[NAME OF ORCHESTRA]

in collaboration with

Enchantment Theatre Company

Presents

***The Firebird***

***Theatrical Adaptation by***

William Leach

***Director/Choreographer***

Leslie Reidel

***Assistant Director/Choreographer***

Scott McPheeters

***Production Design***

C. David Russell

***Mask/Puppet Design***

Jonathan Becker

C. David Russell

***Lighting Design***

David O’Connor

***Technical Director***

Andrew Cowles

***The Ensemble***

**Shannon Rose Richardson** Firebird Puppeteer

**Sara Nye**  The Unicorn

**Adrian Plascencia** Prince Ivan

**Jennifer Blatchley Smith** The Princess

**Landis Smith**  The Evil Magician Kaschei

*-This production is dedicated to the memory of our friend and colleague William Leach-*

**About this performance of *The Firebird***

Enchantment Theatre is a fable-based company. Our stories are myths, fables or authored fairy tales often drawn from older legends. We choose these stories because they are usually tales of startling transformation. *The Firebird* is the essence of such a story. Coupled with the brilliant Stravinsky score, this tale of physical and spiritual transformation is rich and finely textured. The journey of the Prince is a voyage of true self-discovery. Through the magic of live performance, actors, musicians and audience create a world of new possibilities for love and friendship. Let your imagination take flight as you join us on this journey.

-*Leslie Reidel, Resident Director*

**About Enchantment Theatre Company**

Enchantment Theatre Company thrills audiences with its innovative and visually dramatic family theatre productions. The company was founded in 1979 by Jennifer Blatchley Smith and Landis Smith, both actors and playwrights, and expanded to an artistic partnership with Resident Director Leslie Reidel in 1995. Enchantment Theatre Company’s distinctive artistry combines masked actors, puppets, magic, music and more. Their original and inspiring productions have served more than a million children and families across America and around the world including performances at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and Lincoln Center in New York City; the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; the Academy of Music and the Kimmel Center with the Philadelphia Orchestra in their home town of Philadelphia; and in Asia, performing in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. The company has appeared with major orchestras nationwide, including those of Atlanta, Baltimore, Cleveland, Houston, Minnesota and Seattle, and with the Boston Pops on the PBS “Christmas at the Pops” television special. Other Enchantment symphonic concert productions include *Mother Goose, Scheherazade, Cinderella,* and *The Merry Pranks of Till Eulenspiegel*. We believe that music, like theatre, has the power to illuminate and transform. Our collaborations with symphony orchestras are inspired by a shared vision that by bringing together the magic of music and theatre greater possibilities are born.

**Cast & Creative Staff Biographies**

**Andrew Cowles (Technical Director)** has worked with Enchantment Theatre Company since 2005 starting when he served as the technical director for their touring production of *Cinderella*. He has designed over 200 productions around the Greater Philadelphia Area for such companies as Enchantment Theatre, Simpatico Theater Project, Theatre Horizon, Idiopathic Ridiculopathy Consortium, Curio Theatre Company, Center City Opera Theater, South Camden Theatre Company, Cabaret Red Light, Rutgers University, Arcadia University and Penn State University. Andrew received a Philadelphia Barrymore Nomination for his design for *The Brothers Size* with Simpatico Theatre Project. He holds a B.A. from Washington College in Chestertown, MD.

**Scott McPheeters (Assistant Director/Choreographer)** graduated from Dickinson College in 2005 with a B.A. in Theatre Arts and has worked as a freelance performer/choreographer in Philadelphia ever since. He is a co-director of Subcircle, a multimedia dance collective, and performs regularly with the Nichole Canuso Dance Company and Bearded Ladies Cabaret. Performance credits with Enchantment Theatre Company include *Pinocchio*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The* *Snow Queen*, *Sorcerer’s Apprentice,* and *Cinderella*. He has choreographed Enchantment's productions of *Peter RabbitTM Tales*, *Aladdin and Other Enchanting Tales*, *The Fisherman and the Flounder*, *The Brave Little Tailor,* and *The Beast in the Bayou.* Independently, his choreography has been performed as a part of the Philadelphia Fringe Festival and the SoLow Festival.

**Sara Nye (Ensemble)** has been working as a contemporary dance artist and arts administrator in Philadelphia since 2007. She's performed with RealLivePeople, Kathryn TeBordo/Workshop for Potential Movement, Cie. Willi Dorner, Danse4Nia Repertory Ensemble, Jenn Rose/Loose Screws Contemporary Tap Co., Daniele Strawmyre/readySetGO, Scott McPheeters and in the Philadelphia Fringe Arts Festival. In 2010 she participated in the Lower Manhattan staging of Willi Dorner's *bodies in urban spaces*, a part of the Crossing the Line Festival. Sara holds a B.A. in English from Dickinson College, where she also studied creative writing, modern dance, contemporary dance, and theater. Sara is Enchantment Theatre’s Communications and Development Manager and a Management Consultant for various Philadelphia dance and theater organizations.

**David O’Connor** **(Lighting Designer)** is a Philadelphia director, designer, and teacher. He has directed or designed at Arden Theatre Co., Hedgerow, Act II Playhouse, and Delaware Theatre Company, among others. He was nominated for Barrymore Awards for his lighting design of *Skylight* and his direction of *Master Harold…and the boys*, both at Lantern Theater Company. David is Resident Director for Philadelphia Young Playwrights, an adjunct at Temple University and University of Pennsylvania, and a master teaching artist at Philadelphia Theatre Company.

**Adrian Plascencia** **(Ensemble)** a native of California’s Bay Area, made the move to the east coast to pursue an education in dance. He attended The University of the Arts in Philadelphia where he received a degree in Modern Dance performance. Adrian was awarded a scholarship to attend the Martha Graham School for Contemporary Dance. Adrian regularly performs with local Philadelphia choreographers including Brian Sanders, Curt Haworth, Zane Booker, Anna Rubio, Jillian Harris, Leanne Grieger, Jaamil Kosoko, and Manfred Fischbeck, among others. He is a member of SHARP Dance, with which he had the opportunity to travel to Europe. Adrian teaches dance throughout the Philadelphia area and also serves as a key teaching artist for Enchantment’s Philadelphia in-school residency programs.

**Leslie Reidel** **(Artistic Director-Resident Director)** has dedicated the last 30 years of his professional life to both the preservation of classical theatre and the development of young audiences and has directed all of Enchantment Theatre Company’s productions. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Muhlenberg College and an M.F.A. from Temple University. He served as a member of the M.F.A. faculty at Temple University and was a founding member of the Professional Theatre Training Program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Delaware. His most recent creations with Enchantment Theatre Company include *Peter Rabbit Tales*, *Aladdin and Other Enchanting Tales* and Ravel’s *Mother Goose.* Leslie is Professor of Theatre at the University of Delaware and a director at the professional REP Company. Leslie is also a frequent guest lecturer on “Acting Shakespeare” at theatre training programs across the country, and is a member of The International Shakespeare Conference located in Stratford-upon-Avon.

**Shannon Rose Richardson** **(Ensemble)** hails from the small town of Red Hook in New York’s Hudson Valley. She has been working with Enchantment Theatre Company since her graduation from Muhlenberg College in 2009. Shannon holds a B.A. in Theatre for Acting and Directing, and a B.A. in Music for Vocal Performance. She received conservatory training in commedia dell'arte and physical theatre from the Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy. Upon graduation, Shannon joined Enchantment in the creation and two National Tours of *The Adventures of Harold and the Purple Crayon*. She continues to perform with Enchantment and serves as an advisor for its Educational Residency programs in Philadelphia area schools.

**C. David Russell (Resident Production Designer)** pursues a varied career including costume and scenic design, costume and property crafts, event design, project management and teaching. He is currently Assistant Professor of Scenic Design, and Head of the Production Design and Technology Program at Ohio University Theater Division. In addition, David is Enchantment Theatre Company’s resident production designer. Other theater design credits include: Resident Ensemble Players in Delaware, The Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey, The Pittsburgh Public Theater and Theater Works in Hartford, CT. David was also on staff in the prop shop at The Santa Fe Opera for 18 years where he has served as the Master Craftsperson (2009-2011). David received his B.F.A. from Ohio University School of Theater and his M.F.A. from New York University TISCH School for the Arts. Website: cdavidrusselldesign.com.

**Jennifer Blatchley Smith** **(Ensemble, Artistic Director-Literary & Education)** studied writing and theater at Bennington College. For the last 36 years, Jennifer has co-created and performed in 20 original productions that have been presented across the United States and abroad. As a founding member of Enchantment Theatre Company, Jennifer has created roles as diverse as the Broom in *The Sorcerer’s Apprentice* to Beauty in *Beauty and the Beast*. She has performed in Enchantment productions at Lincoln Center and the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York; the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; and the Annenberg Center, the Kimmel Center, and the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, and she has traveled to Asia six times with Enchantment. Her most recent roles have been in Enchantment’s symphonic productions of *The Firebird*, *Scheherazade* and *Mother Goose*. Her recent Enchantment creations are *The Adventures of Harold and the Purple Crayon*, *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*, *Aladdin and Other Enchanting Tales* and *Peter Rabbit Tales*.

**Landis Smith** **(Ensemble, Artistic Director-Production)** studied theater at Carnegie-Mellon University and Webster University Conservatory in St. Louis. His love of theatre, music and the art of illusion led to the founding of Enchantment Theatre Company in 1979. As a founder and performer with Enchantment, Landis has created, produced, and performed in productions across America. In 1985, Enchantment collaborated with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra to premiere *The Symphony and the Sorcerer*, the first of a series of programs introducing young people to the magic of symphonic music. Since then, Landis has appeared with major orchestras across North America, including the premiere of Enchantment’s theatrical adaptation of Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Scheherazade* with The Cleveland Orchestra in 2008 and the premiere of *Mother Goose* with the Atlanta Symphony in 2013. He has also performed in Enchantment symphonic productions of *The Firebird*, *Cinderella*, and *The Sorcerer’s Apprentic*e. He has toured in Asia six times with Enchantment, performing in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore.