

BOSTON BALLET

MIKKO NISSINEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

MEDIA CONTACT:

Jill Goddard, 617.456.6236, jgoddard@bostonballet.org

BOSTON BALLET SCHOOL PRESENTS ANNUAL NEXT GENERATION PERFORMANCE FEATURING CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON'S *THE AMERICAN*, MARIUS PETIPA'S *RAYMONDA*, AND A NEW WORK BY IGOR BURLAK

May 2, 2018 (BOSTON, MA) – Boston Ballet School (BBS) proudly presents its ninth annual Next Generation performance featuring Christopher Wheeldon's *The American*, Act III of *Raymonda* by Marius Petipa with additional choreography by Boston Ballet Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen, and a new work by BBS faculty member Igor Burlak. The program opens with *Les Passages*, which features dancers of all levels of the Pre-Professional program in pieces choreographed by BBS faculty members. This one-night-only performance takes place June 6 at the Boston Opera House.

"Next Generation shines a spotlight on the incredible young talent that we have the pleasure of developing," said Boston Ballet Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen. "Boston Ballet School is dedicated to providing the highest quality of training of dancers to ensure the success of our students who will contribute their many gifts to this living art form."

Boston Ballet School's Pre-Professional program is committed to training top talent who aspire to professional careers with Boston Ballet and other major companies. Currently, over 20 percent of Boston Ballet's dancers are graduates of the Pre-Professional program, and 95 percent of Trainee graduates secure jobs with professional ballet companies, a percentage that has increased annually.

"This program showcases the next generation of talented and dedicated dancers. Each piece was specifically selected to highlight the individual strengths of our students and emphasize our rigorous curriculum," said Boston Ballet School Director Margaret Tracey. "It is incredible to witness these dancers' personal and professional growth that has led to this defining moment and performance."

Next Generation features Boston Ballet II, Boston Ballet's second company, members of the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and 98 Pre-Professional program students, ages 13–19, from across the United States and around the world. The program opens with an orchestral performance of Beethoven's *Overture to The Creatures of Prometheus*. Then, the entire Pre-

BOSTON BALLET

MIKKO NISSINEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Professional program performs *Les Passages*, a piece set to the music of Italian opera composer Giuseppe Verdi and choreographed by BBS faculty.

Following *Les Passages* is *The American* with music by Antonín Dvořák and choreography by Tony Award-winning choreographer Christopher Wheeldon, known for his work with New York City Ballet and his Broadway adaptation of the film *An American in Paris*.

The evening continues with a new work choreographed by BBS faculty member Igor Burlak titled *Double Concerto* and set to music by Bohuslav Martinů. Burlak danced with Miami City Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, and Minnesota Ballet before joining the faculty at BBS in 2011. Burlak has been instrumental in cultivating the BBS Student Choreographic Initiative, which premiered in February of 2018.

The program closes with Act III of *Raymonda* by ballet master and choreographer Marius Petipa set to music by Alexander Glazunov with additional choreography by Boston Ballet Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen. The Pas classique hongrois (or *Raymonda Pas de Dix*) from the final act of the ballet is one of Petipa's most celebrated and enduring excerpts, and widely considered the ultimate test of the classical ballerina.

Performance Details:

Wednesday, June 6 at 7 pm

Boston Opera House

539 Washington Street

Boston, MA 20111

Conducted by Beatrice Jona Affron

Tickets start at \$29. For more information, visit bostonballet.org/school/next-generation or call 617.695.6955.

###

About Boston Ballet

Since 1963, Boston Ballet's internationally acclaimed performances of classical, neo-classical, and contemporary ballets, combined with a dedication to world-class dance education and community initiative programs, have made the institution a leader in its field, with a 54-year history of promoting excellence and access to dance.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen and Executive Director Meredith Max Hodges, the Company maintains a diverse repertoire, ranging from full-length ballets to new works by some of today's finest choreographers. Boston Ballet's second company, Boston Ballet II, is comprised of dancers who gain experience by

BOSTON BALLET

MIKKO NISSINEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

performing with the Company and independently, presenting special programs to audiences throughout the Northeast.

Boston Ballet School, the official school of Boston Ballet, has a long-standing dedication to providing exceptional dance education and ballet training to students across three studios in Boston, Newton, and the North Shore. Led by Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen and Director Margaret Tracey, the School reaches more than 5,000 students (toddler to adult) each year through its four core programs: Children's Program, Classical Ballet Program, Adult Dance Program, and Pre-Professional Program.

Boston Ballet's Department of Education and Community Initiatives (ECI) provides programming, events, and activities that connect the community to dance. ECI reaches more than 4,000 individuals in Boston, North Shore, and the surrounding communities each year through Citydance, ECI on Location, Adaptive Dance, and other community programs.

For more information, please visit bostonballet.org.

About Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra

In September 2012, the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (BPYO) was formed under the auspices of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra. Conducted by Benjamin Zander, the BPYO's motto is "Shaping Future Leaders through Music." The 120 enthusiastic and talented young musicians of the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra range in age from 12 to 21. The wide range of ages affords younger members of the orchestra the chance to collaborate with older students who have already begun their professional careers. In turn, collegiate members of the group are offered the opportunity to nurture and coach the future generations.

For more information, please visit bostonphil.org.

Boston Ballet gratefully acknowledges the following institutional partners:

Boston Cultural Council
The Boston Foundation
Klarman Family Foundation
Massachusetts Cultural Council
National Endowment for the Arts

Boston Ballet would like to thank *The Boston Globe* and WBUR for being media partners.

Next Generation is underwritten by a generous gift from Donna and Michael Egan. Ticket sales directly support scholarships and financial aid for Boston Ballet School students.