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#### FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Friends and supporters, welcome to Colorado Ballet's enchanting production of Coppélia.

It brings me immense joy to bring this beloved ballet back to our stage for the first time since 2008. Coppélia holds a special place in our hearts, and we are thrilled to reintroduce it to our community, infusing it with new energy and vitality while honoring its timeless charm. I am so proud of the remarkable talents of our dancers and musicians, who infuse each movement and note with unparalleled passion, dedication, and skill.

As we embark on this whimsical journey together, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for joining us today. Your presence enriches our performance, and we are truly grateful for your steadfast support. It is a privilege to share the magic of Coppélia with you, and I hope that today's performance will leave you with a sense of wonder and delight.

So, sit back, relax, and let the romance and comedy of Coppélia sweep you away. Thank you for being a part of this unforgettable experience. Enjoy.

Hil Boggs Artistic Director

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Thank you for joining us today to experience Colorado Ballet's presentation of Coppélia. I trust that you will be enchanted by this timeless comedy, which exemplifies the beautiful interplay of classical ballet and music, as well as the artistry of our talented dancers.

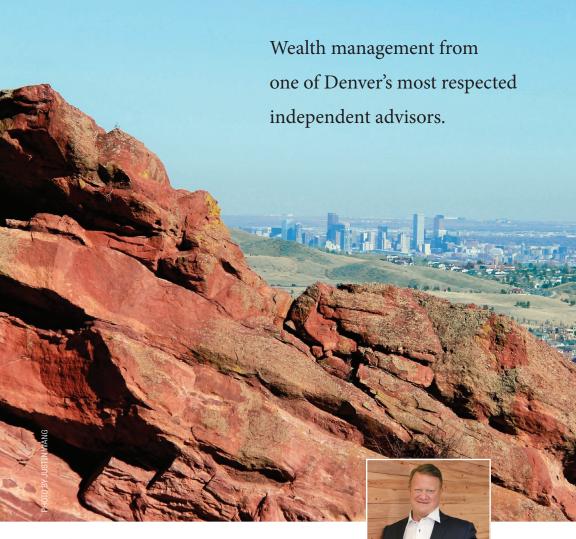
As we immerse ourselves in the delightful tale of Coppélia, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for your continued support of Colorado Ballet's mission to make ballet accessible to all audiences. It is through the generosity and dedication of patrons like you that we can bring beloved classics like Coppélia to life on stage, year after year.

Your support enables us to maintain our cherished tradition of including a family-friendly ballet in our repertoire each season. Thanks to you, we can inspire and engage with audiences of all ages, ensuring that the magic of this beloved art form continues to thrive in our community.

Thank you once again for your commitment to the arts and for being an essential part of Colorado Ballet's journey. Please enjoy the performance.



Sameed Afghani **Executive Director** 





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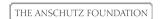
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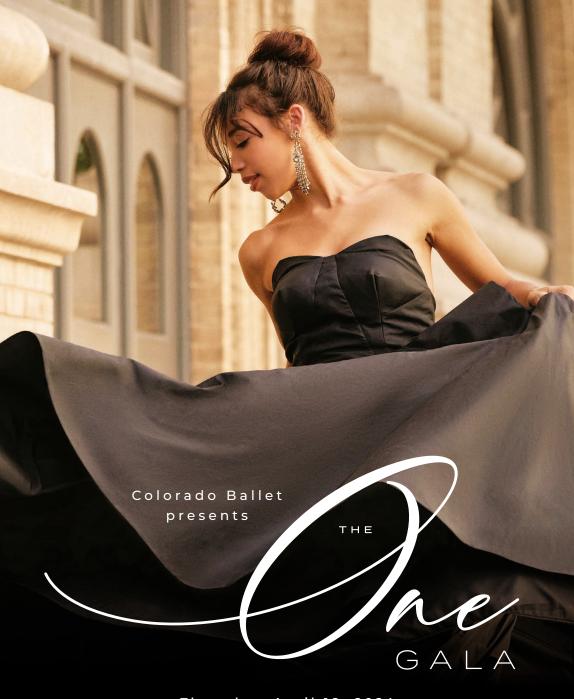
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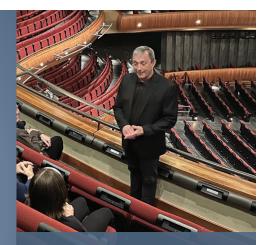
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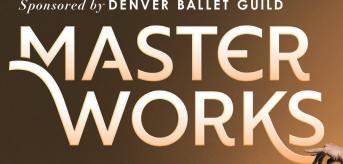
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Colorado Ballet productions are made possible in part by funding from the citizens of the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District. The Dancers of Colorado Ballet are represented by The American Guild of Musical Artists, AFL-CIO; the union that represents Artists in the fields of opera, ballet, modern dance, and choral presentations.



# COPPÉLIA

# ELLIE CAULKINS OPERA HOUSE MARCH 8-17, 2024

Original Choreography by Arthur Saint-Leon
Staged by Gil Boggs, Sandra Brown, Lorita Travaglia, and Maria Mosina
Music by Léo Delibes
Scenic Design by Tony Straiges
Costume Design by Patricia Zipprodt
Lighting Design by Todd Elmer

## **SYNOPSIS**

#### Act I

The curtain rises on the square of a small European town several hundred years ago. A lovely young girl, Coppélia, is seen sitting on a balcony reading a book as Swanhilda enters. Swanhilda looks up at a girl, tries to attract her attention, but receives no reply. Franz, Swanhilda's lover, comes into the square and blows a kiss to the beautiful Coppélia. She ignores him, too, and continues unconcerned with her book. However, Swanhilda has seen these attentions of her lover to another pretty girl. Franz is a very busy young man, assuring Swanhilda that he is not faithless and his affections are hers alone. Still jealous, Swanhilda refuses to believe him and runs away as a group of young people interrupts their quarrel.

The bürgermeister/mayor enters to announce that at a celebration the following day, the Lord of the Manor will present dowries to all couples who wish to marry. Asked if she will marry Franz, the pouting Swanhilda puts a sheaf of corn to her ear. Thus, according to old custom, the corn will tell her if her lover is faithful or not. Sadly, she says the sheaf is silent. The other couples, however, are delighted at the bürgermeister's good news and dance until night falls when they must leave for home. Dr. Coppelius comes out, locks his door, and is immediately swirled away by a boisterous band of revelers. In the excitement, he drops the key to his shop. Swanhilda and her friends appear and finding the key, they are filled with curiosity about the strange doctor and enter his shop. Dr. Coppelius returns, sees his door open and darts in. Franz enters carrying a ladder, which he uses to climb on to Coppélia's balcony.

#### Act II

The curtain rises on the dimly lit interior of Dr. Coppelius' shop - a room full of life-like, life-size dolls. Swanhilda pokes her head into an alcove only to discover that Coppélia is not a living, breathing woman, but actually one of Dr. Coppelius' life-size dolls. One of Swanhilda's friends jars a doll who dances until its clockwork runs down. The amazed young intruders then wind up all the dolls who dance, as the friends watch, enchanted. Suddenly, a furious Dr. Coppelius enters and everyone except Swanhilda flees. She runs into the alcove where Coppélia is kept. At the same time, Dr. Coppelius apprehends the faithless Franz entering by the window. Franz pleads his love for the beautiful Coppélia. Dr. Coppelius pretends to listen with interest while he entices Franz with several well-doctored drinks. When the unsuspecting Franz passes out, Dr. Coppelius brings what he thinks is his fabulous doll Coppélia from her alcove. However, it is Swanhilda who, overhearing Franz's declaration of love for Coppélia, has changed places with the doll. The doctor makes some magical gestures over Swanhilda as she awkwardly rises to dance. The deluded Dr. Coppelius believes his puppet has come to life.

Swanhilda dances on and on, creating havoc in the room and upsetting all the doctor's work. Franz, who has just revived, dashes out of the room chased by Dr. Coppelius. Eluding the doctor, Franz returns to watch the proceedings with glee until, finally, he and Swanhilda run out, leaving the shop in a shambles. Dr. Coppelius returns to discover the figure of Coppélia lying in her chair, divested of clothes, and realizes that he has been deceived.

#### Act III

The curtain rises on the final act, which is again set in the village square. Franz and Swanhilda, now reconciled, approach the bürgermeister to receive their dowries and be married. Dr. Coppelius storms in, accusing the lovers of destroying his life's work. Swanhilda, realizing the justness of his claim, offers him her dowry, but the bürgermeister gives Dr. Coppelius a bag of gold and sends him off. The townspeople then participate in the fete that unites Swanhilda and Franz in a happy marriage.

## ARTISTIC STAFF



#### Gil Boggs, Artistic Director

Gil Boggs began his dance career with the Atlanta Ballet. He joined American Ballet Theatre in New York in 1982 and was promoted to soloist dancer in 1984 and principal dancer in 1991. Boggs was a member of the company for 17 years. Boggs also performed with the Twyla Tharp Dance Company, Baryshnikov and Company, Nureyev and Friends, and made several guest appearances around the world. During his career with ABT, he was recognized as both an accomplished virtuoso and one of the company's most popular performers. Boggs has worked with numerous noted choreographers, including Agnes de Mille, Sir Kenneth MacMillan, Paul Taylor, Mark Morris, Jerome Robbins and Merce Cunningham and has an extensive performance repertoire of both classical and contemporary works. Boggs accepted the position of Artistic Director with Colorado Ballet in the Spring of 2006. In Boggs' tenure with Colorado Ballet he has restaged full-length productions of Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty, Giselle, Don Quixote and Coppélia along with adding new full-length productions of Romeo & Juliet, Cinderella, Le Corsaire, Beauty and the Beast and Peter Pan. Boggs has also presented 17 world premieres and 18 Colorado Ballet premieres by such renowned choreographers as Twyla Tharp, Lar Lubovitch, Anthony Tudor, Val Caniparoli, Dwight Rhoden and Lynne Taylor-Corbett.



#### Sandra Brown, Assistant to the Artistic Director/Ballet Master

Sandra Brown joined American Ballet Theatre in 1987 under the directorship of Mikhail Baryshnikov, where she remained until 2003. During that time, she danced numerous classical, full-length principal roles and gained recognition for her leading contemporary roles. Most notably, she created and danced the world premiere role of Desdemona in Lar Lubovitch's full-length Othello. During her tenure at ABT, she was chosen by Mikhail Baryshnikov to choreograph for the American Ballet Theatre Choreographic Workshop. Brown appears in ABT's film productions of Romeo and Juliet, Le Corsaire, and the documentary Ballet. She was featured in the movie Center Stage and appears in the film The Company. She also achieved recognition by appearing on Broadway as Louise Bigelow in the Tony Award-winning 1994 revival of Carousel, directed by Nicholas Hytner and choreographed by Sir Kenneth MacMillan at the Vivian Beaumont Theater.

In 2003, Brown left ABT to pursue work as a freelance artist. During this time, she was asked to perform as a guest artist at the Vail International Festival. She also taught and choreographed for the ABT Summer Intensive. In 2006, she joined her husband, Gil Boggs, to work with Colorado Ballet. Since then, she has assisted staging the full-length productions of Giselle, Don Quixote, The Nutcracker, Coppélia, The Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake, and Christopher Wheeldon's A Midsummer Night's Dream. In addition, she has staged Lar Lubovitch's Smile with My Heart, Dwight Rhoden's Ave Maria, Twyla Tharp's In The Upper Room, Clark Tippet's Bruch Violin Concerto No. 1, and Edwaard Liang's Feast of the Gods. During that past 17 years as Ballet Master, she has choreographed many scenes in Colorado Ballet's productions as well as a multitude of ballets for the Bal de Ballet, an event hosted by the Denver Ballet Guild. In 2014, she gained critical acclaim for the ballet The Last Beat, which she created on the dancers of Colorado Ballet to the music of DeVotchKa.



#### Lorita Travaglia, Ballet Master

Lorita Travaglia is originally from New Zealand. She received her ballet training at the National School of Ballet and later the Royal Ballet School in London. Lorita made her debut as a professional dancer with the Berlin Ballet. After six years with the Company, she moved to the United States where she worked with Princeton Ballet, Boston Ballet, Atlanta Ballet and International Ballet Rotaru, dancing solo and principal roles in a wide range of repertoire. Her favorite roles include Odette/Odile in Swan Lake, Swanhilda in Coppélia, Cinderella, Sugarplum Fairy in The Nutcracker and Paquita. In 1992, Lorita returned to New Zealand, but continued to perform as a guest artist with companies in the United States as well as Company Z, a contemporary dance company in New Zealand. Lorita began teaching in 1988 while still performing and studied the Vaganova methodology. She was the principal teacher for a professional training program in Auckland, New Zealand and later, as artistic director of Canyon Concert Ballet in Fort Collins, Colorado, she set up a similar aspirant program. In 1999, Lorita joined Colorado Ballet as director of the Apprentice Program and company repetiteur, and has been ballet master since 2006. Her choreography includes Equanimity, Aspects, Pictures at an Exhibition, Piazzolla and, most recently, The Angel of Buenos Aires for Colorado Ballet and a full-length The Nutcracker for Canyon Concert Ballet. Lorita graduated from the Colorado School of Traditional Chinese Medicine in 2000 and has a private practice in Denver. She is an avid tango dancer and is the Creative Director of Parasol Arts.



#### Maria Mosina, Ballet Master

Maria Mosina was born in Moscow and graduated from the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Russia. Upon graduation, Maria joined the Bolshoi Ballet Grigorovich Company and immediately was chosen for principal roles. She toured the world appearing on all major European, American, African and Asian stages. In 1995, Maria was invited by Colorado Ballet to join as a leading principal dancer. She performed all major parts in classical productions and also had the chance to show her talent in neoclassical, modern and contemporary choreographed master pieces. Maria was a featured dancer on the cover of Dance Magazine and has been featured in other magazine articles. She holds a bachelor's degree in methodology and pedagogy from the Moscow State Academy of Choreography. She is also an active ballet instructor throughout the United States. She participated as a master teacher and judge for the Youth American Grand Prix. Maria performed leading roles in all major productions as a member of the Company, as well as a guest artist with many other festivals, galas, and companies. After 21 seasons as a principal dancer with Colorado Ballet, she retired at the end of the 2016/2017 season. She has now joined the artistic staff of the company.

## ARTISTIC STAFF



#### Adam Flatt, Music Director & Principal Conductor

Adam Flatt has served as Music Director and Principal Conductor of Colorado Ballet since 2007, conducting hundreds of performances in the Ellie Caulkins Opera House leading the acclaimed Colorado Ballet Orchestra. Well known to Colorado audiences, Adam also served as Associate Conductor of the Colorado Symphony Orchestra where he led over 250 concerts in a five-year tenure, as Music Director of the Denver Philharmonic, and as Music Director of the Denver Young Artists Orchestra for seven years, leading that orchestra at home in Denver and on international tours. In addition to his work at Colorado Ballet, Adam is Music Director of the Newport Symphony Orchestra on the Oregon coast, and the Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra. As a guest conductor he leads performances with symphony orchestras, ballet companies and opera companies all over the United States. He has served on the musical faculties of both the Rocky Ridge Music Center and Summerfest at the Curtis Institute of Music. Adam Flatt has his bachelor's degree in music with honors from the University of California at Berkeley, and his master's degree in conducting from the Indiana University School of Music. Adam Flatt and his family make their home in Denver.



#### Catherine Sailer, Associate Conductor

Catherine Sailer, Director of Choral Studies at the University of Denver, conducts the Lamont Chorale, Lamont Women's Chorus and the Evans Choir. She is also the Associate Conductor of the Colorado Ballet Orchestra. She was named the winner of the Robert Shaw Fellowship in 2005, chosen by Chorus America and supported by Warner Brothers and the National Endowment for the Arts. Her other awards include first place at the American Choral Director's Association Conducting Competition. Conducting Credits include the Atlanta Symphony Chorus and Orchestra, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra, Beijing Symphony Orchestra, the National Opera of China, the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music Orchestra and the Central City Opera. Sailer has been a conducting fellow with the Dale Warland Singers, the Kansas City Chorale, the Chicago Symphony Chorus, the Carnegie Hall Workshop Chorus, and the Orchestra of St. Luke's. She has collaborated as conductor or chorus master with singers William Warfield and Marilyn Horne and conductors Victor Yampolsky, Marius Szmolij, Stephen Alltop, David Amram, Tan Dun, David Fanshawe, and Marin Alsop. Sailer was invited to conduct in the National Conducting Institute with the National Symphony Orchestra as a student of Leonard Slatkin. She also conducted performances of the festival chorus and orchestra at the Oregon Bach Festival under the tutelage of Helmuth Rilling. Catherine Sailer received the Doctor of Music with honors in conducting from Northwestern University and the Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance and Conducting from the University of Denver. She has served as Assistant Conductor of the Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra, the Denver Young Artists Orchestra and as Music Director of the Musica Sacra Chamber Orchestra. She is an active guest and festival conductor for choir and orchestra and her collegiate ensembles have appeared at Colorado Music Educator's Association and Southwest divisional conferences of the American Choral Director's Association.

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Pamela Eldridge, Principal

#### Orchestra Personnel

Manager April Johannesen

# PRINCIPALS





**Jennifer Grace** (she/her) Bozeman, Montana Soloist in 2020, Principal in 2021



Mario Labrador (he/him)
Antioch, California
Soloist in 2021, Principal in 2021



Christophor Moulton (he/him) Colorado Springs, Colorado Corps de Ballet in 2010, Soloist in 2017, Principal in 2023



Jonnathan Ramirez (he/him) Cali, Columbia Soloist in 2020, Principal in 2020

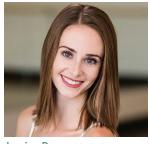


Asuka Sasaki (she/her)
Nagano, Japan
Corps de Ballet in 2005, Soloist in 2010,
Principal in 2017





Leah McFadden
Dowagiac, Michigan
Apprentice in 2018, Corps de Ballet in
2019, Soloist in 2020



Jessica Payne (she/her)
San Clemente, California
Corps de Ballet in 2020, Soloist in 2022



Kevin Gaël Thomas (he/him)
Cannes, France
Apprentice in 2007, Corps de Ballet in
2009, Soloist in 2016



**Sarah Tryon** (she/her) Sudbury, Ontario, Canada Corps de Ballet in 2015, Soloist in 2021

The dancers and artistic staff of Colorado Ballet celebrate and gratefully acknowledge the generosity of Lynnette Morrison, Founding Sponsor of the company's Dancer Wellness Program.

# DEMI-SOLOISTS



Mackenzie Dessens Studinski (she/her) New Orleans, Louisiana Apprentice in 2015, Corps de Ballet in 2017, Demi-Soloist in 2021



Bryce Lee (he/him) Mission Viejo, California Corps de Ballet in 2016, Demi-Soloist in 2022



Ariel McCarty\* (she/her) Allen, Texas Apprentice in 2018, Corps de Ballet in 2020, Demi-Soloist in 2022



Sean Omandam (he/him) Fresno, California Apprentice in 2005, Corps de Ballet in 2007, Demi-Soloist in 2019



Jeremy Studinski (he/him) Broomfield, Colorado Corps de Ballet in 2017, Demi-Soloist in 2022



Alexandra Wilson\* (she/her) Highlands Ranch, Colorado Apprentice in 2019, Corps de Ballet in 2020. Demi-Soloist in 2022

# CORPS DE BALLET



Kenny Allen (he/him) Denver, Colorado Apprentice in 2022, Corps de Ballet in 2023



Joshua Allenback (he/him) Pueblo, Colorado Apprentice in 2014, Corps de Ballet in 2016



Catherine Aoki\* (she/her) Ogden, Utah Apprentice in 2020, Corps de Ballet in 2022



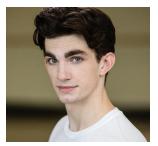
Cato Berry (he/him) Seattle, Washington Corps de Ballet in 2022



Alexandra Gilliom\* (she/her) Denver, Colorado Apprentice in 2021, Corps de Ballet in 2023



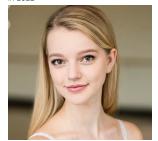
Sheridan Guerin (she/her)
Cedar Hill, Texas
Apprentice in 2020, Corps de Ballet
in 2022



Liam Hogan (he/him) Houston, Texas Apprentice in 2019, Corps de Ballet in 2020



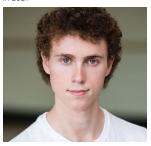
Ever Larson\* (she/her)
Denver, Colorado
Apprentice in 2020, Corps de Ballet in 2021



Catherine McGregor (she/her) Jacksonville, Florida Apprentice in 2020, Corps de Ballet in 2022



Patrick Mihm (he/him)
Dubuque, Iowa
Apprentice in 2021, Corps de Ballet
in 2023



Christopher Mitchell (he/him)
Denver, Colorado
Corps de Ballet in 2021



Alexander Roy (he/him) Chicago, Illinois Apprentice in 2019, Corps de Ballet in 2020



Sara Thomas (she/her) Bucks County, Pennsylvania Apprentice in 2017, Corps de Ballet in 2019



Cruz Vining (he/him)
Phoenix, Arizona
Corps de Ballet in 2023



Lily Bines (she/her)
Dallas, Texas
Apprentice in 2023



Mylie Buck (she/her) Greeley, Colorado



Sonata Ross\* (she/her) Fort Collins, Colorado Apprentice in 2022



Leopold Foster (he/him) Princeton Junction, New Jersey Apprentice in 2023



Tate Ryner\* (they/them) Littleton, Colorado Apprentice in 2023



Stefanee Montesantos (she/her) Hinsdale, Illinois Apprentice in 2022



Lili Travaglia\* (she/her) Denver, Colorado Apprentice in 2023



Learn more about the talented Artists of Colorado Ballet

# STUDIO COMPANY DANCERS



In alphabetical order: Camille Boggs, Noelle Burtschi, Ella Gozdieski, Lily Hagan, Emmanuelle Hendrickson, Alexander Holms, Tiffany Hopkins, Brooke Janney, Chloe Kinzler, Heather Ludlow, Sarah Claire Martin, Poppy Martinez-Cox, Wyatt Mier, Rheana Montesantos, Keara Nichols, Nura Parikh, Calvin Peterson, Delaney Rae, Axel Rickard, Ryder Rickard, Ryan Smallwood, Caroline Sowers









#### GUEST ARTISTS & DESIGNERS



#### Gregory K. Gonzales, Guest Artist

Gregory Gonzales graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a degree in Sports Fitness/Kinesiology and Dance Minor. He was a dance scholarship recipient and Best Dancer Award winner while there. His teachers include: Larry Boyette, Dr. Sandra Minton, Karen Genoff-Campbell, James Clouser, Milenko Banovic, Jeanette Triomphe to name a few. Gregory has danced with several companies over the years, both ballet and modern. These include: The Dance Connection, David Taylor Dance Theater, Nevada Dance Theater, Ballet Arizona, Wylliams-Henry Dance Theater, Opera Colorado, Ballet Pacifica, Kim Robards Dance, Les Ballet Grandiva, Zikr Dance Ensemble, Ballet Ariel and the Colorado Ballet. He spent the bulk of his career at Colorado Ballet where he was promoted to Principal Dancer in 1997. Gregory has had the opportunity to work with many leading choreographers both past and present such as Christopher Wheeldon, Stanton Welch, Milton Myers, Doug Varone and Toro Shimuzake and to dance in ballets ranging from classical and romantic periods to Balanchine, Graham and contemporary works. Gregory also choreographs and was a Choreographer in Residence for the Colorado Ballet from 2003-2004. He created and/or collaborated on ballets such as Carmina Burana, Peter Pan, Broken Web, Incantation and Last Breath. He has choreographed for the University of Northern Colorado, The Dawson-Wallace Dance Project, Ballet Ariel, The Denver Independent Choreographer's Dance Project, Denver School of the Arts, Presenting Denver Dance Festival, Engage Movement Arts, etc. Gregory was adjudicated and is a member of the Society of American Fight Directors and is recommended in rapier and dagger. He founded On Edge Productions with three other colleagues and created shows, both comedy and drama, that featured stage combat. Gregory currently dances with Colorado Ballet as a resident guest artist and with Ballet Ariel. He teaches ballet, character, acting for dancers and floor barre. He also teaches anatomy using the Anatomy In Clay® System to dancers and for Anatomy In Clay® Centers. He has played guitar and bandoneon for the Natural Tango Tipica Orquesta and studied Argentine Tango and has created and directed work for Tango Colorado and Parasol Arts. Gregory is a recipient of the Legends of Dance Award for 2019 from the Dance Archive University of Denver.



#### Todd Elmer, Lighting Design

Mr. Elmer came to Colorado Ballet in 2008 from an extensive background designing lighting for live performance: theatre, opera, dance, and ballet, which included ten consecutive years touring domestically and internationally from 1984-94 while based in New York. He was the Lighting Director for American Ballet Theatre, Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project, Wes Chapman's American Ballet, Production Stage Manager for three Festival on Ice U.S. National Tours, and Lighting Supervisor for ABT's junior company, ABT II. He has traveled in all but 6 U.S. states and worked in 12 foreign countries. This new Nutcracker is his 19th production with Colorado Ballet. Since relocating to New Mexico in 1994, other long-term clients include Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, the Wheelwright Museum of The American Indian, and the New Mexico School for the Arts dance department. His beginning in ballet came in 1982 lighting NYCB's School of American Ballet annual performances in Lincoln Center, a relationship that lasted 37 years. In New York he also designed lighting for numerous Off-Broadway shows, theatre and opera productions for the Juilliard School, and has served in either design, managerial, or technical capacities at Louisville Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Maria Benitez Teatro Flamenco, Telluride/Alpine Dance, Richmond Ballet, Bermuda and Spoleto Festivals, Santa Fe Opera, and the Yale Repertory Theatre.

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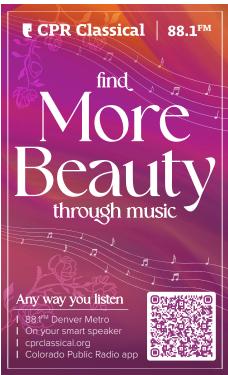
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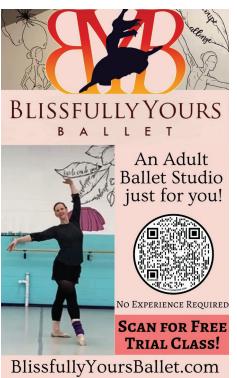


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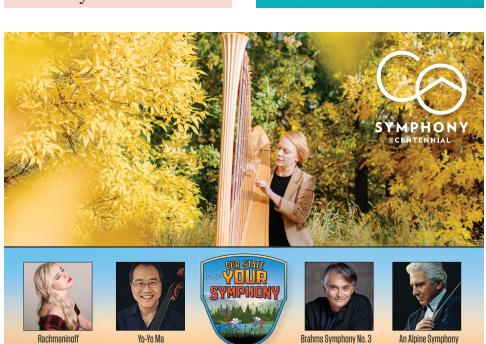


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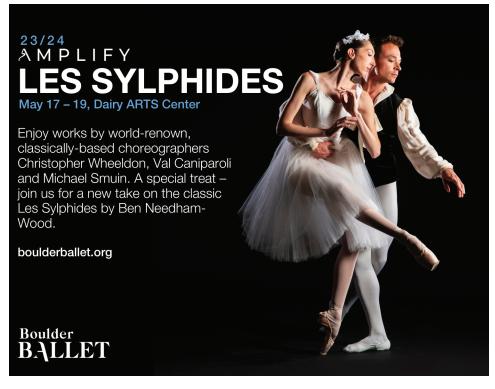


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