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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

FERNAND NAULT'S *CARMINA BURANA* IN DENVER, COLORADO

Gatineau, March 21st 2019 – Fonds chorégraphique Fernand Nault (FCFN) is pleased to announce the presentation of ***Carmina Burana***, Québécois choreographer Fernand Nault's master work, with Colorado Ballet, at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House in Denver, April 5 to 14.

First created in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1964, then for Les Grands Ballets Canadiens in 1966, Fernand Nault's ***Carmina Burana*** was highly acclaimed at the World Expo 67 Festival in Montreal. Since, this masterpiece has reached thousands of audiences across Canada, the United States, Europe, South America and Asia.

At the invitation of Artistic Director Gil Boggs for his Ballet Masterworks program, André Laprise, trustee and official répétiteur of the FCFN, traveled to Denver to ensure all staging phases of this work.

In Robert Prévost's sets and François Barbeau's costumes, Fernand Nault's ***Carmina Burana*** will showcase the dancers of Colorado Ballet along with the chorus, and music performed by the Colorado Ballet Orchestra.

On the eve of Fernand Nault's 100th birthday, FCFN, whose mission is to ensure the continuity of the work of choreographer Fernand Nault, is proud to realize this important project, to contribute to the presence of Quebec dance on the international scene.

For more information on the program, please visit <https://www.coloradoballet.org>

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Carmina Burana

Carmina Burana, or the Songs of Beuron, is based on the 13th Century manuscripts found in the Bavarian Monastery of Benediktbeuron in 1847. Its author must have been troubadours, monks, and errant students. From this collection, numbering around two hundred songs, the composer Carl Orff has chosen twenty-five. Described as a scenic cantata by its composer, this work was first presented at the Frankfurt Opera in 1937. The beginning and end of the work invoke Fortune's wheel, which controls man's destiny; the central parts Springtime, The Tavern, and Court of Love, have love as their main theme.

Fernand Nault (1920-2006)

After an important career with American Ballet Theater, Fernand Nault (1944 à 1965) joined Les Grands Ballets Canadiens in 1965 as co-artistic director and resident choreographer. He helped the company take flight by creating astonishingly diverse works, ranging from classical to neo-classical, by way of contemporary and theatrical dance. Thus he added to the repertoire works such as *La Fille mal gardée*, *Danses concertantes*, *Symphony of Psalms*, *Liberté tempérée*, *La Scouine* and *The Seven Deadly Sins* not to mention his famous *The Nutcracker* presented each year since 1964 and two works of resounding success and international renown: *Carmina Burana* and *Tommy*. He has conceived many choreographies for American Ballet Theatre, Alberta Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Ballet Federation of the Philippines, Delta Festival Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, National Ballet of Korea and Washington Ballet. From 1978 to 1981 he was guest choreographer and, from 1981 to 1982, artistic director of Colorado Ballet.

Fonds chorégraphique Fernand Nault

Created in 2003 by Fernand Nault, Fonds chorégraphique Fernand Nault has for mission to make accessible for the dance companies and the professional dance schools the creations of this renowned artist. Since its creation, *La Fille mal gardée*, *Carmina Burana* and *The Nutcracker* have respectively been remounted for Kansas City Ballet, National Ballet of Korea, National Ballet of Slovakia and Ballet of the National Theater of Brno.



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Ballet MasterWorks

« This season's Ballet MasterWorks program will open with George Balanchine's Serenade, and the second half will include a performance of Carmina Burana for the first time in nearly 20 years. This production of Carmina Burana features choreography by the acclaimed Fernand Nault, along with Carl Orff's evocative and powerful music performed live by the Colorado Ballet Orchestra and chorus. »

Colorado Ballet

Presenting exceptional classical ballet and innovative contemporary dance through performances, training, education and community engagement, Colorado Ballet continues to inspire and grow an increasingly diverse audience base in Denver, Colorado. As a world-class professional company, Colorado Ballet presents more than 55 performances annually to sold-out audiences in the 2,000 seat Ellie Caulkins Opera House.

The Company's 33 professional dancers and 22 studio company dancers come from all over the world. Established in 1961 by Lillian Covillo and Freidann Parker, Colorado Ballet is a non-profit organization celebrating 58 years of presenting classical ballet and superior dance.

Under the direction of Artistic Director Gil Boggs, Colorado Ballet performs classical ballet masterpieces, full-length story ballets and its critically-acclaimed repertory production Ballet MasterWorks, featuring varied works from neoclassical ballets to world premieres. Colorado Ballet enhances the cultural life of Colorado through performances of the professional company, training at the Raydean Acevedo Colorado Ballet Academy and Education & Community Engagement programming.

For more information, please visit COLORADOBALLETT.ORG