Segerstrom Center's 2017-2018 International Dance Series Opens with Mariinsky Ballet and Orchestra

Program Features Four Classic Works by Michel Fokine Including Center Premiere of *Le Spectre de la Rose*

October 12 – 15, 2017 in Segerstrom Hall; tickets go on sale August 21

COSTA MESA, CA – Segerstrom Center for the Arts opens its 2017-18 dance season with the return of Russia’s renowned Mariinsky Ballet and Orchestra October 12 – 15, 2017. For its ninth visit to the Center, the Company has created a program with four beloved ballets choreographed by Michel Fokine: *Chopiniana* (*Les Sylphides*), *The Swan*, *Schéhérazade* and the Center premiere of *Le Spectre de la Rose*. Fokine is regarded as one of the most influential choreographers of the 20th century and was resident choreographer for Sergei Diaghilev and his Ballet Russes. The Southern California engagement of the Mariinsky Ballet and Orchestra tour is being arranged through Ardani Artists.

Single tickets start at $29 and will go on sale Monday, August 21 at 10 a.m. They will be available online at SCFTA.org, at the Box Office at 600 Town Center Drive in Costa Mesa or by calling (714) 556-2787. For inquiries about group ticket savings for 10 or more, call the Group Services office at (714) 755-0236. Ticket holders are invited to attend free Preview Talks one hour prior to each performance. The Friday, October 13th Preview Talk will be sign-language interpreted.

*Michele Fokine: Ballet's Maverick*

Michel Fokine (1880 – 1942) is regarded as one of the most influential choreographers of the 20th century. A native of St. Petersburg, Fokine joined the Mariinsky Ballet in 1898, following graduation from its associated school, the Imperial Ballet Academy. By 1904 at only 24 years of age, he choreographed his first ballet, and...
crystallized his ideas of what ballet could be: “Through the rhythms of the body, the ballet can find expression for ideas, sentiments, and emotions.” He envisioned an integrated art form, in which dance, music and design combined to produce “a complete unity of expression.” At the beginning of the twentieth century, these concepts were truly groundbreaking. Leaving Russia for Paris in 1909, Fokine was engaged by impresario Serge Diaghilev to be the chief choreographer of the Ballets Russes. Diaghilev’s vision of dance as a collaborative art form dovetailed perfectly with Fokine’s, and he created seventeen works for Diaghilev between 1909 and 1914. Fokine’s works include some of the most famous ballets in history, and his revolutionary choreography in the Diaghilev era revitalized ballet, creating new forms and expanding the ballet vocabulary that continues to have influence to the present day.

**Classic Fokine Program**

The program opens with an undisputed Fokine masterwork, the Romantic one-act ballet *Chopiniana* set to music by Frédéric Chopin. It is often said that if Fokine had choreographed no other ballet, his stature in dance history would have been assured with *Chopiniana* (known in the West as *Les Sylphides*). In its Center premiere, *Le Spectre de la Rose* is performed to music by Carl Maria von Weber in which a young girl returns from her first ball with a souvenir rose. She drifts off to sleep dreaming she is dancing with the spirit of the rose. A tour de force created for the legendary Vaslav Nijinsky and Tamara Karsavina, the ballet became famous for the male dancer’s legendary leap in the exit scene. The third is Fokine’s moving solo for ballerina, *The Swan*, originally choregraphed for the great Anna Pavlova. With music from Camille Saint-Saëns’ “The Carnival of the Animals,” this work portrays the final moments in a swan’s life. For the finale, Fokine shares his interpretation of the Arabian tale of *One Thousand and One Nights* in the exotic *Schéhérazade*, danced to Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov’s lush score. At its premiere by the Ballets Russes in 1910, *Schéhérazade* caused a sensation with its eye-popping spectacle set in a harem of a shah who is betrayed by his wife. Fokine’s choreography incorporates eastern movements, bending classical ballet technique to create a dance language authentic to the story.

**Principal Casting at Segerstrom Center the Arts**

For all performances, the Mariinsky Orchestra will be conducted by Gavriel Heine.

*As of August 18, 2017. Artists and program are subject to change.*

**Thursday, October 12 at 7:30 p.m.**

*Chopiniana*

Yekaterina Osmolkina (Seventh Waltz)
Xander Parish (Mazurka)

*Le Spectre de la Rose*

Vladimir Shklyarov (Le Spectre de la rose)
Svetlana Ivanova (The Maiden)

*The Swan*

Ekaterina Kondaurova

*Schéhérazade*

Viktoria Tereshkina (Zobeide)
Kimin Kim (Golden Slave)

**Saturday, October 14 at 2 p.m.**

*Chopiniana*

Yekaterina Osmolkina (Seventh Waltz)
Philipp Stepin (Mazurka)

*Le Spectre de la Rose*

Vasily Tkachenko (Le Spectre de la rose)
Yana Selina (The Maiden)

*The Swan*

Viktoria Tereshkina

*Schéhérazade*

Oxana Skorik (Zobeide)
Xander Parish (Golden Slave)

**Sunday, October 15 at 1 p.m.**

*Chopiniana*

Yekaterina Osmolkina (Seventh Waltz)
Philipp Stepin (Mazurka)

*Le Spectre de la Rose*

Vasily Tkachenko (Le Spectre de la rose)
Yana Selina (The Maiden)

*The Swan*

Oxana Skorik

*Schéhérazade*

Ekaterina Kondaurova (Zobeide)
Timur Askerov (Golden Slave)
The Mariinsky Ballet is the resident classical ballet company of the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg. It lovingly guards its legacy; its repertory is vast and its artistry and dancers are unrivalled. Originally known as the Imperial Russian Ballet, the Mariinsky Ballet dates to the 1740s, following the establishment of the first Russian dance school (now the Vaganova Ballet Academy) in 1738. Following the Russian Revolution, both the ballet company and school were closed. The ballet was later re-established as the Soviet Ballet and the school becoming the Leningrad State Choreographic School. In 1934, the ballet was renamed the Kirov Ballet in honor of assassinated Bolshevik revolutionary Sergey Kirov. When the Soviet Union ended, the company came under the management of the Mariinsky Theater and given its current name, Mariinsky Ballet.

The renaissance of Russian ballet, by and large, was the result of the creative genius of France’s Marius Petipa, who was named principal ballet master of the company in 1869. The results of his tenure include Raymonda (performed by the Mariinsky at the Center in 2015), La Bayadère, The Sleeping Beauty and Swan Lake, garnering the Mariinsky Ballet the highest esteem in classical ballet.

Since then the Mariinsky Theatre has actively collaborated with leaders in the field of world choreography. The company has worked with John Neumeier, William Forsythe, Angelin Preljocaj, Alexei Ratmansky, Wayne McGregor and Hans van Manen. Their ballets, alongside works from the classical legacy, 20th century masterpieces and productions by young choreographers, comprise the ballet company’s repertoire today.

The Mariinsky Orchestra is one of the oldest musical ensembles in Russia. It can trace its history back to the early 18th century and the development of the Court Instrumental Kapella. In the 19th century, an extremely important role in the emergence of the Mariinsky Orchestra was played by Eduard Napravnik, who directed it for over half a century. The excellence of the orchestra was recognized on numerous occasions by the world-class musicians who conducted it, among them Berlioz, Wagner, von Bülow, Tchaikovsky, Mahler, Nikisch and Rachmaninoff. Today, the esteemed orchestra performs programs of symphony music at prestigious concert venues throughout the world.
The Center applauds special underwriting from Mr. and Mrs. Eyal Aronoff and Mary and Richard Cramer. The Center's International Dance Series is made possible by the Audrey Steele Burnand Endowed Fund for International Dance and The Segerstrom Foundation Endowment for Great Performances. Segerstrom Center for the Arts thanks its corporate partners including Kia Motors America, Official Automotive Partner; United Airlines, Official Airline; and Omaha Steaks International, Official Fine Food Retailer. Classical KUSC and COAST Magazine are Media Partners of the International Dance Series.

Segerstrom Center for the Arts’ 2017-18 International Dance Series also includes Tango Buenos Aires (November 18-19, 2017), American Ballet Theatre’s The Nutcracker (December 7-17, 2017), Dublin Irish Dance (February 24-25, 2018), Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan (March 16-18, 2018) and the return of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (April 19-22, 2018).

Segerstrom Center for the Arts is an acclaimed arts institution and as well as a beautiful multi-disciplinary cultural campus. It is committed to supporting artistic excellence on all of its stages, offering unsurpassed experiences, and to engaging the entire community in new and exciting ways through the unique power of live performance and a diverse array of inspiring programs.

Previously called the Orange County Performing Arts Center, Segerstrom Center is Orange County’s largest non-profit arts organization. In addition to its six performance venues, Segerstrom Center is also home to the American Ballet Theatre William J. Gillespie School, where students ages 3 – 18 are taught by acclaimed teachers utilizing the renowned ABT National Training Curriculum in studios utilized by the world’s greatest dancers and choreographers.

The Center presents a broad range of programming for audiences of all ages, including international ballet and dance, national tours of top Broadway shows, intimate performances of jazz and cabaret, contemporary artists, classical music performed by renowned chamber orchestras and ensembles, family-friendly programming, free performances open to the public from outdoor movie screenings to dancing on the plaza and many other special events.

The Center’s arts-in-education programs are designed to inspire young people through the arts and reach hundreds of thousands of students each year. In addition to the presenting and producing institution Segerstrom Center for the Arts, the 14-acre campus also embraces the facilities of two independent acclaimed organizations: Tony Award®-winning South Coast Repertory and a site designated as the future home of the Orange County Museum of Art.

Segerstrom Center for the Arts is also proud to serve as the artistic home to three of the region’s major performing arts organizations: Pacific Symphony, the Philharmonic Society of Orange County and the Pacific Chorale, who contribute greatly to the artistic life of the region with annual seasons at Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

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**MARIINSKY BALLET AND ORCHESTRA**

Valery Gergiev, Artistic & General Director
Yuri Fateev, Acting Ballet Director
Gavriel Heine, Conductor

Segerstrom Center for the Arts – Segerstrom Hall
600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa, CA

October 12 – 15, 2017
Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
Friday at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday at 2 & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday at 1 & 6:30 p.m.

Ticket holders are invited to attend free Preview Talks one hour prior to each performance. The Friday, October 13th Preview Talk will be sign-language interpreted.

**Program: Classic Fokine**

**Chopiniana (Les Sylphides)**
Choreographic composition in one act
Music by Frédéric Chopin (Suite of piano pieces orchestrated by Alexander Glazunov and Maurice Keller)
Choreography by Michel Fokine (1908)
Revised version by Agrippina Vaganova (1931)

**Le Spectre de la Rose**
Choreographic tableau
Music by Carl Maria von Weber (*Invitation to the Dance* orchestrated by Hector Berlioz)
Choreography by Michel Fokine (1911)
Concept by Jean-Louis Vaudoyer after the poem by Théophile Gautier
Reconstruction by Isabelle Fokine

**The Swan**
Choreographic composition
Music by Camille Saint-Saëns (from the *Carnaval des animaux* suite)
Choreography by Michel Fokine (1907)

**Schéhérazade**
Choreographic drama in one act
Music by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (Symphony suite *Schéhérazade*)
Scenario by Léon Bakst and Michel Fokine after *Arabian Nights* fairytales
Choreography by Michel Fokine (1910)
Reconstruction by Isabelle Fokine, Andris Liepa

**Tickets** - Start at $29; tickets go on sale August 21
**In person** - The Box Office
600 Town Center Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily

Online - SCFTA.org
Phone - (714) 556-2787
Open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily

Group Sales - (714) 755-0236

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