

SPOTLIGHT ON CREATION! THE 63RD SEASON OF LES GRANDS BALLETS IS LAUNCHED



Montreal, March 26, 2019 – Under the watchword of creation, Ivan Cavallari is starting his third season as artistic director of Les Grands Ballets. At once ample, eclectic and surprising, the 2019-2020 season, marked by creations and ballet classics and with a focus on themes of natural elements, of destiny and energy, should satisfy the expectations of all lovers of dance.

“The elements related to nature are intimate to the earth and to the moon, and dependent on the relationship between the two. From that relationship an incredible energy bursts forth, a driving force of life... Movement is energy: dance struggles constantly against the force of gravity. These clashing energies are intimately related to the life cycle, at the heart of the 2019-2020 season.”

Ivan Cavallari

CREATIONS AND BALLETS CLASSICS

When he arrived in Montreal, Mr. Cavallari spoke of the importance he assigned to creation. He also displayed a desire and expressed the need of Les Grands Ballets to restage the great classics as a means of renewing the company’s repertoire. The upcoming season will do just that with an immense creation to open the season: ***Carmina Burana***, by choreographer Edward Clug. Garrett Smith, meanwhile, will be offering the Montreal audience a choreography to Beethoven’s monumental ***Symphony No. 5*** as part of an evening devoted to the great composer, the 250th anniversary of whose birth is being celebrated this year. An entire evening entitled ***Luna*** will consist of the work of three choreographers – Andrew Skeels, Lesley Telford and Vanesa García-Ribala Montoya – inspired by the heavenly bodies. Les Grands Ballets will also be welcoming the Georgian National Ballet for the first time in Montreal, with the timeless ***Romeo and Juliet***, and choreographer Marcia Haydée will revisit ***Sleeping Beauty*** for Les Grands Ballets’ dancers. And of course, we have to mention the return of Fernand Nault’s traditional ***Nutcracker***, without which the holiday season would quite simply not be the same.

Photo: Sasha Onyschenko/ Dancers: Jean-Sébastien Couture, Chisato Ide

THE GRANDS BALLETS ORCHESTRA AT THE HEART OF THE SEASON

Music will once again this year play a role of great importance in the season. If it goes without saying that the works of Beethoven and of Carl Orff take on their full meaning only with orchestra, two other ballets will also benefit from the presence of Les Grands Ballets Orchestra's musicians, led by our new principal conductor, Dina Gilbert: *The Nutcracker* and *Sleeping Beauty*, both works by Tchaikovsky.

CHOOSING ONE'S DESTINY

Carmina Burana
and ***Stabat MATER***

Choreographies: Edward Clug

Music: Carl Orff

With Les Grands Ballets Orchestra

October 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12, 2019
Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier at Place des Arts

Romanian choreographer **Edward Clug**, an original voice in European dance, turns to a majestic work from the 20th-century repertoire, *Carmina Burana*, inspired by medieval poetry and with which Carl Orff enjoyed one of the greatest successes by a composer during his lifetime. For Ivan Cavallari, the intrinsic strength of this spectacular grand-scale work testifies to the power we possess to change our destinies, in this world marked by individualism, dominated by social networks. To round off the program, Clug revisits his moving dialogue with Pergolesi's *Stabat MATER*, which premiered in Montreal two years ago. An evening rich in life, hope and love.

MAGICAL JOURNEY

The Nutcracker

Choreography: Fernand Nault
Adapted from the tale by E.T.A. Hoffman

Music by P. I. Tchaikovsky

With Les Grands Ballets Orchestra

December 12 to 30, 2019
Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier at Place des Arts

Every year for 56 years, the return of *The Nutcracker* to Montreal delights the young and not-so-young alike. In the company of Clara, Fritz and a flock of children, set sail on a magical journey. A stopover in the Land of Snow, an unforgettable visit to the Kingdom of Sweets and an audience with the Sugar Plum Fairy are all on the bill! This feast for the eyes and the heart, a legacy of choreographer **Fernand Nault's** to music by Tchaikovsky, sumptuously embodies the spirit of the holidays.

DANCING BEETHOVEN

Symphony No. 5

Choreography: Garrett Smith

Symphony No. 7

Choreography: Uwe Scholz

Music: Ludwig Van Beethoven

With Les Grands Ballets Orchestra

February 19 to 23, 2020

Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier at Place des Arts

Les Grands Ballets are looking to mark Beethoven's 250th birthday in a significant way, first with the creation of American **Garrett Smith's** to the remarkable *Symphony No. 5*, which ranks with the world's most celebrated works, recognizable from its very first notes. An ode to freedom rediscovered. Presented in the second part, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7*, "the apotheosis of the dance," according to Richard Wagner, is one of the masterworks of the late German choreographer **Uwe Scholz**, one that instantly won the hearts of Montrealers when it opened the season two years ago.

CELESTIAL INFLUENCE

Luna

Choreographies: Andrew Skeels, Vanesa García-Ribala Montoya, Lesley Telford

With Les Grands Ballets Orchestra

March 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28, 2020

Théâtre Maisonneuve at Place des Arts

Three choreographers from Les Grands Ballets draw inspiration from the moon and the motion of the tides for a unique evening. Montrealer by adoption **Andrew Skeels**, a winner of the 2018 Grand prix de l'Association professionnelle de la critique in Paris, with *Vessel* proposes a reflection on humanity, a meditation on grace and compassion; while **Vanesa G.R. Montoya**, first dancer with Les Grands Ballets, presents a rich and dense work around the themes of heritage, spirituality and the ties among human beings. Vancouver artist **Lesley Telford**, who has also danced with Nederland Dans Theater, uses the moon as a metaphor for goals that seem out of reach. This triptych takes a look both clear-eyed and optimistic at the course of events; three singular visions whose common ground is hope and resilience.

ETERNAL LOVE

Romeo and Juliet

Georgian National Ballet

Choreography: Mikhail Lavrovsky

Music: Sergei Prokofiev

April 22 to 26, 2020

Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier at Place des Arts

For its first visit to Montreal, the Georgian National Ballet is staging a great classic, a mythic love story if ever there was one, *Romeo and Juliet*, revisited by Mikhail Lavrovsky, son of Leonid Lavrovsky, who in 1940 premiered the first version of the work at the Kirov (currently the Mariinsky Theater) in Saint-Petersburg, to a divine score by Sergei Prokofiev. In Verona, Italy, Romeo and Juliet fall in love, despite the inextinguishable hatred between their families, the Montagues and the Capulets. This masterpiece of Shakespeare's has unfailingly moved and inspired artists in all disciplines over the centuries.

FOR A KISS

Sleeping Beauty

Choreography: Marcia Haydée after Marius Petipa

Music: P. I. Tchaikovsky

June 3 to 7, 2020

Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier de la Place des Arts

The day of her christening, a young princess receives a curse from the fairy Carabosse, whom no one had invited. She predicts that on the day of her 16th birthday, Aurore will prick her finger and die as a result. Fortunately, the Lilac Fairy succeeds in lifting the malediction from poor Aurore, so that she falls instead into a deep sleep lasting 100 years and from which only a kiss of pure love can rouse her.

Les Grands Ballets is welcoming for the first time choreographer Marcia Haydée and her Belle, inspired by the Marius Petipa classic, which is based on the tales of Perrault and the brothers Grimm and the magnificent music of Tchaikovsky. As the characters make their way through the tale, the Manichean conflict between Good (the Lilac Fairy) and Evil (Carabosse) endures right up to the dénouement.

Make way for the new!

The company currently numbers some forty dancers. Joining the troupe for the coming season will be three apprentices from the École supérieure de ballet du Québec: **Jordan Faye**, **Tatyana Lerebours** and **Catherine Toupin**. Perpetuating the tradition of great ballet companies, Les Grands Ballets is happy to support and thereby encourage the rising generation.

THE GREAT PHILANTHROPISTS

The **Grands Ballets' Nutcracker Fund for children**, which has already made it possible for over 40,000 children who are sick, in difficulty or from disadvantaged backgrounds to take part in educational workshops and to attend a performance of *The Nutcracker* free of charge, carries on with its work of democratizing ballet, notably by way of benefit events. More than 500 donors will attend the traditional **Benefit Brunch** on December 15 at Place des Arts.

The **annual Benefit Gala**, a much-anticipated philanthropic event on Montreal's social calendar, will take place in the spring of 2020.

The **Jeunes Gouverneurs**, a committee of young professionals whose primary mission is to raise the awareness of the new generation to philanthropy, will be offering a number of events that provide opportunities for networking in a festive atmosphere throughout the season.

The Nutcracker Market

The year 2019 will see the 10th edition of the Nutcracker Market, a one-of-a-kind event at which exhibitors turn over 10 percent of sales to the Nutcracker Fund for children. The Market will run from November 28 to December 8 at Palais des congrès de Montréal.

Packages: so you don't miss a thing!

The best seats are reserved for subscribers, with discounts of up to 50 percent. Information on packages is available at 514 849-0269 or on Les Grands Ballets' Internet site at www.grandsballets.com, where information on shows, the company and the dancers can also be found.

Partners

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal receives the support of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Conseil des arts de Montréal.

Information:

Natalie Dion

Chef Officer, Public Relations and Media

Tel.: 514 849.8681 x 239