IN CURRENT REPERTORY

TIMING: Act I – 38:00
Act II – 27:00
Act III – 26:00

ONEGIN

A Ballet in Three Acts

Choreography by John Cranko
Based on the verse novel by Alexander Pushkin

Music by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky
Arranged and Orchestrated by Kurt-Heinz Stolze

Sets and costumes by Santo Loquasto

Lighting by James F. Ingalls

Staged by Jane Bourne

Supervised by Reid Anderson and Tamas Detrich

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ACT I

Scene One: *Madame Larina's Garden*

Madame Larina, Olga, and the nurse are finishing the party dresses and gossiping about Tatiana's coming birthday festivities. Madame Larina speculates on the future. Girls from the neighborhood arrive and play an old folk game: whoever looks into the mirror will see her beloved.

Lensky, a young poet engaged to Olga, arrives with a friend from St. Petersburg. He introduces Onegin, who, bored with the city, has come to see if the country can offer him any distraction. Tatiana, full of youthful and romantic fantasies, falls in love with the elegant stranger, so different from the country people she knows. Onegin, on the other hand, sees in Tatiana only a naïve country girl who reads too many romantic novels.

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Scene Two: ***Tatiana's Bedroom***

Tatiana, her imagination aflame with impetuous first love, dreams of Onegin and writes him a passionate love letter, which she gives to the nurse to deliver.

ACT II

Scene One: ***Tatiana's Birthday***

The provincial gentry have come to celebrate Tatiana's birthday. Onegin finds the company boring. Stifling his yawns, he finds it difficult to be civil to them; furthermore, he is irritated by Tatiana's letter, which he regards merely as an outburst of adolescent love. In a quiet moment, he seeks out Tatiana and, telling her that he cannot love her, tears up her letter. Tatiana's distress, instead of awakening pity, merely increases his irritation.

Prince Gremin, a distant relative, appears. He is in love with Tatiana, and Madame Larina hopes for a brilliant match; but Tatiana, troubled with her own heart, hardly notices her kind relative.

Onegin, in his boredom, decides to provoke Lensky by flirting with Olga, who lightheartedly joins in his teasing. But Lensky takes the matter with passionate seriousness. He challenges Onegin to a duel.

Scene Two: ***The Duel***

Tatiana and Olga try to reason with Lensky, but his high romantic ideals have been shattered by the betrayal of his friend and the fickleness of his beloved; he insists that the duel take place. Onegin kills his friend.

ACT III

Scene One: *St. Petersburg*

Years later, Onegin, having traveled the world in an attempt to escape from his own sense of futility, returns to St. Petersburg, where he is received at a ball in the palace of Prince Gremin. Gremin has married, and Onegin is astonished to recognize in the stately and elegant young princess, Tatiana, the uninteresting little country girl whom he once turned away. The enormity of his mistake and loss engulfs him. His life now seems even more aimless and empty.

Scene Two: *Tatiana's Boudoir*

Onegin has written to Tatiana, revealing his love and asking to see her, but she does not wish to meet him. She pleads in vain with her unsuspecting husband not to leave her alone this evening. Onegin comes and declares his love for her. In spite of her emotional turmoil, Tatiana realizes that Onegin's change of heart has come too late. Before his eyes, she tears up his letter and orders him to leave her forever.

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Onegin, with sets and costumes by Jürgen Rose, received its World Premiere by the Stuttgart Ballet at the Wuerttemburg Staatstheater, Stuttgart on April 13, 1965, danced by Marcia Haydée (Tatiana), Ray Barra (Onegin), Egon Madsen (Lensky), Ana Cardas (Olga), Kenneth Barlow (Prince Gremin), and Ruth Papendieck (Madame Larina).

Cranko produced a revised version of Onegin for the Stuttgart Ballet in 1967; this revised staging is the one that we present

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Onegin was given its United States premiere, under the title *Eugene Onegin*, by the Stuttgart Ballet at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York on June 10, 1969, danced by Marcia Haydée (Tatiana), Heinz Clauss (Onegin), Egon Madsen (Lensky), Susan Hanke (Olga), Jan Stripling (Prince Gremin), and Ruth Papendieck (Madame Larina).

Onegin received its American Ballet Theatre Company Premiere on June 1, 2001, danced by Julie Kent (Tatiana), Robert Hill (Onegin), Vladimir Malakhov (Lensky), Maria Riccetto (Olga), and Carlos Molina (Prince Gremin).

This current production of *Onegin*, with sets and costumes by Santo Loquasto, received its World Premiere by The National Ballet of Canada on June 19, 2010 at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, danced by Xiao Nan Yu (Tatiana), Jiri Jelinek (Onegin), Guillaume Côté. (Lensky), and Heather Ogden (Olga),

This production of *Onegin* was given its American Ballet Theatre Company Premiere on June 4, 2012 at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, danced by Diana Vishneva (Tatiana), Marcelo Gomes (Onegin), Natalia Osipova (Olga), Jared Matthews (Lensky), and Gennadi Saveliev (Prince Gremin).