

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Diablo Ballet kicks off the holidays and its 23rd season featuring Lew Christensen's *Airs de Ballet*

(September 27, 2016) WALNUT CREEK --- Begin your holidays in style as Diablo Ballet presents the opening program of its 2016-2017 season with *A Swingin' Holiday and More*, November 11- 13 at the Del Valle Theatre in Walnut Creek.

The company kicks off its 23rd season with the annual production of *A Swingin' Holiday*, created in 2012 by Sean Kelly, who is currently the Associate Director of "An American in Paris" on Broadway. Set to the exhilarating music of the 30's and 40's, audiences will enjoy their favorite holiday tunes by legends Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, Nat "King" Cole, and Wynton Marsalis, as well as jazzy renditions of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker Suite", which will be performed by the sixteen piece Diablo Ballet Swing Orchestra under the musical direction of Greg Sudmeier.

The program also features the Diablo Ballet Premiere of Lew Christensen's classical *Airs de Ballet*, which was originally created in 1971 for the San Francisco Ballet. Set to the ballet music from Andre Gretry's opera "Zemire et Azor", *Airs de Ballet* will be staged by former San Francisco Ballet soloist Leslie Young and rehearsed by former San Francisco Ballet Principal Dancer and Diablo Ballet's regisseur, Joanna Berman. "I am extremely honored that Diablo Ballet has been given permission to perform this very special ballet and I am excited to share it with our audiences," says Lauren Jonas, Diablo Ballet's Artistic Director and Co-Founder.

Also included is Resident Choreographer Robert Dekkers, *Happy Ending* set to the popular music of Pogo, which the company originally premiered in May 2012. This high-spirited, humorous work displays the versatile personalities of Diablo Ballet's dancers.

A Swingin' Holiday and More performs November 11-13 at the Del Valle Theatre, 1963 Tice Valley Blvd. in Walnut Creek. The performances are:

Friday, November 11 at 8:00 pm

Saturday, November 12 at 2:00 pm & 8:00 pm

Sunday, November 13 at 2:00 pm

Following each performance, ticket holders are invited to meet and mingle with the costumed dancers at a post-performance reception.

Tickets are \$27-47. For tickets, call 925-943-SHOW (7469) or visit www.lesherartscenter.org or www.diabloballet.org.

Subscription packages for the 2016-2017 Season are still available. For more information, call the Diablo Ballet office at (925) 943-1775 or visit the website at www.diabloballet.org.

About Diablo Ballet

For 22 years, Diablo Ballet has been the award-winning, professional dance company for Contra Costa County. Presenting acclaimed classical and contemporary ballets, the company is committed to exposing youth to the arts through its renowned PEEK Outreach Program, which has reached over 65,000 under-served school children in Alameda and Contra Costa counties since 1995. In 2015 and again this year, Diablo Ballet was one of a handful of state-wide organizations to receive funding from the California Arts Council to bring its PEEK Extension Program to teenagers incarcerated in the Juvenile Justice system.

Kicking off Diablo Ballet's 23rd season, ***A Swingin' Holiday and More*** features the company premiere of Lew Christensen's classical *Airs de Ballet*, which was originally created for San Francisco Ballet. Then, Resident Choreographer Robert Dekkers presents a reprisal of the whimsical *Happy Ending*, set to the popular music of Pogo. Also on the program is the annual production of *A Swingin' Holiday*, created by Broadway's Sean Kelly, who is currently the Associate Director of "An American in Paris." Set to the exhilarating music of the 30's and 40's, audiences will enjoy their favorite holiday tunes and jazzy renditions of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker Suite", performed by the sixteen piece Diablo Ballet Swing Orchestra, under the musical direction of Greg Sudmeier.

Performance Information:

WHAT: Diablo Ballet presents ***A Swingin' Holiday and More***

WHEN: 8 p.m. – Nov. 11, 12 and 2 p.m. – Nov. 12, 13

WHERE: Del Valle Theatre, 1963 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek

RUNNING TIME: 1 hour 30 minutes, one intermission

TICKETS: \$27-\$47 (925) 943-7469; www.lesherartscenter.org, www.diabloballet.org

PRESS CONTACT

Krissy Gray
Marketing Director
Diablo Ballet
925/943.1775
krissy@diabloballet.org

Shannon Stowe
Public Relations Manager
Diablo Ballet
925/943-1775
marketing@diabloballet.org

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