

Winter, 2001  
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## GRADUATION BALL ANCHORS FEBRUARY REPERTORY PROGRAM

*Three dances make up Valentine's weekend offering*

Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley will present three dances in a Valentine's weekend program February 14-17, 2002 at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. The program features Dennis Nahat's Rivulet, George Balanchine's Apollo, and David Lichine's Graduation Ball. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Valentine's Day Thursday, February 14, at 8:00 p.m. on Friday February 15 and Saturday February 16, and at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday February 17.

Dennis Nahat's Rivulet is inspired by the movement of water and set to Ernest Bloch's Concerto Grosso No. 1. The opening Prelude is strongly rhythmic with frequent alterations of two contrasting meters. The vaulting choreography reflects spiraling, twisting water as it falls from the melting snow capped mountain. The second movement is a very emotional Dirge. Set as a pas de deux, it is a resting-place of calm waters. Pastorale and Rustic Dances is the title of the third movement which shows great contrast between tranquil Pastorale sections and rollicking Swiss folk dance sections. The final movement is a skillfully crafted and vigorous Fugue. In this movement the entire company of 18 dancers rush on and off as if they are rivers pouring out into the ocean. Rivulet had its world premiere with Cleveland San Jose Ballet on October 26, 1988 at the State Theatre in Cleveland, Ohio.

Next on the bill is Apollo, one of George Balanchine's seminal early works set to music by Igor Stravinsky. Although it was not the first ballet Balanchine choreographed to a Stravinsky score, it was the first collaborative effort between the two giants. Balanchine considered Apollo "...the turning point of my life. In its discipline and restraint, its sustained oneness of feeling, the score was a revelation. It seemed to tell me that I could dare not to use everything, that I too could eliminate." The piece shows the birth and evolution of the Greek God Apollo. American writer and critic Edwin Denby called it a "masterpiece." In 1945 he wrote "Apollo is about poetry, poetry in the sense of a brilliant, sensuous, daring and powerful activity of our nature." It was first performed by Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, June 12, 1928 at the Theatre Sarah Bernhardt in Paris, France.

The program closes with Graduation Ball, David Lichine's 'high-life' one-act ballet in Ballet Russe style set to selected works of Johann Strauss. Graduation Ball is the story of a party hosted by young girls at a fashionable school in Vienna for the graduates of a nearby military academy. The festivities are held in the high, formal drawing room of the school. The girls and boys meet, amuse

themselves, discover romance, and dance until the Headmistress of the school ends the celebration. The piece features one of the great ballet 'travestie' roles in the character of The Headmistress, to be performed by Company Artistic Director Dennis Nahat. Graduation Ball was first presented by the Original Ballet Russe at the Theatre Royal, Sydney, Australia, February 28, 1940 with Tatiana Riabouchinska and David Lichine in the leading roles.

Graduation Ball and the entire Valentine's weekend program is presented February 14-17, 2002 at Center for the Performing Arts, 255 Almaden Boulevard in downtown San Jose. Tickets are \$20 to \$68 with discounts available for seniors, students, and groups. For tickets and additional information call the Ballet Box Office at (408) 288-2800 or visit the Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley website: [www.balletsanjose.org](http://www.balletsanjose.org). Tickets are also available through Ticketmaster at (408) 998-TIX or (415) 421-TIXS.

## **FACT SHEET**

### **Winter Repertory Program**

February 14-17, 2002

### **RIVULET**

Choreographer: Dennis Nahat

Composer: Ernest Bloch

Music: Concerto Grosso No. 1

First Performed: Cleveland San Jose Ballet, October 26, 1988 at the State Theatre, Cleveland, Ohio

### **APOLLO**

Choreographer: George Balanchine

Composer: Igor Stravinsky

Music: Apollo

First Performed: Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, June 12, 1928 at the Theatre Sarah Bernhardt, Paris, France

### **GRADUATION BALL**

Choreographer: David Lichine

Composer: Johann Strauss

Music: Selected works

First Performed: Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, February 28, 1940 at the Theatre Royal, Sydney, Australia

### **Performance Dates & Times**

Thursday, February 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 15, at 8 p.m.

Saturday, February 16, at 8 p.m.

Sunday, February 17, at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

### **Location**

San Jose Center for the Performing Arts  
255 Almaden Boulevard in downtown San Jose

(Ample inexpensive parking nearby)

**Tickets**

Single Tickets/\$20 to \$68

Ballet Box Office: (408) 288-2800

Tickets are also available through our website: [www.balletsanjose.org](http://www.balletsanjose.org)

Or call Ticketmaster: (408) 998-TIXS or (415) 421-TIXS

Senior and Student Discounts: \$5.00 off mid-price range seats

Additional press materials are available.

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