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***Cinderella Returns to Columbia City Ballet Stage After Initial Covid-19 Lockdown***  
*In 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Columbia City Ballet fulfils artistic promise to audience from pre-Covid era*

**Columbia, S.C.** - Columbia City Ballet will be performing *Cinderella* at the Koger Center March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. The 2019-2020 season was unfortunately cut short because of the initial Covid-19 lockdown measures, days before Columbia City Ballet was scheduled to perform *Cinderella* at the Koger Center in Columbia. This upcoming will be the first time Columbia City Ballet will bring *Cinderella* to the Koger Center stage in over 5 years.

“Last season, it seemed like the world was coming to an end. Everything was shutting down and within 2 hours our season was over,” Artistic and Executive Director William Starrett said. “I’m not a superstitious man, but having our season cancelled on Friday the thirteenth didn’t sit right with me.”

Columbia City Ballet has transitioned seamlessly into performing in the Covid era. To accommodate public health measures on stage, they changed the setting of *Nutcracker* during the 1918 Spanish Influenza outbreak to incorporate mask-wearing and social distancing as a part of the production. Columbia City Ballet has also been working in coordination with the Koger Center and top epidemiologists at the University of South Carolina to make sure that public health measures can be implemented to keep audience goers safe.

“In 2019, we made a promise to our audience that we were going to perform *Cinderella* at the Koger Center and while a pandemic has forced us to wait a year, we are fulfilling that promise,” Starrett said. “Having to cancel our season early last year was devastating, so this year’s performance sends a clear message that not even a global pandemic can stop the ballet.”

Columbia City Ballet will perform *Cinderella* on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:30 pm and March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 3 pm and 7:30 pm at the Koger Center for the Arts. Tickets range from \$25-\$52 and are available online at [www.kogercenterforthearts.com](http://www.kogercenterforthearts.com) or by calling the box office at 803-251-2222. Tickets are only sold in pairs to adhere Covid-19 social distancing protocols and face coverings must be worn at all times.

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*Columbia City Ballet's mission is to offer South Carolina and Southeastern audiences the highest quality ballet. We in South Carolina can proudly claim one of the strongest and most versatile ballet companies in the Southeast. Since the Columbia City Ballet's founding in 1961, it has fully integrated the world of dance within the community as the largest performing arts organization in the state.*