

**NEW  
YORK  
CITY  
BALLET**

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 7, 2026

**NEW YORK CITY BALLET  
2026 SPRING SEASON  
APRIL 21 – MAY 31, 2026**

**Annual Spring Gala on Thursday, May 7**

***Set in Stone: Creation & Preservation***

**Featuring**

**A World Premiere by TILER PECK**

**Set to Édouard Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnole***

**With Guest Violinist HILARY HAHN**

**Performing with the NEW YORK CITY BALLET ORCHESTRA**

**and**

***Diamonds* from GEORGE BALANCHINE'S *Jewels***

**NYCB Premiere of CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON'S *Continuum***

**to the Music of GYÖRGY LIGETI**

**Eight Performances of**

**GEORGE BALANCHINE and ALEXANDRA DANILOVA'S Full-Length Production of *Coppélia***

**A Farewell Performance for Principal Dancer MEGAN FAIRCHILD**

**Who Will Retire from NYCB on Sunday, May 24**

**Dancing the Role of Swanilda in *Coppélia***

**A Special Sensory-Friendly Performance on Saturday, May 17 at 11am**

**Featuring GEORGE BALANCHINE'S *Divertimento No. 15***

**and ALEXEI RATMANSKY'S *Concerto DSCH***

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New York City Ballet's 2026 Spring Season will open on Tuesday, April 21 and continue for six weeks, through Sunday, May 31, at the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center.

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The season will begin with a program consisting of George Balanchine's *Symphony in C*, to Georges Bizet's eponymous score, along with two landmark works to music by Igor Stravinsky: Balanchine's *Agon* and Balanchine and Jerome Robbins' *Firebird*. The first week of the spring season will also include a second program consisting of Alexei Ratmansky's *Voices*, Robbins' *In Memory of...*, and Balanchine's *Diamonds*.

The second week of the season will be highlighted by the NYCB premiere of Christopher Wheeldon's *Continuum* on Friday, May 1. Created for San Francisco Ballet in 2002, *Continuum* is the second of three works that Wheeldon created to music by György Ligeti in the early 2000s. The others, both created for NYCB, are *Polyphonia* (2001) and *Morphoses* (2002). The program will also feature Lar Lubovitch's *Each In Their Own Time*, Edwaard Liang's *Distant Cries*, and Ratmansky's *Concerto DSCH*.

The second week of the spring season will also include a program consisting of Balanchine's *Divertimento No. 15*, Peter Martins' *Zakouski*, Gianna Reisen's *Composer's Holiday*, and Justin Peck's *Heatscape*, that will debut on Wednesday, April 29.

**2026 Spring Gala – Thursday, May 7**  
***Set in Stone: Creation & Preservation***

On Thursday, May 7 New York City Ballet will present its 2026 Spring Gala, *Set in Stone: Creation & Preservation*, a one-time-only gala evening that will celebrate NYCB's longstanding commitment to the creation of new work as well as the enduring legacy of the Company's co-founding choreographer George Balanchine. The evening will feature the World Premiere of a new work by choreographer and NYCB Principal Dancer Tiler Peck and a performance of Balanchine's *Diamonds* from *Jewels*, which will be performed as a prelude to forthcoming Diamond Anniversary of *Jewels* in 2027.

Tiler Peck's World Premiere will be set to Édouard Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnole* and feature a cast of more than 30 dancers with costumes designed by acclaimed ballet, theater, and opera designer Robert Perdziola and lighting by Tony Award–nominated lighting designer Brandon Stirling Baker.

The gala performance will also feature the three-time Grammy Award-winning violinist Hilary Hahn who will perform *Symphonie Espagnole* as a guest artist with the New York City Ballet Orchestra led by Music Director Andrew Litton.

The 2026 Spring Gala will be co-chaired by Donya Bommer, Melanie Hamrick, and Brynn Putnam, all members of the NYCB Board of Directors; with Honorary Chair Mick Jagger, and Host Committee: Gwendoline Christie and Giles Deacon, Stephen Colbert, Claire Danes and Hugh Dancy, Ariana DeBose, Fran Drescher, Jennifer Garner, Ashley Graham, Neil Patrick Harris and David Burtka, Diane Kruger, Hari Neff, Leslie Odom, Jr., Olivia Palermo and Johannes Huebl, Nicole Ari Parker, Emmy Rossum, and Christian Siriano.

The gala evening will begin with a cocktail reception at 5:30pm with champagne courtesy of Maison Ruinart, followed by the performance at 7pm, and concluding with a black-tie dinner and dancing on the theater's Promenade. The 2026 Spring Gala Red Carpet is generously supported by Christie's. Benefit-priced tickets for the full evening are available through the NYCB Special Events Office at 212-870-5585 or at [nycballet.com/springgala](http://nycballet.com/springgala). Tickets for the performance only are available at [nycballet.com](http://nycballet.com), by calling 212-496-0600, or at the David H. Koch Theater box office.

Following the May 7 premiere, Tiler Peck's new ballet will be performed five additional times on a program that will include Robbins' *Opus 19/The Dreamer*, and Alysa Pires' *Standard Deviation*. Hahn will also perform on May 17 at 3pm, and May 27 and 28 at 7:30pm. Award-winning violinist Tai Murray will perform *Symphonie Espagnole* as a guest artist with the NYCB Orchestra for the performances on May 9 at 2pm and May 12 at 7:30pm.

The final weeks of the season will include an all-Bach program featuring Balanchine's *Concerto Barocco* and Robbins' *The Goldberg Variations*, and eight performances of Balanchine and Alexandra Danilova's full-length production of *Coppélia*.

Considered one of the greatest comedic ballets of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, NYCB's production of *Coppélia* was created in 1974 by Balanchine and Danilova, the legendary dancer and teacher who was considered a definitive Swanilda, the ballet's leading female character. The production features scenery and costumes by Rouben Ter-Arutunian, additional costumes by Karinska, and lighting by Mark Stanley, after the original lighting design by Ronald Bates. The ballet is set to the score by Léo Delibes with a book by Charles Nuitter, after E.T.A. Hoffmann, whose writing was also the basis for *The Nutcracker*. The NYCB production features more than 65 dancers including 24 students from the School of American Ballet.

**Sensory-Friendly Performance – Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 11am**

The season will also include a special sensory-friendly performance on Sunday, May 17 at 11am, consisting of Balanchine's *Divertimento No. 15* and Ratmansky's *Concerto DSCH*. This specially curated performance is designed to provide a relaxed, inclusive environment where individuals with sensory processing challenges, including autism, can experience NYCB. The performance will include a relaxed entry/exit policy, adjustments to lighting and sound levels, designated break areas throughout the theater, additional event staffing to assist with audience needs, and pre-visit resources, including a visual schedule. Tickets start at \$36. For tickets and additional information visit: [nycballet.com/sensoryfriendly](http://nycballet.com/sensoryfriendly).

**Megan Fairchild Farewell Performance – Sunday, May 24, 2026 at 3pm**

On Sunday, May 24 at 3pm, Principal Dancer Megan Fairchild will give her farewell performance with NYCB, dancing the role of Swanilda in *Coppélia* to conclude her 25-year career with the Company.

Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, Fairchild began her dance training at the age of 4. She entered the School of American Ballet in the fall of 2000, and in November 2001 she became an apprentice with New York City Ballet. She joined the Company's corps de ballet in 2002, was promoted to the rank of Soloist in February 2004, and became Principal in January 2005.

As a member of NYCB she has performed featured roles in numerous ballets by George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Peter Martins, Justin Peck, Alexei Ratmansky, Susan Stroman, and Christopher Wheeldon, among others.

In 2014 she made her Broadway debut performing the role of Ivy Smith, AKA Miss Turnstiles, in the Tony Award–nominated revival of *On the Town*. In 2011 Fairchild danced the role of the Sugarplum Fairy in PBS' *Live From Lincoln Center* telecast of NYCB's production of George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*. She is currently a faculty member at the School of American Ballet where she was a recipient of the Mae L. Wien Award in 2001.

All performances will take place at the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center, which is located at West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street and Columbus Avenue. Tickets are available online at [nycballet.com](http://nycballet.com), by phone at 212-496-0600, or at the theater's box office. For complete program information visit [nycballet.com](http://nycballet.com).

## **Public Programs**

The spring season will also include a number of programs and events designed to provide opportunities to interact with the Company's artists and other personnel, and learn more about the legacy and innovation of NYCB. These activities will include:

### ***Inside NYCB: Monday, May 11 at 6:30pm***

*Inside NYCB* is a one-hour onstage presentation that explores the history and inner workings of New York City Ballet through performance and discussion. The program on May 11, hosted by former NYCB Principal Dancer Sterling Hyltin, will explore Balanchine and Danilova's beloved comedic ballet *Coppélia*, with performance excerpts and insight into bringing the unique characters to life. Tickets for *Inside NYCB* are \$29 and are available for purchase at [nycballet.com](http://nycballet.com), in person at the theater box office, and by phone at (212) 496-0600.

### ***Family Saturdays: Saturday, May 30 at 11am***

On Saturday, May 30 at 11am, NYCB will present a one-hour *Family Saturdays* program featuring excerpts from Balanchine and Danilova's *Coppélia*. Hosted by Principal Dancer Unity Phelan, the presentation will explore the story of *Coppélia*, performed by Company dancers and members of the NYCB orchestra in an interactive program designed for children and adults ages 5 and up. *Family Saturdays* tickets start at \$29 per person and are required for infants, children, and adults. Priority seating for American Sign Language interpretation is available for all *Family Saturdays* presentations. Tickets are currently on sale online at [nycballet.com](http://nycballet.com), in person at the theater box office, and by phone at (212) 496-0600.

## ***Movement Workshops***

The season will also include a series of in-person **Movement Workshops** held in NYCB's rehearsal studios at Lincoln Center. These will include:

- ***Children's Workshops*** for children ages 5 to 7 on Saturday, May 16 from 12:30-1:15pm and Saturday, May 30 from 12:30-1:15pm.
- ***In Motion*** workshop for children ages 8 to 12 on Saturday, May 16 from 12:30-1:15pm.
- ***Ballet Essentials*** workshops for teens and adults on Monday, April 20 from 6:30-7:45pm and Saturday, May 16 from 10:30-11:45am.

- ***Children’s Access Workshop*** for children with physical disabilities ages 4 to 12 on Saturday, May 2 from 11:00am-12:00pm.
- ***Autism-Friendly Access Workshops*** for children ages 4 to 12 with autism or other sensory needs on Saturday, April 25 from 1:00-2:00pm and Saturday, May 2 from 1:00-2:00pm.

Movement Workshop tickets range from \$8 to \$36. For additional information visit [nycballet.com/educate/public-programs](http://nycballet.com/educate/public-programs) and [nycballet.com/access](http://nycballet.com/access).

**New York City Ballet is located in a facility owned by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.**

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