

BALLET *Austin*

**Ballet Austin presents Austin Premiere of
One of the Great Romantic Ballets
*La Sylphide: A Story about the Desire for Love***

- WHO:** Ballet Austin
Choreography by August Bournonville
Music by Herman Severin Løvenskiold
Musical Accompaniment by The Austin Symphony
- WHAT:** *La Sylphide: A Spellbinding Tale of Impossible Love*
- WHEN:** February 11-12 at 8 p.m., February 13 at 3 p.m.
February 12 performance audio described by VSA Texas
- WHERE:** The Long Center for the Performing Arts
701 W. Riverside Drive, 512.457.5100
- TICKETS:** \$24 – \$74 at 512.457.2163, www.balletaustin.org or at Ballet Austin’s Box Office at 501 W. 3rd Street, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday

AUSTIN, Texas—Valentine’s weekend Ballet Austin premieres one of ballet’s greatest classical masterpieces, *La Sylphide*, an enduring tale of impossible love. Exquisite sets and costumes worth nearly \$1 million, the choreography of August Bournonville of the Royal Danish Ballet, and the beautiful score by Severin Løvenskiold played live by the Austin Symphony Orchestra come together to create an unforgettable experience at The Long Center.

Set in Scotland, *La Sylphide* tells the story of a forest fairy that uses her magical gifts to seduce a young Scotsman on the eve of his nuptials. Ultimately leaving his fiancée at the altar to chase after the pixie; what follows is a spellbinding tale of impractical passion. This memorable Romance-era classic is based on an 1822 tale by French author Charles Nodier.

Originally choreographed by Filippo Taglioni, Bournonville’s rendition of *La Sylphide* is recognized as a remarkable reimagining that surpasses even the original production. First performed in Paris in 1832 and now performed around the globe, *La Sylphide* has become the cornerstone of the Romantic ballet movement and is still frequently performed internationally – yet this will be the Austin premiere.

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

[more]

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 marks Mr. Mills' 10th year as artistic director.

ABOUT AUGUST BOURNONVILLE

August Bournonville (1805 - 1879) was a Danish ballet master and choreographer. he was the son of Antoine Bournonville, a dancer and choreographer trained under the French choreographer, Jean Georges Noverre. Bournonville studied under the Italian choreographer Vincenzo Galeotti at the Royal Danish Ballet, Copenhagen, and in Paris, France, under French dancer Auguste Vestris. From 1830 to 1877 he was choreographer for the Royal Danish Ballet, for which he created more than 50 ballets admired for their exuberance, lightness, and beauty. As a choreographer, he created a number of ballets with varied settings that range from Denmark to Italy, Russia to South America. His best-known ballets are *La Sylphide* (1836), *Napoli* (1842), *Le Conservatoire* (1849), *The Kermesse in Bruges* (1851) and *A Folk Tale* (1854).

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."

CONTACT INFORMATION

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WEB: www.balletaustin.org

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This project is funded in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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