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PRESS RELEASE

February 26, 2010

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Brandywine Ballet Earns George Balanchine Trust Approval to Perform *Valse-Fantaisie*!

West Chester, PA – Brandywine Ballet has earned licensing and approval from the George Balanchine Trust in New York to perform the company debut of Balanchine's *Valse-Fantaisie* on Friday, June 4, 2010, 7:30 pm at Longwood Gardens. Also on the program, a new, original work by choreographer Nancy Page set to the music of Samuel Barber as part of Chester County's 2010 Samuel Barber Festival. Describing Balanchine's *Valse-Fantaisie*, Paul Kolnik of The New York Times wrote "with its dancers who never stop moving and who constantly run or leap in and out with great swiftness, *Valse-Fantaisie* seems suddenly to distill the essence of Balanchine's style: speed and momentum." Earning George Balanchine Trust licensing requires a Trust-approved repetiteur to stage the work and see it through to the premiere. The Trust has assigned Jessica Gattinella, formerly of Pennsylvania Ballet to act as the company's repetiteur. *Valse-Fantaisie* represents the fourth George Balanchine ballet that Brandywine Ballet has had the distinct honor of performing.

As stated above, Brandywine Ballet will also perform a new, original work by choreographer Nancy Page set to the music of Samuel Barber as part of Chester County's 2010 Samuel Barber Festival. The festival is a tribute to the 100th Anniversary of Samuel Barber, an internationally celebrated composer and West Chester native. Festival planners have scheduled a number of area recitals, concerts, and exhibits throughout 2010. Admission to the June 4 performance is included in the price of admission to Longwood Gardens the day of the event. For more information regarding ticketing, patrons may contact <http://www.longwoodgardens.org/> or 610-388-1000. Longwood Gardens is located at 1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square, PA, 19348.

Donna Muzio founded Brandywine Ballet in 1979, continuously serving 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 *Valse-Fantaisie*. 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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