



Artistic Director, Donna L. Muzio
Managing Director, Leslie Telthorster

Press Release
November 2009

**Brandywine Ballet's *The Nutcracker*, Six Performances Dec. 11 – 20 at West Chester University's Elegant
Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall!**

West Chester, PA – Chester County's Brandywine Ballet, celebrating 30 years of brilliant ballet, and Bryn Mawr Trust will present six performances of *The Nutcracker*, December 11 – 20 at West Chester University's Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, located at the corner of High St. and University Ave. in West Chester, PA. (Two special Student/Family Matinees take place at 10 am on Fri, Dec. 11 and Thurs, Dec. 17 – all Student/Family Matinee tickets reduced: students \$10/adults \$18). Advance tickets for all performances are available at www.brandywineballet.com or (610) 696-2711. Patrons may also purchase tickets the day of the performances, one hour in advance of show time at the theater box office. Floor tickets are \$22, \$27, \$37 and balcony tickets are \$22 and \$27 depending on proximity to the stage. Group, university student, and senior discounts will apply. Patrons are encouraged to consider purchasing tickets online at www.brandywineballet.com where you may personally select your seats, and print your e-tickets out from your home computer.

Exact performance dates and times are as follows: Friday, December 11, 10:00am*; Saturday, December 12, 2:00pm; Sunday, December 13, 2:00pm; Thursday, December 17, 10:00am*; Saturday, December 19, 2:00 pm; and Sunday, December 20, 6:00pm. **Please Note: ALL 10:00am performances are special Student/Family Day Matinees. Student/Family Matinee tickets are \$10 for students. Due to a number of student groups in attendance, all tickets for the public are \$18. Seating assigned on a first-come-first-serve basis.*

Brandywine Ballet's *Nutcracker Tea* returns this year Dec. 19 at 12:00 pm and Dec. 20 at 4:00 pm. Admission to the *Nutcracker Tea* is \$25. This special event is an opportunity to join Clara, The Sugar Plum Fairy and other characters of *The Nutcracker* for a special pre-performance brunch full of party delights - tea sandwiches, fruit tray, cookies, and favors! The tea party is in the Library of Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall. Simply walk downstairs for the performance of *The Nutcracker*! Please note: tickets sold separately for *The Nutcracker* performances and available at www.brandywineballet.com or (610) 696-2711.

Special guest Jae Hoon Lim of Philadelphia's *Koresh Dance Company* returns this year as the Cavalier, and will partner with Principal Dancer Hannah Telthorster dancing the part Sugar Plum Fairy in the beautiful *Grande Pas de Deux* choreographed by Ballet Mistress Nancy Page. Ms. Telthorster recently impressed audiences with her portrayal of Dracula's love interest Mina in Brandywine Ballet's 2009 performances of *Dracula*. Dracula himself, Principal Dancer Tim Early will dance the part of Drosselmeyer. Joe Cotler, currently apprenticing with Koresh Dance Company, returns also as Snow King, partnered with Brandywine Ballet's Jaime Lennon and Caitlin Oeste, who share the part of Snow Queen. Haley Page stars as Clara. Brandywine Ballet's *The Nutcracker* features a pronounced characterization of Drosselmeyer in the magnificent Victorian party scenes of Act I as the storyteller setting the stage for Clara's fantastic voyage to the "Land of Sweets" in Act II. The production features stunning scenery, elegant costumes, exquisite choreography, Chester County's most accomplished dancers, and Tchaikovsky's memorable score! Join Brandywine Ballet for the time-honored, holiday tradition of *The Nutcracker*!

Donna Muzio founded Brandywine Ballet in 1979, and has continuously served as the company's Artistic Director. Brandywine Ballet includes pre-professional and professional dancers, as well as guest artists. The Certificate in Ballet, a joint program with West Chester University, enables dancers to pursue the academic degree of their choice while participating in Brandywine Ballet's classes, rehearsals, and performances. In recent years, the company has premiered works by guest choreographer's Matthew Neenan (Ballet X), Ronen Koresh (Koresh Dance Company), and Meredith Rainey (formerly Pennsylvania Ballet), as well as earned George Balanchine Trust approval to perform four Balanchine pieces *Concerto Barocco*, *Tchaikovsky's Pas De Deux*, *Serenade*, and the just confirmed *Valse Fantasie* in the spring of 2010. National publication *Dance Magazine* recently recognized Brandywine Ballet for its thought-provoking mix of classical and contemporary ballet programming. Brandywine Ballet receives support from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau.

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