

World Classical Performing Arts Society

Moiseev Russian Classical Ballet

A ballet company of 40 plus soloists
Vladimir Moiseev - General Manager / Evgeny Amosov - Artistic Director

The **MOISEEV** RUSSIAN CLASSICAL BALLET was founded in 1999 with the help and support of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation. The company was brought together and inspired by its leaders: General Director Vladimir Moiseev, a soloist with the Bolshoi Theater and grandson of legendary Russian ballet master Igor Moiseev, and Artistic Director Evgeny Amosov. The two men once studied together at Moscow Choreography School. Years later, each of them came up with the idea of creating his own dance company and they joined their efforts to form the Russian National Ballet Theatre. The repertoire of the company includes not only classical performances but also modern ballets. Its corps de ballet numbers 55 dancers, and is the result of a very disciplined focus on finding the most dedicated and talented dancers. A great effort has gone into providing the correct atmosphere and conditions under which to develop and perfect the artists' mastery and creative search. The company's main soloists range from 17 to 25 years of age. Many of them have already won international recognition and are winners of prestigious competitions. Before joining the company, most of the artists have already had the experience of working with leading ballet companies in the major cities of Russia. The company has toured Europe, the Far East, Australia and the US with great success and performs regularly in their home city of Moscow. Their US debut tour (April 2005) was a highly acclaimed with performances of Tchaikovsky's SWAN LAKE, SLEEPING BEAUTY and Adam's GISELLE, presented at some of the finest theaters in the country. Accompanied by a full live orchestra. The company toured the US with great success again in spring 2007 with Tchaikovsky's SWAN LAKE, SLEEPING BEAUTY, Minkus' DON QUICHOTE and Prokofiev's ROMEO AND JULIET with full live orchestra! In spring 2008 The Moiseev Russian Classical Ballet completed its 3rd US tour with performances of SWAN LAKE, SLEEPING BEAUTY, GISELLE and ROMEO AND JULIET - version Prokofiev, again with full live orchestra. In spring 2009 the ballet toured the USA once again with performances of Tchaikovsky's SWAN LAKE, SLEEPING BEAUTY and Adam's GISELLE. **For live photos of the touring productions of the ballet in the USA plus video clips please go to the MEDIA GALLERY on this web site.**

.

REVIEWS

“Joyful! A corps de ballet of beauty and style, led by stylish and gifted principals.”

Moscow Daily

“Sheer magic! Every soloist received well deserved applause!”

VESTI (Italy)

“The Russian National Ballet Theatre which has a full roster of stars presented **SWAN LAKE**. The audience was so excited that it did not want to leave the theatre, saying: “It is a great pleasure to touch such high art! We dream to see more performances that are so wonderful!”

CHZHEKHAI (China)

“The audience was engrossed in the production of **SWAN LAKE**. The music of Tchaikovsky, white swans, beautiful costumes, and superb choreography and scenery thrilled the public. Huge applause accompanied the brilliant dance of each soloist as well as the leading pair!”

ALTO ADICE (Italy)

AN EVENING at the MAJESTIC and SWAN LAKE

“Expectations were high for this performance, given that Boston has a respectable Russian and European citizenry. Judging from the applause and comments heard in the hallways afterward, they weren’t disappointed. The Sofia Symphony performed well and gave us some moments that added immeasurably to this ballet experience. The production managed to make its own special magic and hold the audience attention throughout, and won over a lot of hearts Friday evening, in a touching and heartfelt performance. Well done!”

*OPERAONLINE.US – Paul Walkowski – April 2005
(Performance at Majestic Theater, Boston)*

RUSSIAN SLEEPING BEAUTY OFFERS VISUAL DELIGHTS

“Dancers Goloubev and Kungurtseva deliver superb performances. The Russian National Ballet Theatre’s performance of SLEEPING BEAUTY at the Kravis Center included the extraordinary dancing of some soloists...this and the magnificent scenery and costumes and

a 50 - member orchestra made the evening enjoyable. A highlight included the magnificently performed and seldom seen “*epaillement*” of the female dancers. Dimitri Goloubev was superb as the wicked fairy...total dramatic integrity. The Lilac Fairy (R. Petrova) was dramatically and skillfully superb. Also beautifully performed were the series of “port de bras” performed by the female corps. The teen age Aurora (Natalia Kungurtseva) gave us our first thrill at watching an outstanding beautiful dancer. Every little movement was exquisite. It was a privilege to see her perform. Her dancing was about total beauty. The final scene featured more dancing by Desire (Max Romanov) and Aurora, and once again my heart skipped a beat in reaction to their degree of skill and presentation.”

***PALM BEACH DAILEY NEWS – F.R. Jellineck - April 2005
(Performance at Kravis Center, Palm Beach, FL)***

“Hundreds of people were as enchanted at the performance of **SLEEPING BEAUTY** at the Coronado Theatre. The company was the Russian National Ballet Theatre of Moscow. Although there were dozens of children in the audience, the ones around me sat silent and enthralled. The orchestra was just as stellar as the dance company. It was truly magic.”

***ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR – Judy Emerson – April 2005
(Performance at Coronado Theatre – Rockford, IL)***

“The Ballet was stupendous! I cannot thank you enough for bringing the excellence of your opera and now ballet companies into our city. We had a full house (2,300) and not one disappointed patron. I have received calls already this morning thanking me, and YOU deserve all the thanks. WOW! What a high we are on!”

***Mary Ann Smith – General Manager, Rockford Coronado Concerts
(Performance of SWAN LAKE at CORONADO THEATRE, Rockford, IL)***

“I LOVED THE BALLETT! Elena Evseeva was magnificent.

When she danced as Odette the movements she made with her head, neck and arms were so bird-like. She was truly remarkable. I loved THE FOOL and ROTHBART. They were both dynamic dancers. The SWAN corps de ballet danced as one. I cannot tell you how amazed and impressed I was with the performance. It was truly a spectacular evening. EVERYONE I talked to truly enjoyed it!”

***Margaret Vetter, Administrator – Festival of Fine Arts
(Performance of SWAN LAKE at Branscomb Memorial Auditorium – Lakeland, FL)***

“Thank you for **SLEEPING BEAUTY**. The dancing was superb. We were sold out and everyone loved it. They inspired a much deserved, spontaneous, vocal standing ovation at the end. We will definitely have them back next time they tour. Thank you again!”

***Naomi Buck, Vice President – Production/Programming – Naples Phil. Center
(Performance at Naples Philharmonic Center, Naples, FL)***

“I was delighted, as was our audience, with the performance of **SWAN LAKE** by the Russian National Ballet Theatre of Moscow. Beautiful sets and costumes with strong principal dancers made for a memorable evening. A real plus was the live accompaniment of the Sofia Symphony Orchestra.”

***Milton Russos, Executive Director – FCCJ Artists Series
(Performance at Moran Theatre, Jacksonville, FL)***

“The performance of **SWAN LAKE** was very well received. Odette was very strong. Masterful as well as elegant. I look forward to working with you again. You did deliver as promised.”

Robert Meyers, Director – Emens Auditorium, Ball State University

“Great performance. The dancers were amazing and the live orchestra really added to the performance.”

***Kimberly Mouser, Assoc. Director – University Concert Series
University of MO – Columbia, MO (Performance at Jesse Auditorium – Columbia, MO)***

"The show was wonderful! Beautiful costumes, the dancers were all incredible, and the staging was excellent. Our audience loved the show and felt it was the best we have ever had here. Congratulations to you! I really liked them taking their bows in front of the curtain; they made a special connection to the audience with it. BRAVO! Tonight's show sold 1070 seats out of 1100.

Deb McCasland, Community Events Manager – Yavapai College – Prescott, AZ

“Ballet was very good. They did a superb job. The show was very well received.”

Kris Sabel – Vilar Center, Vale, CO

“They LOVED it! At both venues, in Kansas and Missouri, the house staff remarked on the large numbers of tickets sold for a ballet. The audience was very pleased and had a standing

ovation that went on and on. I overheard remarks after the show about how they liked the costumes and the classic painted backdrops with little furniture. They also loved the music and the dancers.”

Robin Grant, Photographer

"Jenny: It was great to work with you and the ballet and I look forward to putting something together for next season - I'll be in touch next week."

Sandy Richmond – GM, Lyric Opera House, Baltimore, MD

Good to have ballet back

“The green curtain came down on the 2006-2007 McCain Performance Series this past Saturday evening in true grand finale form with a lavish presentation by the Moiseev Russian Classical Ballet of the timeless Tchaikovsky-Petipa masterpiece, **SLEEPING BEAUTY**, for an enthusiastic and attentive crowd of nearly 1,200 that filled the auditorium's downstairs and lower balcony. It was a real treat to witness the return of ballet to McCain after lo these many years. To be sure, there's been some dancing on view there. But ballet, like opera, is an intense and complex collaboration between live performance artists on a stage and live instrumental artists in an orchestra pit, the two groups kept connected, appropriately, by a conductor—and that we haven't seen recently. Led with infectious gusto by Alexey Osetrov, our pit band played with energy, brio, and sensitivity. It's easy to see why this Perrault fairy tale makes such an appealing mime-dance drama. The struggle of good and evil, being on the one hand bedrock basic and on the other obstinately fathomless is equally accessible to old and young. Also easy to see is why Petipa's choreography has proven just as enduring as Tchaikovsky's voluptuous score. It's an elegant, exciting, detailed script, still bright and bubbly after all this time, that lets a troupe, collectively and individually, dazzle us with the full scope of their talent. Best of all, it's entertaining, witty, often just plain funny. Our artists proved more than capable of meeting its many technical and artistic challenges. Natalia Kungurtzeva's Aurora was always the perfectly poised princess, on point and off, and that Audrey Hepburnish gamin smile did nothing to diminish her regal charm. As the hero prince who rescues his beloved and her entire kingdom with a single kiss, Valeri Schumilov vaulted and spun with a gallant and noble authority. Vladimir Moiseev's hilariously terrifying Carabosse Fairy dominated every scene "she" invaded, even when in retreat from the greater magic of Elena Smoltzova's serenely magisterial Fairy of Lilac. The nursery story menagerie whose serial antics liven up the wedding celebration gave the company's second tier a chance to display its impressive skills. Our crowd was audibly amused by the sad saga of Red Riding Hood and her Wolf, and the paw boxing of the two twitter patted white cats. But it was the stunning leaps of Khasan Usmanov's Blue Bird that blew them away, drawing

gasps and spontaneous applause. We can only hope that this is but the first of many visits by this worthy company.”

***MANHATTAN MERCURY NEWS – Ben Nyberg
Prokofiev’s ROMEO AND JULIET – Rockford, IL***

“It was wonderful! The dancers were consistently very good. I was quite impressed with the heights some of the men achieved. The costumes and sets were also very good. Overall, a very impressive evening.

***Helen Hill – Rockford Coronado Concerts
ROMEO AND JULIET at Coronado Theatre, Rockford, IL***

“Jenny, the ballet was lovely. Dancing and sets were wonderful, almost magical. It looked great in the Coronado Theatre. It was very well received, and we had lots and lots of kids in our audience. A dream come true.”

***Mary Ann Smith – General Manager, Rockford Coronado Concerts
ROMEO AND JULIET at CORONADO THEATRE, Rockford, IL***

Russian National Ballet’s double feature: “Romeo and Juliet” and “Sleeping Beauty” provide a charm-filled, romantic weekend experience for all.

ROMEO AND JULIET:

“The Russian National Ballet Theatre and Orchestra, under the direction of Alexey Vladimirovitch Osetrov delivered a truly moving, colorful and charm-filled evening performance that seduced and thrilled the audience at Emerson’s Cutler Majestic Theater in Boston. Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful! From a splendid performance by the orchestra, to artful stage direction by Evgen Amosov (artistic director), brilliant choreography by L. Lavrovsky, particularly the recurring and ominous theme of “Dance of the Knights,” that was absolutely hypnotic, to the deft use of – no, not deft, inspired use of lighting by D. Danilov, this production soared into and clear through the stratosphere, and never once let the audience down. Everything about this show was spectacular, including some very realistic, clanging sword fighting.

What always fascinates me about this art form is that it is the only one where not a word is spoken and every emotion is conveyed by gesture, body movement and music. Here, not even someone unfamiliar with ballet, or even this particular story, would have had difficulty figuring out what was going on, on stage; the talent of this cast was that strong.

Hats off to some pretty elegant dancing by Natalia Kungurtseva, as Juliet, a special salute to Vladimir Moiseev, the company’s general manager, and last evenings flying, Tybalt (nice

sword fighting skills along with Khasan Usmanov, who danced the role of Mercutio (Romeo's friend) and Tybalt's fighting nemesis), a very regal salute to the statuesque performances of Oleg Trusov (Juliet's father) and A. Chuykova, Juliet's mother, who although their roles weren't big, left a lasting impression nonetheless because of their superb communicative skills, and last, of course, Romeo, danced by Mr. Stoianov who gave a passionate and high-flying performance in all other respects. In sum, this ballet and this performance was a sure winner in Boston and a delight to the lucky audience that sat in attendance for Saturday evening's show."

SLEEPING BEAUTY

"Once again, the Russian National Ballet Theatre and Orchestra provided Boston audiences with an enjoyable afternoon of color, dance and fun, this time with Tchaikovsky's "Sleeping Beauty." It was a double-feature weekend in Boston to our complete satisfaction. I must hand it to this touring company; its stamina is impressive with performances of "Romeo and Juliet" Friday and two shows Saturday, and a matinee of "Sleeping Beauty" on Sunday..

Her, the Princess Aurora and her Royal Family are cursed at her birth by the evil witch, Carabosse, performed wonderfully and with humorous animation by Dimitri Goloubev to die from a spindle of flowers given to her at her coming of age party, but is saved from death by the good Lilac Fairy, performed with beauty and grace by V. Kershis. Death will not take the Princess, but rather, sleep – for a hundred years after which she and her Royal Family will be spared when a prince, Prince Desire, danced by Olexander Stoianov, kisses the sleeping Princess and awakens her. Performances for this ballet were uniformly good, with some outstanding choreography M. Petipa, especially the ensembles by the various Fairies and other characters that appeared in the final Act, the wedding.

A special well-done must go to Katerina Kukhar, who danced the role of the Princess and the very talented Olexander Stoianov who danced the role of Prince Desire. As with "Romeo and Juliet" this ballet is geared toward the audience and is, for the most part, understandable to adults and children, of which there was a healthy mix in attendance at all performances. Colorful, musically friendly, well acted, choreographed and danced superbly, with just a few hard landings from some dancers (clump, clump, clump is not what I expect to hear at a ballet), and accompanied by a rich-sounding, inspired orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Osetrov this double bill has to be rated a huge success for ballet audiences who enjoy the music and pageantry and who see far too little of this beautiful art form. Bravo to Russian National Ballet Theatre and Orchestra for two great shows."

Paul Joseph Walkowski – OperaOnline.us – April 2008

“Jenny, It was gorgeous, I am so glad I found you. Everyone loved it. They were superb dancers. The show came off beautifully -- and even with all the languages they were very easy to work with. Your drops are beautiful as are the costumes, but the dancers were just wonderful. Thanks!

Can't wait for the next year with the 2 operas and a ballet.”

Deborah Smith, Executive Director – Newberry Opera House, Newberry, SC

“I have gotten outstanding reviews for the ballet. (**GISELLE**) My stage manager (who is also an orchestral player) said the orchestra was great—particularly the viola section (so much for all the viola jokes!). The college president was at the performance, and I'm looking forward to her comments which I will send on to you.”

***Larry Burke – Florida Southern College Festival of Fine Arts, Lakeland, FL
Performance at Branscomb Auditorium***

“The audience truly appeared to enjoy the performance. I heard many good comments when 1700 people came streaming out of the auditorium—people were impressed with the expertise of the dancers. Even the ushers (who tend to be somewhat jaded about performances after all these years) were very complimentary!”

Ann Dawson – Van Wezel Perf. Arts Center, Sarasota, FL

“The ballet was great! We had a nice crowd, but it’s **SWAN LAKE!** It seems to sell better than all the others. Vladimir was very charming and did a great job as well.”

***Milton A. Russos, Executive Director – FCCJ Artist Series, Jacksonville, FL
Performance at Moran Theatre***

“All my guests said the ballet was beautiful and loved it!”

Bobby Rossi, Director of Entertainment – Ruth Eckerd Hall – Clearwater, FL

“My assistant gave me a glowing report about **SWAN LAKE**. She particularly thought the orchestra and costuming were excellent and she is a musician. A very enthusiastic standing ovation!

Robert A. Freedman, President and CEO – Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater,

'Swan Lake' gets lovely ending

“Outside of "The Nutcracker," **SWAN LAKE** is probably the most recognized ballet among American audiences. But Wichitans at Sunday's performance by the Moiseev Russian Classical Ballet company were in for a surprise as company founder and chief choreographer Vladimir Moiseev elected to go with a happily-ever-after ending rather than the lovers' suicide pact that's been around since the work premiered in 1877.

In this case, the love between Prince Siegfried and Princess Odette, who had been transformed into a swan by the evil sorcerer, Von Rothbart, ultimately overcomes all the bad vibes so the young lovers can emerge triumphant over Von Rothbart's broken body. It's a reworking of the beloved story that since the Mariinsky Ballet's version in 2006 has become more popular among Russian and Chinese companies.

Purists may miss the exquisite emotional release of the tragedy so well highlighted by Tchiakovsky's lush, haunting and melodramatic music. But this ending can't detract from this beautifully costumed, well-performed and elegant production that was brought in as part of the Wichita Grand Opera season.

Natalia Kungurtseva was both ethereally graceful in her gestures and rock-solid while spinning endlessly en pointe in the dual roles of winsome white swan, Princess Odette, and —later in a black tutu— as the malevolent Odile, the sorcerer's daughter who sets out to seduce and, therefore, destroy the prince. Kungurtseva didn't just dance the roles, she acted them.

Valery Shumilov as Prince Siegfried got only a couple of showcase moments, such as big, running leaps in Act III, but he made the most of them. He showed his strength as Odette/Odile's partner, hoisting her above his head.

Oddly, all the flashy male choreography (adapted from the 1895 version choreographed by Marius Petipa) went to the court jester, danced by Khasan Usmanov, and villain Von Rothbart (literally "Red Beard") danced by Dmitry Golubev. Usmanov, particularly, was a wonder as he kicked up his heels, leapt incredible heights, often several times in a row, and spun like a top.

While the corps of 16 women dancing as swans around Odette were often precisely together, including the same tilt of the head or angle of the leg, the smaller women's ensembles (twos and threes) weren't quite together, indicating that they may be used to more solo and featured roles rather than unison work.

The costumes designed by Vladimir Ludmilin were gorgeous, from pastel blues and pinks of the first act to the deeper yellows, oranges and rusts of the third act. The painted backdrops imparted sort of a medieval aura with Gothic arches and a castle on a hill. The lake of the

swans itself, seen through a scrim under blue light, seemed misty and magical as the swans came to fluttering life in Acts II and IV.”

Bob Cutright – Wichita Eagle

“Lovely ballet last night! The Princess danced absolutely beautifully, but the whole corps was flawless. The house was packed, and enthusiastic.”

Fred Wharton – Keenan Auditorium – Wilmington Concert Ass.

“I want to thank you for the opportunity you afforded our Conservatory students, parents, and faculty to attend **SWAN LAKE** last night. It was a wonderful experience for everyone and all thoroughly enjoyed the performance. It was exciting to see the original Petipa choreography executed by a company of performers that obviously knew what they were doing. The arts are truly the international language and to see performers trained in the great Russian ballet tradition moving an American audience surely says a great deal about the power of dance. Again, thank you and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors. This was a delightful treat!”

Walter Anderson, Ed.D., Headmaster – Baltimore Actor’s Theatre Academy

“What a spectacular performance of **SWAN LAKE**! I'm so very pleased to have met you and learn about your plans to bring opera to Baltimore. I think all of Baltimore will welcome your presence here. I've had the pleasure of reading about you, your husband Giorgio, and your promotion of the arts on your website Jenny Kelly Productions. I'm very impressed with the scope of your efforts and the success you've achieved. I'm ready to help in whatever way I can. The volunteers I support, known as BOPS, the Baltimore Opera Promotion and Support Group, will be very pleased, I'm certain, to address their volunteer efforts to your cause in the production of opera in Baltimore.”

***Andrew Pappas
Performances of Giselle and Sleeping Beauty at Cutler Majestic Theater, Boston***

The Moiseev Ballet once again thrills Boston audiences with two classics done with style and enchantment

“The Cutler Majestic Theater in Boston came alive with glorious music and graceful dance this weekend as the Moiseev Russian Classic Ballet, which is conducting its fourth U.S. tour, charmed the audiences with three beloved productions, only two of which I was able to attend and review: Adolphe Adam’s “**GISELLE**” and Tchaikovsky’s “**SLEEPING BEAUTY**.” I missed Tchaikovsky’s “**SWAN LAKE**,” which I have reviewed before on this site.

GISELLE is the story of a peasant girl who falls in love with a disguised Count, already betrothed, unbeknownst to her. Count Albrecht soon runs into her original suitor, Hilarion, who makes the Count's deceit public. Giselle, dies of a broken heart and is buried in the forest, where other young maidens have been similarly buried, and who also have died before marriage. They are the spirits of the dead, led by an unforgiving Mirta, Queen of the Wilis (the dead). The spirit virgins lure the deceitful Count into the forest and he is dispatched of quickly with dance. Hilarion, however, finds in the spirit Giselle a strong defender and she intervenes with the Queen to spare him his life. Alas, that is not to be the case. But, at least, the two are united again in the afterworld.

The story told through music and body movement (classic Russian ballet) was danced beautifully and expressively by a strong cast headed by Guzel Suleymanova (Giselle), Dimitry Marasanova (the Count) and Andrei Shallin (Hilarion). Although she danced little, kudos to Tatyana Panteleeva (the Queen) for her commanding presence and regal appearance.

The costumes were striking and the music was magnificent, especially the more emotional and serious second act, and while the Cutler stage is small, the corps de ballet ensemble handled it well and was a major plus for this production adding fluidity, grace and emotional depth to the story. If there was one drawback, it would be the lighting in the first act which was glaringly bright -- almost too much so.

This is a production worthy of strong attendance from those who enjoy ballet and for those who want to experience it for the first time. The Moiseev Russian Classic Ballet is making quite a name for itself and its productions are always eagerly anticipated, well-attended, and thoroughly enjoyed. This looks to be a very successful tour, indeed.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Tchaikovsky's "**SLEEPING BEAUTY**" was an equally impressive effort, filled with color, smart costuming, and some pretty remarkable performances. In this production, the lighting was used very effectively throughout and was easy on the eyes.

Attesting to the strength of this organization, many of the lead dancers that appeared in Saturday evening's performance of "**GISELLE**" appeared again Sunday afternoon in "**SLEEPING BEAUTY**," most notably, Guzel Suleymanova, dancing the role of Princess Aurora and Dimitry Marasanova, dancing the role of Prince Desire. As with most performances there is usually one dancer who stands out, and in this show the audience took particular pleasure in the skill, fluid body movements and superb acting of Mr. Almaz Akhmetzyanov who, while he was always draped in a floor-length cape, danced the role of the wicked, spell-casting fairy Carabosse with panache and great success. The children who did attend this performance had to be mesmerized. "**SLEEPING BEAUTY**" is a classic. The

entire Corps de Ballet of Vladimir Moiseev meets and exceeds all expectations. As noted earlier, this should be a very successful tour.”

Paul Joseph Walkowski, OperaOnline.us

“**SWAN LAKE** was a big success with the audience. They truly enjoyed it!”

Sandy Richmond – Lyric Opera House, Baltimore

“**GISELLE** was very well received by the audience!”

Bobby Rossi – Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater, FL

“The ballet was fabulous and you are so easy to work with!

Deborah Smith – Newberry Opera House

“The ballet performances were ALL magnificent!”

Joe Ferrer – Sunset Entertainment Group – Hollywood, FL