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Cincinnati Ballet presents

CHACONNE: A Celebration with Suzanne Farrell

CELEBRATED DANCER AND MUSE RETURNS TO CINCINNATI

ENGAGING SERIES FEATURES THREE DIVERSE BALLETS

CINCINNATI, OH – October 9, 2007 – From November 9 - 10, 2007, Cincinnati Ballet celebrates Cincinnati native Suzanne Farrell and her enduring legacy, in artistic partnership with The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, during three performances of *Chaconne*, choreographer George Balanchine's lyrical and flowing masterpiece, at downtown Cincinnati's Aronoff Center.

This groundbreaking collaboration, combining Cincinnati Ballet dancers and dancers of Farrell's own company, underscores the incredible scope of Balanchine's musical, cultural and psychological range as transmitted by Ms. Farrell.

In addition, as part of the collaboration, on November 20, 21, 24 and 25, 2007, The Suzanne Farrell Ballet and Cincinnati Ballet will again perform *Chaconne* at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, in Washington, D.C.

"I believe in dancers," says Farrell, of her responsibility to transmit ballets like *Chaconne*. "I like to trust them and I like them to know they can trust me. Now when I teach the ballets made on me, everything I give the dancers is a suggestion. I want dancers to take what I give them and use it for a catalyst of who they are going to be [in the ballet]. I give them everything I have as a teacher, [but as] the interpreter, [they] have to find a world for it."

Also on the bill with *Chaconne: A Celebration . . .* are Trey McIntyre's lively Latin *Chasing Squirrel* and Viktor Kakaniaev's *Pairs*, an intense examination of contemporary relationships.

THREE WORKS INSPIRED BY DISTINCT MUSIC

Each of the three ballets in this wonderfully engaging series is set to a different and very distinct style of music.

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George Balanchine, one of the 20th century's most esteemed choreographers, was famously inspired by music, and equally famous for removing theatrical distractions from his dance works to reveal the essence of the music itself. Premiered in 1976, *Chaconne* (*shah-cone*), is set to evocative music from Gluck's 18th century opera *Orpheus and Eurydice*, in two sections; one soft and dreamy, the other formal and classical, delineating the relationship between how courtly behavior between a man and a woman translates directly into public etiquette. Suzanne Farrell, a noted Balanchine muse, and the original lead dancer in *Chaconne*, brings her own company and her unique musical, physical and dramatic expertise in all things Balanchine to this collaboration with Cincinnati Ballet.

Viktor Kabaniaev's *Pairs* is set to a 20th century masterpiece, Bohuslav Martinu's 1938 Concerto for Double String Orchestra, Piano and Timpani. Written in response to the growing Nazi threat at the time, it bristles with nervous energy, horror and sorrow, yet with a surface brilliance provided by the piano. Kabaniaev has put the concerto to a new use—as a springboard into his abstract story of a trio of unexplained, yet charged relationships. “I think in hard times, human beings get closer,” he says. “Martinu also composed little lyrical and beautiful themes within the darkness of the music that reveal a sense of seeking comfort and consolation between a man and a woman, which ultimately makes them stronger and better.”

For his sexy and wacky *Chasing Squirrel*, which has been called a metaphor of sexual chase, Trey McIntyre recalls being inspired while running in New York City's Central Park with the Kronos quartet's *Nuevo* album, a string quartet's homage to Mexico's rich popular musical styles, plugged into his headset. When he saw a dog “go nuts” chasing a particularly rambunctious squirrel, he envisioned the comic idea of urban women taunting “down home” males with suggestive come-ons. The resulting sporting sexual tug of war is clearly skirmish as well as hunting, with the provocative women occasionally stripping the red overalls off the swaggering men, but remaining totally in charge of the situation.

About Suzanne Farrell

According to critic Claudia La Rocco, ballerina and famous muse Suzanne Farrell, born in Mt. Healthy, a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio, is celebrated today as the “. . . woman widely heralded as the greatest ballerina of her time . . . perhaps all time,” (*The New York Times*, October 2007).

Ms. Farrell joined New York City Ballet in the fall of 1961. Her unique combination of musical, physical, and dramatic gifts quickly ignited George Balanchine's imagination, and she became the reigning ballerina of this master choreographer's late period. By the time she retired from the stage in 1989, Farrell had achieved a career that is without precedent or parallel in the history of ballet.

During her 28 years on stage, she danced a repertory of more than one hundred ballets, nearly a third of which were composed expressly for her by Balanchine and others. Often called a “muse” to Balanchine, it's true that Farrell's technical skill and physical capabilities permitted the choreographer to do things he had not been able to do until her particular gifts allowed him to imagine that such things could be done.

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But in her book *The Lives of the Muses*, author Francine Prose proposes that Farrell's relationship with Balanchine was an uncommon situation between muse and artist. "Both [Balanchine and Farrell] were artists of extraordinary stature, geniuses in their own right, and their partnership produced works of genius that, in all probability, neither could have been created alone."

Farrell has since devoted herself to keeping alive the spontaneity and musical verve that Balanchine, or "Mr. B," as he was often called, fostered in his dancers. Since 1993, ballet students have descended upon the nation's capital for three weeks of intensive study with her at the Kennedy Center. The Suzanne Farrell Ballet became a full-fledged company and an ongoing project of the Kennedy Center in 2000.

About Cincinnati Ballet's *After Hours at the Ballet Barre*

After Hours at the Ballet Barre occurs every Thursday one week before production week. **Thursday, November 1, 2007**, watch Cincinnati Ballet dancers rehearse a work from *Chaconne: A Celebration with Suzanne Farrell* for an hour beginning at 5:15 pm; afterwards mingle at an informal reception and meet the dancers at The Cincinnati Ballet Center, Mickey Jarson Kaplan Performance Studio, 1555 Central Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45214. Admission: \$5; reservations recommended. 513-621-5219.

About Cincinnati Ballet *After Parties*

Enjoy a night at the ballet, then mingle, meet the dancers and enjoy complimentary *hors d'oeuvres* and drinks during the *After Parties*, at the Cincinnati Art Galleries, 225 E 6th St.

About Cincinnati Ballet's *Footnotes*, a Pre-performance Discussion

Have you ever wanted to know the story behind a particular ballet or what was going through the choreographer's mind? Cincinnati Ballet's free pre-performance talk, *Footnotes*, is the perfect way to find out. You'll have the opportunity to hear background information, learn interesting facts and ask questions in a casual setting. *Footnotes* discussions occur forty-five minutes before every performance at the Aronoff Center Stage Room (entrance across from the Westin Art Gallery), and are led by choreographers, designers and Cincinnati Ballet directors and staff.

About Cincinnati Ballet

For 44 years, Cincinnati Ballet has been the cornerstone professional ballet company of the Cincinnati tri-state area, presenting a mix of full-length and mixed repertory ballets, regularly with live orchestral accompaniment. The company has maintained an annual *Nutcracker* series since 1974. During 2006-07, Cincinnati Ballet celebrated the tenth anniversary season of Artistic Director Victoria Morgan, who has choreographed extensively for the company, and attracted an intriguing mix of renowned choreographers to challenge her dancers in well-received world premieres. Under Morgan's guidance, Cincinnati Ballet has also established a national and international presence and enjoyed ground-breaking collaborations. The Otto M. Budig Academy, the official school of Cincinnati Ballet, is dedicated to developing dancers with a strong classical technique and unified style.

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WHAT: Cincinnati Ballet presents *CHACONNE: A Celebration with Suzanne Farrell*

WHEN: 11/9/07 – 11/10/07

Friday, November 9 at 8 pm
Saturday, November 10 at 2 pm
Saturday, November 10 at 8 pm

WHERE: The Aronoff Center
650 Walnut Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

TICKETS: \$21 - 66; at The Cincinnati Ballet Office at 513-621-5282 , or online at www.cincinnati-ballet.com.

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