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### **WHYY Program Honoring Pennsylvania Ballet's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Broadcast Nationwide on PBS in 2014**

PHILADELPHIA, September 30, 2013 — A new WHYY production showcasing one of Philadelphia's cultural treasures, Pennsylvania Ballet, is scheduled to broadcast on WHYY-TV and become available nationwide to 120 million people on PBS in 2014. The program honors Pennsylvania Ballet's golden anniversary, featuring the Company's 50th anniversary celebration performance titled *A Gift to the City* at the Academy of Music on October 20, 2013.

WHYY's one-hour program will feature a collection of signature ballets from the Company's past and present, involving *Diamonds from Jewels* by George Balanchine, *After the Rain* by Christopher Wheeldon and *Under the Sun* by Margo Sappington. The production will include short documentary segments recorded during rehearsals, alongside exclusive interviews with Barbara Weisberger, Pennsylvania Ballet founder, and Roy Kaiser, Artistic Director of the Company. Matthew Diamond, a multi-Emmy Award-winning director of dance documentaries, as well as commercial productions such as *Desperate Housewives* and *So You Think You Can Dance*, will direct the program.

"My first love is dance; one of the first professional companies I ever appeared with was the Pennsylvania Ballet," said director Mathew Diamond. "I'm very dedicated to making extraordinary ballet and dance accessible around the country. PBS has featured a large number of arts organizations on the national screen, and I'm excited to be involved in this collaboration with WHYY."

"We are honored that PBS has chosen to acknowledge our 50th Anniversary with this broadcast," said Pennsylvania Ballet Executive Director Michael Scolamiero. "Thanks to the generosity of our funders, our program *A Gift to the City* will now be seen nationwide – a fantastic achievement for the Company."

"WHYY is thrilled to showcase Philadelphia's vibrant artistic and cultural heritage to a national audience for the second time in recent years," said Bill Marrazzo, WHYY president and CEO. "PBS broadcast the WHYY production *The Barnes Collection* in August 2012 and we continue to use our media resources to support economic development in the cultural sector. This new program with Pennsylvania Ballet is one more step in that direction."

WHYY executive producer Trudi Brown will oversee the project. Performance to be recorded in collaboration with Pennsylvania Ballet. Lead sponsors are Joseph and

Marie Field, Janet and James Averill, Ford Foundation, Elizabeth R. Moran, PBS and  
The Pew Charitable Trusts.

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