

## NEWS

For immediate release

# 2010 BENEFIT GALA – A TASTE OF VENICE! LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL TO THROW A BALL AT MONTRÉAL'S UNIPRIX STADIUM ON MAY 1



**Montréal, April 8, 2010** – Resonating with the company's participation in the prestigious Venice Biennale on May 27, 28 and 29, the theme of the 2010 Annual Benefit Gala for Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal is "**Un bal à Venise.**" The event – which will also mark the 10th anniversary of the arrival of Artistic Director Gradimir Pankov at the company's helm – will take place on **May 1** at **Uniprix Stadium in Jarry Park**, transformed for the occasion into a Venetian-themed ballroom. Les Grands promises an enchanting, voluptuous evening ... with dancing also on the menu, naturally!

"This gala will celebrate the role of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal as a cultural ambassador abroad, as the company continues to shine on the world's greatest stages," says Les Grands Executive Director Alain Dancyger. "The Grands Ballets ball is an annual tradition, deeply rooted in the life of Montréal, and with a different theme every year. Given the current difficult economic climate, this is a major fundraising event aimed at helping us fulfil our mission. More than 500 people are expected and this year's objective is to collect \$500,000."

The gala will begin with a cocktail, followed by an Italian-style gourmet supper and dancing. The program for the evening, to be emceed by **Winston McQuade**, will include a presentation of *Six Dances* by choreographer Jiří Kylián, an irresistibly entertaining work based on Mozart's *Six German Dances*, and which is among the pieces to be presented by Les Grands in Venice. Later, orchestral rhythms will infuse the party for guests' dancing pleasure. **Several prizes will be drawn**, including a trip for two to Europe on aboard Air Canada; a Jaeger handbag; a Nespresso Lattissima coffee machine, along with accessories and a sample pack valued at \$1,100; a \$1,000 Aquascutum gift certificate; Trudeau kitchen items and *tutti quanti*....

The price for tables ranges from \$6,000 to \$25,000. Individual tickets are \$600.

Information and reservations for the gala: **Judith Bourassa, 514 849-8681, ext. 229, or [jbouassa@grandsballets.com](mailto:jbouassa@grandsballets.com).**

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**Information:** Isabelle Gagnon, Press Officer  
514 849-8681, ext. 230 / [igagnon@grandsballets.com](mailto:igagnon@grandsballets.com)  
Francine Arseneault, Communications Director  
514 849-8681, ext. 227 / [farseneault@grandsballets.com](mailto:farseneault@grandsballets.com)  
[www.grandsballets.com](http://www.grandsballets.com)