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BalletMet Columbus' Nutcracker Ball Celebrates Silver Anniversary

COLUMBUS, OH— BalletMet Columbus commemorates the holiday season with the 25th annual Nutcracker Ball on Saturday, December 6, 2008. The elegant black-tie affair begins at 7pm at Million Air/Odyssey Aviation, Port Columbus International Airport and features cocktails, dinner, dancing and entertainment. The Ball celebrates BalletMet's *The Nutcracker*, a hometown holiday tradition, December 12-23 at the Ohio Theatre.

Proceeds from corporate and individual table sales are an investment in BalletMet's performances, Dance Academy and Education/Outreach Programs. This year's Ball will include a delicious gourmet dinner by Cameron Mitchell Catering, music by the Jerry Bruno Orchestra with Strings and a special performance by the BalletMet Dance Academy.

Helping to plan the event as honorary chairs are community leaders Lucy and Sam Porter. Mrs. Porter served as a co-chair for the first Nutcracker Ball (then Nutcracker Gala) in 1983 and was honored for her longstanding dedication to BalletMet during its 30th anniversary commemoration last season. Assisting as co-chairs are Cynthia Mushrush and Randy Walters, JonesDay Partner.

"It has been a pleasure watching BalletMet grow and thrive throughout the years and I am delighted to be involved in the 25th Nutcracker Ball," said Mrs. Porter, who is also a BalletMet Trustee. "The Ball is not only a social highlight of the holiday season; it also provides critical financial support to a treasured community arts institution."

Also on the fundraiser's planning committee are: Carol Aronowitz, Debbie Phillips Bower, Patti Cotter, Jim Cushing, Natalie Furniss, Pamela Hutchinson, Stephanie Lewin, Stacy Lilly, Sue Porter, Ellen Smith, Libby Tarrier, Tracy Treon and Barbara Wayman.

Tickets are sold for tables of 10 or for parties of two. Platinum table sponsorships are \$10,000, and Platinum seating for two is \$2,000. Gold tables are \$6,500, while Gold seating for two is \$1,300. Silver tables are \$4,000, and Silver seating for two is \$800. To purchase tickets, or for more information, call Barbara Markus, Assistant Director of Development, at 614.586.8671.

BalletMet Columbus, renowned for its versatility and innovative repertory, ranks among the nation's 15 largest dance companies, and its Dance Academy ranks among the five largest professional dance-training centers. Since its inception in 1978, BalletMet has added 142 company premieres to its repertoire and produced 117 world premieres. It has also developed DanceReach, a series of educational and outreach programs that serve 30,000 people annually, as well as a scholarship program that provides tuition for youth based on financial need or talent.

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