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**Metropolitan Ballet Company presents *Variations/Collaborations*  
With Special Guest Artists Philadelphia Ballet II and Contemporary Premieres  
Saturday, March 21, 2026, 7:00pm at Kurtz Center, Wm. Penn Charter Campus**

*Featuring vibrant choreography and brilliant young artists*

Philadelphia, PA - Metropolitan Ballet Company will host guest artists from **Philadelphia Ballet II (PBII)** for *Variations/Collaborations*, an evening of vibrant choreography and artistic collaboration at 7:00pm on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at the [Kurtz Center](#), William Penn Charter School, 3000 West School House Lane, Philadelphia. Free parking is available. Tickets are \$25; Purchase tickets at [www.metropolitanballetcompany.org](http://www.metropolitanballetcompany.org).

Metropolitan Ballet and Philadelphia Ballet II bring a showcase of remarkable contemporary choreography by Tommie-Waheed Evans, David Fernandez, Gabrielle Lamb, Sarah Mettin and Tyler Schnese.

**David Fernandez's** *Glimmer*, a world premiere, blends refined, structured choreography with buoyant, celebratory pointe work and movement. Inspired by the idea of "a faint, wavering shine" and those fleeting moments that spark joy, peace, and quiet happiness, the work unfolds as both intimate and radiant. The result is a luminous new creation that captures the power of small sparks to illuminate something far greater.

Originally created for Metropolitan Ballet Company in 2014, **Tommie-Waheed Evans' *Rush Hour*** is a high-energy contemporary ballet defined by its dynamic musicality and virtuosic, technical movement. An audience favorite from its debut, the work pulses with momentum and urgency, electrifying the stage and inviting viewers to feel the rush from start to finish.

**Tyler Schnese's *Nowhere Near*** is a contemporary ballet pas de deux that places classical pointe work within a modern movement vocabulary. Exploring the emotional push and pull of a relationship, the piece captures what it means to feel nowhere near one another, and the vulnerability and clarity required to reach a place of resolve.

**Sarah Mettin**, Metropolitan Ballet's Associate Artistic Director, premieres *Steel Breeze*, a new work for 26 dancers. Rooted in contemporary modern movement and an infectious groove, the choreography layers sweeping phrases, rhythmic complexity, and momentum. Dancing as individuals and as one, the ensemble transforms the pull of artificial and interpersonal forces into bold, connected, and unifying movement.

Philadelphia Ballet II will perform "*Don't Think Twice*" a work for 12 dancers by celebrated NYC-based choreographer **Gabrielle Lamb**, "*In Her Dreams*" with choreography by **Davit Karapetyan**, and the classical pas de deux, *Diana & Acteon*.

Purchase tickets for *Variations/Collaborations* on March 21, 2026, online at [www.metropolitanballetcompany.org](http://www.metropolitanballetcompany.org). For additional information or group sales please contact the Metropolitan office at 215-663-1665 or email at [info@metropolitanballetacademy.com](mailto:info@metropolitanballetacademy.com)

## ABOUT THE PERFORMING ARTISTS

**Metropolitan Ballet Company**, founded by former Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Ballet dancer, Lisa Collins Vidnovic in 1996, provides the highest quality performance training for pre-professional dancers, sustains our nationally recognized Boys' Scholarship Program, now more than 25 years strong, providing tuition-free training to 50+ boys each year (making Met's one of the largest programs in the country), and brings a robust "Kinetic Literacy" outreach program to over 400 K-3 students in 18 underserved Philadelphia elementary classrooms annually, strengthening reading and math skills through the magic of movement and live performance. Together, these programs embody the heart of Metropolitan Ballet: using the power of dance to inspire, educate, and open doors of opportunity for young people.

Metropolitan is also a launch-pad for outstanding choreographers (Jessica Lang, Kanji Segawa, Tommie Waheed-Evans, Maleek Washington) and we are exceptionally proud of the many Metropolitan alumni currently dancing professionally across the country, including with San Francisco Ballet, BalletX, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Cincinnati Ballet, Colorado Ballet, Indianapolis Ballet, Rubberband Dance and other top companies and trainee programs. For more information on our programs, please visit [www.metropolitanballetcompany.org](http://www.metropolitanballetcompany.org) or connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Metropolitan Ballet Company is supported in part by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community & Economic Development, receives support from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and is grateful for the support of our community sponsors, area foundations and many generous individuals.

**Philadelphia Ballet II (PBII)**, the pre-professional second company of Philadelphia Ballet, was established in 2002. Designed to cultivate the next generation of professional dancers, PBII provides exceptional young artists with the opportunity to refine their technique, expand their artistry, and gain meaningful performance experience as they transition from student to professional. Under the leadership of **Davit Karapetyan, The Maxine and Jay L. Goldberg School and PBII Director**, PBII offers unparalleled training and performance opportunities, providing the experience dancers need to join a company of professionals. PBII dancers benefit from rigorous daily training and a wide range of performance opportunities, including classical and contemporary works, as well as participation in Philadelphia Ballet's mainstage productions. Dancers invited to join PBII train under full scholarship at School of Philadelphia Ballet and receive a weekly stipend to help offset living expenses. Philadelphia Ballet II dancers serve as the organization's community ambassadors, inspiring audiences through public performances, school programs, and community engagement. Each year, they reach thousands of individuals throughout the greater Philadelphia area. These unique opportunities offer invaluable learning experiences, allowing dancers to expand their technique and artistry and gain unique insight into the life of a professional dancer.

**Philadelphia Ballet**, founded in 1963 by Barbara Weisberger, a protégée of George Balanchine, is one of the nation's premier ballet companies and a true cultural treasure of Philadelphia. Furthering a sixty-year artistic lineage in Philadelphia, *The Ruth & A. Morris Williams, Jr. Artistic Director* Angel Corella leads an ensemble of 50 dancers from around the world and an ever-evolving repertoire of classic and contemporary works. *The Carolyn Newsom, Ph.D., Endowed Chief Executive Officer* Shelly Power spearheads development and strategic plans to strengthen and expand the company's presence and impact locally, nationally, and internationally. Recognized as one of the top ten ballet companies in the United States, Philadelphia Ballet's 32-member Board of Trustees is led by local business leader and philanthropist David F. Hoffman. In addition to its performances on the Ensemble Arts Philly Campus, Philadelphia Ballet serves more than 15,000 individuals across the region every year with hands-on arts education and engagement activities brought to children and adults alike regardless of ability or socioeconomic background. For more, visit [philadelphiaballet.org](http://philadelphiaballet.org) or connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), and [YouTube](#). Philadelphia Ballet is supported in part by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community & Economic Development, and receives support from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Photos on Pages 3 and 4

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Metropolitan Ballet Company in  
"Vivaldi Suite No 2", Choreography by Da Von Doane *Photo: Eduardo Patino.NYC*



Metropolitan Ballet Company in "De(vices)", Choreography by Sarah Mettin  
*Photo: Eduardo Patino.NYC*

# METROPOLITAN BALLET COMPANY

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*Artists of Philadelphia Ballet II (2025-2026) Photo: Helm Creative Studio*