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Contact Information      FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—JANUARY 7, 2009

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### **Danse en Rouge: Ballet Fantastique Presents Another Spectacular Collaborative Performance**

EUGENE, Ore- January 6, 2009— Perfectly timed for a special Valentine's Day date, Ballet Fantastique's approaching concert *Danse en Rouge: Variations in Red* promises to please art lovers of many forms. The critically-acclaimed chamber ballet company is teaming once again with the world-renowned Trio Voronzezh while introducing new collaborations with classical guitarist John Jarvie and paintings by Margaret Coe and Adam Grosowsky from the local Karin Clarke Gallery to produce a stunning performance.

The collaborative performance will evoke the glamour and passion embodied by the color red.

"I love working with a theme for concerts because it focuses and defines the emotion and momentum of a performance," said Ballet Fantastique's artistic director Donna Marisa Bontrager.

Executive director and dancer Hannah Bontrager adds: "*Danse en Rouge: Variations in Red* does have a theme, but it also gives our audiences the wonderful range of energy and repertoire that they come to expect from our concerts. We're challenging them to explore an evocative range of artistic styles—and to make connections—with us through the movement and the music."

The first half of the performance delights with Ballet Fantastique's new ballet for *Carnival of the Animals*, commissioned by Eugene Symphony in October 2008. The dancers take the stage in 13 elegant short pieces inspired by Saint-Saëns' whimsical, evocative, and playful score.

"We appreciate Ballet Fantastique's artistic integrity and flexibility," said Chris Collins, Eugene Symphony's operations director. "It can be difficult to find a dance company with a complete choreography of *Carnival of the Animals*, and Ballet Fantastique has developed a beautiful program."

The second half of the performance, *Danse en Rouge*, will include pieces that explore a range of emotions and themes inspired by the color red, including excerpts from the fiery Spanish ballet *Don Quixote*, complete with vibrant Mediterranean rooftops painted by Northwest artist Margaret Coe projected behind the dancers to set the mood.

New tango pieces with the Trio Voronezh include the show-stopping “New York Tango” by Franco-Italian accordionist Richard Galliano. Ballet Fantastique’s dramatic, contemporary new choreography explores an urban relationship between individuals in front of a dark, saturated Adam Grosowsky Vermeer study. Also featured in Act II is much-anticipated choreography to Pink Martini’s “La Soledad” and the dancers and Trio in a suite of new and encore ragtime-esque pieces.

Weaving the performance together is a three-part meditation on the relationship between dancer and musician in collaboration with classical guitarist John Jarvie, who strolls across the stage throughout the concert with his performances of Spanish composer Francisco Tárrega’s hauntingly romantic compositions (with dancer Amelia Unsicker).

“We have such a great roster of new choreography for this show!” dancer Alonzo Moore said, “This performance is playful, passionate. It pulls you in.”

This one-night only performance will be held at 7:30 on Saturday, February 7, 2009 at the Hult Center in downtown Eugene. Ticket prices start at just \$25 (only \$14 for students) with group discounts available for parties of six or more. Tickets can be purchased through the Hult Center box office at 682-5000 or online at [www.hultcenter.org](http://www.hultcenter.org).

The Trio Voronezh, founded in 1993, started when the members began playing in small concert halls in Germany. In 1996, the Trio made their debut in the U.S. at the Oregon Bach Festival. A past performance with Ballet Fantastique, *From Tchaikovsky to Tango*, in October 2007 marked the Trio Voronezh’s first ever performance with a dance company.

Valerie Petrukhin of the Trio said the past collaboration with Ballet Fantastique was incredible and the group is looking forward to the upcoming performance.

“(The dancers) are always very excited to do new repertoire. They have a good sense of choreography. They know what they’re doing for sure,” Petrukhin said, “I think it’s going to be a great show.”

Classical guitarist John Jarvie of Eugene has been performing for 30 years.

“I especially enjoy accompanying dancers because the music is enhanced by their physical expression. Music is a dance of sound, and dance is the embodiment of music. Ballet Fantastique dancers are accomplished professionals, with a special combination of grace and vitality. The joy of their dancing is infectious,” Jarvie said of the upcoming performance.

The dancers of Ballet Fantastique are equally thrilled to perform with such talented musicians.

“As a first-year company dancer with Ballet Fantastique, being able to work with some of the most renowned musicians in the Northwest as often as we do is an incredible opportunity. The Trio Voronezh and John Jarvie are exceptional, and dancing with them is an incredible opportunity for me!” said dancer Amelia Unsicker.

Hannah Bontrager is delighted that the performance will feature paintings by Margaret Coe and Adam Grosowsky from the Karin Clarke Gallery in Eugene. The artwork will be projected behind the dancers to set the scene.

“The use of paintings from a Northwest gallery really adds a unique twist to our performance. In one concert we’re bringing dance, music and visual art together,” Hannah Bontrager said,

“I’m so excited about this collaborative performance. The challenges and inspiration we’re taking on promise Ballet Fantastique’s best concert ever.”

The Karin Clarke Gallery is also hosting a post-concert reception titled *Nuit en Rouge* immediately following the performance. Art lovers will get the opportunity to meet and mingle with the dancers and directors of Ballet Fantastique, the members of the Trio Voronezh and John Jarvie, as well as view the featured art work up close. The elegant reception will feature delectable Northwest wine, hors d’oeuvres, and dessert. It is open to the public, but requires an additional ticket that can be purchased at [www.balletfantastique.org](http://www.balletfantastique.org).

For further information about Ballet Fantastique and the *Danse en Rouge* performance or post-concert reception, visit Ballet Fantastique’s website at [www.balletfantastique.org](http://www.balletfantastique.org) or call the studio (541) 342-4611. Hannah Bontrager may be reached for further comment on her cell phone at (541) 206-8977 (not for publication, please).