NEW YORK CITY BALLET ANNOUNCES 2016-17 SEASON

Highlights to Include Eight World Premiere Ballets
Including Three Works by NYCB Resident Choreographer JUSTIN PECK
and Additional Premieres by NYCB Dancers LAUREN LOVETTE and PETER WALKER
and Choreographers PONTUS LIDBERG, ANNABELLE LOPEZ OCHOA, and ALEXEI RATMANSKY

SPRING SEASON FESTIVAL OF NYCB COMMISSIONS
2017 Spring Season to Feature a Four-Week Celebration
of Choreography Created for NYCB Since 1988
Featuring 43 Ballets by 22 Different Choreographers
Including Three Special Programs Devoted to the Works of
JUSTIN PECK, ALEXEI RATMANSKY, and CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON

The Entire 2016-17 New York Season to Encompass
21 Weeks of Performances and a Total of 77 Ballets
Featuring 23 Works by NYCB Co-Founder GEORGE BALANCHINE
Including his Full-length Productions of Jewels, A Midsummer Night’s Dream
and the Annual Holiday Season of George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker™

The Season Will Also Include Six Works by NYCB Co-Founding Choreographer JEROME ROBBINS
and the Winter Season Return of NYCB Ballet Master in Chief PETER MARTINS’
Full-length Staging of The Sleeping Beauty for Two Weeks of Performances

The Travelers Companies, Inc. is the Global Sponsor of New York City Ballet

New York City Ballet will open its 2016-17 Season at Lincoln Center on Tuesday, September 20,
and will continue for 21-weeks of performances, through Sunday, May 28, and feature a total of 77 ballets
created by 24 different choreographers.

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The season, programmed by NYCB Ballet Master in Chief Peter Martins, will also feature eight world premiere ballets, including three by NYCB Resident Choreographer Justin Peck, and additional premieres by NYCB Dancers Lauren Lovette and Peter Walker, as well as choreographers Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Pontus Lidberg, and Alexei Ratmansky.

The opening of the 2016-17 Season on September 20 will be the Company’s annual Fall Gala performance, which will be an evening of all new work, featuring the premieres by Lovette, Lopez Ochoa, and Walker, each of whom will be making their first-ever ballets for NYCB, as well as the season’s first premiere by Peck. In addition, once again this year the Fall Gala evening will celebrate the worlds of dance and fashion with costumes created by some of the fashion world’s most acclaimed designers. The costume designers for the four Fall Gala premieres will be announced at a later date. The Fall Season will continue for four weeks, through Sunday, October 16 and will feature 14 works by NYCB’s Co-Founder George Balanchine, including the full-length Jewels.

The year of performances will continue with the annual holiday season of George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker™, which will take place from Friday, November 25 through Saturday, December 31.

The 2017 Winter Season will take place from Tuesday, January 17 through Sunday, February 26, and will be highlighted by Peck’s second world premiere for the 2016-17 Season, as well as the premiere by Lidberg, who will be making his first-ever work for NYCB. Both premieres will take place on Thursday, January 26 as part of the Company’s annual New Combinations Evening. The Winter Season will also include the return of NYCB Ballet Master in Chief Peter Martins’ full-length staging of The Sleeping Beauty for two weeks of performances, from February 8 through 19. Also included in the Winter Season will be several programs devoted to works by Balanchine, composers Igor Stravinsky and Richard Rodgers, as well as a program of works by Jerome Robbins, NYCB’s Co-Founding Choreographer.

The 2017 Spring Season will take place from Tuesday, April 18 through Sunday, May 28, and will be highlighted by a four-week festival of NYCB commissions, consisting of 43 ballets created for NYCB since 1988 by 22 different choreographers. Highlights of the festival will include a May 4 Spring Gala premiere by Ratmansky, who will be making his fifth work for NYCB; and the season’s final world premiere by Peck, which will take place on Friday, May 12.
In addition to the festival, the six-week Spring Season will begin with a week of performances (April 18 through 23) featuring programs of ballets by Balanchine (*Allegro Brillante*, *The Four Temperaments*, and *Symphony in C*) and Robbins (*Fancy Free*, *Moves*, and *The Concert*). The final week of the Spring Season (May 23 through 28) will feature NYCB's beloved production of Balanchine's full-length staging of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

In addition to the more than 90 dancers of the New York City Ballet, all performances will feature the 62-piece New York City Ballet Orchestra, under the direction of Music Director Andrew Litton. The musical repertory for the 2016-17 Season will feature scores composed by 54 different composers.

### 2017 SPRING SEASON FESTIVAL OF NYCB COMMISSIONS

A Four-Week Festival of Ballets Created for NYCB Since 1988, Including World Premiere Ballets by Justin Peck and Alexei Ratmansky, as well as Special All Peck, All Ratmansky, and All Wheeldon Programs

The centerpiece of the 2017 Spring Season will be a four-week festival of NYCB commissions, featuring choreography made for New York City Ballet since 1988, which will include 43 ballets created by 22 different choreographers. The festival, which will take place from Tuesday, April 25 through Sunday, May 21, will also include two world premiere ballets, the first by Alexei Ratmansky, which will premiere at the Company’s Spring Gala performance on Wednesday, May 4; the second, by Justin Peck, which will premiere on Friday, May 12 and will be set to a commissioned score by composer Sufjan Stevens, who has previously worked with Peck and NYCB on *Year of the Rabbit* and *Everywhere We Go*. In addition to Stevens, the festival will also feature the music of 38 different composers, including six scores commissioned by New York City Ballet.

The opening nine performances of the festival will celebrate works created for NYCB by choreographers **Justin Peck**, **Alexei Ratmansky**, and **Christopher Wheeldon**, with each choreographer receiving three nights of programming devoted exclusively to their works.
The All Wheeldon Program, which will be performed on April 25, 28 and 29 (evening), will feature Mercurial Manoeuvres, Polyphonia, Liturgy, and Wheeldon’s 2016 Spring Season world premiere. The All Ratmansky Program, which will be performed on April 26, 29 (matinee), and May 2, will feature Russian Seasons and Namouna, A Grand Divertissement. The All Peck Program, which will be performed on April 27, 30, and May 3, will feature In Creases, New Blood, Everywhere We Go, and Peck’s 2016 Fall Season world premiere.

In addition to Peck, Ratmansky and Wheeldon, the other choreographers featured in the Spring Season festival will be Mauro Bigonzetti, Robert Binet, Nicolas Blanc, Kim Brandstrup, Ulysses Dove, Jorma Elo, William Forsythe, Jean-Pierre Frohlich, Pontus Lidberg, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Lauren Lovette, Peter Martins, Benjamin Millepied, Angelin Preljocaj, Liam Scarlett, Troy Schumacher, Lynne Taylor-Corbett, Myles Thatcher, and Peter Walker.

The Spring Season festival will also commemorate the 25th anniversary of NYCB’s New Combinations Fund, which was launched by Peter Martins in 1992 and conceived to foster the Company’s unparalleled commitment to new choreography. Over the past 25 years hundreds of generous donors have contributed to the New Combinations Fund, supporting the creation of more than 170 ballets.

Since the Company’s founding in 1948, New York City Ballet has premiered 441 ballets, including more than 200 works that Peter Martins has commissioned since being named co-Ballet Master in Chief of NYCB in 1983. Beginning with the American Music Festival in 1988, Martins has also produced a number of new choreography festivals, including six installments of the Diamond Project (1992, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2002, and 2006) and the Architecture of Dance Festival in 2010. In addition to commissioning new work for NYCB, in 2000, Martins and the late philanthropist Irene Diamond created the New York Choreographic Institute, and affiliate of NYCB, which provides resources and opportunities for choreographers from around the world to develop their talents.

With the exception of Lidberg, all of the choreographers making new work for NYCB’s 2016-17 Season have participated in working sessions at the New York Choreographic Institute.

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2016-17 SEASON WORLD PREMIERE BALLETs

Annabelle Lopez Ochoa World Premiere – September 20, 2016 (Fall Gala)

For NYCB’s annual Fall Gala performance, internationally-acclaimed choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa will make her first-ever work for the Company, which will be set to a selection of scores written for cello by composers Luigi Boccherini, Edward Elgar, and Peteris Vasks.

Of Colombian and Belgian descent, Lopez Ochoa studied at the Royal Ballet School of Antwerp, and was a soloist with Scapino Ballet Rotterdam. In 2003, she stopped dancing to focus solely on choreography and has made works for dance companies around the world including the Dutch National Ballet, Cuban National Ballet, West-Australian Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and Joffrey Ballet. In 2012 she created the choreography for the Scottish Ballet’s award-winning production A Streetcar Named Desire. In the fall of 2007, Lopez Ochoa participated in a working session at the New York Choreographic Institute.

Lauren Lovette World Premiere – September 20, 2016 (Fall Gala)

NYCB Principal Dancer Lauren Lovette will choreograph her first-ever work for a ballet company with a Fall Gala World Premiere set to Robert Schumann’s Introduction and Concert Allegro, Op. 134. Born in California, Lovette began studying ballet at the age of 11 at the Cary Ballet Conservatory in Cary, North Carolina. She attended summer courses at the School of American Ballet (SAB), the official school of New York City Ballet, in the summers of 2004 and 2005, and enrolled at SAB as a full-time student in 2006. She became a member of the NYCB corps de ballet in 2010, was promoted to Soloist in 2013, and became a Principal Dancer in 2015.

In addition to her work as a dancer, Lovette began choreographing while a student at SAB where she participated in the School’s annual choreography workshops in 2008 and 2009. In the summer of 2012, Lovette also participated in a working session of the New York Choreographic Institute.
Justin Peck World Premieres – September 20, 2016 (Fall Gala), and January 26 and May 12, 2017

NYCB Soloist and Resident Choreographer Justin Peck will create three world premiere ballets for NYCB during the course of the 2016-17 Season. These will include a new work for the 2016 Fall Gala on September 20, a premiere for the Winter Season’s annual New Combinations Evening on January 26, and a Spring Season premiere on May 12 set to a commissioned score by composer Sufjan Stevens. The music for the Fall and Winter Season premieres will be announced at a later date.

Since creating his first work for NYCB in 2012, Peck has become one of the ballet world’s most in-demand choreographers with recent commissions from such companies as San Francisco Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, L.A. Dance Project, and the Paris Opera Ballet. During the course of the 2016-17 Season, Peck plans to focus primarily on his role as NYCB's Resident Choreographer and will choreograph new work only for New York City Ballet, while also continuing to dance with the Company.

Born in Washington, DC, Peck spent his formative years in San Diego, California, where he studied at the California Ballet, prior to beginning his training at the School of American Ballet in 2003. He joined NYCB in 2007 and was promoted to Soloist in 2013. In 2009, Peck participated in his first working session at the New York Choreographic Institute, and in 2011 was awarded with the Institute’s first year-long choreographic residency. In 2012 he created In Creases, his first work for NYCB, and has since created a total of 10 works for the Company. In 2014, Peck was named NYCB's Resident Choreographer, and he was also featured in the acclaimed documentary film Ballet 422, which followed the choreographer as he created Paz de la Jolla, NYCB's 422nd ballet.

Peter Walker World Premiere – September 20, 2016 (Fall Gala)

NYCB Corps de Ballet Member Peter Walker will make his first-ever work for NYCB, which will premiere at the Company’s annual Fall Gala performance on September 20. For this work Walker will choreograph to an original score by Thomas Kikta, a classical guitarist and professor of music at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Walker and Kikta have previously collaborated on a work for the School of American Ballet’s annual Winter Ball in 2015.

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Born in Fort Myers, Florida, Walker started his ballet training with former NYCB Principal Dancer Melinda Roy at the Gulfshore Ballet. Walker began his studies at the School of American Ballet during the 2006 summer course, enrolled as a full-time student in the winter of 2007, and joined the NYCB corps de ballet in 2012. Walker has also participated in working sessions at the New York Choreographic Institute in 2011 and 2012, and has created works for students at SAB for the School's 2015 and 2016 Winter Balls.

Pontus Lidberg World Premiere – January 26, 2017

For NYCB’s annual New Combinations Evening, Swedish choreographer Pontus Lidberg will premiere his first-ever work for NYCB. (This score for the new Lidberg ballet will be announced at a later date.) Lidberg has created works for such companies as Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, SemperOper Ballett Dresden, Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, Royal Swedish Ballet, Royal Danish Ballet, Norwegian National Ballet, Morphoses, Balletboyz, and the Martha Graham Dance Company. Lidberg’s WITHIN (Labyrinth Within), which premiered at the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival in 2012, was a staged expansion of his award-winning film Labyrinth Within featuring former NYCB Principal Dancer Wendy Whelan. It was named Best Picture at New York’s annual Dance on Camera Festival in 2012.

In 2003 Lidberg founded Pontus Lidberg Dance, where he has developed numerous films and dance works for the stage, which have been presented in New York City by The Joyce Theater, Baryshnikov Arts Center, The Guggenheim Works & Process, and New York City Center’s Fall for Dance. Raised in Stockholm, Lidberg trained at the Royal Swedish Ballet School, and danced with several companies including the Royal Swedish Ballet, Norwegian National Ballet, and Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève.

Alexei Ratmansky World Premiere – May 4, 2017 (Spring Gala)

A new ballet by choreographer Alexei Ratmansky will highlight the Company’s Spring Gala performance on Thursday, May 4, which will also mark the fifth work that Ratmansky has created for NYCB since 2006. The previous four works he has created for NYCB -- Russian Seasons; Concerto DSCH; Namouna, A Grand Divertissement; and Pictures at an Exhibition -- will all be performed during the 2017 Spring Season.

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A native of St. Petersburg, Russia, Ratmansky is one of the ballet world’s most acclaimed choreographers. He is currently Artist in Residence at American Ballet Theatre, and was previously the Artistic Director of the Bolshoi Ballet. In addition to his work with ABT, where he has created 12 ballets since 2009, Ratmansky has also created works for numerous companies including the Bolshoi Ballet, Maryinsky Ballet, London’s Royal Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, Royal Danish Ballet, Miami City Ballet, and San Francisco Ballet. Ratmansky received his ballet training at Moscow's Bolshoi Ballet School, and during his career as a dancer was a member of the Ukrainian National Ballet, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and Royal Danish Ballet.

All performances will take place at the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center, which is located at West 63rd Street and Columbus Avenue. Subscription tickets for the 2016-17 Season will be available beginning April 25, single tickets for repertory performances will go on sale on August 7, and single tickets for performances of George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker™ will go on sale in September. Tickets will be available online at nycballet.com, by phone at 212-496-0600, or in person at the David H. Koch Theater Box Office.

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