

**MIAMI
CITY
BALLET**

Lourdes Lopez
Artistic Director

Tania Castroverde Moskalenko
Executive Director

Toby Lerner Ansin
Founder

Edward Villella
Founding Artistic Director

February 21, 2022
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Miami City Ballet Presents Audience Favorite: George Balanchine's *Jewels*

Beloved principal dancer Rainer Krenstetter to give final MCB performance



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(Miami Beach, FL) – [Miami City Ballet \(MCB\)](https://www.miamicityballet.org) will present its second program of the season, George Balanchine's sparkling *Jewels*. A crowning jewel in the Balanchine canon, the ballet is inspired by a visit to famed French jewelers Van Cleef & Arpels. Those mesmerizing, light-reflecting gemstones ultimately led to the creation of one of Balanchine's most revered ballets. It is a pure dance triptych that features three distinct mini-ballets -- the mysterious and poetic Emeralds that recalls a verdant French countryside, the quintessentially American Rubies, and the opulent, Imperial Russian splendor of Diamonds.

Performances begin March 18 - 20 at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach and continue at the Arsht Center in Miami April 1 - 3 and at the Broward Center in Fort Lauderdale April 23 - 24. Tickets start at \$30 and are on sale now at miamicityballet.org/jewels.

In addition, beloved principal dancer Rainer Krenstetter has announced that his final MCB performance will take place on April 24 at the Broward Center.

When the company premiered the ballet in 1992, it became an instant hit with audiences and critics alike, and MCB's dazzling presentation of the famed ballet helped catapult the company to international acclaim. The Sun-Sentinel mused, "A gem analogy is irresistible. Jewelers sometimes call inferior emeralds, rubies and diamonds 'sleepy' or 'tired.' The most brilliant jewels are described as 'having life.' Life is what made the Miami City Ballet's *Jewels* the triumph it was." And in a more recent review, The New York Times lamented, "If I lived in Florida, I would attend every performance."

Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez further explains, "*Jewels* is a ballet that reveals Balanchine's genius – a three-act plotless ballet, with music by three different composers Fauré, Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky using different jewels Emeralds, Rubies and Diamonds to illustrate three different approaches to classical dancing, French, American, and Russian. It is also a ballet that is in MCB's DNA and one that our dancers love to dance, and our audiences love to see. Add that our dear Rainer Krenstetter is moving on to a new chapter in his illustrious career, these performances are extra meaningful and we wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors."

Rainer adds, "Being hired as a principal dancer at MCB after a long-time dancing in Europe definitely enriched my dancing. I am thankful to Lourdes for trusting me with such a different repertory! Now is my time to move on. I'll still dance on various projects but I'm excited to pass on my knowledge to rising dancers as artistic director for a company in Tokyo as well as the Margot Fonteyn Ballet Academy in Arizona. It is not easy to say goodbye, but it was clear to me since day one that this moment would come. I look forward to saying farewell and dancing my heart out for our audiences during my final performances of *Jewels*."

ABOUT MIAMI CITY BALLET

Miami City Ballet has a diverse roster of 54 dancers and a repertoire of more than 130 works. As one of the most renowned ballet companies in the country, Miami City Ballet performs for nearly 125,000 patrons annually during its South Florida home season in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West

Palm Beach and tours to major cities domestically and internationally, including recent visits to New York City, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Los Angeles, and Paris.

Miami City Ballet School, the official school of Miami City Ballet, is one of the most respected ballet training academies in America. The School trains students, ages 3-18 year-round, and grants more than \$650,000 in scholarships annually.

Miami City Ballet's Community Engagement programs, serving more than 12,000 people annually in schools and communities; our free programs use the power of dance to uplift, teach and bring joy.

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, the first artist to ever serve on its Board.

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.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation has been a generous supporter of Miami City Ballet with over \$11 million in cumulative giving since the company's founding. Knight Foundation is a national foundation with strong local roots. We invest in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Our goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which we believe are essential for a healthy democracy. For more, visit KF.org.

Major funding is also provided by the Ford Foundation, working with visionaries on the frontlines of social change worldwide.

Miami-Dade County support is provided by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners.

Performances and programming in Miami Beach are provided with the support of the City of Miami Beach Department of Tourism and Culture, Cultural Arts Council, 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 for Palm Beach County.

Broward County funding is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida, as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council.

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

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