

# PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2010-2011 SEASON

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Photos available upon request

## MEDIA CONTACT

Marissa Montenegro, Public Relations Manager

Office: 215.587.6923

Cell: 215.873.7891

Fax: 215.551.7224

[mmontenegro@paballet.org](mailto:mmontenegro@paballet.org)

## **Pennsylvania Ballet Principal Dancer Martha Chamberlain to Retire**

### **To end 21-year career with George Balanchine's *Who Cares?***

### **Sunday, April 17 at 2 p.m. at the Merriam Theater**

Philadelphia, PA (February 23, 2011) – Pennsylvania Ballet Principal Dancer Martha Chamberlain announces she will retire after 21 years on stage, with a performance of George Balanchine's *Who Cares?*, Sunday, April 17 at 2 p.m. at the Merriam Theater at 250 South Broad Street.

"Martha's artistry and talent have been an invaluable gift to Pennsylvania Ballet throughout her entire career," Artistic Director Roy Kaiser says. "Her dynamic presence will surely be missed by both the Company and our audience."

Born and raised in Media, Pennsylvania, Ms. Chamberlain is, by all accounts, a homegrown ballerina. After graduating from Friends Select School and the School of Pennsylvania Ballet, Ms. Chamberlain joined Pennsylvania Ballet as an Apprentice in 1989 and was promoted to the Corps de Ballet three months later. She was promoted to Soloist in 1997 and to Principal Dancer after her inspiring premiere as Juliet in John Cranko's *Romeo and Juliet* in March 2000. Ms. Chamberlain even met her husband, Company Member Jonathan Stiles, while dancing with Pennsylvania Ballet. They married in July 2005.

Throughout her 21-year career, Ms. Chamberlain has danced many leading roles including Katherina in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Swanhilda in *Coppélia*, Myrtha in *Giselle*, and Dewdrop and Sugarplum Fairy in *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*<sup>TM</sup>. She has channeled her keen understanding of ballet into costume design, having designed for choreographers such as Matthew Neenan, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Jorma Elo, and Meredith Rainey. Upon her retirement from the stage, Ms. Chamberlain plans to focus on costume design full-time and hopes to launch her own line of dancewear.

Balanchine's *Who Cares?* features a lively George Gershwin score and Broadway flavor and was especially selected by Ms. Chamberlain to be her final performance. *Who Cares?* joins Balanchine's *Agon* and a world premiere by choreographer Benjamin Millepied on the program Building on Balanchine, April 14-17 at the Merriam Theater. Tickets are available online at [paballet.org](http://paballet.org), by phone at 215.893.1999, and in person at the Kimmel Center Box Office.

Founded in 1963 by Balanchine student and protégée Barbara Weisberger, **Pennsylvania Ballet** is one of the nation's leading ballet companies. Headquartered in Philadelphia, the Company's annual local season features six programs of classic favorites and new works, including the Philadelphia holiday tradition, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*<sup>TM</sup>. For more information, visit [paballet.org](http://paballet.org) or call 215.551.7000.

###

