



Photo: Sasha Onyshchenko - Dancer: Maude Sabourin

## Les Grands Ballets' 65<sup>th</sup> season is launched!

**Montréal, April 20, 2022** - It is with great joy that Les Grands Ballets unveils their 2022-2023 season! Presenting five unforgettable shows, four of which accompanied by Les Grands Ballets' Orchestra, dance lovers will be pleased as of October 2022. Creation takes once again center stage for Ivan Cavallari's 6th year at the helm of Les Grands Ballets' artistic direction, with a new season that will above all bring back to life classics under the creative inspiration of new choreographers.

This fall, Étienne Béchard will premiere globally his *Carmen*, set to the *Suite Carmen* of Rodion Shchedrin. Canadian choreographer and Les Grands Ballets' dancer Kiara Flavin will join Béchard and present her very first piece for the company, *The Waves* on Stravinsky's *Concerto for Strings*. With *Requiem*, Montreal based choreographer Andrew Skeels tackles another musical masterpiece, Brahms' German Requiem, in a creation that shines a light on the company's 47 dancers. Two new names join the ranks of Les Grands Ballets' choreographers, Cass Mortimer Eipper and Canadian Kristen Céré, who sign *Ultraviolet*, a contemporary double-bill. To close off the season, *Cinderella*, the beloved tale of our childhood, in a new version by Australian choreographer Jayne Smeulders.

'After two years of pandemic and uncertainty, it is a real pleasure for me to finally launch a full season! This programming is an invitation to all, to the vast audience of Les Grands Ballets, from ballet lovers to contemporary dance aficionados. The 2022-2023 season will be filled with intrigues and drama, great stories and new creations which will have our audience thrilled but will, first and foremost, bring dance to life!'

- Ivan Cavallari, Artistic Director



Photo: Sasha Onyshchenko – Dancer: Rachele Buriassi

## *Carmen – The Rite of Spring – The Waves*

October 20 to 23, 2022  
Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier  
With orchestra

# CARMEN

Choreographer Étienne Béchard returns to Les Grands Ballets heading a mixed program that will kick off the 65<sup>th</sup> season in force. First off, *Carmen*, a symbol of rebelliousness if ever there was one—will break happily from tradition, choreographed here to the *Carmen Suite* derived by Rodion Shchedrin from Bizet’s opera.

In the second part of this music-inspired evening, Béchard presents his *Rite of Spring*, a rereading of Stravinsky’s landmark work, transposed to the arena of a post-apocalyptic setting in which two clans go head to head.

To close off the evening beautifully, Les Grands Ballets’ dancer Kiara Flavin presents her first piece for the company, *The Waves*, set to Stravinsky’s *Concerto for Violin*. Inspired by the novel by writer Virginia Woolf, which published at the same time as Stravinsky premiered his Concerto, in October of 1931. Two tumultuous pieces whose strength shape Flavin’s piece.

An explosive mix and a true breath of fresh air!

### *Carmen*

Choreography: Étienne Béchard  
Music: Rodion Shchedrin

### *The Rite of Spring*

Choreography: Étienne Béchard  
Music: Igor Stravinsky

### *The Waves*

Choreography: Kiara Flavin  
Music: Igor Stravinsky



Photo: Félix Renaud – Dancer: Mai Kono

## *The Nutcracker*

December 9 to 30, 2022  
Wilfrid-Pelletier  
With orchestra

# THE NUTCRACKER

After two years of cancellations, Clara and her friends from the Kingdom of Sweets are back for good on the stage of Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, with a full length performance of *The Nutcracker* ballet. This 59th edition will see the return of everyone's favorite characters in the magical universe of choreographer Fernand Nault. A holiday classic to share for the first time or rediscover with the whole family!

Choreography: Fernand Nault  
Music: Piytor I. Tchaikovsky



Photo: Sasha Onyshchenko – Dancer: Stefano Russiello

## *Requiem*

March 23 to 26, 2023

Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier

With choir and orchestra

# REQUIEM

A monumental work, the German Requiem of Johannes Brahms is an elegy created following the loss of his mentor, composer Robert Schumann, and of his mother. Inspired by the solemn beauty of the piece, choreographer Andrew Skeels presents a poignant work that explores the profundity of human connections.

Choreography: Andrew Skeels  
Music: Johannes Brahms



Photo: Sasha Onyshchenko – Dancers: Raphaël Bouchard & Vanesa G.R. Montoya

## *Ultraviolet* Double-bill

April 27 to May 6, 2023  
Théâtre Maisonneuve

# ULTRAVIOLET

Cass Mortimer Eipper, award-winning dancer of the West Australian Ballet and the Sydney Dance Company, is driven by an exploration of alternate realities. Worlds that help us to reassess our senses and cognition as we journey through lands made from mismatched bits and pieces. His piece *Moveo* is one of these re-formed collages: a creation that explores the mysterious sensory and control apparatus known as our nervous system.

Canadian Kristen Céré, who distinguished herself notably with Nederlands Dans Theater, reveals her interest in the complexity of human behaviours and feelings. An evening of discoveries, where two worlds find echoes in each of the others.

### *Moveo*

Choreography: Cass Mortimer Eipper  
Music: Cass Mortimer Eipper

### *Night Holds Sway*

Choreography: Kristen Céré





Photo: Félix Renaud - Dancer: Éléonore Thomas

## *Cinderella*

May 31 to June 4, 2023  
Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier  
With orchestra

# CINDERELLA

Feel the nostalgia of childhood for an evening and let yourself be carried away by the magic of Cinderella, the wonderful centuries-old fairy tale. Prokofiev's famous score, completed in 1944 and inspired by the Perrault tale, has perpetually fascinated choreographers. For her first full-length ballet, in 2011, choreographer Jayne Smeulders—at the time a Principal Dancer with the West Australian Ballet—decided to tackle this choice piece from the repertoire.

Between her cruel stepmother and two selfish and vain stepsisters, poor Cinderella has a hard life. And yet: the wave of a magic wand will change the course of her destiny forever. Re-created for Les Grands Ballets with glittering new sets and costumes, this sublime ballet on pointe, faithful to the famous tale, is a delight for the whole family—a touch of magic to wind up the season in grand style!

Choreography: Jayne Smeulders  
Music: Sergei Prokofiev

## Subscription packages: don't miss anything!

The best seats are reserved to subscribers, with **discounts going up to 40%**. Information on our subscription packages can be found on the company's website [www.GrandsBallets.com](http://www.GrandsBallets.com) or by phone at (514) 849-0269.

## Partners

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal receive the support of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Conseil des arts de Montréal.

## Ivan Cavallari renewed as Artistic Director of Les Grands Ballets



Ivan Cavallari - Photo: Sasha Onyshchenko

The company has announced the renewal of the mandate of its artistic director, Ivan Cavallari, for a second five-year term. Appointed in 2017, at the moment the company was moving into Édifice Wilder Espace Danse in the heart of the Quartier des spectacles, “Mr. Cavallari has been the key figure in the realization of numerous important artistic achievements over the last four years,” stated Maurice Côté, chairman of the company's board of directors. “Since his appointment, Mr. Cavallari has put in place a solid foundation for establishing a long-term vision for the company and its community, thereby reinforcing the position of Les Grands Ballets as a ballet troupe of significant scope, a leading organization in our arts and cultural sector.”

## About Les Grands Ballets

For over 60 years, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens has been a creation, production and international performance company devoted to the development of dance in all its forms, while always staying faithful to the spirit of classical ballet. The dancers of Les Grands Ballets, under the artistic direction of Ivan Cavallari, perform choreographies by both long-established and trendsetting creators. Situated at the heart of Montreal's Quartier des spectacles, Les Grands Ballets offers leisure services in its STUDIOS and supports its National Centre for Dance Therapy, which promotes all the benefits that dance can bring. The company's mission is also to ensure accessibility to art for everyone; in that spirit its achievements include the founding of The Nutcracker Fund, which every year enables thousands of children to enjoy a first ballet experience. Les Grands Ballets, recognized for its excellence, creativity and daring, is fully committed to the local community, and is acclaimed on stages around the world.

## Media Requests

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