

News

Rolex Dancers First Award Winners: Jenna Savella and Francesco Gabriele Frola

September 22, 2015

Karen Kain, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada announced today that First Soloists **Jenna Savella** and **Francesco Gabriele Frola** are the recipients of the Rolex *Dancers First* Award. Ms. Kain and **Victor Royce**, President and CEO of Rolex Canada Ltd. presented the award at a dinner and presentation in Toronto last night.

The Rolex *Dancers First* Award recognizes outstanding performances in the previous season and is juried by a committee of members of the National Ballet's Artistic Staff. Ms. Savella is recognized for her outstanding performance in *Chroma* and as Bronislava in *Nijinsky* and for her ability to create roles that are uniquely her own. Mr. Frola is awarded for his standout performance in the title role of *Nijinsky* and as Prince Florimund in *The Sleeping Beauty* – two roles in which he excelled both technically and dramatically. Both were awarded \$3,000 and a work by glass artist Elizabeth Beecham of Glasstronomy Studios.

The *Dancers First* programme supports all the dancers of the National Ballet with funds for artistic development and health and wellness resources. Currently, there are 22 generous donors who are members of *Dancers First*.

This is the sixth year that the award has been sponsored by Rolex Canada. Since its inception, Rolex has always encouraged individual excellence and the pursuit of perfection. In keeping with this long tradition, Rolex continues to contribute to the arts world through its various sponsorship activities.

The Rolex *Dancers First* Award is presented by Rolex Canada Ltd.

Lead philanthropic support for *Nijinsky* is provided by The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation, an anonymous friend of the National Ballet, The Volunteer Committee of The National Ballet of Canada and The Producers' Circle.

The Producers' Circle: Mark & Gail Appel, John & Claudine Bailey, Inger Bartlett & Marshal Stearns, David Binet, Susanne Boyce & Brendan Mullen, Gail Drummond & Bob Dorrance, Sandra Faire & Ivan Fecan, Kevin & Roger Garland, Emmanuelle Gattuso and Allan Slaight, The William & Nona Heaslip Foundation, Rosamond Ivey, Hal Jackman Foundation, Anna McCowan-Johnson & Donald K. Johnson, O.C., Judy Korthals & Peter Irwin, Judith & Robert Lawrie, Mona & Harvey Levenstein, Joan & Jerry Lozinski, The Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain, C.C., Julie Medland, Sandra Pitblado & Jim Pitblado, C.M., Lynda & Jonas Prince, Susan Scace & Arthur Scace, C.M., Q.C., Sandra L. Simpson and Noreen Taylor & David Staines, O.C.

The Sleeping Beauty is made possible by generous contributions from Margaret Fleck & Jim Fleck, C.C., The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation, Sandra Pitblado & Jim Pitblado, C.M., Gretchen Ross and Nancy Pencer & Michael Benjamin.

Jenna Savella is sponsored through *Dancers First* by an anonymous donor.

Francesco Gabriele Frola is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Sherry and Edward Drew.

The National Ballet of Canada gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of the Canada Council for the Arts; the Ontario Arts Council; the City of Toronto through the Economic Development & Culture Department; the Government of Canada – Department of Canadian Heritage, through the Honourable Shelly Glover, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages; and the Government of Ontario through the Honourable Michael Coteau, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

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Contact Information

media@national.ballet.ca