



Bobby Wesner, Artistic Director
Mike Miller, Executive Director
Jurijs Safonovs, Ballet Master
Brooke Wesner, Co-Founder

Dancers:

Erica De La O, Mary Elizabeth Fenn, Kendra Levy, David Odenwelder, Jennifer Safonovs, Jurijs Safonovs, Anna Trumbo, Bobby Wesner, Brooke Wesner, Kristopher Wojtera

Dennis Dugan, Lighting Designer Jennifer Lehane, Stage Manager

Friday, August 12th, 2011

Schubert Waltzes

World Premier: 1975

Choreography: Heinz Poll

Music Franz Schubert

Pianist: David Fisher

Original Lighting Design: Thomas Skelton

Lighting Reconstruction: Dennis Dugan

Original Costume Design: A. Christina Giannini

Restaged by Judith Shoaff Reading and Luc Vanier with permission of David Fisher

Dancers: Mary Elizabeth Fenn, David Odenwelder, Jennifer Safonovs, Bobby Wesner,

Brooke Wesner, Kristopher Wojtera

(Acquisition of Schubert Waltzes is funded in part by Barbara Schubert and David Fisher)

Special Thanks to Steinway Hall for donating the use of the keyboard!

Short Pause

Various Principles (World Premier)

Choreographer: Bobby Wesner

Music: Johan Sebastian Bach

Lighting: Dennis Dugan

Costume: Bobby Wesner and Helen Wesner

Dancers: Erica De La O, Mary Elizabeth Fenn, David Odenwelder, Kendra Levy, Jurijs

Safonovs, Kristopher Wojtera

Intermission

Lickety-Split

Choreography: Alejandro Cerrudo
Assistant to the Choreographer and Repetiteur: Tobin Del Cuore
Music: Devendra Banhart
Lighting: Ryan O’Gara
Lighting Reconstruction: Dennis Dugan
Costumes: Alejandro Cerrudo and Rebecca Shouse
Costume Reconstruction: Helen Wesner
Dancers: Mary Elizabeth Fenn, David Odenwelder, Jennifer Safonovs, Jurijs Safonovs,
Bobby Wesner, Brooke Wesner
Created for and premiered by Hubbard Street Dance Chicago at the Harris Theater for Music
and Dance in Millennium Park, Chicago, IL, September 27, 2006.
(Acquisition of this work made possible by Richland County Foundation, John and Peter Black, Jim and Betsy Hire,
John and Mary Prusa, Robert and Jan Archer, and Michael and Deb Miller)

Short Pause

Appalachian Spring

Choreography: Bobby Wesner
Music: Aaron Copland
Lighting: Dennis Dugan
Costumes: Helen Wesner
Dancers: Full Company

Saturday August 13th, 2011

Schubert Waltzes

World Premier: 1975
Choreography: Heinz Poll
Music Franz Schubert
Pianist: David Fisher
Original Lighting Design: Thomas Skelton
Lighting Reconstruction: Dennis Dugan
Original Costume Design: A. Christina Giannini
Restaged by Judith Shoaff Reading and Luc Vanier with permission of David Fisher
Dancers: Mary Elizabeth Fenn, David Odenwelder, Jennifer Safonovs, Bobby Wesner,
Brooke Wesner, Kristopher Wojtera
(Acquisition of Schubert Waltzes is funded in part by Barbara Schubert and David Fisher)
Special Thanks to Steinway Hall for donating the use of the keyboard!

Short Pause

Various Principles (World Premier)

Choreographer: Bobby Wesner
Music: Johan Sebastian Bach
Lighting: Dennis Dugan
Costume: Bobby Wesner and Helen Wesner
Dancers: Erica De La O, Mary Elizabeth Fenn, David Odenwelder, Kendra Levy, Jurijs
Safonovs, Kristopher Wojtera

Intermission

Mein Weg

Choreography: Joseph Morrissey

Music: Arvo Part

Lighting: Dennis Dugan

Costumes: Bobby Wesner and Joseph Morrissey

Dancers: Erica De La O, Jennifer Safonovs, Jurijs Safonovs, Bobby Wesner, Brooke Wesner,
Kristopher Wojtera

(Acquisition of this work made possible by Richland County Foundation, John and Peter Black, Jim and Betsy Hire,
John and Mary Prusa, Robert and Jan Archer, and Michael and Deb Miller)

Short Pause

Lickety-Split

Choreography: Alejandro Cerrudo

Assistant to the Choreographer and Repetiteur: Tobin Del Cuore

Music: Devendra Banhart

Lighting: Ryan O'Gara

Lighting Reconstruction: Dennis Dugan

Costumes: Alejandro Cerrudo and Rebecca Shouse

Costume Reconstruction: Helen Wesner

Dancers: Mary Elizabeth Fenn, David Odenwelder, Jennifer Safonovs, Jurijs Safonovs,
Bobby Wesner, Brooke Wesner

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John and Mary Prusa, Robert and Jan Archer, and Michael and Deb Miller)

Short Pause

Selections from ***Eight by Benny Goodman***

First performed February 7, 1993, Ohio Theatre, Cleveland, OH

Choreography: Heinz Poll with permission from Richard Dickinson

Music: Arranged by Benny Goodman*

Lighting: after Thomas R. Skelton

Lighting Reconstruction: Dennis Dugan

Costumes: A. Christina Giannini

Costume Reconstruction: Janet Bolick

Staged by: Richard Dickinson

"Let's Dance"

Mary Elizabeth Fenn, Anna Trumbo, Jennifer Safonovs

Jurijs Safonovs, David Odenwelder, Kristopher Wojtera

"I'm Nobody's Baby"

Bobby and Brooke Wesner

"How Long Has This Been Going On?"

Jennifer Safonovs

“Don’t Be That Way”

David Odenwelder, Jurijs Safonovs, Bobby Wesner, Kristopher Wojtera
Erica De La O

"My Old Flame"

Brooke Wesner, Mary Elizabeth Fenn, Anna Trumbo

“How High the Moon?”

Jurijs Safonovs and Erica De La O

“My Guy's Come Back”

(Full Cast)

*From a collection of Columbia mono recordings from 1939 - 1946; Re-released by CBS
Records, Inc., 1990

Artists

Bobby Wesner, Artistic Director, first performed in his church choir as a boy. Before any official training in anything he would put on performances for his fathers barnyard animals singing anything they would request. They later returned the favor by winning him Grand Champion Market Hog in the Ashland County Fair! The money earned would afford him an audition tour, which would prove quite profitable career wise. Bobby's hog money helped score him a job with Ballet Arizona, under the direction of Michael Uthoff (now Ib Anderson). During his stay in Phoenix, he had the honor of working with American Classics such as Fredrick Franklin, Daniel Ezralow, Moses Pendelton of Momix, the Artistic Directors of Pilobolus, Kevin O'Day, Jowali Willa Jo Zolar of Urban Bush Woman, and his wife Brooke Wesner. Other great masterpieces that Wesner has performed are the "Profiteer" in The Greentable by Kurt Josse; "Iago" in The Moore's Pavone by Jose Limon; "Tico" in Company B by Paul Taylor, (also in Taylor's Esplanade); three works of Anthony Tudor: Lilac Garden, Leaves are Fading and Continuo; and The Jester in Earnst Uthoff's Carmina Burana. Independently, Wesner has traveled and performed with various companies all over the northeast region of the US and in Italy. Bobby and Brooke are the proud parents of four beautiful daughters, Genevieve, Ella, Mekah, and Arowyn. The Wesners live in Ashland, Ohio and have been involved in much of the dance activity in North Central Ohio including Verb Ballets, Ashland Regional Ballet, Dancing Wheels, Ballet Theatre of Ohio, and of course Neos Dance Theatre!

Jurijs Safonovs, Ballet Master, is a native of Riga, Latvia. At the age of 10, Jurijs joined the Riga Choreographic Ballet School. After graduating in 1996, Jurijs began his professional ballet career with the Latvian National Ballet Theatre. In 2001, Mr. Safonovs came to the United States, where he continued dancing and became a principal dancer with Virginia Ballet Theatre. Since beginning his U.S. career, Jurijs has guested with many different ballet companies, including Great Lakes Festival Ballet (Warren, OH), Pointe of Departure (Cleveland, OH), Ballet Etudes (Miami, FL), KTB (Alaska), and others . Dancing has taken Mr. Safonovs to many countries worldwide, including England, Germany, Spain, France, Holland, China and Russia.

Brooke Wesner, Co-Founder, started to dance at five! She studied under Hellie Schussler for her pre-professional training. Her presence on stage has been said to offer "lyrical melodrama" and "a most prominent...elegance"(The Arizona Republic and the Arizona Daily Star). Her natural ability to emote reinforced her performance based training, giving her an opportunity to explore leading roles from a very young age. After studying with master teachers such as Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux, Patricia McBride, and Basil Thompson, Brooke started her professional career with the Milwaukee Ballet. During her stay, she performed Michael Smuin's the Tempest; Balanchine's Serenade, and more. Brooke then moved to Ballet Arizona to dance many principal and soloist roles. Some of the highlights of her stay in Phoenix were

dancing the "Snow Queen" and "Arabian" in Ib Anderson's *Nutcracker*, "Dark Angel" in Balanchine's *Serenade*, Paul Taylor's *Company B*; and "Desdemona" in Jose Limon's *The Moore's Pavon*. Brooke also performed as a soloist in *Giselle; the Greentable* by Kurt Josse; *Lady Lost Found* by Danny Ezralow; the original "Bird" in Moses Pendelton's *Opus Cactus*; HELLBLONDEGROOVE by Kevin O'Day; a "Saloon Girl" in Billy the Kid (while six months pregnant); and *Apollo, The Four Temperaments, Agon*, and *Rubies* by George Balanchine. She performed with Momix in an international tour where she danced for the President of Italy and shared the stage with James Taylor. Brooke has appeared many times with the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra as a guest artist and with the Arizona Opera in *Aida*. Her performance quality and technical stamina has intensified now that she is a mother of four. Brooke is the co-founder of Neos Dance Theatre with her husband, Bobby, and they are the parents of four beautiful daughters, Genevieve, Ella, Mekah, and Arowyn.

Erica De La O began her studies with Le Studio in Pasadena California as well as Stephan Wenta, Alicia Head and Daylena Ruiz. Prior to joining the Louisville Ballet in 2003, she danced with Columbia City Ballet under the direction of William Starrett. She has danced lead roles in Balanchine's *Theme and Variations*, Prokovsky's *The Three Musketeers*, Simpson's *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, Jones's *Cinderella*, *Coppelia*, Hougland's *Cold Virtues*, *Fragile Stasis*, Gamonet's *Nous Sommes*, Val Caniparoli's *Four Seasons*, *Nutcracker*, Stevenson's *Four Last Songs*, Her repertoire includes works Harrison Mc Downey, Twyla Tharp, Choo-San Goh, Domy Reiter- Soffer, Paul Taylor, Anne Marie DeAngelo, Agnes De Mille, Andrea Dawn Shelly, Jose Limon, David Ingram, Graham Lusting, Helen Picket, Susan Jaffe, Michael Shannon, Joe Cipolla, Holly Johnson among others. Erica received 2nd place in the 1997 Music Center Spotlight Awards of Southern California. She was a recipient of the 1999 John Orr Award, a finalist at the New York International Ballet Competition in 2003 and was invited to perform in the NYIBC Gala Performance.

Mary-Elizabeth Fenn, a Wisconsin native, began dancing at the age of three. She has trained at Milwaukee Ballet School, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Joffrey Ballet School-NYC, BalletMet, and Point Park University. In addition, she has also attended summer programs at Dance New Amsterdam, Juilliard, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and recently attended Northwest Dance Project's LAUNCH intensive. Mary-Elizabeth has performed and trained with BalletMet in Columbus, OH and also appeared with Your Mother Dances and DanceCircus in Milwaukee, WI. She was a featured soloist in the DVD live performance of "Unwigged and Unplugged" with Spinal Tap. Mary-Elizabeth has been teaching and choreographing for various studios in Wisconsin for the past five years. She graduated in December of 2010 with honors and a B.F.A. in Dance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. During her time at UWM, two of her choreographed works were presented at the American College Dance Festival. She also had the privilege to perform in works by Luc Vanier, Alwin Nikolais, Simone Ferro, Suniti Dernovsek, Janet Lilly, Garth Fagan, and Ed Burgess.

Kendra Levy was born and raised in Colorado but moved to California in the summer of 2010. Kendra started dancing at the age of 4 and has experience in tap, jazz, modern, lyrical, hip hop, ballet, character, salsa, ballroom, and swing dancing. She trained at International Ballet School under full scholarship and also attended summer programs at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, American Ballet Theatre in New York, and State Street Ballet in Santa Barbara. Her last season was spent dancing and touring the country with State Street Ballet company. She was a finalist in both the classical and contemporary categories at the semi-final competitions for Youth America Grand Prix, won 2nd place at Denver Ballet Guild, and received numerous scholarships to prestigious summer programs and schools. Some notable roles and performances include Tinkerbell in *Peter Pan*, Swanhilda in *Coppelia*, Titania and Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Sugar Plum Fairy and Clara in *The Nutcracker*

David Odenwelder is from Haverhill, Massachusetts. David started his dance training at The Dance Works at the age of three studying ballet, jazz, and tap. He also trained at New England Civic Ballet, where he performed his first of many full length ballets. He supplemented his dance education at various summer intensives, including Joffrey Midwest Workshop and the Atlanta Ballet's Professional Intensive. He is currently on scholarship at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati and will be receiving a B.F.A in Ballet this upcoming year. Most notably at CCM; he has performed the male principal role in George Balanchine's Pas de Dix, set by Ballet Russa étoile, Freddie Franklin. Last year David also had the opportunity to perform as a member of Cincinnati Ballet, where he performed full lengths by Victoria Morgan, Val Caniparoli, Devon Carney, and Gerald Charles.

Jennifer Moll Safonovs, a native of Stow, Ohio, started dancing at the age of 6 and trained with Christine Jones Meneer for 12 years. She was an original member of Meneer's pre-professional company *Children's Ballet Theatre* and danced leading roles in several ballets, including *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*. Ms. Moll graduated with high honors from Indiana University with Bachelors degrees in Classical Ballet performance and Psychology. While at IU, Jennifer was trained and coached by Violette Verdy, Jacques Cesbron, John Meehan, Susan Pilarre, Mark Godden, and John Clifford. She performed principal roles in George Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*, *Serenade*, and *Stars and Stripes*, as well as in several original works by Verdy, Cesbron, and Godden. Jennifer danced professionally with Virginia Ballet Theatre for two years, and then went on to perform with Akron's Ballet Theatre of Ohio and Cleveland's VERB Ballets. In addition to performing, Jennifer teaches ballet and is a certified Pilates instructor. She has taught ballet and Pilates classes as part of Old Dominion University's Dance Department, in Norfolk, VA. Jennifer is happy to begin her third season with Neos Dance Theatre.

Anna Trumbo, Originally from Seattle, Washington, trained at Cornish Preparatory Dance and with Stephanie Saland before continuing her training at the Joffrey Ballet School in New York City. Her most noted performance while at Joffrey was as "Cowgirl" in Agnes De Mille's "Rodeo," of which The New York Times referenced her performance saying, it was "danced with verve, with [Anna] as an appealingly wistful Cowgirl..." Other performances during her study in New York included Septime Weber's "D-Construction," Kathryn Posin's "San Cubano" and "Piano Concerto," and Gerald Arpino's "Viva Vivaldi," and the pas de trois from "Italian Suite." After receiving her BFA from the New School University, Anna moved to San Francisco to dance with the Oakland Ballet. During her time at Oakland Ballet she performed Ron Guidi's "Nutcracker," Robert Garland's "Joplin Dances," Carlos Carvajal's "Crystal Slipper," and Michael Lowe's "Double Happiness." Anna recently moved to the area in order for her husband to study at Oberlin's Conservatory of Music, in which time Anna has been performing with Ohio Dance Theater under Denise Gula.

Kristopher Wojtera, was born in Poland and began his ballet studies at the National Ballet School in Gdansk, Poland. He danced with the Polish National Theatre in Warsaw, where he portrayed roles in variety of classical pieces such as Swan Lake, Giselle and The Sleeping Beauty as well as several contemporary works throughout Poland and Europe. Upon moving to the United States, he became a soloist with Columbia City Ballet (South Carolina) where he danced principal roles in Beauty & the Beast, Nutcracker and Coppelia. In 2003 he joined the Louisville Ballet as a first soloist. Kristopher has performed as a guest artist with Ballet Theatre Midwest, the San Antonio Metropolitan Ballet, the Carolina Ballet, the Governor's School for the Arts in Virginia, the Hilton Head Ballet among others. In 2007 he was invited to perform Swan Lake with the English National Ballet. Kristopher is honored to have participated in the National Choreographers Initiative for four summers in Irvine, California, where he performed in original works by Gina Petterson, Ron De Jesus, Melissa Barak, Edwaard Liang, Ma Cong, Edmund Stripe, Sidra Bell and Rick McCullough.