been invited to return to each of these locations over and over again. This year we toured again to Detroit, and ventured to Indianapolis for the first time."

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