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**PENNSYLVANIA BALLET ORCHESTRA
PERFORMS BENEFIT CONCERT FOR DANCERS
Monday, September 14 at 7:30 PM
Perelman Theatre, Kimmel Center**

In a rare public performance, the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra will rise from the orchestra pit to take the stage in a concert to benefit the dancers and artistic mission of Pennsylvania Ballet.

The concert, conceived of and organized entirely by the musicians, will feature music from the upcoming season among other favorites, including works by Claude Debussy, Samuel Barber and Aaron Copland.

Music Director Beatrice Affron will hand the baton to Michael Johns to conduct as she joins the viola section for the performance. "The orchestra has banded together to put on a wonderful benefit concert for the Company. I, in particular, am very excited about this event, because I get to play among the musicians thereby fulfilling a wish I have had for quite a long time," said Affron.

Artistic Director Roy Kaiser notes that "the orchestra is so important to every performance we put on at the Ballet. We are deeply appreciative of this extraordinary gesture by the musicians of our orchestra to support the Company." Kaiser will be in the audience along with members of the Company in this opening event of the 2009-2010 season.

To view a video invitation by Kaiser and Affron to the benefit concert, visit the Pennsylvania Ballet YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/pennsylvaniaballet

Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Pennsylvania Ballet Annual Fund which supports production and programming expenses not covered by ticket sales and sustains the artistic quality of this premiere ballet company.

The Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra Benefit Concert will take place on Monday, September 14 at 7:30 PM at the Perelman Theatre of the Kimmel Center. A reception with the musicians for the audience will follow the concert.

Tickets are \$50 for Rear Plaza, Plaza Tier and First Balcony and \$75 for Plaza Box and Plaza Middle Seating. \$200 Benefactor tickets include VIP seating and a pre-concert reception at the home of Trustee Kathy Anderson. Tickets are available online at www.paballet.org, by phone at 215-893-1999 or at the Kimmel Center box office.

Pennsylvania Ballet is one of the premier ballet companies in the United States and has been at the forefront of American dance since 1963.

A leading Philadelphia cultural institution, the Company has earned a national reputation for its impassioned artistry and technical virtuosity, and has received widespread critical acclaim for extraordinary performances of a diverse classical and contemporary repertoire.

Under Artistic Director Roy Kaiser, the Company has expanded its Balanchine-based repertoire to include bold, innovative new works that embody creative excellence and engage audiences in an ongoing commitment to the vitality of this unique art form.

2009-2010 Season Subscriptions are available by calling 215.893.1955 or online at www.paballet.org. Full and partial season subscription prices have not increased this year. Subscribers receive many benefits over single ticket purchasers including a 10%

discount, priority seating, flexible ticket exchanges, discounts to fine Philadelphia restaurants, shops, hotels and museums, advance ticket purchasing for *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker* and more!

New this year... Subscribers will receive Artistic Director Roy Kaiser's monthly e-letter with exclusive inside news about his work and the Company. For more information or to subscribe to Pennsylvania Ballet's 2009 – 2010 Season, please call 215.893.1955 or order online at paballet.org.

Pennsylvania Ballet's 2009-2010 season sponsors include The Sporting Club at the Bellevue and USAirways.

Pennsylvania Ballet receives support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

For further press information please contact:

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