

## NEWS

For immediate release

# ITALIAN ESCAPADE!

*Four Seasons* and *Cantata* by choreographer Mauro Bigonzetti –  
*la vita e bella!*



**Montréal, March 16, 2010** – There's nothing like evoking the warmth of Italy to give you an early taste of spring! In March 2011, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal brings an evening of Mauro Bigonzetti to Montréal, a veritable "concert of dance" that's sure to spark enthusiasm: *Four Seasons*, set to the memorable music of Vivaldi, and *Cantata*, a work overflowing with colour and life, with the vibrant female quartet Gruppo Musicale Assurd from southern Italy. Back again **March 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, and 26, 2011**, at **Théâtre Maisonneuve** of Place des Arts.

### Seasons of the heart

"It would never have crossed my mind before to choreograph to the music of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*," says Bigonzetti. "If it had, I would have thought I'd lost my mind. The music is some of the world's best known and most often interpreted!" Still, the choreographer risked the venture, and carried off the challenge of expressing something different through pieces that have been interpreted thousands of times, evoking people's internal seasons, their states of mind and their changes of heart.

*Four Seasons* employs "a gestural language that's bubbling, joyous and filled with humour, bringing to mind the curious, indomitable creatures – animal and human – that are found in Nature." according to *Le Devoir* (Montréal). Created for Les Grands Ballets in May 2007, Bigonzetti's first ballet for a Canadian company is one of Les Grands' greatest successes on tour, performed, among others, at Les Étés de la danse festival in Paris in 2008 and at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Massachusetts last summer.

### Colours of the South

*Cantata*, originally created for Ballet Gulbenkian in 2001, was added to Les Grands' repertoire in 2007. With its visceral, passionate gestural language, *Cantata* evokes rugged Mediterranean beauty and spreads the colours of the South. Instinctive and vital, the dance explores the multiple facets of relations between men and women, from seduction to passion and from quarrels to jealousy. *Cantata* pays homage to Italian culture and to its musical tradition, popular in the most noble sense of the word. The piece is inspired by Italian music from the 18th and 19th centuries, from lullabies to the *pizziche* of Salento, and with a nod to Neapolitan serenades. The voices and music of the singers of Gruppo Musicale Assurd draw the 10 pairs of dancers



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into the festive atmosphere of southern Italy, to the sounds of the tambourine and castanets. "Earthy and human," says *The Boston Globe* of the ballet, and according to the *Daily News Egypt* (Cairo), it is "radiating with spirit and passion". *La Presse* (Montréal) calls it "a Vesuvian rumbling" intimately linking dance with music.

### **Mauro Bigonzetti, the Latin Forsythe**

Mauro Bigonzetti, called "a passionate, flamboyant choreographer" by *Dance International* (Vancouver), and nicknamed the "Latin Forsythe" by *Le Figaro* (Paris), was born in Rome in 1960. Following his dance studies at Rome Opera Ballet School, he entered the Rome Opera Ballet. After 10 years, he joined the Aterballetto company, where he created his first choreography in 1990. He left the company two years later to become a freelance choreographer. In 1997, he became Artistic Director and principal choreographer of Aterballetto. In 2008, he resigned his position as Artistic Director but remains the company's principal choreographer. Highly visible on the international scene, he has created works all over the world for companies as varied as English National Ballet, Ballet national de Marseille, Stuttgarter Ballett, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Staatsoper Dresden, Ballet Teatro Argentino de la Plata, Balé da Cidade de São Paulo, Ballet Gulbenkian, Ankara State Ballet, Royal Swedish Ballet, Ballet du Capitole, and of course Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal. This spring, he will create his fourth work for New York City Ballet, in collaboration with composer Bruno Moretti. His daring and energetic style seduces every time.

***Four Seasons and Cantata by Mauro Bigonzetti***  
performed by Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal  
on March 17, 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26, 2011, at 8 p.m.  
Théâtre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts

#### **Pre-show talks**

Pre-show talks take place from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Théâtre Maisonneuve prior to each performance.

### **Learn about subscriptions**

For information on subscription rates and group packages as well as their benefits, call **514 849-0269**, consult the season brochure or visit **grandsballets.com** where you will also find information on programs, the company and its dancers. You can also subscribe on line. Individual tickets are available at Place des Arts as of September 2010. Box office: **514 842-2112 / www.laplacedesarts.com**.

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