

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR TERRENCE S. ORR  
PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATRE**

**Contact:** Katie Drozynski  
Media Relations & Content Marketing Manager  
412-454-9117  
kdrozynski@pittsburghballet.org

**Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Opens Its 50th Anniversary Season with Highmark  
Presents “Giselle” with the PBT Orchestra**

*Artistic Director Terrence S. Orr opens his final season with PBT with the iconic Romantic ballet.*



**PITTSBURGH, PA (Sept. 2019)** - Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (PBT) will celebrate the start of its 50th Anniversary Season with “Giselle” with the PBT Orchestra, on stage Oct. 25-27 at the Benedum Center. Tickets start at \$28 and are on sale now at [www.pbt.org](http://www.pbt.org), 412-456-6666 or the Box Office at Theater Square.

“Giselle” also marks principal dancer [Luca Sbrizzi’s final production with PBT](#), closing his 12-year career with the company. He will take his final bow at the Oct. 26 performance at 8 p.m.

“Giselle” draws upon the Slavonic legend of the Wilis, a ghostly sisterhood of spurned maidens intent on revenge, to weave a tale of hope, heartache and betrayal. A village

doomed by a lover's deceit must fight against supernatural forces to save the man she loves in one of the most iconic ballerina roles in the repertoire.

"Giselle" premiered in 1841 at the Paris Opera Ballet with choreography by Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot and score by French composer Adolphe Adam.

PBT has its own storied history with "Giselle." Ballet Mistress Marianna Tcherkassky is one of the renowned Giselles of her generation, dancing opposite Mikhail Baryshnikov at American Ballet Theatre. The New York Times called her "one of the greatest Giselles that American ballet produced."

PBT unveiled new scenic and costume designs unique to PBT for "Giselle" in 2016. International artist Peter Farmer was commissioned to conceive designs, which were brought to life PBT Costumier Janet Groom Campbell and her team.

**Single tickets start at \$28 and are on sale now** at [www.pbt.org](http://www.pbt.org), 412-456-6666 or the Box Office at Theater Square. Groups of 10 or more can save up to 50 percent on tickets by calling 412-454-9101 or emailing [groupsales@pittsburghballet.org](mailto:groupsales@pittsburghballet.org).

### **About Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre**

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre has been Pittsburgh's premier professional ballet company since 1969. Today, PBT is a nationally recognized ballet company of 30 professional dancers, a training institution for over 1,200 students of all ages, and an incubator for education and accessibility programs in classrooms, libraries and community centers throughout the region. Led by Artistic Director Terrence S. Orr, the company performs a wide-ranging repertoire of classical ballets, contemporary masterworks and new commissions in more than 50 performances annually at home and on tour.

*The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust has helped to transform a downtrodden section of Downtown into a world-class Cultural District that stands as a national model of urban revitalization through the arts. Touring Broadway, contemporary dance, family performances, festivals, visual arts, education and community events are among the wide variety of arts and entertainment programs that the Trust presents and exhibits. Hundreds of artists, thousands of students and millions of people expand their horizons in our theaters, galleries and public art environments.*