



The
Nutcracker



Welcome to the MAC! Our entire staff is thrilled to have you here and we are grateful that you have chosen to invest your time in live entertainment and world-class culture in our community. We want to offer you a space to unwind and enjoy an evening filled with laughter, music, dance, or theatre. Our aim is to provide you with unique and inspiring opportunities to engage more deeply with the arts. Join us for a complimentary pre-show MAC Chat or Q&A following specific performances. Our arts center, located in a community college, and offers over 60 student productions supported by professional lighting, sound, and costumes. These can be enjoyed at affordable costs, or you can attend our FREE programs like Music Friday at Noon and our free International Global Film series, Global Flicks in February. We hope to exceed your expectations with excellent service and special pre and post-show engagement opportunities. These will help you connect with the artists and art forms more deeply. While you are here, don't forget to visit the Cleve Carney Museum of Art in the lobby to experience cutting-edge contemporary art. You can also enjoy our full-service concession area and gift shop.

After your visit, please stay connected with us by joining us on Facebook (AtTheMAC) or subscribing to our e-newsletter to find out about added shows, events, and special offers (www.AtTheMAC.org). We challenge you to try something new at the MAC and expand your cultural palate. Come see the New Philharmonic Orchestra or a Buffalo Theater Ensemble Play. Or join us this summer for the Lakeside Summer Series. We are grateful for your presence here and we want to ensure that your visit is enjoyable. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to ask any of the staff and we will do our best to accommodate you.

We hope you have a wonderful time and look forward to entertaining you.

Enjoy the show!

Diana Martinez
Director, McAninch Arts Center

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**

Re-worked by **Erica De La O & Kristopher Wojtera**

Erica De La O and **Kristopher Wojtera**, Artistic Directors

featuring

Daynelis Muñoz & Wilhelm Josue Gómez Sarria

and

New Philharmonic

Kirk Muspratt, Music Director and Conductor

New Philharmonic is grateful for support from:

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Salt Creek Ballet is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to excellence in dance.

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AN EXELON COMPANY



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



*As a courtesy to our dancers and fellow audience members,
photography or videotaping is strictly prohibited.*

Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023, 1 and 5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, 1 and 5 p.m.

Belushi Performance Hall

Act I

Counselor Von Stahlbaum	Kristopher Wojtera*
Frau Von Stahlbaum.....	Sofia Barger, Vera Brenneman
Their Daughter, Clara	Justine Becker, Lily Bier, Caroline Hurley
Their Son, Fritz	Daniel Mellish, Owen Taylor
Nurse.....	Catherine Allis, Lyla Barkley, Mia LaCrosse
Party Guests	Catherine Allis, Sofia Barger, Meredith Becker, Edson Cabrera*, Luis Caro*, Amelia Challacombe, Sasha Hedroyts, Blake Kessler*, Mia LaCrosse, Kylie Norman*, Brandon Penn*, Malachi Squires*
Children at the Party	Mark Allis, Natalie Anderson, Aidana Argynova, Athena Baum, Alice Barbashov, Virginia Birmingham, Nadia Bizior, Emma Botha, Tatum Flanagan, Nina Guth, Briana Jaskevicius, Raleigh Kent, Zoey Lewis, Alyssa Martinez, Geneva McNutt, Milly O’Hara, Joanna Tsantillis, Molly VanDeCastelee
Dr. Drosselmeyer	Ricardo J. Garcia*
Columbine.....	Vera Brenneman, Amelia Challacombe, Alina Djordjevic
Soldier Dolls	Sofia Barger, Meredith Becker, Sasha Hedroyts, Aaron Renteria*, Trevor Williams*
The Mouse King	Edson Cabrera*
Baby Mice	Sienna Barkley, Liv Cordero, Lucia DeChristopher, Anna Guth, Rose Guth, Polina Hedroyts, Addison Johnson, Brooklyn Morelli, Grace Ring, Cora Taylor
Big Mice	Lyla Barkley, Justine Becker, Lily Bier, Aubrey Doty, Caroline Hurley, Sasha Koski, Noah Ring, Jackie Tang, Sabrina Yanahan
The Nutcracker.....	Aaron Renteria*, Trevor Williams*
Soldiers.....	Alice Barbashov, Virginia Birmingham, Emma Botha, Tatum Flanagan, Raleigh Kent, Owen Taylor
Toys.....	Joy Abboud, Emilia Aranauskas, Molly McKeague, Evelyn Poteracki, Islay Reilly Engquist, Emma Ross, Lani Stimac, Eliana Tsantillis, Abigail Visocchi
Princess Clara	Meredith Becker, Vera Brenneman, Sasha Hedroyts
The Nutcracker Prince.....	Brandon Penn*, Malachi Squires*, Kristopher Wojtera*
Snowflakes	Catherine Allis, Katherine Alvarado*, Sofia Barger, Justine Becker, Meredith Becker, Lily Bier, Vera Brenneman, Amelia Challacombe, Olivia Costello*, Nicoletta Deckys, Alina Djordjevic, Alaina Gonzalez*, Hannah Gonzalez*, Sasha Hedroyts, Caroline Hurley, Amelia LaCrosse, Emily Lorenz*, Hannah Stahl*, Jackie Tang, Sabrina Yanahan

PROGRAM

Act II

Sugar Plum FairyDaynelis Munoz*

Cavalier Wilhelm Josue Gomez Sarria*

Angels.....Joy Abboud, Emilia Aranauskas, Annie Bieslin, Mia Botha,
Virginia Hofheimer, Lily Jansen, Addison Johnson,
Marissa Martinez, Brooklyn Morelli, Evelyn Poteracki,
Grace Ring, Anna Rosenberg, Mia Yuan, Alexa Zitkevicius

Spanish Dance Sofia Barger, Meredith Becker,
Vera Brenneman, Sasha Hedroyts

Chinese Dance..... Meredith Becker, Alina Djordjevic, Sasha Hedroyts

Mirlitons.....Catherine Allis, Sofia Barger, Sylvie Barrero*,
Meredith Becker, Olivia Costello*, Alina Djordjevic,
Sasha Hedroyts, Hannah Stahl*

Russian DanceCatherine Allis, Amelia Challacombe, Nicoletta Deckys,
Sasha Koski, Mia LaCrosse, Aaron Renteria*,
Jackie Tang, Trevor Williams*, Sabrina Yanahan

Arabian SoloSofia Barger, Sylvie Barrero*, Meredith Becker,
Vera Brenneman, Sasha Hedroyts,
Brandon Penn*, Malachi Squires*

Arabian Corps.....Lyla Barkley, Justine Becker, Lily Bier,
Aubrey Doty, Caroline Hurley, Sasha Koski,
Jackie Tang, Sabrina Yanahan

Mother Ginger Luis Caro*

Her Children, the Bon Bons..... Mark Allis, Natalie Anderson, Aidana Argynova,
Athena Baum, Nadia Bizior, Nina Guth, Raleigh Kent,
Zoey Lewis, Alyssa Martinez, Geneva McNutt,
Milly O'Hara, Joanna Tsantillis, Molly VanDeCastelee

Bon Bon GymnastAlice Barbashov, Emma Botha, Tatum Flanagan

Waltz SoloSofia Barger, Vera Brenneman

Waltz Demi Soloists Sofia Barger, Meredith Becker, Vera Brenneman,
Hannah Gonzalez*, Sasha Hedroyts

Waltz Corps..... Catherine Allis, Katherine Alvarado*, Justine Becker,
Lily Bier, Amelia Challacombe, Nicoletta Deckys,
Alina Djordjevic, Alaina Gonzalez*, Caroline Hurley,
Amelia LaCrosse, Hannah Stahl*, Jackie Tang

Finale & Apotheosis Salt Creek Ballet Company and Guest Artists

* *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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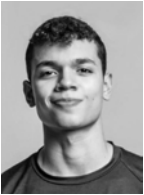
Wight



GUEST ARTIST PROFILES



Daynelis Muñoz (Sugar Plum Fairy) was born in Cuba where she studied for 8 years Classical Ballet. She graduated in 2005 as a Professional Classical Dancer and Ballet Instructor. Ms. Muñoz has been part of Professional Companies like Cuban National Ballet, Mexico Ballet and Tulsa Ballet. She has danced on stages in Spain, France, Colombia, and Mexico among others. Highlights of her career include principal dancer and main roles in *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *Don Quixote*, *Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Infra*, *Serenade*, and *Bayadera*. She has danced pieces of 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. She has participated in different International Ballet Competition in Cuba and Mexico - winning the Gold Medal - and in Youth America Grand Prix. She has been a member of jury in Competitions of Dance, International Dance Meeting and Congresses of Spectacles.



Wilhelm Josue Gómez Sarria (Cavalier) started his dance training at the age six at the “Teatro Municipal” in Cali, Colombia with Cesar Mosquera. When he was eight years old, he enrolled at the Instituto Colombiano de Ballet (IncolBallet) where he received his formal training until he graduated from high school. He went to train under full scholarship with Fort Lauderdale Youth Ballet under the Artistic Direction of German Dager, where he graduated in 2021. Gómez was Fort Lauderdale Youth Ballet’s first Nutcracker Prince.

Gómez won the Youth American Grand Prix in New York Semi-Finals and was a YAGP Finalist at the NY Finals performing his Talisman Variation at Lincoln Center’s David Koch Theatre. He won 1st Place all around in Classical and Contemporary at The Miami International Ballet Competition at age 15 and was invited to dance at the closing Gala with *La Boheme*, his contemporary piece. At the American Dance Competition, for two years in a row, he won 1st Place in Classical and Contemporary. His Pas de Deux from *Le Corsaire* also won 1st Place and he was invited to perform the Pas de Deux and Talisman Variation at the closing gala. Gómez also won 1st Place for *Diana & Acteon* Pas de Deux and Coda at the Universal Ballet Competition & Shake the Ground Competition. Gómez has won full scholarships to San Francisco Ballet School, the American Ballet Theatre (two scholarships and invitation by Sasha Radetsky to take class at the American Ballet Theatre Studio Company). He also won a scholarship to The Paris Opera Ballet School in Paris, France, The Dutch National Ballet Academy in Amsterdam, Netherlands, all year round program, The Elmhurst School of Ballet, The School of American Ballet (SAB), Pacific Northwest Ballet, Houston Ballet Academy, The Bolshoi Ballet Academy, Pennsylvania Ballet,

GUEST ARTIST PROFILES

Orlando Ballet School, The Joffrey Ballet School, Next Generation Ballet / Patel Conservatory, and Sarasota Ballet. Gómez spent two summers with full scholarship at the San Francisco Ballet School and The Fort Lauderdale Youth Ballet.

At the Youth American Grand Prix Semi-finals in Tampa, Florida, Gómez won the Youth American Grand Prix in the Senior Category and won 1st Place in Pas de Deux with Grand Pas Classique. He also had the honor to be invited to dance in the gala. Gómez has also been invited to dance at the two galas at the Youth American Grand Prix Mexico ~ Festival Internacional de Danza in October 2019. At the Universal Ballet Competition, Gómez won 1st Place in the Senior men Classical with his Albrecht Variation, 1st Place in Contemporary with his Revive, and 1st place in the Senior Pas de Deux Competition with Grand Pas Classique.



Katherine Alvarado was born in Caracas, Venezuela and was raised with a deep appreciation for the cultural heritage of the country's diversity in polyrhythms and folkloric dance. She migrated to Miami, FL with her family at nine. As a child, she focused on academic achievements but upon starting college Alvarado joined Jubilation Dance ensemble, a dance troupe based on modern and ancestral dance work. As part of her training, she joined the Amour Dance Theatre to focus on ballet, and she fell in love with the craft. After showing passion for ballet, she obtained a merit scholarship that allowed her to really fall into her ballet studies. In 2012 Alvarado was offered a chance to further her training with Dance Theatre of Harlem by Virginia Johnson on scholarship after completing her summer intensive. After two years, she found an opportunity to dance with Ballet Chicago Studio Company and explore Neoclassicism and Balanchine Repertoire. In 2018, Alvarado Joined Sacramento Ballet under the direction of Ron Cunningham and Carinne Binda where she danced in works such as *Giselle*, *Serenade*, *Carmina Burana*, and *Fluctuating Hemlines*. Currently Alvarado is a freelance dancer and joining beautiful works such as Ruth Page's *Nutcracker* and Local Musical Theater in Chicago, IL, which she calls home.



Edson Cabrera was born in Cuba and graduated from the highly regarded Escuela Nacional de Arte in Dance in 2005. During this training period at the National School of Art in Havana, he participated in the ITs Festival in the Netherlands under the direction of Feri de Geus and Noortje Bijvoets, Subsequently, he joined the Cuban dance company Ballet Rakatan, dancing as a soloist.

GUEST ARTIST PROFILES

In 2007, he became a member of Danza Contemporánea de Cuba, participating in several international tours to England, Mexico, Hungary, Poland, Spain, the Netherlands, Australia, and the USA. He has also performed in the Sziget Festival in Budapest, Mercat de Les Flors in Barcelona, Brisbane Festival, Manchester International Festival, The Bydgoszcz Opera Festival, and Virginia Arts Festival. Mr. Cabrera was made Principal Dancer in 2010.

During his tenure with Danza Contemporánea de Cuba, he worked with choreographers Rafael Bonachela, Carlos Junior Acosta, George Céspedes, Julio César Iglesias, Juan Kruz Díaz de Garaio Esnaola, Mats Ek, Itzik Galili, and Pedro Ruiz, and performed works by Jan Linkens, and Kenneth Kvarström.

He joined artistic forces with Hedwig Dances in 2012.



Luis Caro, 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, Mr.

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. Mr. 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.

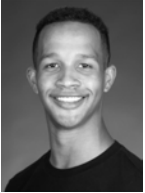


Ricardo J. Garcia (Mayaguez, Puerto Rico) began his dance training at Point Park University in Pittsburgh, where he earned a BA in Dance. Upon graduating, he joined the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC), under the direction of founder Jeraldine Blunden and subsequently Kevin Ward. At DCDC, he 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. He relocated to Chicago and spent 5 seasons with Luna Negra Dance Theater and performed as a guest with The Joffrey Ballet, Illinois Ballet, Peoria Ballet and Salt Creek Ballet. 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.

GUEST ARTIST PROFILES

Garcia holds a Masters of Science in Nonprofit Management and Philanthropy from Bay Path University and 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, the Sr. Pantry Programs Manager at Beyond Hunger and is currently the Manager of Place-Based Initiatives at Feeding America National Organization.



Brandon Penn 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, Brandon 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. After spending a year at SUNY, Penn was offered a position with Atlanta Ballet 2.

After two years there, Penn was offered a company position with the Columbia City Ballet. Later, after much experience and repertory under his belt, Penn accepted a principal contract with the Fort Wayne Ballet where he just finished his second season. He would like to immensely thank his family for all of their love, support and words of wisdom.



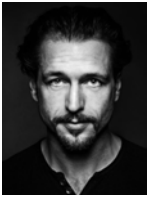
Aaron Renteria studied under Lola de Ávila and Patrick Armand at the San Francisco Ballet School at age 13, spending three years in the School and two in the Trainee Program. Later, he became a member of the San Francisco Ballet (SFB) company after one year as an apprentice. In the SFB School's annual showcases and during the Trainee Program, Renteria's repertory included George Balanchine's *Stars and Stripes* and *Western Symphony*; Helgi Tomasson's *Con Brio* and *Sleeping Beauty*; Parrish Maynard's *Fractals*; Christopher Wheeldon's *Danses Bohemiennes*; and Myles Thatcher's *Spine and Stone and Steel*.

At SFB, he danced in many ballets, including Helgi Tomasson's *Concerto Grosso*, *Caprice*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Don Quixote*, *Giselle*, *The Fifth Season*, and *The Nutcracker*; Christopher Wheeldon's *Rush* and *Cinderella*; George Balanchine's *Theme and Variations*, *Symphony in C*, and *Brahms-Schoenberg Quartet*; Serge

GUEST ARTIST PROFILES

Leifar's *Suite en Blanc*; and Yuri Possokhov's *Swimmer*, *Firebird*, and *Rite of Spring*.

Since joining the Joffrey, Renteria has danced in ballets such as Jerome Robbins' *Interplay* and *Glass Pieces*; First Theme in George Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*; Nicholas Blanc's *Beyond the Shore*; Andrew McNicol's *Yonder Blue*; Ballroom Manager in Yuri Possokhov's *Anna Karenina*; Krzysztof Pastor's *Romeo & Juliet*; Christopher Wheeldon's *Fool's Paradise* and *The Nutcracker*; Alexander Ekman's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Justin Peck's *Year of the Rabbit*; Yuri Possokhov's *Bells*; and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's *Mammatus*. Appears courtesy of the Joffrey Ballet.

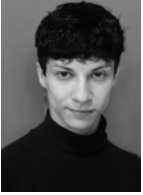


Malachi Squires trained at Houston Ballet Academy, and Marin Dance Theater. He appeared most recently in *Day of the Gypsy* by Gordon Pierce Schmidt presented at the Harris Theater, *Brigadoon* with the Goodman Theater in Chicago, RPM Production's *La Journees de Tsiganees*, and an *American Portrait*. *Carmen* and *La Clemenza di Tito* at the Chicago Lyric Opera. Among the dancer's many credits include Les Grandiva Ballets performing in New York, Seoul and over 70 cities in Japan, with an appearance on national television in the leading male roles in *Swan Lake*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Sleeping Beauty*. He has appeared in numerous works with Fort Worth Dallas Ballet including *Four Last Songs* and *West Side Stories*. He has also danced with Paul Sanasardo, EZ Credit Dance Theater, Lawrence Pech Dance Company. Guest engagements have included the Madison Ballet, Ballet Quad Cities, Chicago Civic Ballet, Hilton Head Dance Theater, Rochester Dance Company, and Marin Dance Theater. Choreography includes *The Restless Hours*, which he also produced; he has also choreographed for Mesopotamia Night Chicago, Dance in the Parks Chicago, Bitterroot Dance Academy, Dance Drama Collaborative, 12 Min. Max Dance Festival, and the Houston Artist of the Year Awards. As a teacher, he has been associated with Joel Hall Dance Center, Ruth Page, Minnesota Youth Ballet, a number of schools in the Chicago area and the Houston Arts in Education Program.



At the age of 13, **Hannah 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.

GUEST ARTIST PROFILES



Trevor Williams began his dance training at his home studio in Paducah, KY at the age of 15. After graduating high school, Williams joined Louisville Ballet's Studio Company, being promoted to Company Artist two years later. During this time, he danced many soloist roles in contemporary ballets and in new works, eventually touring one of these new commissioned works to London, England choreographed and set by resident choreographer Andrea Schermoly. After leaving Louisville Ballet, Williams began his freelancing and teaching career, in San Francisco with Ballet22, as well as with local Kentucky and North Carolina dance schools. He has remained a freelance dancer and teacher for the past 2 years and is excited to join the cast of Salt Creek Ballet's annual *Nutcracker* as a Guest Artist.

Dining Partners

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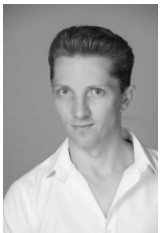
NOBEL HOUSE

SALT CREEK BALLET 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 Houglan, 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** (Artistic Director), born in Poland. Mr. Wojtera began ballet studies at the National Ballet School in Gdansk 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*, *Swan Lake*,

Nutcracker, *The Three Musketeers*, *Don Quixote*, *Lady of the Camellias*, *Le Patineurs*, *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. He danced professionally with Baltic Opera (Gdansk, Poland), Columbia City Ballet (South Carolina), Louisville Ballet (Kentucky), and English National Ballet (London, England). 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. As Artistic Director, he will be teaching a mix of classes, coaching, and implementing the artistic vision of SCB. He looks forward to working together to advance the mission of Salt Creek Ballet.

SALT CREEK BALLET PROFILES



Gibby Kirby (Executive Director) is a lifelong resident of Illinois, having been raised in Central Illinois. He attended Parkland College in Champaign, receiving an Associates Degree in Theatre and Accounting. He then attended Illinois State University in Normal, receiving a Bachelors in Dance Performance. While at Illinois State, he was a company member with the Illinois State Dance Theater, under the

direction of Laurie Merriman, performing in numerous company productions, in the Chicago Dance Festival, and the American College Dance Festival. He was a company member of the Champaign Urbana Ballet, under the direction of Deanna Doty, where he performed numerous roles in *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Cinderella*, and *Sleeping Beauty*. He moved to the suburbs eleven years ago, and began working at Realty Executives Success as the Operations Manager. He has been a part of several local theatre productions, including *Cabaret*, *A Chorus Line*, and *RENT*. He currently lives in Joliet.



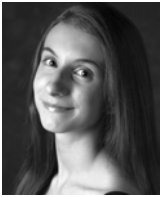
Charles Cooper (Lighting Designer) is an award-winning Chicago-based lighting designer for theatre and dance currently returning to Salt Creek Ballet for his 14th season of lighting *The Nutcracker*. His regional and Chicago credits include work for Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Writers' Theatre, Drury Lane Oakbrook, Victory Gardens Theatre, Northlight Theatre, First Stage

Milwaukee, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, American Theatre Company, Peninsula Players Theatre, The House Theatre of Chicago and many more. Cooper is proud to be an Associate Artist of Chicago's TimeLine Theatre where he has designed more than 15 productions. Frequent collaborators include directors William Brown, Kimberly Senior, Erica Weiss, Hallie Gordon, and Sandy Shinner, designers Keith Pitts, Kevin Depinet, Andrew Hansen, Chris Kriz, and Rachel Healy. He studied at Purchase College and De Paul University. Awards include the 2016 Joseph Jefferson award for Outstanding Lighting Design, six Joseph Jefferson nominations for Outstanding Lighting Design, and two After Dark Awards for best overall design. Since 2002, Cooper has been on the faculty of Hinsdale Central High School teaching the basics of theatrical design and production. Through his teaching and design work, Cooper is proud to be inspiring a new generation of theatre artists. He lives in Oak Park, Illinois with his wife Angela and sons, Ethan and Gavin. Cooper has been a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829 since 2005.

SALT CREEK BALLET PROFILES



Brandon Lewis (Technical Director) is thrilled to be back at Salt Creek Ballet for *The Nutcracker*. He has worked with Salt Creek Ballet since 1997 only missing a few years here and there. He is an account executive at Midwest Event Solutions who specialize in lighting, audio, and video. In addition, he is the Theatre Program head at St. Francis High School in Wheaton, Illinois. Much love to his family, and his favorite Bon-Bon ever.



Emily Lorenz (Wardrobe Coordinator/Rehearsal Assistant) 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 Assistant) 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.



Kirk Muspratt (Music Director and Conductor) recently received the 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 15 years, productions featured *Otello*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *La Boheme*, *Faust*, *Tosca*, *The Beggars Opera*, *Elixir of Love*, *Turandot*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Così fan Tutte*, *The Mikado*, *La Traviata* and *Die Fledermaus*.

In 2017 and 2009, New Philharmonic was awarded Professional Orchestra of the Year by the Illinois Council of Orchestras.

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 21st 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

NEW PHILHARMONIC PROFILES

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. During the 2018 and 2019 season Muspratt served as a guest conductor at the Joffrey Ballet.

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 *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.

NEW PHILHARMONIC PROFILES

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.



Benjamin Nadel (Associate Conductor and 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. In addition, he is the Orchestra Director at the Northwest Indiana Symphony Youth Orchestra and North Central College. Since he began these positions, Nadel has conducted a wide variety of programs

and has prepared hundreds of pieces across both the classical and pops repertoires.

Nadel began his conducting studies with Dr. Glenn Block at Illinois State University while completing his undergraduate degree in Music Education. He then went on to receive his MA in Orchestral Conducting at the University of Iowa with Dr. William LaRue Jones. While pursuing his degrees, he had the opportunity both assist and conduct several operatic productions, including *Candide*, *La bohème*, *La clemenza di Tito*, and *Iolanthe*. He has participated in several summer music festivals, one of which was Cincinnati Conservatory's program as a part of the summer music festival in Spoleto, Italy.

From 2011 – 2015 Nadel spent his summers with the Midwest Institute of Opera, as the assistant conductor to Maestro Joshua Greene of the Metropolitan Opera. While there, he conducted productions of *Don Giovanni*, *Così fan tutte*, and *Carmen* in addition to assisting and coaching productions of *Die Zauberflöte* and *La Cenerentola*.

Aside from his work as a professional conductor, Nadel has a strong connection and personal interest to music education. He believes that one of the most important aspects of being an artist is to pass along that experience and knowledge to the next generation of musicians. To that end, Nadel has worked with several high school ensembles in the Chicago area, including New Trier, Metea Valley, Glenbard West, Glenbard South, and Stevenson High School. His work has included side by side concerts with New Philharmonic. He has also led conducting workshops for the Opus Chamber Music camp, North Central College, and Illinois State University.



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- 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.
- Please turn off all cell phones and any other alarms while in the theater.
- Emergency phone number at COD 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 (630) 942-3026 or grouptix@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. *Underwritten by a generous gift from The Knowles Foundation.*

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Project Manager	Kari Schoettle
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Assistant Curator	Janie Walker
Gallery Assistant	Maria VanDyken Li
Marketing and Patrons Services Coordinator	Janey Sarther
Graphic Designer	Wendy Melgar
Director of Development for Cultural Arts	Janie Oldfield
Administrative Assistant	Mandy Rakow
Student Clerical Assistant	Blake Lietz

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Box Office Manager	Julie Elges
Assistant Box Office Supervisors	Jim Gosling, Elise Wash
Box Office Assistants	Patrick Garon, Tatia Hegrans
Patron Services Manager	Tom Murray
Assistant Patron Services Supervisor	Deborah Kolek
House Manager/Volunteer Coordinator	Rob Nardini

MAC Resident Professional Ensembles

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Artistic Director	Connie Canaday Howard
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Associate Artistic Director	Amelia Barrett
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Business Manager	Bryan Burke
New Philharmonic, Music Director and Conductor	Kirk Muspratt
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian	Benjamin Nadel
New Philharmonic General Manager	Paula Cebula
New Philharmonic Personnel Manager	Karen Dickelman

MAC Design and Technical Staff

Technical Production/Lighting/Sound Coordinator	Richard Arnold, Jr.
Technical Theater Assistant Coordinator	Sabrina Zeidler
Costume and Make-up Design Coordinator	Kimberly G. Morris
Assistant Costume Coordinator and Stitcher	Gretchen Woodley
Production Manager	Joe Hopper
Sound and Lighting Specialist	Ben Johnson
Lighting Production Specialist	Elias Morales
Audio Production Specialist	Fisher Parsons
Events Production Specialist/Tech. Director – BTE	Caitlyn Woods
Stage Hands	Bobby Bryan, Zak Zubka

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