



Ballet Austin II Presents *Peter and the Wolf*

**With Narration by Sean Connery, Timeless Music,
and Enchanting Fun for the Entire Family**

WHO: Ballet Austin II
Choreography: Stephen Mills
Music: Sergei Prokofiev

WHAT: *Peter and the Wolf*

WHEN: October 29 & 30, November 5 & 6; 2 pm & 4:30 pm

WHERE: AustinVentures StudioTheater
at Ballet Austin's Butler Dance Education Center
501 West Third Street, Austin, Texas 78701

TICKETS: \$15

AUSTIN, TX – September 29, 2011 – Ballet Austin II—Ballet Austin's second company/apprentice program—invites central Texas families to take part in a performance of the beloved children's classic *Peter and the Wolf* October 29-30 and November 5-6, 2011.

The production, choreographed by artistic director Stephen Mills to the music of Sergei Prokofiev, brings to life the endearing story of a young boy Peter and many fanciful animal characters: for families with young children, ages 2-8. Each performance opens with an interactive section giving children in the audience the opportunity to help the dancers create choreography incorporated into that same performance. With whimsical costumed animal characters and recorded narration by acting legend Sean Connery, young audiences are certain to be enthralled by this twist on the classic tale.

Ballet Austin's restaging of *Peter and the Wolf* has its roots in 1936, when Sergei Prokofiev was commissioned by the Central Children's Theatre in Moscow to write a new musical symphony for children. Inspired by the invitation, Prokofiev completed the music and text for *Peter and the Wolf* in just four days. His playful classic is known for how consistently it delights and inspires children and adults of all ages, throughout the years.

Peter and the Wolf's compelling story tells of a young boy who ventures out into the meadow, against his grandfather's orders, to catch a wolf. The wolf is also being chased by the village's best hunters. But, with the help of his animal friends, Peter catches the wolf using only a rope lasso. The brave Peter, accompanied by the hunters and his animal friends, becomes the hero of his village. Prokofiev built in an educational tool, by assigning each of the central characters their own instrument: Peter (string instruments), the Grandfather (bassoon), the Duck (oboe), the Cat (clarinet), the Bird (flute) and the Wolf (horns).

About Ballet Austin II

Established in 1999, Ballet Austin II is Ballet Austin's second company/apprentice program.

The 10 apprentices, ranging in age from 18-23, are employed for 34 weeks. They perform with the main company in larger productions as well as presenting their own roster of repertoire and educational programming throughout Texas. Choreographers represented in the Ballet Austin II repertoire include Stephen Mills, Gina Patterson and New American Talent/Dance finalists Thang Dao, Thaddeus Davis and Viktor Kabaniaev.

Apprentices are contracted with Ballet Austin II for up to 2 years during which time they receive artistic guidance, career management counseling and job placement assistance. Ballet Austin II apprentices are recruited through Ballet Austin's Summer Intensive Program and the year-round Professional Division (Trainee Program). Nearly 70 percent of the main company's current roster includes graduates of Ballet Austin II. Additionally, former Ballet Austin II dancers have joined the ranks of both ballet and modern dance companies, including Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Smuin Ballet, Nashville Ballet, Dayton Ballet, Washington Ballet, Nai-Ni Chen, The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, Ballet Met, Kansas City Ballet, Kim Robards Dance Company, Dominic Walsh Dance Theater, Wideman/Davis Dance and Thang Dao Dance.

About Ballet Austin

As distinctive and dynamic as the city it calls home, Ballet Austin welcomes audiences near and far to participate in its "classically innovative" vision for the democratization of dance. With a rich history spanning five decades, acclaimed productions, a commitment to creating access to programs and one of the nation's largest classical ballet academies, the organization is poised for an even greater future. From their home at the Butler Dance Education Center in downtown Austin, Ballet Austin and Artistic Director Stephen Mills actively engage the community, dancers, and audiences alike. *The New York Times* proclaims Ballet Austin "a company with big ambitions" originating work that is "absorbing."

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