

PRESS RELEASE

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BALLET BELLEVUE OPENS 02/03 SEASON

AS GUESTS OF CASCADIAN CHORALE

Bellevue, WA - Culminating their fall rehearsals with new Artistic Director, Victoria Titova, eight Ballet Bellevue dancers opened the company's 2002/03 season as guest performers of the Cascadian Chorale in a festive masked party and performance of Henry Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* at 7:30 PM Friday, October 25, 2002, at the Glendale Country Club in Bellevue. The dances were choreographed by Ballet Bellevue Founding Director, Ronn Tice, and Seattle Baroque specialist, Anna Mansbridge. Tice, who recently accepted a new position with the Minnesota Dance Theatre, returned to Bellevue to supervise the final rehearsal and perform the role of Oberon. Ms. Titova was also featured in the performance in the roles of Hermia and Spring.

The Cascadian Chorale, directed by Philip Tschopp, invited Ballet Bellevue to perform with their chamber choir, The Cascadian Singers, and the Cascadian Chamber Orchestra in this festive presentation of the beautiful and rarely seen work of Henry Purcell. The Renaissance was alive and well in Bellevue during this colorful pastiche of song and dance. A pre-show reception at 7 PM featured appetizers, real "mead" to drink, period music and Renaissance costumes modeled by members of the Washington Renaissance Faire. The dancers were masked in objets d'art created by Bradley McDevitt, the singers and musicians were crowned with garlands, and the guests, who had dressed up in costumes or their most elegant attire for this near Halloween event, enjoyed a "trick or treat" party atmosphere of the highest level. The revels continued with a "meet the artists" reception following the show with coffee and dessert.

After this very enjoyable production of Ballet Bellevue and the Cascadian Chorale, the buzz about town is already asking what will be the next collaboration between these two most promising Eastside arts groups.

The Cascadian Chorale, serving the Eastside and Seattle areas for 38 years, continues to raise the bar for vocal excellence by delighting audiences with the performance and promotion of fine choral music.

Ballet Bellevue is now in its 8th season of bringing -world-class performances to audiences in Bellevue, Seattle, Washington state and beyond. Located in downtown

Bellevue, the Eastside's own resident ballet company is proud to present classical and contemporary dance that celebrates our diverse community of the 21st century.