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**LAR LUBOVITCH DANCE COMPANY CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF
DANCEMAKING WITH TWO PHILLY PREMIERES AND MASTERPIECE *CONCERTO SIX
TWENTY-TWO***

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Lauded as “visually stunning and beautiful danced,” (Dance Magazine) Lar Lubovitch Dance Company premieres two works and its “American Masterpiece,” *Concerto Six Twenty-Two*, January 8-10 at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA.

International Emmy, Tony and Grammy Award nominee, choreographer/artistic director Lar Lubovitch is known for his lush, lyrical, and musically-driven romantic style fusing classicism and modernism. Philly premieres include the playful *Little Rhapsodies* (2007), a trio to Robert Schumann’s “Symphonic Etudes” and the luscious *Dvorak Serenade* (2007), to Antonin Dvorak’s “Serenade in E Major.” Set to Mozart’s “Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra,” *Concerto Six Twenty-Two* is a powerful ensemble work. With a male duet as the centerpiece, it broke new ground in male partnering. This work has become a regular attraction at AIDS benefits after its 1987 *Dancing for Life* performance at Lincoln Center, NYC. Lubovitch notes, “it is a work that maintains its resonance.”

Performances will take place on Thursday, January 8 at 7:30 pm; Friday, January 9 at 8 pm; and Saturday, January 10 at 2 pm and 8 pm. Ticket prices are \$48, \$42 and \$38 (evening) and \$42, \$36, \$32 (matinee). Tickets may be purchased by calling the Annenberg Center Box Office at 215-898-3900 or by visiting www.pennpresents.org. **Dance Celebration is presented by Dance Affiliates and Penn Presents. Its 27th season under the artistic direction of Randy Swartz salutes *The Dancemaker*.**

Concerto Six Twenty-Two premiered at Carnegie Hall in 1986 at the height of the AIDS epidemic. It opens with twelve dancers dressed in white, swirling and swooping through space in circular formation. Jack Mehler’s lighting design enhances the playful and airy mood that soon turns somber by the male pas-de-deux. This “Adagio” section performed by Jay Franke and George Smallwood examines fidelity and friendship through a series of lifts, extensions and embraces. The closing

section, “Rondo, is “a gleefiul, intoxicating finale.” (Daily Gazette) *Little Rhapsodies* features three men, Jay Franke, Attila Joey Csiki and Jonathan Alsberry, in a playful infectious romp to Schumann’s piano music. New York Times exclaims, *Little Rhapsodies* is “a companion piece to Lubovitch’s *Men’s Stories* - a fond affirmation of his male dancers’ distinctive gifts.” *Dvorak Serenade*, a suite of four dances, closes the program performed by six men and women in Wendy Winters sheer white tunics and pants. This work exemplifies Lubovitch’s masterly gift for sweeping patterns and whirling motions that ebb and flow through the space, marked by lyrical lifts and lunges. Dance Magazine notes, “I had a smile on my face the entire evening.”

Lar Lubovitch studied with Martha Graham, José Limón, Anna Sokolow and Anthony Tudor while at The Juilliard School. His New York City-based company has performed 100 of his dances worldwide. Lar Lubovitch’s dances have also been performed by many other major companies. His dances on film include *Othello* (broadcast throughout the U.S. on PBS’s “Great Performances” and nominated for an Emmy Award), *Fandango* (winner of an International Emmy Award) and *My Funny Valentine* for the Robert Altman film “The Company” (for which Lubovitch was nominated for an American Choreography Award). Mr. Lubovitch has made a notable contribution to choreography in the field of ice-dancing, having created dances for Olympic skaters John Curry, Dorothy Hamill, Peggy Fleming, Brian Orser, Jo-Jo Starbuck and Paul Wylie, as well as two one-hour ice-dances for television: *The Sleeping Beauty* (PBS) and *The Planets* (A&E) (nominated for an International Emmy Award, a Cable Ace Award and a Grammy Award). His work on Broadway includes *Into the Woods* (Tony Award nomination), *The Red Shoes* (Astaire Award) and the Tony Award-winning revival of *The King and I*. Founded in 1968, 2008 marks the company’s 40th Anniversary.

In addition to the performances, the company will conduct a free master class, Friday, January 9 at 1pm and Student Discovery Series Performance for Schools Friday, January 9 at 10:30 am. For Dance Celebration Outreach information, contact Dance Affiliates 215-636-9000 ext.110 or visit www.danceaffiliates.org

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