



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2017-18 Season Overview

MANASSAS, VA August 8, 2017...Manassas Ballet Theatre is thrilled to present our 2017-18 Season. We have grown from a germ of an idea 20 years ago to a company of 29 international dancers, complete with a company infrastructure not known to many regional performing groups. With live music for every production, costume and scenery created on premise just for us, an administrative and marketing staff, and a ballet academy, we have come a long way. As the second largest company in our home state of Virginia, and the largest in Northern Virginia (right outside of Washington, D.C.), we service a growing arts and education community like no one else in the area.

As Artistic Director Amy Grant Wolfe reflects on our spectacular 2016-17 season and plans for our upcoming productions, we thought it would be helpful to share some particulars:

-The company has added two performances to The Nutcracker for a total of 12 shows. Last year, we completely sold out two of 10 shows, with many others coming very close.

-Our company has 29 dancers this season, including 9 men – quite a feat for a company our size

-We are presenting the full-length COLIN: Son, Marin, Hero for the second time to close the season. Please take a moment to read the description below if you are not familiar with this ballet. Also note that because of the importance of this work, press coverage was significant when we last presented this in 2014, including a great piece from CBS News Sunday Morning. See an excerpt here: [CBS News Sunday Morning/Colin](#).

The following is a summary of the season; a background information sheet on the company itself is included in an additional document as a refresher.

THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

October 20-22, 2017

Manassas Ballet Theatre and the Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra will send a chill up your spine just in time for Halloween with *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, featuring all-original choreography and an international cast of dancers. Staying true to the original tale starring Ichabod Crane, the pursuit of Katrina's heart and fortune unleashes a haunting legend that plays across the stage to a tragic end.

THE NUTCRACKER

December 14-23, 2017

As the holiday season approaches, so does the rich pageantry of Manassas Ballet Theatre's *The Nutcracker*! Anchored by the dancers of MBT, Northern Virginia's largest professional ballet company, the story of Clara and her Nutcracker Prince comes alive with the help of an ensemble cast and the Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra. Known for its exquisite costumes, choreography and scenery, MBT's production of *The Nutcracker* has become Northern Virginia's go-to family holiday tradition – and this year there are twelve performances to choose from!

SWAN LAKE

March 9-11, 2018

Manassas Ballet Theatre explodes into the new year with a superstar of classical ballets, *SWAN LAKE*. Join the international cast of dancers as they weave the tale of the Swan Queen Odette, her love Prince Siegfried, and the terrible curse cast by the evil sorcerer Von Rothbart. For the ballet aficionado and newcomer alike, *SWAN LAKE* is an absolute must-see on the ballet bucket list. The Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra sets the mood with Tchaikovsky's score, while the custom costumes and scenery, including a new lake backdrop painted by our own scenic designer, help the story unfold on stage to bring this stunning ballet to life.

COLIN: SON, MARINE, HERO

May 18-20, 2018

Manassas Ballet Theatre closes our 2017-18 season with an original and very personal ballet, *COLIN: SON, MARINE, HERO*. MBT is proud to once again present this full-length ballet, showcasing the story of Artistic Director Amy Grant Wolfe's son Colin, who lost his life in Iraq to a roadside bomb in 2006. *COLIN* debuted in November, 2014 at the Hylton Performing Arts Center after Wolfe expanded her original one act ballet, gathering inspiration by interviewing Colin's commander and fellow Marines during the summer of 2014 and adding new layers to the original heart of the story. The ballet *COLIN* continues to evolve for this season's presentation as Wolfe incorporates new ideas she has worked on over the

last three years to further enhance her story. An expanded Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra will showcase the original score by Mark Menza.

Manassas Ballet Theatre is a 501c(3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1983. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life in Northern Virginia by providing accessible, affordable professional ballet performances, educational outreach to the community, and the highest caliber of training to students of all levels at the affiliated school, Manassas Ballet Academy. MBT is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Virginia Commission of the Arts, Prince William County and the City of Manassas, and is the resident ballet company of the Hylton Performing Arts Center on the Manassas campus of George Mason University. For tickets and information, please visit <http://www.manassasballet.org>

Contact: Beth Luna
Beth.wordfarm@gmail.com
(202) 802-7490

#