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MARIINSKY BALLET & ORCHESTRA
OPENS CAL PERFORMANCES' 2012–2013 DANCE SEASON WITH
SWAN LAKE
WEDNESDAY–FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10–14 IN ZELLERBACH HALL

**Sightlines: A pre-performance talk will be given on Friday and Saturday evenings,
October 12 and 13, at 7:00 p.m.**

BERKELEY, September 11, 2012—Russia's acclaimed **Mariinsky Ballet & Orchestra** (formerly the Kirov) comes to Berkeley with six performances of *Swan Lake* in **Zellerbach Hall** from **Wednesday–Sunday, October 10–14**. The company brings a production created for them by legendary choreographers **Marius Petipa** and **Lev Ivanov** in 1895, and revised by **Konstantin Sergeyev** in 1950. Sergeyev famously tweaked the ballet's ending, adding a Soviet-style twist that softens the tragedy of Petipa and Ivanov's version, while retaining the purity of the Imperial Russian style of dancing for which the company was, and still is, famous. The company includes artist **Ekaterina Kondourova**, "the queen of the Kirov's contemporary repertoire [and] a radical presence in the classics" (*Pointe Magazine*), rotating in the role of Odette/Odile. The 65-piece Mariinsky Orchestra, under the baton of **Mikhail Agrest**, will play the soaring musical score by **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**. "This is a sublime account of the world's best-loved ballet" (*Guardian*, UK).

Dancing Odette/Odile will be Kondourova (October 10, October 13 matinee), **Anastasia Kolegova** (October 11 and 14), **Alina Somova** (October 13 evening) and **Victroria Tereshkina** (October 12). Rotating in the role of Prince Siegfried, the Mariinsky Ballet will feature **Yevgeny Ivanchenko** (October 11), **Danila Korsuntsev** (October 10, October 13 matinee), **Vladimir Schklyarov** (October 12), **Alexander Sergeev** (October 13 evening) and **Maxim Zuzin** (October 14). While all eyes will be on the company's principal dancers, the *Guardian* (UK) reminded viewers of the Mariinsky Ballet's "... peerless ranks of swans. Every back has the

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same soft-swept arch, every arm the same airy line from shoulder to fingertip, every neck is identically poised, every gaze parallel. The effect is ravishing.”

A Sightlines pre-performance talk, moderated by dance specialist Kathryn Roszack and featuring a special guest, will be given on Friday and Saturday evenings, October 12 and 13, at 7:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. This event is free to *Swan Lake* ticketholders.

The **Mariinsky Ballet** has roots in 19th century Imperial Russian Ballet. In 1889 the company established its home in St. Petersburg’s Mariinsky Theatre and under the leadership of choreographer Marius Petipa premiered many beloved Tchaikovsky ballets including *Sleeping Beauty*, *The Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake*. Other major works premiered by the company include *Schéhérazade* (music by Rimsky-Korsakov), *The Firebird* and *Pétrouchka* (music by Igor Stravinsky). The Russian Revolution and two World Wars proved trying for the company, but from the 1950s through the 1970s the company reemerged from those dark days with famed modern ballets including Aram Khachaturian’s *Spartacus*, Boris Tishchenko’s *Twelve* (choreography by Leonid Yakobson) and Sergei Prokofiev’s *The Stone Flower*, along with diligently curated productions of works from the corps’ classical legacy. Throughout its history, the company has been home to many of the world’s most renowned ballet choreographers and dancers, including Anna Pavlova, Vaslav Nijinsky, Marina Semenova, Yury Grigorovich, Rudolph Nureyev and Mikhail Baryshnikov.

The **Mariinsky Orchestra** was founded in the 1700s, during the reign of Peter the Great. From 1863 to 1916 the orchestra blossomed under the musical direction of Eduard Napravnik, who developed what became known as the “Russian school” of conducting. He trained a generation of conductors and led premieres of operas by Mussorgsky, Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov and other Russian composers. Though it has changed names many times, the orchestra remains one of Russia’s leading cultural institutions and a top global symphony orchestra. Maestro Valery Gergiev has been the orchestra’s chief conductor since 1988 and serves as Artistic and General Director of the Mariinsky Theatre. A longtime friend of Cal Performances, he was most recently seen in Berkeley in 2011 leading the Mariinsky Orchestra’s residency that featured performances of Tchaikovsky’s six symphonies.

For more information about the Mariinsky Ballet, Orchestra, or Valery Gergiev, visit the Mariinsky Theatre's website at mariinsky.ru/en.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Mariinsky Ballet & Orchestra's** production of *Swan Lake* on **Wednesday–Sunday, October 10–13** in **Zellerbach Hall** range from **\$30.00** to **\$175.00**, and are subject to change. They are available through the Cal Performances' Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5.00 discount (Special Events excluded). For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior, and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced three hours prior to a performance on Cal Performances' Facebook page and at 510-642-9988 and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit www.calperformances.org.

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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their major support of the Season.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Wednesday–Friday, October 10–12, at 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 13, at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 14, at 3:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Dance
Swan Lake
Mariinsky Ballet & Orchestra
Mikhail Agrest, conductor

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Program: The Mariinsky Ballet & Orchestra, the venerable Russian ballet company and its orchestra, returns to Cal Performances with Konstantin Sergeyev's lavish 1950 production of Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*.

Tickets: Range from \$30.00 to \$175.00 and are subject to change; they are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at calperformances.org; and at the door.

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Friday & Saturday, October 12 & 13 at 7:00 p.m.
SIGHTLINES

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Pre-performance talk with dance specialist Kathryn Roszack and special guests. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with Cal Performances' guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. This event is free to ticket holders.

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