

## PRESS RELEASE

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### The Little Match Girl

**Bellevue, WA** – The treasured music of Czech composer, Oskar Nedbal, transforms into beauty the sad story of Hans Christian Andersen's **The Little Match Girl** on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Sammamish Performing Arts Center (100 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.E.) in Bellevue. Two shows (1:30 PM and 5:30 PM) celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the 1986 original production created in Bellevue by Don and Helena Snyder for Ballet Petit, now the student performance division of BALLET BELLEVUE. Thirty-five children ages 3 to 17, directed by Christina Stockdale, pay tribute to the original production by performing scenes from the ballet which were once danced by children who are now grown with many children of their own.

The lead role of the Match Girl (danced years ago by Nicole Pernerl, Anne Hundley, Cristina Patricelli and Michelle Haselberger) will be shared by Natalie Rahn (age 13) at 1:30 and Elizabeth Kanning (age 14) at 5:30, and the challenging role of the Flame will be danced by Elizabeth Kanning at 1:30 and Julie Ortiz (age 17) at 5:30. Faced with some tricky make-up changes will be Melinda Sandlin (age 16), who is cast not only as the exotic Butterfly, but also the Grandmother. Tiny soldiers (ages 3 and 4) will be chased by the big brown Bear, and students age 5 and above will dance the many other

roles of Cats and Dogs, Folklore Dolls, Village Boys, Village and Party Girls, and three tiers of Angels. Karen Moore (age 13) will dance a solo as the Porcelain Doll, and The

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Harlequin and Doll will be danced by Danil Vishniakov with Julie Ortiz. Adult student, Liz Keller, is the Guardian Angel, and adult extras (including some of the original cast) will enhance the staging as Ladies and Gentlemen, the Street Sweepers, Fish Monger and the Balloon Man. Director, Christina Stockdale makes a cameo appearance as the ghost of the Grandmother.

All costumes (by Helena Snyder) and sets (by Bruce Jackson) are from the original ballet. Lighting will be provided by Ballet Bellevue Technical Director, Kevin Harkins, and Gordon Compton serves as Stage Manager.

Ballet Bellevue, the Eastside's own professional chamber ballet company, launches this commemorative production of *The Little Match Girl* in recognition of Ballet Petit as the company's student performance division of children dancing in an annual benefit for youth charities. All of the students study at Ballet Arts Center (the official school of Ballet Bellevue) in classes of ballet and Ukrainian folk dance (Barvinok).

To inquire about sponsorship and advertising opportunities, call **425.455.1345**.

Tickets available at **Brown Paper Tickets 800.838.3006** HYPERLINK "http://www.brownpapertickets.com" [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)

Tickets/Information are also available at BALLETT BELLEVUE HYPERLINK "http://

www.balletbellevue.org" [www.balletbellevue.org](http://www.balletbellevue.org)

Ticket prices: Patron (VIP seating) \$25, Adult \$17, Student/Senior \$12, Child (age 7 and under) \$7. For Group discount (\$2 off each ticket for 10 or more) call **425.455.1345**

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