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For Immediate Release
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The Jewel Heart ballet weaves local author, musicians, and dancers together in a rich tapestry of storytelling

What do forest animals, Redmond High School choir and orchestra, an award-winning local author, a magical doll, a professional violinist, and a Bolshoi ballerina have in common? They are all part of an original EBT production of *The Jewel Heart* premiering May 29th at the North Shore Performing Arts Center (Bothell). The inspiration for this new ballet comes from a charming children's book by the Puget Sound's own Barbara Helen Berger.

The Jewel Heart features live music performed by regional professionals and talented local youth. Professional violinist and local teacher, Pamela Liu is the "voice" of Gemino and the inspiration for Pavell, the ballet's leads. Pianists Kathryn Nickerson and Judy Huehn lend their talent to the production as accompanists and soloists. Redmond High School Choir under the direction of Ms. Arianna Guthrie and RHS Orchestra under the direction of Ms. Paula Ferguson play challenging pieces like Mozart's Requiem.

"EBT reaches out and facilitates inter-disciplinary exploration at a professional level," explains music director Judy Huehn, "there are nearly 250 people participating from our community." Selected student soloists play a variety of instrumentation including piano, cello, oboe, clarinet, flute, and marimba. Dancers from EBT's school fill children's roles while adult professional dancers perform the leads.

"We're so happy to share the collaborative process of creating a new work with our students and with the community." EBT artistic director Viktoria Titova exudes enthusiasm for the "process" as well as the "product". As always Titova's choreography draws from her roots as a ballerina with the Bolshoi Theatre Grigorivich Company in Russia.

"The story stems from my own experience taking ballet as a child," confides celebrated author/illustrator BH Berger, "My first costume was a harlequin doll just like the main character of Gemino" Hand crafted costumes and sets based on Ms. Berger's illustrations bring the story to life. In April Ms. Berger visited with participating *Jewel Heart* performers and displayed a gallery of her original artwork. "I look forward to seeing the full production in May." Ms. Berger will be at NPAC from 1pm-2pm before the matinee performance to meet audience members and sign books.

Tickets for the May 29th performances at 2pm & 7pm are available only at EBT, info@emeraldballet.org or www.emeraldballet.org or (425)883-3405.