



HoustonBallet

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HOUSTON BALLET PERFORMS A MIXED REPERTORY PROGRAM, POETRY IN MOTION

HOUSTON, TEXAS – Due to Hurricane Harvey, Houston Ballet is unable to perform the opening two productions at the company’s home venue. However, Houston Ballet is pleased to report that select performances of fall programming have been rescheduled at THE HOBBY CENTER – SAROFIM HALL. **For a limited time on October 26 and 27 at The Hobby Center**, Houston Ballet will perform an exhilarating mixed repertory program, **Poetry in Motion**, featuring a collection of three works that reflect different traditions and expressions in ballet.

Artistic Director Stanton Welch AM debuts **Powder** in Texas with its Houston Ballet Premiere, a sensuous contemporary ballet that will bring beauty to the stage as the opening act of this mixed repertoire. Tony Award-winning Choreographer, Christopher Wheeldon OBE, returns with the enchanting **Carousel (A Dance)**. The evening concludes with an iconic display of choreography by George Balanchine, as Houston Ballet brings back **Symphony in C** for the third time.

Artistic Director Stanton Welch’s Powder – A Houston Ballet Premiere

“Fluid and sensual, this piece is a brilliant celebration of nostalgia, beauty and joy.” – **Official London Theatre**

Originally commissioned for Birmingham Royal Ballet, Artistic Director Stanton Welch’s **Powder** premiered on October 7, 1998 at Hippodrome Theatre in Birmingham, England. A production for 14 dancers, it explores the expressiveness of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791), centering on his iconic “Clarinet Concerto in A Major.” The Scenic and Costume Designer for **Powder** is Kandis Cook and the Lighting Designer is Mark Jonathan. This will be Houston Ballet’s first time performing this one-act contemporary ballet.

Similar ballets by Mr. Welch in Houston Ballet's repertoire include **Son of Chamber Symphony**, **Tapestry**, **A Dance in the Garden of Mirth**, **Maninyas**, **Indigo** and **Velocity**.

Carousel (A Dance) by Tony Award Winner, Christopher Wheeldon OBE

"Carousel (A Dance) is a perfect distillation of emotion, a successful evocation of a story without actually telling a story." – **The New York Times**

This will be Houston Ballet's second time performing the enchanting ballet **Carousel (A Dance)** by Tony Award-winning British Choreographer Christopher Wheeldon OBE. **Carousel (A Dance)** is a Co-Production between Pacific Northwest Ballet and Houston Ballet, and it premiered on November 26, 2002 by New York City Ballet at New York State Theater in New York, New York. Created as a tribute to Rodgers and Hammerstein and their beloved Broadway musical, *Carousel* (1945), Mr. Wheeldon poignantly adds his charming touch to this familiar score. Catching the emotion of the music and the doomed nature of the lead couple's relationship, this evocative and rich ballet is set to the music of Richard Rodgers (1902-1979) and Oscar Hammerstein II (1895-1960). The Costume Designer is Holly Hynes with Mark Stanley's lighting designs.

Internationally acclaimed Choreographer Christopher Wheeldon OBE is Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Morphoses/The Wheeldon Company. A former dancer with The Royal Ballet and Soloist with New York City Ballet (where he served as Resident Choreographer from 2001 to 2008), Mr. Wheeldon has led a successful and inspirational career, choreographing ballets such as **Morphoses**, **Carnival of the Animals**, **Liturg**y, **After the Rain**, **An American in Paris**, **Klavier**, **The Nightingale**, **The Rose**, **Rococo Variations** and many more. In 2015, Mr. Wheeldon won the Tony Award for Best Choreography on behalf of **An American in Paris**.

Prior ballets by Mr. Wheeldon in Houston Ballet's repertoire are **Carnival of the Animals** and **Rush**.

George Balanchine's Symphony in C Returns to Houston Ballet

"...an amazing piece of mostly symmetrical dance architecture, designed to show off classical legwork in all its crystalline glory." – **Houston Chronicle**

For the third time, Houston Ballet will revive George Balanchine's **Symphony in C**. First commissioned for Paris Opera Ballet, **Symphony in C** premiered on July 28, 1947 at Opéra Garnier in Paris, France. This neo-classical ballet is choreographed to French composer Georges Bizet's (1838-1975) ravishing "Symphony in C Major," and radiantly showcases the full company's technical aptitude and poise. Houston Ballet's first performance of this production was on September 10, 1992, and features costume designs after Barbara Karinska and original lighting designs by Ronald Bates.

George Balanchine is regarded as the foremost contemporary Choreographer in the world of ballet. In 1948, Mr. Balanchine founded New York City Ballet with Lincoln Kirstein. His more than 400 dance works include **Serenade**, **Concerto Barocco**, **Le Palais de Cristal** later renamed **Symphony in C**,

Orpheus, The Nutcracker, Agon, Symphony in Three Movements, Stravinsky Violin Concerto, Vienna Waltzes, Ballo della Regina and Mozartiana. Having an inestimable influence on the growth of dance in America, his ballets are now performed by all the major classical ballet companies throughout the world.

Previous ballets by Mr. Balanchine in Houston Ballet's repertoire are Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux, Waltz and Variations, Prodigal Son, Concerto Barocco, The Four Temperaments, Theme and Variations, Western Symphony, Agon, Serenade, La Valse, Apollo, Ballo della Regina, Jewels, Ballet Imperial and Allegro Brillante.

**HOUSTON BALLE
POETRY IN MOTION
FACT SHEET**

All performances listed here are in THE HOBBY CENTER – SAROFIM HALL

WHAT: **POETRY IN MOTION features:**

POWDER

Houston Ballet Premiere

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Choreography by Stanton Welch AM

Scenic and Costume Design by Kandis Cook

Lighting Design by Mark Jonathan

CAROUSEL (A DANCE)

Music by Richard Rodgers (1902-1979) and Oscar Hammerstein II (1895-1960)

Inspired by Rodgers and Hammerstein's CAROUSEL.

Used by Special Arrangement with The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization and The Rodgers & Hammerstein Concert Library, www.rnh.com

Choreography by Christopher Wheeldon OBE

Costume Design by Holly Hynes

Lighting Design by Mark Stanley

SYMPHONY IN C

Music by Georges Bizet (1838-1975)

Choreography by George Balanchine

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Costume Design after Barbara Karinska

Original Lighting Design by Ronald Bates

PRODUCTION

SPONSORED BY: Chevron

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

This exhilarating mixed repertory program features a collection of three works that reflect different traditions and expressions in ballet. Originally commissioned for Birmingham Royal Ballet, Artistic Director Stanton Welch's **Powder** is a sensuous ballet for 14 dancers that explores the expressiveness of Mozart's iconic "Clarinet Concerto in A Major." The enchanting ballet **Carousel (A Dance)** by award-winning British Choreographer Christopher Wheeldon OBE returns, created as a tribute to Rodgers and Hammerstein and their beloved Broadway musical, *Carousel* (1945). Wheeldon poignantly adds his charming touch to this familiar score. And Houston Ballet revives George Balanchine's first commission for Paris Opera Ballet, **Symphony in C**. Choreographed to French composer George Bizet's ravishing "Symphony in C Major," this neoclassical ballet radiantly showcases the full company's technical aptitude and poise.

WHEN: **Poetry in Motion – rescheduled at THE HOBBY CENTER – SAROFIM HALL**

-Thursday, Oct. 26 at 7:30 PM

-Friday, Oct. 27 at 7:30 PM

WHERE: 800 Bagby St, Houston, TX 77002

TICKETS: Starting at \$25.
Call 713-227-2787 or visit houstonballet.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit Houston Ballet at houstonballet.org.

About Houston Ballet

Houston Ballet has evolved into a company of 59 dancers with a budget of \$33 million (making it the United States' fourth largest ballet company by number of dancers.) With a state-of-the-art performance space built especially for the company, which is the largest professional dance facility in America, Houston Ballet's \$46.6 million Center for Dance opened in April 2011, with an endowment of just over \$74.1 million (as of July 2017).

Australian Choreographer Stanton Welch AM has served as Artistic Director of Houston Ballet since

2003, raising the level of the company's classical technique and commissioning many new works from dance makers such as Christopher Bruce, Alexander Ekman, William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián, Trey McIntyre, Julia Adam, Edwaard Liang and George Balanchine. Executive Director James Nelson serves as the administrative leader of the company, a position he assumed in February 2012 after serving as the company's General Manager for over a decade.

Houston Ballet has toured extensively both nationally and internationally. Over the past fifteen years, the company has appeared in London at Sadler's Wells, at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, Russia, in six cities in Spain, in Montréal and Ottawa, at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in New York at City Center and The Joyce Theater, at the Théâtre des Champs Elysées in Paris, at The Arts Center Melbourne State Theatre in Melbourne, Australia, in Los Angeles at The Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, and in cities large and small across the United States. Houston Ballet has emerged as a leader in the expensive, labor-intensive task of nurturing the creation and development of new full-length narrative ballets.

Writing in *Dancing Times* in June 2012, dance critic Margaret Willis praised Houston Ballet and highlighted the fact that "During his own tenure, (Stanton) Welch has upped the standard and Houston Ballet now shows off a group of 55 dancers in splendid shape. With fast and tidy footwork, they are technically skillful and have strong, broad jumps and expansive, fluid movements. The dancers' musicality shines through their work, dancing as one with elegance and refinement – and they are a handsome bunch too!...if ballet were an Olympic sport, see Houston Ballet well on the way to achieving gold."

Houston Ballet Orchestra was established in the late 1970s and consists of 61 professional musicians who play for Houston Ballet's performances at Wortham Theater Center under Music Director Ermanno Florio.

Houston Ballet's Education and Community Engagement Program reaches over 60,000 individuals in the Houston area annually. Houston Ballet Academy teaches over one thousand students every year, and approximately 50% of the current company was trained by the Academy.

For more information on Houston Ballet visit houstonballet.org.

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