



Record Breaking 54th Year
Ballet Austin Announces Best-Selling and Top Attended Season
Stephen Mills Completes 10th Year as Artistic Director with Unsurpassed Ticket Sales

WHO: Ballet Austin
WHAT: Largest Ticket Sales in 54-Year History
WHEN: 2010/11 Season

AUSTIN, Texas—With this past weekend’s world premiere of *The Magic Flute*, Ballet Austin confirms that the 2010/11 Season concludes as the best-selling in company history. The 10th anniversary for artistic director Stephen Mills saw 42,257 paid attendees and \$1,992,430 in ticket sales, making it the largest number of paid attendees and highest grossing season of all time.

The best-selling season is the third milestone reached this year. The season opening performance of *Carmina Burana* sold more than 6,900 tickets to three near sold-out performances at the Long Center - more than any previous season opening production.

Next, record crowds packed the 48th annual production of *The Nutcracker* surpassing the all-time single ticket sales record for the production with over 26,000 people in attendance.

The previous best selling season in 2008, was the Company’s first full season at the new Long Center for the Performing Arts.

The 2011/12 season includes *The Mozart Project*, *The Nutcracker*, The 4th Biennial *New American Talent/Dance*, *Light / The Holocaust & Humanity Project** and *Romeo & Juliet*.

Season tickets for the 2011/12 season are currently on sale by calling 512.476.2163, visiting www.balletaustin.org or by stopping by Ballet Austin’s Box Office at 501 W. 3rd Street, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. weekdays.

*Mills was awarded the 2006 Austin Anti-Defamation League’s Audrey & Raymond Maislin Humanitarian Award for the creation of this work.

Mills’ First 10 Years

In his first decade as artistic director, Mills created 10 full evening productions: *Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project*, *Cult of Color: Call to Color*, *Truth and Beauty/The Bach Project*, *Touch*, *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Cinderella*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Taming of the Shrew* (commissioned by The Kennedy Center), and *The Nutcracker*. In that same time, he created 15 “mixed rep” dance works and directed 10 company premieres of acquisitions by internationally noted choreographers including George Balanchine and Twyla Tharp. Mills had 11 of his own works licensed to national and international companies, launched the *New American Talent/Dance* biennial national choreographic competition,

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and has been profiled and reviewed in publications such as *Art in America*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Dance Magazine*, *Pointe Magazine* and *Dance International*.

STEPHEN MILLS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Mills has created more than 40 works for companies in the United States and abroad. His ballets are in the repertoires of such companies as The Atlanta Ballet, Washington Ballet, Cuballet in Havana, Cuba, BalletMet Columbus, The DaytonBallet, The Sarasota Ballet of Florida, Ballet Pacifica, Dallas Black Dance Theater, The Louisville Ballet, The Nashville Ballet, Fort Worth/Dallas Ballet and Kaleidoscope. He has worked in collaboration with such luminaries as the eight-time Grammy® Award-winning band, Asleep at the Wheel, and Shawn Colvin.

In addition to his work as a choreographer, Mr. Mills is committed as a master teacher to developing dancers. He has been a teacher at many pre-professional academies including Goucher College; Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts in Dallas; The Virginia School of the Arts; The New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts; Stephens College and Point Park College in Pittsburgh. Mr. Mills also serves on the Board of Trustees of the national dance service organization, Dance USA. The 2010/11 Season marked Mr. Mills' 10th year as artistic director.

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, and one of the nation's largest classical ballet academies, the organization is poised for an even greater future. From their new home at the Butler Dance Education Center and Community School 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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