

BALLET 2000

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Lar Lubovitch, a horseman in Petersburg

Lar Lubovitch (73 years old), one of the doyens of choreography in America where he is celebrated and popular, is off to Russia to create for the **Mikhailovsky Theatre Ballet of St Petersburg** (the city's second-biggest company after that of the Mariinsky Theatre). His new work is based on the narrative poem by Alexander Pushkin, *The Bronze Horseman*, which is turned inspired by St Petersburg's famous equestrian statue of Peter the Great who founded the Russian city 300 years ago. Coincidentally, last March another creation on the same subject debuted in Petersburg in the context of the XVI International Ballet Festival Mariinsky; the work, by company dancer Yuri Smekalov, was a remake of a 1949 Soviet ballet by Rostislav Zakharov to music by Reinhold Glière, a Ukrainian composer from the first half of the 20th century.

Lubovitch's version of *The Bronze Horseman* also uses music by Glière: not that of the ballet, however, but his *Symphony No. 3*. It will be premiered at the end of May during the White Nights period when, on account of St Petersburg's northerly latitude, the sun never completely sets and nighttime in the city never falls.

