



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 13, 2018

## NEW YORK CITY BALLET ANNOUNCES SEVEN PROMOTIONS

Joseph Gordon Promoted to Principal Dancer  
Daniel Applebaum, Harrison Coll, Claire Kretzschmar, Aaron Sanz,  
Sebastian Villarini-Velez, and Peter Walker Promoted to Soloist

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New York City Ballet announced today the promotion of seven of the Company's dancers. Soloist Joseph Gordon has been promoted to the rank of principal dancer, and corps de ballet members Daniel Applebaum, Harrison Coll, Claire Kretzschmar, Aaron Sanz, Sebastian Villarini-Velez, and Peter Walker have been promoted to Soloist.

Jonathan Stafford, leader of the Company's Interim Artistic Team, made the promotions on Saturday, October 13 at the David H Koch Theater. All the newly promoted dancers have made debuts in a variety of featured roles during the Company's recent seasons.

In addition to the promotions of current Company dancers, three apprentices will join the roster as members of the corps de ballet following the 2018 Fall Season—Jonathan Fahoury, Mira Nadon, and Maxwell Read, who began their yearlong apprenticeships with the Company at the start of the 2017 *Nutcracker* season. Nadon will join the Company beginning with the upcoming festival at New York City Center, "Balanchine: The City Center Years," and Fahoury and Read will join the Company at the start of the *Nutcracker* rehearsal period in early November.

### JOSEPH GORDON

Joseph Gordon was born in Phoenix, Arizona, and began his dance training at the age of five at The Phoenix Dance Academy. Gordon began studying at the School of American Ballet (SAB), the official school of New York City Ballet, during the 2006 summer course and enrolled as a full-time student that fall. In August of 2011, Gordon became an apprentice with NYCB, and in July of 2012, he joined the Company as a member of the corps de ballet. He was promoted to soloist in February 2017.

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During the Company's 2018 Fall Season, Gordon made his debut in George Balanchine's "Diamonds" from *Jewels* and *Symphony in C* (First Movement), as well as Jerome Robbins' *Afternoon of a Faun*. He also originated a featured role in Matthew Neenan's Fall 2018 premiere *The Exchange*, and performed featured roles in Justin Peck's *Pulcinella Variations*, Alexei Ratmansky's *Concerto DSCH*, and Robbins' *Fancy Free*.

Since joining the Company, Gordon has performed additional featured roles in Balanchine's *Agon*, *Divertimento from Le Baiser de la Fée*, *Coppélia* (Frantz), *Divertimento No. 15*, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker* (Cavalier, Candy Cane, and Tea), *Symphony in C* (Third Movement), *Symphony in Three Movements*, and *Who Cares?*; August Bournonville's *Bournonville Divertissements* (Pas de Six from *Napoli* and *Abdallah*) and *La Sylphide* (Gurn); Peter Martins' *Bal de Couture*, *Jeu de Cartes*, *The Red Violin*, *The Sleeping Beauty* (Gold, Court Jester), *Stabat Mater*, and *Swan Lake* (Benno, Pas de Quatre); Robbins' *Dances at a Gathering*, *Fanfare*, *The Four Seasons* (Winter), *Glass Pieces*, *The Goldberg Variations*, and *Interplay*; Ratmansky's *Russian Seasons*; and Christopher Wheeldon's *Soirée Musicale* and *Polyphonia*. Additionally, he has originated featured roles in Benjamin Millepied's *Neverwhere*, Ratmansky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, and Troy Schumacher's *Common Ground*.

Gordon is the recipient of a 2017 Lincoln Center Award for Emerging Artists, and was the 2015-16 Janice Levin Dancer Honoree. While at the School of American Ballet, he was the recipient of the Melissa Hayden Dance Scholarship from 2006 through 2011.

## DANIEL APPLEBAUM

Daniel Applebaum was born in Olney, Maryland. At age seven, he began studying ballet with Maryland Youth Ballet. He attended summer courses at the School of American Ballet in 2000 and 2001, becoming a full-time student that fall. In October 2004, he became an apprentice with NYCB and joined the corps de ballet July 2005.

During the Company's 2018 Fall Season, Applebaum made his debut in a principal role in George Balanchine's "Emeralds" from *Jewels*, originated a featured role in Matthew Neenan's Fall 2018 premiere *The Exchange*, and performed a featured role in Justin Peck's *Pulcinella Variations*.

Since joining NYCB, Applebaum has performed additional featured roles in Balanchine's *Agon*, *Chaconne*, *Divertimento No. 15*, *The Four Temperaments*, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker* (Hot Chocolate), *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*, and *La Valse*; August Bournonville's *Bournonville Divertissements* (Ballabile from *Napoli*); Peter Martins' *Fearful Symmetries*, *Les Gentilhommes*, *The Sleeping Beauty* (The

Wolf), and *Swan Lake* (Spanish, Hungarian); Peck's *In Creases* and *The Times Are Racing*; Jerome Robbins' *2&3 Part Inventions*, *The Concert*, *Glass Pieces*, and *The Goldberg Variations*; Richard Tanner's *Episodes & Sarcasms*; and Christopher Wheeldon's *Carousel (A Dance)* and *Polyphonia*. He has originated featured roles in Peck's *The Decalogue*, *Everywhere We Go*, *The Most Incredible Thing* (The Three Kings), *New Blood*, and *Rodeo: Four Dance Episodes*; Myles Thatcher's *Polaris*; and Peter Walker's *ten in seven*.

Applebaum was a 2004 recipient of the Mae L. Wein Award.

## HARRISON COLL

Harrison Coll was born in Manhattan, New York and began his dance training at the age of four in a creative dance class for boys. In 2003 he joined as a full-time student at the School of American Ballet. In November 2012, Coll became an apprentice with NYCB and joined the Company as a member of the corps de ballet in August 2013.

Coll has been recovering from an injury during the 2018 Fall Season. During the 2017-2018 Season, Coll made his debut in a variety of works including Peter Martins' *Romeo + Juliet* (Romeo), Justin Peck's *Pulcinella Variations*, and Jerome Robbins' *Fancy Free*. He also originated a featured role in Peck's Spring 2018 work *Easy*.

Since joining NYCB, Coll has performed featured roles in George Balanchine's *Agon*, *Chaconne*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bottom), *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker* (Cavalier, Candy Cane, Drosselmeier, Mother Ginger), *Prodigal Son*, *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*, *La Sonnambula*, and *Tschaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 2*; Mauro Bigonzetti's *Oltremare*; Martins' *Fearful Symmetries*, *Jeu de Cartes*, *The Red Violin*, *The Sleeping Beauty* (Court Jester), and *Swan Lake* (Benno, Spanish); Peck's *In Creases*; Robbins' *The Four Seasons (Winter)*, and *Interplay*; Troy Schumacher's *Clearing Dawn* and *Common Ground*; and Myles Thatcher's *Polaris*. He also originated a featured a role in Peck's *The Decalogue*

Coll was a recipient of the 2012 Mae L. Wien Award and is the 2017-18 Janice Levin Dancer Honoree.

## CLAIRE KRETZSCHMAR

Claire Kretzschmar was born in Glendale, Arizona and began her dance training at the Academy of Dance Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She later studied at the Wake Forest Community Ballet and

the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Kretzschmar began studying at the School of American Ballet during the summers of 2006 through 2009, and enrolled as a full-time student in 2009. In November 2010 she became an apprentice with NYCB and joined the Company as a member of the corps de ballet in August 2011.

During the Company's 2018 Fall Season, Kretzschmar made her debut in George Balanchine's "Rubies" from *Jewels* and originated a featured role in Matthew Neenan's Fall 2018 premiere *The Exchange*. She also performed featured roles in Justin Peck's *Easy* and *Pulcinella Variations*, as well as Peter Martins' *Fearful Symmetries*.

Since joining NYCB, Kretzschmar has performed additional featured roles in Balanchine's *Chaconne*, *Cortège Hongrois*, *Episodes*, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker* (Sugarplum Fairy, Hot Chocolate, Coffee, and Lead Flowers), and *La Sonnambula* (The Sleepwalker); Martins' *Bal de Couture*, *The Sleeping Beauty* (Generosity), and *Swan Lake* (Hungarian and Princess); and Alexei Ratmansky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. She has also originated featured roles in Martins' *Mes Oiseaux*; Peck's *Easy*, *The Decalogue*, and *New Blood*; and Troy Schumacher's *Clearing Dawn*.

Kretzschmar was a recipient of the 2015 Martin E. Segal Award and was the 2016-2017 Janice Levin Dancer Honoree.

## AARON SANZ

Aaron Sanz was born in Madrid, Spain, and began his dance training at the age of 8 at the C.P.D. Carmen Amaya in Madrid. Sanz began studying at the School of American Ballet during the 2010 summer course and enrolled as a full-time student that fall. In 2011, Sanz became an apprentice with NYCB, and in September of 2012, he joined the Company as a member of the corps de ballet.

During the Company's 2018 Fall Season, Sanz originated a corps role in Gianna Reisen's Fall 2018 premiere *Judah*, and performed featured roles in George Balanchine's *Prodigal Son* and Peter Martins' *Fearful Symmetries*.

Since joining NYCB, Sanz has performed additional featured roles in Balanchine's *Chaconne*, *Firebird* (Kastchei), *The Four Temperaments*, *Harlequinade* (Léandre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lysander, Theseus), *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker* (Cavalier, Mother Ginger, Mouse King), *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*, *La Sonnambula* (The Baron), and *Symphony in 3 Movements*; August Bournonville's *Bournonville Divertissements* (Pas de Six from *Napoli* and *Abdallah*); Martins' *Jeu de Cartes*, *Romeo + Juliet* (Benvolio, Friar Lawrence), and *Swan Lake* (Benno, Spanish); Alexei Ratmansky's *Pictures*

*at an Exhibition; Jerome Robbins' Fanfare (Double Bass), The Four Seasons (Summer), and The Goldberg Variations; and Christopher Wheeldon's Polyphonia.*

### **SEBASTIAN VILLARINI-VELEZ**

Sebastian Villarini-Velez was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He began his dance training at the School for the Performing Arts in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, before studying ballet locally at the Andanza school. Villarini-Velez studied at the School of American Ballet during the summers of 2008 and 2010, before enrolling as a full-time student that fall. He also received additional training at the Miami City Ballet School and Pacific Northwest Ballet School summer courses. In August 2012, Villarini-Velez became an apprentice with NYCB and joined the Company as a member of the corps de ballet in August 2013.

During the Company's 2018 Fall Season, Villarini-Velez made his New York City debut in George Balanchine's *Symphony in C* (Third Movement) and originated a featured role in Kyle Abraham's Fall 2018 premiere *The Runaway*. He also performed featured roles in Peter Martins' *Fearful Symmetries* and Jerome Robbins' *Fancy Free*.

Since joining NYCB, Villarini-Velez has performed additional featured roles in *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker* (Tea) and Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments* (Melancholic), *La Sonnambula*, and *Tschaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 2*; Robert Binet's *The Blue of Distance*; Martins' *Bal de Couture*, *Jeu de Cartes*, *Romeo + Juliet* (Tybalt), *The Sleeping Beauty* (Court Jester), and *Swan Lake* (Jester, Hungarian); Justin Peck's *New Blood*; Robbins' *Fanfare* (Clarinets) and *Interplay*; and Peter Walker's *dance odyssey*. He also originated a featured role in Nicolas Blanc's *Mothership*.

Villarini-Velez is a recipient of the 2014 Comité Noviembre 'Orgullo Puertorriqueño' Puerto Rican Heritage Award.

### **PETER WALKER**

Peter Walker is from Fort Myers, Florida where his early dance training was in tap dance at age 8, followed by ballet training at the Gulfshore Ballet at age 9. Walker began studying at the School of American Ballet during the 2006 and 2007 summer courses and enrolled as a full-time student in the winter of 2007. In spring 2011, Walker became an apprentice with NYCB and joined the Company as a member of the corps de ballet in fall 2012.

During the Company's 2018 Fall Season, Walker made his debut in Justin Peck's *Easy*, Peter Martins' *Fearful Symmetries*, and Christopher Wheeldon's *Carousel (A Dance)*. He also originated a featured role in Kyle Abraham's Fall 2018 premiere *The Runaway*, and performed the role of Tony in Jerome Robbins' *West Side Story Suite*. In addition, Walker has choreographed two works for NYCB -- *ten in seven*, which premiered at NYCB's Fall 2016 Gala, and *dance odyssey*, which premiered in Winter 2018.

Since joining the NYCB, Walker has performed additional featured roles in George Balanchine's *Agon*, *Coppélia (War & Discord)*, *The Four Temperaments*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream (Demetrius)*, and *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker (Cavalier, Hot Chocolate, Dr. Stahlbaum)*; Mauro Bigonzetti's *Oltremare*; August Bournonville's *Bournonville Divertissements (Pas de Six from Napoli and Abdallah)*; Martins' *Romeo + Juliet (Romeo)*, *The Sleeping Beauty (The Wolf)*, and *Swan Lake (Benno, Spanish)*; Robbins' *Glass Pieces*, and *Interplay*; and Wheeldon's *Soirée Musicale (in the NYCB Premiere)*. He originated a featured role in Peck's *New Blood*.

Walker was a recipient of the Mae L. Wien Award for Outstanding Promise in 2011.

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