

BALLET SAN JOSE

BALLET SAN JOSE Announces 2007-08 Season

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: 2007-08 Ballet Season

CARMINA BURANA

November 15-18, 2007

(presented with **SUMMERSCAPE**)

THE NUTCRACKER

December 13-23, 2007

(With a special one-hour children's matinee on Saturday, December 8th)

SWAN LAKE

February 15-24, 2008

JUST BALANCHINE

Spring Repertory Program

March 27-30, 2008

**THEME AND VARIATIONS, SERENADE, and THE FOUR
TEMPERAMENTS**

THE FIREBIRD

May 1-4, 2008

(presented with **MENDELSSON SYMPHONY**)

BALLET SAN JOSE SCHOOL ANNUAL SHOWCASE

May 24-25

(presented with a one-hour story ballet by Hans Christian Andersen...TBA)

Ballet Box Office: (408) 288-2800

Buy Online: www.balletsanjose.org

Prices: Subscriptions run from \$90 to \$275 with one-time handling charge of \$12 per order (not per subscription). Single tickets will begin to go on sale in mid-September and run from \$25 to \$82. (Exception: School Showcase and Children's Matinee performances are discount priced at \$15 to \$45)

All performances (with the exception of the Annual School Showcase) are held at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, 255 Almaden Boulevard (at the corner of Park Avenue) in downtown San Jose.

NOTES ON THE BALLETS

CARMINA BURANA November 15-18, 2007

Choreography: Dennis Nahat

Music: Carl Orff (musical score of 1937)

Performed with Symphony Silicon Valley, the 100-voice Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale, Cantabile Youth Singers and 3 featured vocal soloists.

Scenery and Costumes: David Guthrie

Ballet San Jose turns up the heat with a fiery celebration of sensuality. Gluttony, intoxication, sex... that's **CARMINA BURANA**. Set to Carl Orff's popular choral-orchestral work of 1937, the tour de force ballet is inspired by bawdy texts from a Bavarian monastery written sometime during the 13th century. Says Nahat, "Carmina shows the fortune wheel of life. It's about the life cycle, the ups and downs of life, spring, beginnings, falling in love. It's about good fortune, bad fortune; love one moment, gone the next. It's about relationships of people, and the question is: Is love or sex more important? The characters run the gamut from monks to thieves and prostitutes." Nahat's version is set on pointe, which differs from John Butler's widely circulated version from the 1950s. The stage-filling spectacle, with stunning medieval sets and costumes by David Guthrie, includes a dramatization of the Roasted Swan scene, with the wails of a bassoon and the voice of a high tenor portraying the cries of the plucked swan as it is slaughtered, cooked and eaten at a pagan feast.

Presented with **SUMMERSCAPE**

Choreography: Dennis Nahat

Music: Concerto No. 2 in F Major for Piano and Orchestra, Opus 102

Composer: Dimitri Shostakovich

Dennis Nahat's **SUMMERSCAPE** is a refreshing affirmation of life and summer romance, found and lost, danced to music by Dimitri Shostakovich. It is a free-flowing abstract ballet that celebrates love, both humorous and romantic. Large hanging sculptures by world-renowned artist Dorothy Gillespie adorn the stage as 24 dancers costumed in white leotards and tights with purple, blue, and yellow accents reflect the colors of the artwork suspended above them.

This Production is generously sponsored by



COMMUNITIES OF DISTINCTION

DATES/TIMES

Thursday, November 15 at 8:00pm
Friday, November 16 at 8:00pm
Saturday, November 17 at 8:00pm
Sunday, November 18 at 1:30pm (matinee)

THE NUTCRACKER December 13-23, 2007

Choreography: Dennis Nahat
Ballet Scenario: Dennis Nahat and Ian Horvath
Music: Nutcracker Suite
Composer: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Scenery and Costumes: David Guthrie
Performed with Symphony Silicon Valley

Hailed as “one of the most entertaining versions of Nutcracker anywhere in the country”, this treasured holiday classic returns for an extended run with full orchestra, stunning lobby decorations, and carolers and characters from the show meeting and greeting guests before every performance. This is a true, “Nutcracker Experience.”

DATES/TIMES

Saturday, December 8 at 1:30 (children’s 1-hour matinee) special “pre-opening” performance

Thursday, December 13 at 7:30pm
Friday, December 14 at 7:30pm
Saturday, December 15 at 1:30pm (matinee) and 7:30pm
Sunday, December 16 at 1:30pm (matinee) and 7:30pm

Wednesday, December 19 at 7:30pm
Thursday, December 20 at 7:30pm
Friday, December 21 at 1:30pm (children’s 1-hour matinee) and 7:30pm (full length)
Saturday, December 22 at 1:30pm (matinee) and 7:30pm
Sunday, December 23 at 1:30 (matinee) and 6:00pm (special evening early start time)

A SPECIAL NOTE OF INTEREST: BALLET SAN JOSE RETURNS TO CLEVELAND...

For the first time since 1999, Dennis Nahat’s THE NUTCRACKER will perform in Ohio at the State Theatre at Playhouse Square for a limited engagement of 12 performances, November 23 through December 2. This appearance is part of the Playhouse Square’s 85th Anniversary Celebration.

SWAN LAKE February 15-24, 2008

Choreography and Scenario: Dennis Nahat (based on the original Ballet of 1895 by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov)

Music: Swan Lake

Composer: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Scenery and Costumes: David Guthrie

Performed with Symphony Silicon Valley

Dennis Nahat's version of one of the greatest romantic ballets ever written, features over 135 costumes and beautiful scenery from David Guthrie. Danced to a live performance by Symphony Silicon Valley, the romantic tale follows Prince Siegfried as he rescues his beloved Princess Odette from the wicked Baron von Rothbart who has cast a spell on the young beauty and turned her into the Swan Queen. Using additional works of Tchaikovsky, Nahat's prologue highlights the villainous nature of Rothbart by delving into the source of his evil.

DATES/TIMES

Friday, February 15 at 8:00pm (*Note: Unusual start day...we normally open on Thursdays*)

Saturday, February 16 at 1:30pm (children's 1-hour matinee) and 8:00pm

Sunday, February 17 at 1:30pm (matinee)

Thursday, February 21 at 8:00pm

Friday, February 22 at 8:00pm

Saturday, February 23 at 1:30pm and 8:00pm

Sunday, February 24 at 1:30pm (full-length matinee)

JUST BALANCHINE March 27-30, 2008 (Three Balanchine works)

SERENADE

Choreography: George Balanchine

Music: Serenade in C Major

Composer: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

SERENADE was Balanchine's first ballet created in the United States and was given its premiere in 1934. Set in four movements, and danced without interruption, the classical white ballet is set on 28 dancers performing on a bare stage in the moody ethereal light of the moon, and shows off the lyricism of the female corps.

THEME AND VARIATIONS

Choreography: George Balanchine

Music: Final movement of Suite No. 3 for Orchestra in G minor.

Composer: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Classic ballet in a formal setting of a great ballroom with towering pillars,

draperies, and crystal chandeliers. **THEME AND VARIATIONS** is Balanchine at his neo-classic best. The dance steps are tightly tied to the music as illustrated by the opening work of the ballerina to the principal theme played by the violins. It requires boldness in the male variations with strong leaps and swift movements.

The ensemble plays a very important part in the work with strong technique demanded in all the ensemble variations. In the imperial Russian style, **THEME AND VARIATIONS** concludes with a regal polonaise for the entire ensemble emphasizing rapid regroupings and shifting of partners.

THE FOUR TEMPERAMENTS

Choreography: George Balanchine

Music: Piano and a few Strings

Composer: Paul Hindemith

Subtitled, “Dance without a Plot”, **THE FOUR TEMPERAMENTS** is an abstract work in five parts that explores the classic belief that human beings are made up of four distinct “humors”... melancholic, sanguinic, phlegmatic and choleric. The intricate and abstract piece is danced in a Neo-Classic style that showcases the complexity of this sentiment, and evokes meditation on the different types of human personalities. The dancers are simply clothed in black leotards and pink tights.

DATES/TIMES

Thursday, March 27 at 8:00pm

Friday, March 28 at 8:00pm

Saturday, March 29 at 8:00pm

Sunday, March 30 at 1:30pm (matinee)

THE FIREBIRD May 1-4, 2008

Choreography: Dennis Nahat

Music: The Firebird

Composer: Igor Stravinsky

Scenery and Costumes: Ian Falconer

Danced to a groundbreaking score by Igor Stravinsky, this Russian fairy tale tells of a prince who captures the mysterious Firebird. To gain her release, the Firebird gives the prince a feather, with the promise of her magic intercession if he should ever need it. Little does he realize how soon he will have to call on her, and how many people she will be asked to save from the monstrous ruler of the enchanted forest, The Immortal Kastchei. When Dennis Nahat’s version of the classic story had its world premiere in October, 2005 it won rave reviews and audience acclaim. With three-dimensional scenery and dynamic costumes by Ian Falconer that range from the beautiful to the ghoulish, this **FIREBIRD** will wow adults and children alike with its passion, its drama and its magic.

Presented with: **MENDELSSOHN SYMPHONY**

Choreography: Dennis Nahat

Music: Symphony #4 in A Major, Opus 90

Composer: Felix Mendelssohn

Set to Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4, "The Italian", Nahat creates a memorable work (first performed by American Ballet Theatre in 1971) by showcasing his signature style of varied tempos and rhythms. An abstract, joyful ballet undertaken in the classical style, the piece progresses through four movements that culminate in a lively saltarello.

DATES/TIMES

Thursday, May 1 at 8:00pm

Friday, May 2 at 8:00pm

Saturday, May 3 at 1:30pm (children's 1-hour matinee of THE FIREBIRD) and 8:00pm (Full Program)

Sunday, May 4 at 1:30pm (full-length matinee)

BALLET SAN JOSE SCHOOL ANNUAL SHOWCASE May 24-25

(presented with a one-hour story ballet by Hans Christian Andersen...TBA)

DATES/TIMES

Saturday, May 24 at 1:30pm (children's series performance) and 5:30pm

Sunday, May 25 at 1:30pm

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