



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 20, 2019

MIAMI CITY BALLET ANNOUNCES 2019-2020 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS TO INCLUDE FOUR COMPANY PREMIERES

With Newly Commissioned George Balanchine's *Firebird*
Works by **Justin Peck** and **Christopher Wheeldon** and
Cinematic Glamour of **Jerome Robbins'** *I'm Old Fashioned*

Plus Full-Length Productions of *Don Quixote* and **George Balanchine's** *The Nutcracker*[®]

Season Opens Oct. 18 in Miami / Oct. 26 in Ft. Lauderdale / Nov. 8 in West Palm Beach

MIAMI BEACH — Miami City Ballet opens its 2019-2020 season on October 18, 2019, with 16 weeks of performances across Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, and West Palm Beach through April 26. The new season features a highly cinematic, theatrical presentation of captivating and singular experiences that showcase the vibrancy and world-class artistry of Miami City Ballet throughout South Florida and nationally. [View full season here.](#)

The 34th season includes four exciting company premieres:

- **George Balanchine's** *Firebird* is newly commissioned by Miami City Ballet with original sets and costume design by Anya Klepikov and video projections by Wendall Harrington.
- **Rodeo: Four Dance Episodes** from Tony Award[®]-winning choreographer **Justin Peck** features fifteen men, showcasing the power of Miami City Ballet's male dancers in this debut, and is paired with *Firebird*.
- **Jerome Robbins' I'm Old Fashioned** starring **Fred Astaire** and **Rita Hayworth** presents the grandeur and glamour of the silver screen as the iconic stars glide on a giant screen along with Miami City Ballet dancers.
- **Christopher Wheeldon's This Bitter Earth** showcases the breathtaking music of **Max Richter** and **Dinah Washington** in the intimate, soulful pas de deux.

The season features a delightful array of timeless classics, modern works, and sensational theatrical crowd-pleasers, with music ranging from classical scores to Frank Sinatra. Opening the season is **Balanchine's** hilariously spirited *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*, a Broadway-infused ballet set in a 1930s speakeasy and *Mercuric Tidings*, a masterwork programmed in honor of the late **Paul Taylor**. The season's repertoire also includes works by iconic choreographers: **Twyla Tharp's** *Nine Sinatra Songs* with costumes by Oscar de la Renta and **Alexei Ratmansky's** *Symphonic Dances*. Season closes with full-length spectacle of **Petipa's** electrifying story ballet *Don Quixote*, and there is, of course, the return of Miami City Ballet's production of **George Balanchine's** *The Nutcracker*[®].

The 2019-2020 season officially kicks off with performances at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington DC as Miami City Ballet and Dance Theatre of Harlem headline [Ballet Across America](#), a weeklong festival celebrating women's creativity and leadership in ballet. Miami City Ballet is only major ballet company, globally, boasting not only an all-female leadership team but also two women of Hispanic origin at the helm: [Executive Director Tania Castroverde Moskalenko](#), and [Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez](#) are both of Cuban descent.

"There is not a more special time than now for Miami City Ballet and the tremendous advancements we have made to enhance the experience, both on a leadership level and our dynamic program offerings," said Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez. "Our 2019-

20 season features a phenomenal lineup with beloved classics to contemporary works highlighting the rich variety of styles of which our company and dancers are known to present beautifully – time and time again.”

“Miami City Ballet truly reflects the fabric of our community – vibrant, original and anchored by a broad spectrum of ideas and cultures,” said Executive Director Tania Castroverde Moskalenko. “Our audiences will enjoy the forward-thinking artistry created by our leadership team, and this tremendous company of dancers who will bring it all to life.”

Miami City Ballet is one of the country’s premier ballet companies with a mission to transform lives through the passion of ballet in the South Florida community. It performs for 100,000 patrons each year in Miami and locations throughout South Florida. The organization also has one of the most respected ballet training schools in the country with more than 1,000 participating students.

2019-20 Season Line Up:

Subscription Season:

Program One:

Oct 18 - Nov 10, 2019

Stravinsky Violin Concerto (Balanchine/Stravinsky)

Mercuric Tidings (Taylor/Schubert)

Slaughter on Tenth Avenue (Balanchine/Rodgers)

George Balanchine’s ***Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*** headlines this program with a hilarious parody of hijinks and high kicks, gangsters and cops in this ballet about a tap dancer and the impossible stripper he falls in love with. Balanchine’s sassy and spirited choreography and Richard Rodgers’ tantalizing Broadway score open the season full of laughter in a 1930s speakeasy. Balanchine’s plotless masterpiece, ***Stravinsky Violin Concerto***, bookends this program with Stravinsky’s timeless score setting the stage for all-out dancing and technique in its purest form. Balancing out the program is a tribute to the late Paul Taylor with his masterwork, ***Mercuric Tidings*** – a celebration of “body in motion” in this “exhilarating, blisteringly fast dance,” the Miami Herald acclaims.

Program Two:

January 10-26, 2020

*I’m Old Fashioned** (Robbins/Gould)

*This Bitter Earth** (Wheeldon/Richter, Otis)

Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux (Balanchine/Tchaikovsky)

Symphonic Dances (Ratmansky/Rachmaninoff)

Jerome Robbins’ ***I’m Old Fashioned*** and Christopher Wheeldon’s ***This Bitter Earth***, two company premieres. In Robbins’ stunning ***I’m Old Fashioned***, the audience is joined by two larger-than-life stars, Fred Astaire and Rita Hayworth, on a huge screen dancing and gliding alongside Miami City Ballet dancers on stage. This tribute to the Golden Age of Hollywood is big, glamorous and simply irresistible. Likewise, Wheeldon’s riveting and deeply moving ***This Bitter Earth*** is set to the gorgeously haunting music of Max Richter and Dinah Washington. This program also features Balanchine’s beloved ***Tschaikovsky Pas De Deux***, as well as Alexei Ratmansky’s dramatic and fast-paced ***Symphonic Dances*** set to Sergei Rachmaninoff’s powerful score.

Program Three:

Feb 14-March 1, 2020

Nine Sinatra Songs (Tharp/Sinatra)

*Rodeo: Four Dance Episodes** (Peck/Copland)

*Firebird** (Balanchine, Robbins/Stravinsky)

Enter the mystical world of a young hunter, a Princess in captivity, and the immortal, magical ***Firebird*** in one of the greatest of all fairy tales. This thrilling collaboration between Balanchine and Robbins brings to life a colorful ballet about magic, love, danger, and liberation. Together, this fascinating ballet features elaborate costume and set designs with music by the brilliant Stravinsky. Audiences are in for treat with captivating performances of Twyla Tharp’s ever-popular ***Nine Sinatra Songs*** as seven swirling

couples, dressed in Oscar de la Renta's fabulous costumes, take center-stage to the classic hits of Frank Sinatra. Also, Tony-Award winning choreographer Justin Peck's return to Miami City Ballet with the company premiere of **Rodeo: Four Dance Episodes**. Peck's groundbreaking work set to Aaron Copland's cherished score features an impressive cast of one woman and fifteen men.

Program Four:

March 20-April 26, 2020

Don Quixote (Petipa/Minkus)

Don Quixote, a classic tale brought to life featuring Marius Petipa's vibrant, kaleidoscopic delight with ruffled skirts swirling, toreadors strutting, street dancers cavorting plus flower girls, a troop of gypsies and more in this unforgettable, fully-staged production. Paired with its hummable Ludwig Minkus score, *Don Quixote* is a never-ending stream of pleasure, climaxed by the famous Pas de Deux and punctuated by one of Petipa's most beautiful vision scenes. It's classical dancing at its most exquisite and demanding.

George Balanchine's The Nutcracker®

December 13-29, 2020

(Available to add on to the Full Series or include as part of a Create Your Own series)

Finally, returning to South Florida stages is Miami City Ballet's dazzling reimagined production of **George Balanchine's The Nutcracker®**, this year featuring performances in Miami and West Palm Beach. *The Wall Street Journal* called it the "Caribbean-flavored Nutcracker...a production that adds a new and marvel-filled chapter to the ballet's long and evolving history." The holiday spectacle features magical sets and costumes by renowned artists **Isabel and Ruben Toledo**, transporting audiences to an extraordinary world of toy soldiers, colorful characters, and the enchanting "Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy," set to the music of Tchaikovsky performed by a live orchestra.

School Performances

December 19, 2019

(Not part of the subscription season.)

George Balanchine's The Nutcracker® as part of the [Cultural Passport Program](#), the educational initiative to provide students with opportunity to experience live theatre performance the Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Miami City Ballet Gala

March 14, 2020

(Not part of the subscription season.)

Celebrate the 2020 Gala with a glamorous pre-party cocktail reception, an elegant dinner, and a special performance. For information, contact ruth.robinson@miamicityballet.org or lisa.pollack@miamicityballet.org (Tickets sold separately).

On Tour:

The Kennedy Center, DC: May 31 – June 2, 2019

As part of *Dance Across America* featuring Dance Theatre of Harlem and Miami City Ballet in a weeklong festival celebrating Women's Creativity and Leadership in Ballet

Walpurgisnacht Ballet (Balanchine/Gounod)

Carousel Pas de Deux (MacMillan/Rodgers)

Heatscape (Peck/Martinů)

Brahms/Handel (Robbins, Tharp/Brahms)

Artis-Naples, FL: October 22, 2019

Stravinsky Violin Concerto (Balanchine/Stravinsky)

Mercuric Tidings (Taylor/Schubert)

Slaughter on Tenth Avenue (Balanchine/Rodgers)

The LA Music Center, CA: December 5 – 8, 2019

George Balanchine's The Nutcracker® (Balanchine/Tchaikovsky)

Artis-Naples, FL: January 28, 2020

*I'm Old Fashioned** (Robbins/Gould)

*This Bitter Earth** (Wheeldon/Richter, Otis)
Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux (Balanchine/Tchaikovsky)
Symphonic Dances (Ratmansky/Rachmaninoff)

2019-2020 Subscription Season Dates:

Program One:

Stravinsky Violin Concerto
Mercuric Tidings
Slaughter on Tenth Avenue

Arsht Center:

Friday, October 18, 2019, 8 p.m.
Saturday, October 19, 2019, 8 p.m.
Sunday, October 20, 2019, 2 p.m.

Broward Center:

Saturday, October 26, 2019, 8 p.m.
Sunday, October 27, 2019, 2 p.m.

Kravis Center:

Friday, November 8, 2019, 8 p.m.
Saturday, November 9, 2019, 2 PM and 8 p.m.
Sunday, November 10, 2019, 1 PM

George Balanchine's The Nutcracker®:

Arsht Center:

Friday, December 13, 2019, 7 p.m.
Saturday, December 14, 2019, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Sunday, December 15, 2019, 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 17, 2019, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, December 18, 2019, 7 p.m.
Thursday, December 19, 2019, at 11:30 a.m. ** and 7 p.m.
Friday, December 20, 2019, 7 p.m.
Saturday, December 21, 2019, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Sunday, December 22, 2019, 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Kravis Center:

Friday, December 27, 2019, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Saturday, December 28, 2019, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Sunday, December 29, 2019, 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Program Two:

*I'm Old Fashioned**
*This Bitter Earth**
Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux
Symphonic Dances

Arsht Center:

Friday, January 10, 2020, 8 p.m.
Saturday, January 11, 2020, 8 p.m.
Sunday, January 12, 2020, 2 p.m.

Kravis Center:

Friday, January 17, 2020, 8 p.m.
Saturday, January 18, 2020, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Sunday, January 19, 2020, 1 p.m.

Broward Center:

Saturday, January 25, 2020, 8 p.m.
Sunday, January 26, 2020, 2 p.m.

Program Three:

Nine Sinatra Songs
*Rodeo: Four Dance Episodes**
*Firebird**

Arsht Center:

Friday, February 14, 2020, 8 p.m.
Saturday, February 15, 2020, 8 p.m.
Sunday, February 16, 2020, 2 p.m.

Kravis Center:

Friday, February 21, 2020, 8 p.m.
Saturday, February 22, 2020, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Sunday, February 23, 2020, 1 p.m.

Broward Center:

Saturday, February 29, 2020, 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 1, 2020, 2 p.m.

Program Four:

Don Quixote

Kravis Center:

Friday, March 20, 2020, 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 21, 2020, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 22, 2020, 1 p.m.

Arsht Center:

Friday, April 17, 2020, 8 p.m.
Saturday, April 18, 2020, 8 p.m.
Sunday, April 19, 2020, at 2 p.m.

Broward Center:

Saturday, April 25, 2020, 8 p.m.
Sunday, April 26, 2020, 2 p.m.

**Company Premiere*

***[Cultural Passport Program](#)*

Programming and Dates subject to Change

Ticket Information:

Full Series (4-program) subscription packages start at \$108 and go on sale beginning Tuesday, March 19. Subscriber benefits include pre-sale privileges with the best choice of seats, free ticket exchanges, up to 21% off regular ticket prices on the full series packages, 15% off MCB School community classes and branded merchandise and more.

Create Your Own packages are available with 3-4 package offers that provide flexibility in the choice of dates and theaters. For the first time, George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*® may be included as part of a Create Your Own series.

Student and young professional special packages are made available in the fall. Single tickets to the season become available in August and announced at a later date.

Current Miami City Ballet Subscribers may renew their preferred seats for the 2019-2020 Season at miamicityballet.org/renew or call 305.929.7010.

All subscriptions are purchased through the Miami City Ballet Box Office, **Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.** through any of the following ways:

Online: miamicityballet.org/subscribe
Phone: 305.929.7010 or 877.929.7010
Mail or In Person: 2200 Liberty Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139

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ABOUT MIAMI CITY BALLET

Miami City Ballet (MCB), now in its 34th season, has grown to 53 dancers and a repertoire of more than 100 ballets. As one of the most renowned ballet companies in the country, Miami City Ballet performs for nearly 100,000 patrons annually during its South Florida home season in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, and Naples, and tours to top theaters domestically and internationally, including recent visits to New York City, Chicago, and Los Angeles. An upcoming performance at Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts takes place in spring 2019.

Miami City Ballet School, the official school of Miami City Ballet, is one of the most respected ballet training academies in America. The School's faculty, challenging syllabus, and affiliation with Miami City Ballet make it a place where all students — from children to adults — receive comprehensive dance training. The School trains students, ages 3-18 year-round, granting more than \$500,000 in scholarships annually. More than 500 adults participate in a vibrant community division.

Executive Director Tania Castroverde Moskalenko and Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez lead the company. Lopez was recently awarded the prestigious Dance Magazine Award in 2018 and was named one of "The Most Influential People in Dance Today." She is on the Ford Foundation Board of Trustees.

Miami City Ballet was founded in 1985 by Miami philanthropist Toby Lerner Ansin and Founding Artistic Director Edward Villella. It is headquartered in Miami Beach, FL, at the Ophelia & Juan Js. Roca Center, a facility designed by renowned architectural firm, Arquitectonica.

MIAMI CITY BALLET HOME THEATERS:

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County

Ziff Ballet Opera House
1300 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, FL 33132

Broward Center for the Performing Arts

Au-Rene Theater
201 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts

Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. Concert Hall
701 Okeechobee Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

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Major funding for Miami City Ballet is provided by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

Miami-Dade County support is provided by the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor, and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners with the support of the City of Miami Beach Department of Tourism and Cultural Development, Office of Cultural Affairs, and the Miami Beach Mayor and City Commissioners.

Support for Miami City Ballet in the Palm Beaches is generously sponsored in part by the Board of County Commissioners, the Tourist Development Council and the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County.

Broward County funding is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The Company is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

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