McAninch Arts Center
at College of DuPage
presents

SALT CREEK BALLET:

The Nutcracker

Music by **Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**
Based on a story by **E.T.A. Hoffman**
Staged & Choreographed after **Dace Dindonis & George Verdak**

Erica De La O, Artistic Director
Kristopher Wojtera, Associate Ballet Director

featuring

Daynelis Munoz & **Daniel Sarabia**

and

New Philharmonic
Kirk Muspratt, Music Director and Conductor

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This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL AGENCY

Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021, 2 and 7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021, 1 and 5 p.m.
Belushi Performance Hall

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION STAFF

Scenic Design ..... Simon Pastukh
Costume Design ..... Galina Solovyeva
Production Designer and Painter ..... Oleg Smirnov
Wardrobe Coordinator ..... Emily Lorenz
Technical Director ..... Jason Haag, F5D inc.
Lighting Designer ..... Charles Cooper, USA
Assistant Rehearsal Directors ..... Emily Lorenz, Jenny Mastin
Costumers ..... Kay Johnson
Sabena Sellnow & Carl Gramza
Halsey Onstage *(Travis Halsey, Rachel Young, Rick Coleman, Redding Baker)*
Photographer ..... Keith Gerling
Presentation Bouquets ..... Renee Carlson
Poster & Program Design ..... Karen Barrientes
Public Relations ..... Julie Rusin

A special thank you to the committee chair volunteers:
Jennifer Backus, Kristin Barrero, Brian Becker, Julia Costello,
Corinne Hwang, Lauren Koski, Veronica Norman,
Sandy Pavlik, Aida Yanahan

Salt Creek Ballet would like to thank all of the many wonderful volunteers who help make this exceptional production a reality!

The McAninch Arts Center season celebrates the memory of Joan Frank for a lifetime of service, thanks to the support of family and friends.

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PROGRAM

Act I

Counselor Von Stahlbaum ..... Kristopher Wojtera*
Frau Von Stahlbaum ..... Sarah Govostis, Samantha Leddy, Kylie Norman
Their Daughter, Clara ..... Meredith Becker, Sasha Hedroyts
Their Son, Fritz ..... Owen Taylor
Nurse ..... Ella Bagull, Natalie DiBartolo, Ylin Roy
Party Guests ..... Ella Backus, Sofia Barger, Sylvie Barrero, Vera Brenneman, Patricia Messmacher, Kylie Norman, Luis Caro*, Brittney DiBartolo*, Brandon Penn*, Morgan Hulen*
Children at the Party ..... Mark Allis, Caroline Bagull, Justine Becker, Lily Bier, Virginia Birmingham, Emma Botha, Elayna Castro, Nicoletta Deckys, Alina Djordjevic, Aubrey Doty, Tatum Flanagan, Caroline Hurley, Zhenyu "Sophia" Jiang, Sasha Koski, Stella Ryan, Avery Stanley, Belinda Villa, Sophie Xu, Sabrina Yanahan
Dr. Drosselmeyer ..... Ricardo J. Garcia*
Columbine ..... Ella Backus, Vera Brenneman, Olivia Costello, Natalie DiBartolo, Samantha Leddy
Harlequin Doll ..... Jack Grohmann*
Soldier Dolls ..... Sofia Barger, Sylvie Barrero, Samantha Leddy
The Mouse King ..... Brandon Penn*
Baby Mice ..... Eloise Bourgeois, Ada Dunlap, Charlotte Giantasio, Milly O'Hara, Abigail Potter, Gridley Scofield
Big Mice ..... Catherine Allis, Mia Ascencios, Lyla Barkley, Zhenyan "Natalie" Jiang, Kaitlynn Kurosaki, Amelia "Mia" LaCrosse, Olivia Pavlik, Arcy Pozo, Ylin Roy, Giuliana Wiberg
The Nutcracker ..... Jack Grohmann*
Soldiers ..... Caroline Bagull, Justine Becker, Meredith Becker, Lily Bier, Nicoletta Deckys, Alina Djordjevic, Sasha Hedroyts, Caroline Hurley, Avery Stanley, Sabrina Yanahan
Toys ..... Nadia Bizior, Zoey Lewis, Nora McDonnell, Joanna Tsantilis, Molly VanDeCasteele
Princess Clara ..... Vera Brenneman, Olivia Costello, Natalie DiBartolo, Sarah Govostis
The Nutcracker Prince ..... Morgan Hulen*
Snowflakes ..... Salt Creek Ballet Company
Brittney DiBartolo*, Neda Pozingyte*, Hannah Stahl*

PROGRAM

Act II

Sugar Plum Fairy ..... Daynelis Munoz*
Cavalier ..... Daniel Sarabia*
Spanish Dance ..... Sofia Barger, Sylvie Barrero, Sarah Govostis, Samantha Leddy
Chinese Dance ..... Ella Backus, Sylvie Barrero, Olivia Costello, Kylie Norman, Neda Pozingyte*
Mirlitons ..... Ella Backus, Sofia Barger, Sylvie Barrero, Vera Brenneman, Olivia Costello, Natalie DiBartolo, Sarah Govostis, Samantha Leddy, Kylie Norman
Russian Dance ..... Ella Bagull, Patricia Messmacher Jack Grohmann*
Arabian Solo ..... Ella Backus, Olivia Costello, Natalie DiBartolo, Vera Brenneman, Morgan Hulen*
Arabian Corps ..... Catherine Allis, Mia Ascencios, Ella Bagull, Zhenyan "Natalie" Jiang, Kaitlynn Kurosaki, Amelia "Mia" LaCrosse, Olivia Pavlik, Ylin Roy, Giuliana Wilberg
Mother Ginger ..... Luis Caro*
Her Children, the Bon Bons ..... Justine Becker, Emma Botha, Virginia Birmingham, Elayna Castro, Aubrey Doty, Tatum Flanagan, Zhenyu "Sophia" Jiang Sasha Koski, Stella Ryan
Bon Bon Soloists ..... Meredith Becker, Charlotte Giantasio, Sascha Hedroys
Waltz Solo ..... Ella Backus, Olivia Costello, Natalie DiBartolo, Sarah Govostis, Kylie Norman
Waltz Demi Soloists ..... Ella Backus, Olivia Costello, Natalie DiBartolo, Sarah Govostis, Kylie Norman Jack Grohman*, Brandon Penn*
Waltz Corps ..... Salt Creek Ballet Company Indira Cunningham*, Kinsey Love*, Neda Pozingyte*, Hannah Stahl*
Finale & Apotheosis ..... Salt Creek Ballet Company

** guest artist*

PROGRAM NOTES

The Nutcracker
Music by Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Based on a story by E.T.A. Hoffman

It is Christmas Eve and the Von Stahlbaums are preparing to welcome their party guests, who arrive family by family, bearing gifts for the host's children, Clara and Fritz. The presents are all carefully placed under the Christmas tree. Clara's Godfather, the mysterious Herr Drosselmeyer, arrives with a marvelous group of mechanical dolls. In addition, the magical and eccentric Herr Drosselmeyer has planned a special surprise for his beloved Godchild, Clara. He presents her with a wonderfully mysterious nutcracker. Clara is immediately taken with her strange gift. Fritz is jealous and steals the nutcracker from Clara. In the chaos of his teasing, Fritz accidentally breaks the nutcracker. Herr Drosselmeyer comes to the rescue and assures Clara that all will be well. The guests perform a contredanse, after which they depart and the Von Stahlbaums prepare for bed.

Just before the stroke of midnight, Clara returns to the darkened living room to check on her nutcracker. She is frightened by large mice, but suddenly Herr Drosselmeyer appears and the mice flee. Much to Clara's amazement, Herr Drosselmeyer commands the Christmas tree to grow to such an enormous size that it pushes away the entire room. Next, he changes her little toy into a life-size nutcracker. The mice suddenly reappear and a vicious battle ensues. Just when the soldiers seem to be winning, the great Mouse King appears and the tide turns. The Nutcracker and the Mouse King fight. The Mouse King is about to overpower The Nutcracker when Clara distracts him with her shoe, giving The Nutcracker the chance to run the Mouse King through with his sword. The Nutcracker, released from an enchanted spell, turns into a handsome prince. Clara becomes a Princess. The Nutcracker Prince takes Princess Clara's hand, and escorts her on a magical voyage to the Kingdom of Snow and beyond.

Princess Clara journeys to the Kingdom of Sweets where the Sugar Plum Fairy greets her. A series of entertaining divertissements are ordered. Princess Clara and The Nutcracker Prince dance together surrounded by radiant flowers. The Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier then dance for Clara and the Prince. When the festivities are over, everyone bids goodbye to The Nutcracker and Clara who leave together for her home, where she awakens, uncertain if her magical journey was a dream or reality.

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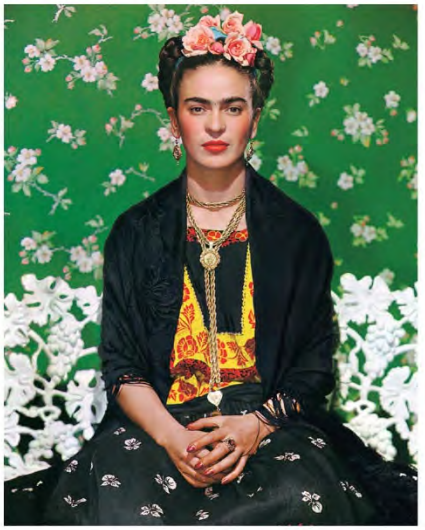

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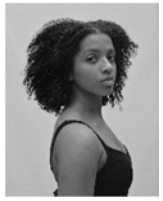
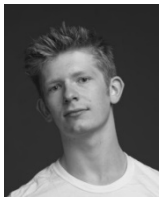
LUIS CARO (Mother Ginger, Party Guest), originally from Puerto Rico, began his dance training in Lansing, Michigan where he was a theatre student. In 1993, he earned his B.F.A. from Butler University in Indianapolis. Since that time he has danced professionally with Louisville Ballet, Montgomery Ballet, Eugene Ballet, and performed as guest with several other dance troupes around the U.S. In Chicago, Caro has been a dance faculty member at Columbia College, and The Chicago Academy for the Arts. Also, he performed with the Ruth Page Foundation under the former direction of Larry Long, Ballet Chicago, Ginger Farley's former 58 Group, and various contemporary companies. Caro is a certified Pilates, Active Red Cord, and core trainer as well as a Thai and clinical Thai bodyworker practitioner. With the exception of last year, Mr. Caro has been a guest performer with Salt Creek Ballet since 1998.



INDIRA CUNNINGHAM (Waltz Corps) is a performing and visual artist and a native to Atlanta, Georgia. She began her dance training at 3 years old at Atlanta Festival Ballet, and continued her training at Ballethnic Academy of Dance in East Point, GA. As she grew up, Cunningham fell in love with ballet, and began to train pre-professionally with Ballethnic Academy of Dance. One of her fondest memories to date is of her performance as "Sarah" (Clara) in Ballethnic's *Urban Nutcracker*. She has had the opportunity to perform throughout the southeast, participate in summer intensive programs at Ballethnic, Orlando Ballet, and Oklahoma City Ballet, under a merit scholarship. Cunningham received her education from Woodward Academy in College Park, GA, until her junior year of high school, after which she transitioned to Ben Franklin Academy in Atlanta; the work-study program at BFA allowed her to accept an apprenticeship with Ballethnic Dance Company while continuing her evening pre-professional dance training, and to graduate from high school a semester early in December 2016. Cunningham continued her education at the University of Oklahoma in fall 2017 as a National Award Scholar and a member of the Honors College while dancing as a Trainee, and later, Studio Company member of the Oklahoma City Ballet. While continuing her studies, she moved to Houston to dance as a member of Vitacca Ballet II. She graduated in three years in May of 2020 with her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, with Academic Distinction and a 4.0 GPA. Cunningham is currently a Performing Artist and Freelance Dancer in the Atlanta area. During these unprecedented times, she is grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Dance Canvas; Peace, Love, and Dance Project Atlanta; and Ballethnic Dance Company in their 2020-21 seasons. Cunningham is currently a member of Confluence Ballet Company in Pittsburgh, PA.

RICARDO J. GARCIA (Dr. Drosselmeyer) of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico began his training at Point Park University in Pittsburgh, where he earned a BA in Dance. Upon graduating, he joined the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC), under the direction of founder Jeraldine Blunden and subsequently Kevin Ward. At DCDC, he had the honor to work with acclaimed choreographers Bill T. Jones, Doug Verone, Donald McKayle, Ronald K. Brown and Dwight Rhoden, among others. Additionally, he was the recipient of the Josie Award for Outstanding Male Dancer of the Year in 2002. Garcia has also performed with The Joffrey Ballet, Illinois Ballet, Peoria Ballet, Salt Creek Ballet, Rhythm in Shoes, Walt Disney World and most recently with Luna Negra Dance Theater. He has conducted classes throughout the US, Europe and Russia, and his choreography have been performed by Luna Negra Dance Theater, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company II, South Dayton Dance Theater, Stivers School for the Arts, After School Matters and Piel Morena Contemporary Dance. Garcia holds a Masters of Science in Nonprofit Management and Philanthropy from Bay Path University and a 200-hour Yoga Certification from Core Power Yoga. He has been the Administrator of Career Transition For Dancers/Midwest, the Managing Director for Lucky Plush Productions, the Co-Artistic Director of the Blue Lake International Ensemble, on the faculty of The Chicago High School for the Arts, the Manager at the American Rhythm Center, a guest dance faculty at Northern Illinois University, and is currently the Senior Pantry Programs Manager at Beyond Hunger.



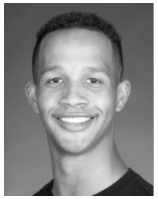
JACK GROHMANN (The Nutcracker, Russian Dance, Waltz Demi Soloist) is from Louisville, Kentucky and currently studies ballet at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music Ballet Department. Grohmann began his training at 8 in Louisville at a local studio where he studied ballet and contemporary dance. Seeking a more professional program, he then moved to Boston as a pre-professional student at the Boston Ballet School, training under the leadership of Peter Stark and Margaret Tracey. Grohmann has attended summer programs at Next Generation Ballet, Boston Ballet School, Miami City Ballet School, the Chautauqua Institution, and Boca Ballet Theatre. Indiana University has featured Grohmann in a number of phenomenal performances, highlights include *Berceuse* by Penny Saunders, *Allegro Brillante* by George Balanchine*, The Concert* by Jerome Robbins, *Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes* by Mark Morris, *In Creases* by Justin Peck, and the pas de deux from *Don Quixote.*

MORGAN HULEN (Nutcracker Prince, Arabian Solo, Party Guest) grew up in Columbia, MO. He left home to complete high school and attend the college program at North Carolina School of the Arts. During the summers he studied with the Hungarian National Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, Minnesota Ballet, and the Broadway Theatre Project. Hulen began his

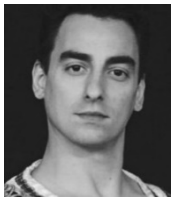
professional career with the Louisville Ballet in 2000 and later enjoyed his role as principal dancer with Tapestry Dance Company in Austin, TX. As a highly sought after guest artist, he has performed with numerous dance companies across the U.S. In 2007, Hulen returned to the Louisville Ballet for three more seasons performing soloist and principal roles. He teaches master classes in tap, ballet, and partnering, and has choreographed many pieces, including several that have won top choreographic honors. He also formed the dance company Impact as an expressive outlet for his and others' choreography. In 2010 Hulen joined the international touring company MOMIX and has had the privilege of performing all over the world.

KINSEY LOVE (Waltz Corps) is currently an Apprentice with Confluence Ballet Company in Pittsburgh, PA. Previously, she danced with Louisville Ballet from 2017-2021 as a Trainee and Studio Company member. She has trained in the pre-professional programs at Colorado Ballet and Ballet Arizona and spent summers training with San Francisco Ballet, Houston Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Colorado Ballet, Ballet Arizona, and Oklahoma City Ballet. *The Nutcracker* is one of Love's all-time favorite ballets, having first been cast as an Angel at age eight. She's danced most roles over the years with her favorites including Clara, Sugar Plum Fairy, Dew Drop, and Snow and Flowers corp de ballet.

DAYNELIS MUNOZ (Sugar Plum Fairy) was born in Cuba where she studied classical ballet for eight years. She graduated in 2005 as a Professional Classical Dancer and Ballet Instructor and has been part of professional companies like Cuban National Ballet, Mexico Ballet and Tulsa Ballet. Ms. Munoz has danced on stages in Spain, France, Colombia, Mexico amongst others. She has graced international stages as a principal dancer in roles such as *Swan Lake, Giselle, Don Quixote, Nutcracker, Sleeping Beauty, Romeo and Juliet, Infra, Serenade* and *Bayadera*. Ms. Munoz has danced pieces from internationally renowned choreographers in the world of art such as John Cranko, Edwaard Liang, Marcello Angelini, George Balanchine, Wayne McGregor, Ma Cong and Alicia Alonso. Ms. Munoz has participated in different international ballet competitions in Cuba, Mexico, winning Gold Medals, including Youth America Grand Prix. She has also judged professional dance competitions internationally. She is currently a guest artist and ballet instructor. Ms. Munoz has been invited to several galas, master classes and ballet productions in Chicago, Florida, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arizona and Ohio.



BRANDON PENN (Mouse King, Party Guest, Waltz Demi Soloist) was born and raised in Richmond, VA. At the age of 10, he began his dance training at the Pine Camp Cultural Arts Center where he studied with Annette Holt, Rodney Williams and Willie Hinton learning a variety of styles. He later enrolled into the School of Richmond Ballet where he studied under Igor Antanov, Malcolm Burn, and more. After spending three years at the Richmond Ballet Mr. Penn was accepted as a trainee of the company whilst completing his senior year. After graduating, Penn spent one year at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Purchase College Conservatory for Dance, studying under Larry Clark, Taryn Russell, and Ted Kivitt and others.



DANIEL SARABIA (Cavalier) is a world renowned Cuban ballet dancer including the Cuban National Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Boston Ballet and Bejart Ballet of Lausanne. He danced with Ballet Concierto of Puerto Rico as a guest artist and many International tours around Latin America Europe and Asia. Sarabia grew up around ballet dancers, and his father, Rolando Sarabia, was a dancer with the Cuban National Ballet. He was trained by his father, Alicia Alonso, Magali Suarez and Maria Julia Bermudez at the Cuban National School in Havana. He has performed principal roles with different companies around the world like Basilio of *Don Quijote*, Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Prince Siegfried in *Swan Lake* of George Balanchine, *Company B* by Paul Taylor, *Giselle* as Albretch, *Paquita* and many more. Today he's a principal guest artist and a professional ballet master around the world.

HANNAH STAHL (Snowflake, Waltz Corps). At the age of 13, Stahl started her training with Elise Flagg; Founder of Elise Flagg Academy of Dance and former New York City Ballet Company Artist under the direction of George Balanchine. Stahl spent her summers training with Carolina Ballet (2017) and Grand Rapids Ballet (2018, 2019) on scholarship. She moved to Michigan in 2019 and became a student with Grand Rapids Ballet. While studying with the school, Stahl was invited by the artistic director, James SoFranko, to work with their professional company.

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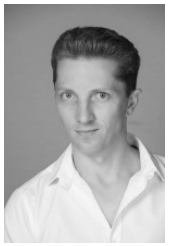
DIRECTOR PROFILES

Erica De La O (Artistic Director) was born in East Los Angeles, CA, and is a principal artist with The Louisville Ballet. Her repertoire has included leading roles in much of the classical canon, including *La Sylphide, Giselle, Swan Lake, Romeo and Juliet, Cinderella, Coppelia, Don Quixote, Sleeping Beauty, Les Sylphides, Lady of the Camellias,* and *The Nutcracker*. She also has performed leading roles in works by Balanchine, Paul Taylor, Twyla Tharp, Adam Hougland, Lucas Jervies, Val Caniparoli, Ben Stevenson, Dave Ingram, Harrison McEldowney, Helen Pickett, Ma Cong, and many others. Beyond ballet, she has also forged a career as a choreographer and collaborative artist in music, film, and graphic design. Her honors include the Sono Osato Award, the John Orr Award from the Pasadena Arts Council, an award from the Kentucky Women Foundation to shed light on social topics, a fellowship from Hadley Creatives, and a silver medal at the Los Angeles' Music Center Spotlight Awards. She created Bunhead Talks, an educational vehicle for dance history, female empowerment in ballet culture, and parent/student dance education. Ms. De La O holds an MFA from Hollins University. She earned an EMBA from the University of Louisville and University of Kentucky Schools of Business.



Joining Ms. De La O is her husband, **Kristopher Wojtera (Associate Ballet Director, Counselor Von Stahlbaum)**, born in Poland. Mr. Wojtera began ballet studies at the National Ballet School in Gdańsk at age ten. He joined the Polish National Theatre in Warsaw and worked with prominent choreographers such as Lorca Miasin, Emil Wesolowski, Yuri Grigorovich, Krzysztof Pastor, and Mats Ek. During Mr. Wojtera's 28 year career, his repertoire as a principal artist included leading roles in *Giselle* (Albrecht), *Swan Lake* (Siegfried), *The Nutcracker* (Cavalier), *The Three Musketeers* (D'artagnan), *Don Quixote* (Basilio), *The Lady with the Camellias* (Armand), *Le Patineurs* (Blue Boy), *Theme and Variations, Billy The Kid*, as well as contemporary works by Ma Cong, Val Caniparoli, Twyla Tharp, Antony Tudor, Harrison McEldowney, and many others. While still performing, he completed a Master of Fine Arts degree in Dance from Hollins University in association with the Forsythe Lab and the Mousonturm in Frankfurt, Germany. He earned an Artist's Diploma from The National Ballet School of Gdańsk in Poland and certificates in Vaganova Teaching Methodology (levels 1 – 5) from Bryn Mawr College. Mr. Wojtera's awards include the Carolina New House Scholarship, the Sono Osato Award, and the Hollins University Fellowship. Mr. Wojtera joins the SCB family as the "Associate Ballet Director." As ABD, he will be teaching a mix of classes with the Artistic Director, coaching, and implementing the artistic vision of SCB. He looks forward to working together to advance the mission of Salt Creek Ballet.

Kirk Muspratt (Music Director and Conductor) recently received the 2020 Programming of the Year Award as well as the 2018 Conductor of the Year award from the Illinois Council of Orchestras. He was also named "Chicagoan of the Year" in classical music by John von Rhein and the staff of the *Chicago Tribune.* In honoring Muspratt, von Rhein said, "Ask the delighted adults and kids who this year flocked to his concerts in west suburban Glen Ellyn with the New Philharmonic Orchestra. They will tell you he made concert going an interactive experience that was both enlightening and— are you ready?—fun."

Recognized as one of the outstanding figures in the new generation of conductors, Muspratt has garnered international critical acclaim as a "born opera conductor" *(Rheinische Post),* "a knowledgeable musician who delivers superbly controlled, gorgeously shaped readings" *(St. Louis Post-Dispatch),* and "friend to local music" *(Midwest Beat Magazine).* The *Los Angeles Times* declared, "Watch him!"

In July 2004, Muspratt was named both music director of New Philharmonic and artistic director/music director of DuPage Opera Theatre (now New Philharmonic Opera). In his last fifteen years, productions featured *Otello, Madama Butterfly, Le Nozze di Figaro, Il Barbiere di Seviglia, Hansel and Gretel, La Boheme, Faust, Tosca, The Beggars Opera, Elixir of Love, Turandot, Gianni Schicchi, Cosi fan Tutte, The Mikado, La Traviata, Die Fledermaus,* and *The Merry Widow.*

In 2017 and 2009, New Philharmonic was awarded Professional Orchestra of the Year by the Illinois Council of Orchestras. Programming of the Year award, also by the Illinois Council of Orchestras, was garnered in 2019 and bestowed in 2020.

In his first months at New Philharmonic, Muspratt instituted a Side-by-Side program for local high school students. Six years ago, Muspratt initiated a popular Solo Competition for Children that results in a child performing at every New Philharmonic concert. In order to involve the community to the maximum, Muspratt has created "Just Ask Kirk™" cards for audience members' questions and a "Kirkature™" cartoon to help advocate the credo: "Classical music is for everyone."

Muspratt begins his 20th acclaimed season as music director of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra (NISO). In 2006, with NISO, he initiated the South Shore Summer Music Festival.

From 1991 through 1996, Muspratt served as resident conductor to Lorin Maazel at the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Prior to that, he was appointed as associate conductor to Joseph Silverstein at the Utah Symphony Orchestra (1990-1992). From 1987 through 1990, Muspratt served as assistant conductor to Leonard Slatkin at the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra as well as music director of the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra. He was music director of the Alberta Ballet from 1997 through 1999. At the New York Philharmonic, Muspratt has served as a cover conductor.

In addition to his work in Pittsburgh, Utah and St. Louis, Muspratt has guest conducted the orchestras of Los Angeles, Montreal, London, Korean Broadcast Symphony, Detroit, Rochester, National Arts Center, Vancouver, Knoxville, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Hamilton, Victoria, Thunder Bay, New Orleans, Stamford, Binghamton, Lafayette, South Bend, Puchon, Annapolis, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra and Baltimore Chamber Symphony. Summer debuts have included the Tanglewood, Chautauqua and Sewanee Music Festivals and the Banff Center for Performing Arts.

In Europe, Muspratt was assistant conductor in the opera houses of Monchengladbach/ Krefeld, Germany, from 1985 to 1987. His American opera-conducting debut came with the Utah Opera in 1991. He returned there to premiere Mascagni's *L'Amico Fritz.* Maestro Muspratt has conducted *Die Fledermaus* for the Calgary Opera, *Faust* and *The Merry Widow* for the Utah Opera, *Of Mice and Men* and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* for the Arizona Opera, all to stunning critical acclaim. In addition, he debuted at the Ash Lawn-Highland Summer Opera Festival in Virginia. He returned to Arizona Opera to conduct their production of *Dialogues of the Carmelites,* to the Utah Opera for their new production of *Faust* and *Amahl and the Night Visitors* at Opera Illinois.

In 1983 and 1984, Muspratt was invited to be a scholarship student at the Chautauqua Institute and in 1986 was selected as a conducting fellow at the Aspen Music Festival. A year later, he was invited into the Conducting Program at the Tanglewood Festival. In 1988, he was chosen to be one of three conducting fellows for the Los Angeles Philharmonic Institute at the Hollywood Bowl.

As a teacher, Muspratt has taught at the Conductors' Institute of the University of South Carolina, the Conductors' Guild National Workshops, Association of Canadian Orchestras National Conference in Toronto, the Conductors' Studio at Illinois State University and at Westminster Choir College in Princeton. During the summer, he has often taught a graduate conducting class at VanderCook College of Music and for the last three summers has been teaching at the Northwestern University Summer Opera Seminar. In 2019, he taught graduate conducting master classes at Illinois State University and judged the concerto competition at Northwestern University. Muspratt recently completed a six-year tenure on the board of directors of the Conductors' Guild.

Having always enjoyed working with young people, he has conducted the Pennsylvania Regional Orchestra and the Pennsylvania All- State Orchestra and most recently the IMEA District 9 orchestra. Muspratt has conducted the Boston University Tanglewood Orchestra at the Tanglewood Festival. Muspratt has been the recipient of numerous awards, among them grants from the Canada Council and the Presser Foundation. In 1983 and again in 1984, he was winner of the Strauss Conducting Prize while a conducting student at the Vienna Conservatory. During his tenure in Utah, he received the first Utah Up 'n Comers Award ever given to a classical musician. This honor was awarded to Muspratt for his work and involvement in the Utah Arts Community. In 1987, he was named winner of the prestigious Exxon/Affiliate Artists Award.

He began his studies as a pianist in New York with Harold Zabrack and continued his studies at Temple University with Adele Marcus and Alexander Fiorillo. After completing graduate studies, Muspratt was accepted into the conducting program at the Konservatorium in Vienna, Austria.

Muspratt is a native of Crows Nest Pass, Alberta, Canada. He became an American citizen in the summer of 2010.

In 2016, he was honored to become a Paul Harris Fellow, an award named for the Rotary International Founder, Paul Harris. In recent seasons, Muspratt has conducted at the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago.

Benjamin Nadel (Associate Conductor and Principal Librarian) is a classically trained conductor, pianist, and violinist. Based in Chicago, he is the Associate Conductor and Orchestra Librarian for the New Philharmonic and Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra. He is also the Orchestra Director at North Central College. Nadel served as Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master at the Midwest Institute of Opera from 2011 – 2015. Nadel began his conducting studies with Dr. Glenn Block at Illinois State University while completing his undergraduate degree. He then went on to receive his MA in Orchestral Conducting at the University of Iowa with Dr. William LaRue Jones. Early on in his studies, Nadel fell in love with operatic conducting because to him, it is one of the most moving and all-encompassing art forms. This passion for opera led him to the Cincinnati Conservatory's summer opera program in Spoleto, Italy, where he studied with Maestro Mark Gibson. It was after this that he became Assistant Conductor at the Midwest Institute of Opera, where he had the privilege to work closely with Maestro Joshua Greene of the Metropolitan Opera. Nadel is devoted to understanding the native languages of operatic scores in order to best interpret them musically, so he spent 2 summers in Italian language immersion, and has a firm command of German as well.

As an orchestral conductor, Nadel has worked with several youth groups and high school ensembles, including New Trier, Metea Valley, Glenbard West, and Stevenson High School, as well as the Northwest Indiana Youth Symphony. He also regularly conducts on the summer concerts at New Philharmonic and the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra.

Emily Lorenz (Rehearsal Director, Salt Creek Ballet) started dancing when she was three years old and joined Salt Creek Ballet at the age of nine where she received training from the former Artistic Director Sergey Kozadeyev. While dancing at Salt Creek she studied a variety of different styles of dance including character, contemporary, jazz, and modern. As a member of the

company, she performed roles in performances including *The Nutcracker, Sleeping Beauty, La Sylphide, Flower Festival in Genzano,* and *Harlequinade*. Lorenz is currently studying at College of DuPage.

Jenny Mastin (Rehearsal Director, Salt Creek Ballet) trained at Classical Ballet Center in Tampa, Florida at the age of nine under the direction of Haydee Gutierrez and Miguel Campaneria. Roles performed included Odette in *Swan Lake,* Kitri in *Don Quixote*, *Paquita*, Grisi in *Pas de Quatre*, and *Les Sylphides*. Summers were spent at Joffrey Ballet New York and the School of American Ballet in New York City with performances in Saratoga Springs. She danced with Cincinnati Ballet, Knoxville Ballet Theatre and New Orleans Ballet while finishing high school. Performance included roles in *The Nutcracker, Sleeping Beauty* and original choreography. Mastin attended North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina and studied with Duncan Noble, Melissa Hayden, Franchon Cordell and Mabel Robinson. Roles performed included Sugar Plum in *The Nutcracker*, Russian Soloist in *Serenade*, lead in *Symphony 13* and original choreography. She accompanied NCSA to Budapest, Hungary for a six-week performing tour. She became Director of Classical Ballet Center for 7 years with students professionally contracted at Joffrey Ballet, Sarasota Ballet and Ballet Hawaii. Mastin has been teaching classical ballet for 31 years to students of all levels and ages. She is a Registered Nurse and has a Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Tampa.

ABOUT SALT CREEK BALLET

Salt Creek Ballet (SCB) is a vibrant, acclaimed pre-professional ballet training and performance company founded as a 501(c)3 by Patricia Sigurdson in 1985 in DuPage County. Erica De La O joined Salt Creek Ballet in July 2021 as the new Artistic Director. Accompanying her as the new Associate Ballet Director, is Kristopher Wojtera. Ms. De La O is inspired by the founder, Patricia Sigurdson; and committed to continue SCB's curriculum, performance opportunities, nurture future artists and offer students a lifelong connection with SCB.

Salt Creek Ballet is committed to its mission to offer high quality dance instruction to students of all ages, present professional-quality dance performances to diverse area audiences, provide high-level performing opportunities for area dancers, and encourage appreciation and awareness of dance in the community at large.

Salt Creek Ballet dancers are pre-professionals drawn from the best Chicago area talent. Internationally known guest artists, choreographers, and designers regularly work with Salt Creek Ballet to provide dancers and audiences alike with a level of performance usually associated with top professional companies. Repertory includes traditional classical works plus original classical and contemporary works by both resident and guest choreographers. From the holiday performances of *The Nutcracker*, to the Spring production and area festivals, Salt Creek Ballet dancers annually perform in front of approximately 10,000 audience members.

The School of Salt Creek Ballet offers students unmatched excellence at all ability, interest, and age levels, from pre-ballet classes through the Vaganova Curriculum of dance education, to teen/adult classes. Most classes are conducted with a live pianist, further reinforcing the close connection between music and dance.

Students that train at Salt Creek Ballet have gone on not only to dance professionally, but succeed in fields as diverse as law, medicine, finance, and education. A true reward is watching dancers at Salt Creek Ballet grow, at any age, with ever-higher achievement, and helping them feel more confident about themselves as dancers and as people.

Patricia Sigurdson (Founding Artistic Director). Salt Creek Ballet was founded by Sigurdson in 1985 as an outgrowth of her ballet school, then in its tenth year. But the true foundation of Salt Creek Ballet began to take form decades earlier with Sigurdson's strong early training in Denver and at the Royal Ballet School in London. In New York she studied with Frederick Franklin and Robert Joffrey after which she joined the Ballet Russes de Monte Carlo and then American Ballet Theatre. With ABT she was on the historic European tour which culminated in six weeks behind the Iron Curtain – ABT being the first American ballet company invited to perform there. This professional experience plus teaching posts at National Music Camp, the Interlochen Arts Academy and elsewhere, provided an ideal background on which to build a ballet school and company here. Having given her students a solid foundation of musicality and strong technical and interpretative skills, the Salt Creek Ballet Company evolved seamlessly from the school. Many of Sigurdson's students have gone on to distinguished professional careers in dance.

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- **Mailing List:** If this is your first visit to the McAninch Arts Center, please stop by our Box Office to add your name to our mailing list or register your email at **www.AtTheMAC.org.**
- Cameras and recording devices are not allowed in the theater and are prohibited by our contracts with the artists.
- Smoking is not permitted in the theater or on campus.
- For your comfort and security, all backpacks and large bags must be checked.
- Electronic pagers and patrons' seat locations should be given to the House Manager, who will notify you in the event of a call. Patrons wearing wristwatch alarms or carrying cellular phones are respectfully requested to turn them off while in the theater.
- Emergency phone number at College of DuPage Police Department for after-hour calls is (630) 942-2000.
- Latecomers seated at discretion of the House Manager.
- Groups of 10 or more may contact Kat Kazmierski at (630) 942-3026 or kazmierskik@cod.edu to arrange for group discounts.
- If you notice a spill in the theater, please notify an usher.
- McAninch Arts Center volunteers are people who assist the house staff in areas of ticket taking, ushering and general management during performances. To get involved, call (630) 942-3705.
- For **Americans With Disabilities Act** accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-9692 (TDD).
- Infrared **Assistive Listening Devices:** For audience members who desire audio amplification of performances, headsets with individual volume controls are now available. You may check out the headsets at the Box Office with a driver's license.

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