

For Immediate Release:

Menlowe Ballet Reaches New Heights With “Transcendence”

Menlo Park, CA – January 21, 2014 – Following an acclaimed fall season, **Menlowe Ballet** returns to the stage with *Transcendence*, April 4-6 at Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton, CA 94027. Featuring works by **Artistic Director Michael Lowe** and guest choreographer **Dennis Nahat** the program includes Lowe’s *Tribute*, Nahat’s **Pas de Cinq** and the premiere of Lowe’s **Transcendence**, a Chinese cultural contemporary work. In response to completely sold-out 2013 performances, the company has added a fourth show to its 2014 spring season. Evening performances are **Friday and Saturday, April 4th and 5th at 8pm**, and matinees are **Saturday and Sunday, April 5th & 6th at 2pm**. Tickets ranging from \$28-\$48 may be purchased at www.menloweballet.org or by calling **800-595-4TIX (4849)**.

Guest Choreographer Dennis Nahat, a former principal dancer with American Ballet Theater, co-founded Cleveland Ballet in 1974, founded San Jose Cleveland Ballet in 1985 and Ballet San Jose in 2000 where he served as Artistic Director until 2012. His choreographic credits include over 100 works for ballet, opera, Broadway, television and film. His *Blue Suede Shoes* aired nationwide in an Emmy-nominated broadcast of the PBS television series *Dance in America*.

“I’m excited to work for the first time with Menlowe Ballet,” says Nahat. “I’ve watched the company grow and with each passing season I am impressed to see performances of the highest caliber equal to those anywhere in the Bay Area.”

Michael Lowe’s *Tribute* debuted in 2013 to overwhelming audience enthusiasm. *Tribute* honors Lowe’s participation in two seminal productions of Ravel’s *Bolero*: Marc Wilde’s 1974 *Bolero* and Oakland Ballet’s staging of Bronislava Nijinska’s 1928 version. In *Tribute*, Lowe references both works, weaving in his own choreographic voice. Musicians Paul Stinson and Angelo Bundini’s innovative arrangement of Ravel’s score will be played live for each performance.

Based in Menlo Park, CA, Menlowe Ballet is a professional ballet company dedicated to bringing dance to audiences in the San Francisco Bay Area. Founded in 2011, the company performs works ranging from cultural to contemporary, while honoring the foundation of classical ballet. In addition to its artistic mission, Menlowe Ballet provides performing opportunities to aspiring students from its official school, the Menlo Park Academy of Dance.