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PRESENT

A COLORADO NUTCRACKER

with Chamber Orchestra of the Springs

DECEMBER 16-17, 2025



3 SHOWTIMES!

Tue, Dec 16, 7pm | Wed, Dec 17, 2 & 7pm



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Colorado Ballet Society was founded by Patricia Hoffman in 1997 with the mission to provide aspiring dancers with superior training in a teaching environment that challenges the individual to attain new levels of excellence. In August 2021, the Matt Walsh family acquired the studio and appointed Kate Walsh as Artistic Director.

Colorado Ballet Society offers advanced, intermediate, and beginning dance classes for ages 2.5 and up in Classical Ballet, Contemporary, Jazz, Hip Hop, Tap, Conditioning, Variations, Sparkle Dance, and Acro.

Summer classes are available in all disciplines and levels, with special programs including Ballet Intensive, Sparkle Dance, Acro Dance, Broadway Dance, Worship Dance, Choreography, and Competition Preparation Workshops.

Colorado Ballet Society promotes health and excellence in training while encouraging cooperation and community for all dancers and their families. Our state-of-the-art facility, with eight full-sized teaching and rehearsal studios, is located at **8570 Criterion Drive, Suite 154** (across from the Briargate Post Office in northeast C/S).

Companies in residence include **Colorado Youth Ballet, Competition Ensemble, Connexus Dance Collective**, and **Praise Dance Ensemble**.

Colorado Youth Ballet was founded in 2003 by Patricia Hoffman and is the resident ballet company at Colorado Ballet Society under the Artistic Direction of Kate Walsh. This year's roster consists of more than 50 auditioned dancers from the age of nine, many of whom are planning careers as professional dancers or will further their ambitions in college or university programs. The Colorado Youth Ballet and Connexus Dance Collective will perform *A Colorado Rodeo* and *Appalachian Spring* with the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs on May 21, 2026, at the Pikes Peaks Center.

Colorado Ballet Society

8570 Criterion Drive, Suite 154
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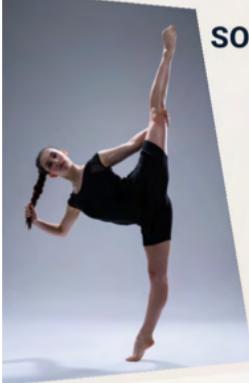
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IN PERFORMANCE:

A Colorado Rodeo & Appalachian Spring

May 21, 2026



A Note from our Directors

Welcome! Thank you for choosing *A Colorado Nutcracker* as a part of your holiday festivities. We hope this magical experience brings joy and wonder to your celebrations!

Today's performance is the culmination of countless hours of dedication from inspired dancers, talented staff, and accomplished instructors, alongside the unwavering support of parents and volunteers. Each contribution has shaped this production, and their devotion shines through in the remarkable artistry you are about to witness.

It is a privilege to join forces with distinguished local performing arts partners, the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs and the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale. We extend heartfelt appreciation to the guest artists who enrich this production with their gifts, and sincere gratitude to our community sponsors, whose generosity has brought this production to life.

Colorado Ballet Society proudly embarks on its 28th season, delivering exceptional dance performances and enriching experiences for all ages. On May 21, 2026 we invite you to join us and the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs for a new ballet, *A Colorado Rodeo*, and a beloved contemporary ballet, *Appalachian Spring*. These are two family-friendly productions presented by Colorado Ballet Society and the Varady Family Trust, starring local dancers and celebrating our western culture and heritage.

We cannot wait to share these incredible experiences with you.

Wishing you a lovely holiday season and a very happy New Year!

Kate

Kate Walsh
Artistic Director
School Principal

Mia

Mia Gerrish
Director of Operations
School Vice Principal

Amanda

Amanda Daubendiek
Finance Director
Ballerina Boutique Manager








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CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF THE SPRINGS

MUSIC DIRECTOR THOMAS WILSON is one of the most active and diversified musicians today. Thomas is an in-demand orchestrator and arranger with an extensive catalog of compositions and arrangements that have been performed around the world. He has made the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs one of the most vibrant ensembles in the country, with an expansive season of diverse programming that has won accolades from leading foundations, including the National Endowment for the Arts.

Thomas is a strong advocate for music education. He conducted for the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony program and founded the Young Concert Artists orchestra, and is an active guest conductor and clinician for school and honor orchestras. He teaches at Colorado College and Colorado Springs Conservatory, and this season will lead the Combined League Honor Orchestra of Northern Colorado.

Thomas has led countless projects in dance, opera, theater, film, and virtually every genre of music. His recent performance of the opera *Blind Injustice* with Opera Theatre of the Rockies illustrates his dedication to making the arts relevant to our time.

Thomas holds a bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Northern Colorado, where he graduated *summa cum laude* and received the School of Music's highest honor—the Departmental Scholar Award. He has a master's degree in Conducting from Colorado State University, and has supplemented his education by studying with leading conducting mentors like Lawrence Leighton Smith, Gustav Meier and Michael Tilson Thomas, who called him "someone to watch."

FIRST VIOLINS

Yurie Mitsunashi

CONCERTMASTER

Heather MacArthur

ASSISTANT CONCERTMASTER

Ann Brown

Victoria Elliot

Emily Huntsman

Sarah Ruzicka

Stephanie Garvey

SECOND VIOLINS

Daina Redpath

PRINCIPAL

Kelly Dean Pilarczyk

Gregory Gershteyn

Charlease Elzenga

Justice Hawley

Cecilia Ybarra

VIOLAS

Michael Hart

PRINCIPAL

Joshua Head

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Santiago Del Castillo

Aaron Herrera

Matthew Canty

Denise Titus

CELLOS

Gerald Miller

PRINCIPAL

Emma Patterson

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Veselka Kuzma

BASSES

Ernie Glock

PRINCIPAL

Hunter Hawkins

FLUTES

Allison Gioscia

PRINCIPAL

Michael Williams

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For 49 seasons, the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale has helped young people discover their voices—and share them with the world. Serving every corner of the Pikes Peak region, the Chorale is celebrated for performances that sparkle with energy, precision, and heart. Whether on local stages or international tours, these young singers represent Colorado Springs with artistry and joy.

Their excellence has been recognized on some of the world's most prestigious stages—including the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall—and with top honors from international festivals. The Children's Chorale has also been celebrated here at home with the El Pomar Award for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities, the Mayor's International Award for International Outreach, and multiple awards from the Pikes Peak Arts Council.

Beyond the spotlight, the Chorale strengthens our community through outreach programs, school workshops, regional festivals, and a satellite choir that expands access for young singers in Southern Colorado. Every program reflects their mission: to inspire, connect, and uplift through the power of song.

Colorado Springs Children's Chorale Prelude Ensemble

Yelena Yund and Jake Brumley, *Conductors*
Anne Ziegler and Wes Sparkes, *Collaborative Pianists*
Marcia Hendricks, *Executive Director*

Cutter Agrusa	Marilyn Chambers	Makenna Penn	Elizabeth Scott
Renee Albrecht	Valentina Coss	Audrey Purdy	Kaelianna Scott
Brooklyn Allen	Betty Curtin	Genevieve Ralston	Sariah VanPelt
Cayne Book	Keen Dorsey-Lee	Leya Rascon-Archuleta	Axton Vasquez
Adlie Bryant	Brienne Frazier	Leo Redford	Marry Jayne Watson
Erika Calcagno	Lillianna Gillard	Lily Reeher	Mila Winston
Kristina Calcagno	Elena LaForce	Autumn Richard	
Yesenia Centeno	Rosetta Lane	Leighanna Rose	

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Must be redeemed by January 1. For dancers not currently registered. Trial class and registration must be completed by January 1. Not applicable towards Performance fees, Media fees, Costume fees, Masterclasses, Maintenance classes, Summer Intensives or Workshops

Synopsis

It's Christmas Eve, 1907, at the beautiful Glen Eyrie home of railroad magnate and Colorado Springs founder Gen. William J. Palmer. Excitement fills the castle. His daughters Elsie, Dorothy, and Marjorie have made a special effort to bring holiday cheer to their doting father—who now uses a wheelchair due to a horseback riding accident in Garden of the Gods last year. The Palmer family invited all the city's founding families to the event—as well as world-renowned electrical scientist Nikola Tesla, who is preparing some magic for the celebration. Salvation Army workers are bringing local orphans to share in the festivities. When an unexpected snowstorm moves in during the evening, the General graciously invites all the guests to stay the night.

A young girl named Clara is captivated by all the happenings of the day. Nikola Tesla notices her almost immediately and decides that Clara is the worthy young lady on whom he should bestow the most extraordinary gift of the season - an enchanted Nutcracker doll!

Clara adores her gift and holds the Nutcracker doll in her arms as she falls asleep on the daybed in the Great Hall. At the stroke of midnight, she awakens to see a ferocious Rat King who came to challenge the Nutcracker Prince in battle. Toy soldiers come to life to defend the Nutcracker Prince while the mouse army rallies behind its King. When the Nutcracker Prince and the Rat King engage in mortal combat, Clara saves the Prince by distracting the Rat King at a critical moment in the battle. Clara's love and heroics set the Nutcracker Prince free from his spell, and he comes to life!

In gratitude, the Prince takes Clara through a Colorado winter wonderland to the delightful Land of Sweets, where she meets the Snow Queen, Dew Drop Fairy, Sugar Plum Fairy, and other characters from the magical land.

Later, when Clara wakes up, she wonders, 'Was it all just a beautiful dream?' It doesn't matter because she will never forget this remarkable Christmas Eve!



How Sweet It is ...



Bravo to the
cast and
staff of the
Colorado
Ballet
Society for
this sweet,
holiday treat.

 **observer**
MEDIA GROUP

The Florida sister company
of Colorado Ballet Society.

A Colorado Nutcracker

<i>Music:</i>	Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
<i>Choreography:</i>	Patricia Hoffman with Kate Walsh, Nichole Bennis, Mia Gerrish, Dex Honea, and Laci Landry
<i>Orchestra:</i>	Chamber Orchestra of the Springs
<i>Conductor:</i>	Thomas Wilson
<i>Choir:</i>	Colorado Springs Children's Chorale
<i>Narrator:</i>	Joe Cole

<i>Clara</i>	12/16: Aubrey Davis 12/17: Allison Whitcomb
<i>Fritz</i>	Karis Platz
<i>Nikola Tesla</i>	Timothy Douma
<i>Tesla's Assistant/Nutcracker Prince</i>	Brayden Lark
<i>Gen. William J. Palmer</i>	Andrew Bulger
<i>Elsie Palmer</i>	Corina Dittman
<i>Dorothy Palmer</i>	Abigail Smith
<i>Marjorie Palmer</i>	Miriam Holiday
<i>Charles Tutt</i>	Brent Matteson
<i>Doctor Henry Watt</i>	Will Casey
<i>Party Guest</i>	Juliana Russ
<i>Henry and Elizabeth McAllister</i>	Ford Tackett, Jackie Davis
<i>Mary McAllister</i>	SophiaMarin Almeyda
<i>Spencer and Julie Penrose</i>	Brian Straub, Evie Robinson
<i>Penrose's Nephew</i>	Aden Dangerfield
<i>Penrose's Niece</i>	Elizabeth Delgaudio
<i>Foreign Travelers</i>	Chris Fernandez, Kate Um
<i>Foreign Traveler Children</i>	Jasmine Clark (Boy), Kylie Fernandez (Girl)
<i>Salvation Army Workers</i>	Jessica Foster, June Morgan
<i>Maids</i>	AnnaClare Russ, Ariya Ryder

<i>Orphan Girls</i>	Reagan Adkinson, Charlize Fisk, Lilly Kniffin, Elizabeth Ouellet, Mya Smith
<i>Orphan Boys</i>	Harper Casey, River Fegley, Lauren Gonzalez, Halyn Pruett, Piper Richart, Catherine Russ, Ada Straub
<i>Toy Mice</i>	Abigail Dangerfield, Aurora Felton, Isabella Reljin, Grace Shoemaker
<i>Toy Soldiers</i>	Evelyn Barnes, Mila Lee, Ariel Ryder, Audrey Um
<i>Rat King</i>	Lyla Anderson
<i>Battle Mice</i>	Alejandra Agueda, Aubriene Camacho, Grace Hodges, Makenna Kundert, Olivia Llanas, Elsie London, Zoe Schneider, Madelyn Seeley
<i>Lead Soldiers</i>	Ana De Angelis, Dylan Jones
<i>Battle Soldiers</i>	Alexis Bauer, Carine Cubas Lucero, Brooklyn Derksen, Aubrey Fulmer, Abigail Johnson, Raegan Lin, Juliette Lund, Easton Palmer, Eden Petree, Miranda Ramirez, Abigail Rice, Mia Vonderohe
<i>Snow Queen</i>	Miriam Holiday
<i>Snow King</i>	Matthew Helms
<i>Winter Corps</i>	Caroline Carl, Jylyn Clark, Grace Contoveros, MaryJo Eddings, Katie Hill, Madelyn LaPorte, Sophia Pedigo, Abigail Smith, Lucy Smith, Anna Song
<i>Icicles</i>	Zoe Anderson, Veda Bulger, Sloane Hiett, Samantha Mullenix, Audrey Palidar, Samantha Pittman
<i>Snowpuffs</i>	Kenna Baker, Penelope Benton, Elizabeth Brown, Keilana Duncan, Eden Flinton, Eleanora Fortenbaugh, Grace Harper, Lena Johnson, Reverie Middlebrook, Eden Petree
<i>Sugar Plum Fairy</i>	Corina Dittman
<i>Pointe Angels</i>	SophiaMarin Almeyda, Chaya Cochrane, Victoria Cole, Cora Couch, Chara Davis, Maylin Flick, Olivia Rogers, Samantha Schaub, Lucy Waters

<i>Small Angels</i>	12/16: Brinley Adkinson, Ember Cabral, Elizabeth Como, Finley Eldredge, Eloise Georges, Greta Lynch, Aurora Villavicencio, Daphne Wood 12/17: Charlotte Birger, Finley Eldredge, Evelyn Enroth-Smith, Adeline Georges, Emily Matteson, Kimber Rusch, Mackenzie Rusch, Haley Schober
<i>Sugar Babes</i>	Jade Baker, Indy Battle, Amelia Dixon, Sparrow Kilgore, Lyric Lenz, Carolyn Martin, River Mitchell, Lise Rolek
<i>Gingerbread Boys</i>	Heathcliff Glissmeyer, Jude Shulman
<i>Sugarplums</i>	Charlize Fisk, Grace Hodges, Cecilia Holiday, Anna Knapp, Makenna Kundert, Elsie London, Evie Robinson, AnnaClare Russ, Juliana Russ, Mya Smith
<i>Small Rat King</i>	Elizabeth Ouellet
<i>Lead Spanish Chocolate</i>	12/16: Sophia Pedigo 12/17: Jylyn Clark
<i>Spanish Chocolate Demi-Soloists</i>	Grace Contoveros, Samantha Pittman (12/16) Veda Bulger, Katie Hill (12/17)
<i>Lead Arabian Coffee</i>	12/16: MaryJo Eddings 12/17: Madelyn LaPorte
<i>Arabian Coffee Corps</i>	Zoe Anderson, Veda Bulger (12/16), Grace Contoveros (12/17), Sloane Hiett, Katie Hill (12/16), Samantha Mullenix, Samantha Pittman (12/17), Lucy Waters
<i>Lead Chinese</i>	12/16: Caroline Carl 12/17: Anna Song
<i>Chinese Cookies</i>	SophiaMarin Almeyda, Harper Casey, Jasmine Clark, Kylie Fernandez, Lauren Gonzalez, Raegan Lin
<i>Chinese Dragon</i>	Henley Day, Aubrey Fulmer, Hanna Hamilton, Abigail Johnson, A'Leiyah Nelson, Miranda Ramirez
<i>Lead Russian</i>	Brayden Lark

<i>Russian Tea Cakes</i>	Reagan Adkinson, Alejandra Agueda, Aubrey Davis (12/17), Anna Knapp, Lilly Kniffin, Olivia Llanas, Zoe Schneider, Madelyn Seeley, Allison Whitcomb (12/16)
<i>Shepherdesses</i>	12/16: Jylyn Clark, Madelyn LaPorte, Lucy Smith, Anna Song 12/17: Caroline Carl, MaryJo Eddings, Sophia Pedigo, Lucy Smith
<i>Lead Lamb</i>	Ruby Smyers
<i>Lambs</i>	12/16: Thea Lee, Nova Middlebrook, Lucille Miller, Isabella Reynolds, Brooklyn Riviello, Olivia Romolton, McKenna Weber 12/17: Calla Barnes, Violet Birger, Elizabeth Matteson, Nova Middlebrook, Abigail Newman, Brooklyn Riviello, Lydia Rohde
<i>Wolf</i>	12/16: Jude Shulman 12/17: Heathcliff Glissmeyer
<i>Hummingbirds</i>	Mila Allen, Isabella Como, Ana De Angelis, River Fegley, Dylan Jones, Abigail Louk, Juliette Lund, June Morgan, Abigail Rice, Catherine Russ
<i>Mother Nature</i>	Maleah Douma
<i>Forest Animals</i>	12/16: Hannah Brehm (Bear), Jake Burger (Raccoon), Emerson Casey (Blue Jay), Finley Freier (Porcupine), Luhca Klepper (Squirrel), Clare Kniffin (Deer), LeAnn Lenz (Skunk), Giuliana Rivera (Fox), Peyton Twist (Ram) 12/17: Hannah Brehm (Bear), Jake Burger (Raccoon), Emerson Casey (Blue Jay), Finley Freier (Porcupine), Luhca Klepper (Squirrel), Clare Kniffin (Deer), LeAnn Lenz (Skunk), Emma Beth Palmer (Fox), Peyton Twist (Ram)
<i>Dew Drop Fairy</i>	Abigail Smith
<i>Butterflies</i>	Lyla Anderson, Chara Davis, Samantha Schaub, Zoe Schneider
<i>Waltz of the Flowers</i>	Aubriene Camacho, Chaya Cochrane, Victoria Cole, Cora Couch, Maylin Flick, Audrey Palidar, Olivia Rogers, Lucy Waters
<i>Finale & Bows</i>	All Cast

Production Credits

Artistic Director & School Principal	Kate Walsh
Director of Operations & School Vice Principal	Mia Gerrish
Finance Director	Amanda Daubendiek
Production Manager	Kimberly Cano
Company Coordinator	Nichole Bennis
Founder & Director Emeritus	Patricia Hoffman
Rehearsal Assistants	Nichole Bennis, Kimberly Cano, Mia Gerrish, Lauryn Mechelse
Front Desk Lead	Jody Mechelse
Administrative Assistants	Jamie Cheney, Abbie Mayfield, Tim McDermott, Masyn Wood
Production Assistant	Kaylee Cheney
Media Coordinator	Lauryn Mechelse
Costume Manager	Sue Norman
Costume Team	Krystal Clark, Joan Day, Marie Foster, Heather Hodges, Jorja Horst, Chris Song
Lighting Design	Tiana Alderson
Master Electrician	Eric Grosenbach
Technical Director	Hossein Forouzandeh
Props Lead	Kaitie Brown
Program Book Coordinator	Kayla Coburn

Special thanks to all the many volunteers who have contributed their time and resources toward making this production a success!



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Kate Walsh (*Artistic Director & School Principal*), danced with The Sarasota Ballet for 19 seasons and held the titles of Principal dancer and Assistant Ballet Mistress. She performed lead and feature roles in ballets choreographed by Sir Frederick Ashton, George Balanchine, Paul Taylor, Twyla Tharp, and Christopher Wheeldon; had roles created on her; and toured internationally. She was an instructor with the Sarasota Ballet School and Dance: The Next Generation, for 12 years. She specializes in ballet technique, pointe, variations, Classical Spanish Dance, and coaching for competition. She choreographed for The Sarasota Ballet and has choreographed for the Sarasota Ballet School summer workshops and end-of-the-year performances, including co-directing and producing full-length productions. She has coached multiple award-winning students for Youth America Grand Prix, and Universal Ballet Competition. Ms. Walsh is 4Pointe Certified; an ABT® Certified teacher from PrePrimary to Level 3; and a Mental Wellness Certified Dance Educator through Danscend. She completed training in Dance for Parkinson's Disease, is certified in Progressing Ballet Technique, and has completed the Ballet West Curriculum Design Seminar.



Mia Gerrish (*Director of Operations & School Vice Principal*), has been immersed in the dance world for over 25 years as a student, professional dancer, choreographer, instructor and Director. She spent five years as Studio Manager for Colorado Ballet Society under the direction of Patricia Hoffman. She performed, taught, and toured all over the U.S. while dancing professionally with Ballet Emmanuel. Ms. Mia has directed, choreographed, coached and taught throughout Colorado. She had additional training with Ballet Magnificat!, Grand Rapids Ballet Company, and The Joffrey Ballet of Chicago. Ms. Mia is certified in Level One Dance Injury & Prevention by Perfect Form Physiotherapy and is a certified and licensed Progressing Ballet Technique instructor. She has completed the Ballet West Curriculum Design Seminar. In 2019, 2020, and 2022 she was a Guest Speaker/Keynote Speaker for Christian Dance Educators Leadership Summit founded, hosted and led by Ballet 5:8. She served as Secretary and then Board President for the Board of Directors with Ballet 5:8.



Amanda Daubendiek (*Finance Director & Ballerina Boutique Manager*), started dancing at age 3 in Woodland Park, CO. At age 12, she came to Colorado Ballet Society, where she trained for six years under Patricia Hoffman and many other amazing dance instructors. Amanda danced many roles, including the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Winter Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Swanhilda in *Coppelia*. She also performed as a guest artist with San Diego Ballet as Clara in *The Nutcracker* and Marzipan in Ballet Idaho's *Nutcracker*. Amanda was a 5-time Denver Ballet Guild scholarship winner, including a first-place win. Amanda traveled with Colorado Ballet Society to Europe twice and was able to dance in many countries and cities. This included places such as: Prague, Czech Republic; Monte Carlo, France; London, United Kingdom; and Florence, Italy. She moved to Denver to dance with Colorado Ballet. Her career came to an end after a hip injury, resulting in surgery. She earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and has always kept herself involved with ballet. She has completed the Ballet West Curriculum Design Seminar.





Aubrey Davis (*Clara*), 12, joined Colorado Ballet Society in 2020. She took her first dance classes at Vladimir Issaev School of Classical Ballet and Miami City Ballet at the age of two, immediately falling in love with ballet and performing. She likes to travel, and feels lucky that dance has taken her to the Paris Opera Ballet in France, American Ballet Theatre in New York City, Ballet West in Salt Lake City, Joffrey Ballet in Chicago, and feels lucky to call CBS home. She also enjoys playing the drums, reading historical non-fiction, and visiting art museums.



Allison Whitcomb (*Clara*), 13, started recreational dance at age 2 and began studying dance with Colorado Ballet Society in 2019 in the first grade. This is her third year performing as a member of the Colorado Youth Ballet and sixth year performing in *The Nutcracker*. Her past roles have included Toy Mouse, Toy Solider, Snowpuff, Lead Lamb, Russian Tea Cake, Orphan Girl, Small Rat King and Chinese Cookie. She is grateful for the opportunity to perform this year as Clara and is thankful to all of her amazing instructors. Allison hopes to dance professionally one day and looks forward to the many opportunities to learn and grow in the years to come.



Karis Platz (*Fritz*), 11, is in her fourth year with Colorado Ballet Society, where she is a member of Competition Ensemble and Praise Ensemble. She fell in love with dance at the age of three and has trained in ballet, contemporary, jazz, acro, and musical theatre at studios in Washington, Alabama, and Oregon. Karis's previous roles with Colorado Ballet Society include Small Angel in *A Colorado Nutcracker* and Tree Fairy in *Cinderella*. She is excited and grateful for the opportunity to bring the mischievous Fritz to life on stage!



Brayden Lark (*Tesla's Assistant/Nutcracker Prince, Lead Russian*), 14, has been dancing for 4 years all with Colorado Ballet Society. Brayden has performed in many productions with Colorado Ballet Society including *Swan Lake* where he played the jester, *Don Quixote* where he played Lead Seguidilla, *Cinderella* where he played Prince's Friend, and *A Colorado Nutcracker* where he has been the Nutcracker Prince and is excited to perform the role again this year. Brayden also studies ballet part-time at the European School of Ballet in Amsterdam, Netherlands. He enjoys every opportunity he gets to perform on stage and cannot wait for the next!



Timothy Douma (*Nikola Tesla*), is performing in his fifth *Nutcracker* and tenth production with Colorado Ballet Society. Some of his previous roles include Tommy Albright in *Brigadoon*, Vinnie in *The Odd Couple*, the Doctor in *Matilda*, Sancho Panza in *Don Quixote*, and Rolf in *The Sound of Music*. He's very excited to perform on stage once again with his sister Maleah. He'd like to thank Ms. Kate and all of the dancers who have worked very hard to bring the magic and wonder of *The Nutcracker* to life.

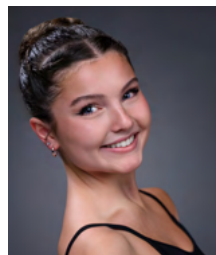
Matthew Helms (*Snow King*), began his training in Colorado at the International Ballet School and competed at the YAGP and the Denver Ballet Guild's Young Dancers Competition in 2008, receiving a full scholarship to Ballet West Academy in Salt Lake City for 3 years in the Pre-Professional Trainee Program, dancing with Ballet West, Utah Regional Ballet, and Berlin State Ballet. Matt joined Boulder Ballet in 2010 and for 13 years was a principal dancer. He was chosen to perform with Paul Taylor Dance Company, Christopher Wheeldon, and Twyla Tharp. Now he is leading principal dancer, Company Ballet Master of BalletNEXT and dance partner with Michele Wiles of American Ballet Theatre, where they dance all over in America and Europe.



Lyla Anderson (*Rat King*), 14, began dancing at the age of 2, is currently in her 7th year with Colorado Ballet Society and 3rd year with Colorado Youth Ballet. Some of her favorite previous *Nutcracker* roles include Fritz, Mary McAllister and Gingerbread Cookie. Lyla would like to thank Ms. Kate and all the wonderful teachers/staff at Colorado Ballet Society. Their instruction, hard work, and dedication mean so much to her. She would also like to thank her family for all their love and support. Lyla is extremely honored and grateful to be the Rat King in this year's *A Colorado Nutcracker*.

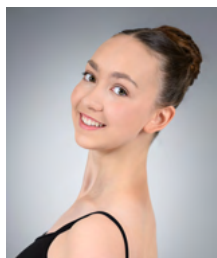


Caroline Carl (*Lead Chinese*), 17, a junior at Lewis Palmer High School, has been dancing at Colorado Ballet Society since the age of 10, studying ballet, pointe, contemporary, jazz, and tap. Throughout her years of dancing, she has most enjoyed her roles in *Don Quixote*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, *Linger by the Light*, and *A Colorado Nutcracker*. She has participated in Competition Ensemble, Connexus Dance Collective, and Colorado Youth Ballet, as well as the Teacher Assistant Program and Summer Ballet Intensives. She looks forward to new opportunities in dance through high school and beyond.

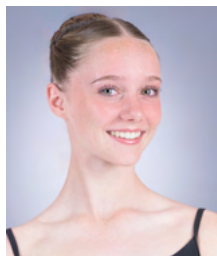


Jylyn Clark (*Lead Spanish Chocolate*), 16, has had a passion for dance since the age of two, and that love of dance has only grown. She has trained at Colorado Ballet Society for eight years, under the guidance of Kate Walsh, along with the amazing staff and teachers. This is her fourth year in Colorado Youth Ballet, and she has had the honor of performing in many productions, including Charles Maple's *Cinderella* as the Fairy of Joy, *A Colorado Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Take Flight*, and *Coppelia*. She is currently a Junior at the Village High School and has attended summer intensives at Colorado Ballet Society, and was invited to Kansas City Ballet School, Oklahoma City Ballet School Summer Intensive, and Texas Ballet Theater's Training Division. In March 2024, Jylyn was the first recipient of the Kresten Wolff Bright Light Award at Denver Ballet Guild, a memorial award honoring the renowned composer Kresten Wolff. Jy's love and faith in Jesus is really where her passion for dance comes from. She hopes that with every movement she makes, God will profoundly impact those watching. She is beyond grateful to her friends and family for their love and support. She is extremely grateful for the blessing of CBS and all the teachers that help her dreams come true.

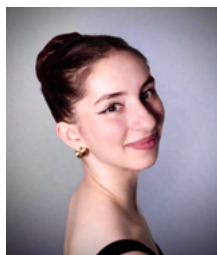




Corina Dittman (*Elsie Palmer, Sugar Plum Fairy*), 17, has been dancing for 13 years. She started her training when she was four. She joined Colorado Ballet Society in 2019. She moved away in 2022 to Columbia, South Carolina where she trained at Palmetto Conservatory of dance. While there she performed alongside Columbia Classical Ballet. During that time she was Clara in Columbia Classical Ballet's *Nutcracker* in 2023. She returned to Colorado Ballet Society in the summer of 2024. That season she was Step Mother in the production of *Cinderella*. None of this would have been possible without the encouragement of her parents and support from her studio directors.



MaryJo Eddings (*Lead Arabian Coffee*), 15, is a sophomore at Pine Creek. She began ballet training at age 3 and joined Colorado Ballet Society at 6, studying with Patricia Hoffman, Kate Walsh, Nichole Bennis, David Kiyak, and other distinguished faculty. A member of Colorado Youth Ballet and Competition Ensemble, her favorite roles include Clara (2022) and *Cinderella* (2025). MaryJo has been offered scholarships from HARID Conservatory, Oklahoma City Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, and attended American Ballet Theatre's summer program in New York City. Beyond dance, she enjoys student government, playing cello, and spending time with her family and friends. She wishes to thank those who have encouraged her in her dreams and can't wait to charm you with her performance tonight!



Miriam Holiday (*Marjorie Palmer, Snow Queen*), 16, has been dancing since the age of five at Colorado Ballet Society. Her love for dance grew under the direction of Patricia Hoffman and Kate Walsh. She loves participating in the *Nutcracker* and looks forward to it all year. Some of her favorite roles from over the years include the Fairy of Beauty, the Emerald Pas de Trois, a Little Swan, a Shepherdess, and the Chinese Lead. This year, she is so excited and honored to dance her dream role, the Snow Queen. She would like to thank God first and foremost for giving her the gift of dance in her life. She would also like to thank her family for all of their sacrifices as well as her directors and teachers for being so supportive and encouraging.

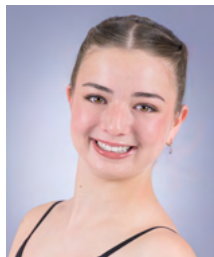


Madelyn LaPorte (*Lead Arabian Coffee*), 17, is a Junior at Palmer Ridge and has trained at Colorado Ballet Society since 2019. Maddy is a member of the Colorado Youth Ballet, Connexus Dance Collective, and the Competition Ensemble. She is a scholarship recipient with the annual Esther Geoffrey competition through the Dance Alliance of the Pike's Peak Region. Previous favorite roles include her lead role as Cinderella (Charles Maple's *Cinderella*), Arabian (*Nutcracker*), and Carabosse (*Sleeping Beauty*). Her future ambitions include achieving a college degree and dancing professionally with a focus in Contemporary Dance.

Sophia Pedigo (*Lead Spanish Chocolate*), 16, is honored to perform as the Spanish Lead in this year's *A Colorado Nutcracker*. She has trained with Colorado Ballet Society for seven years and studies contemporary and jazz, performing with Colorado Youth Ballet and Connexus Dance Collective. Her *Nutcracker* roles have included Rat King, Pointe Angel, Arabian Corps, and Winter Corps. In addition to Spanish Lead, she will perform as a Shepherdess in the following day's cast. Sophia trains each summer with Colorado Ballet Society and has attended the Joffrey Ballet School's Summer Intensive in Los Angeles. She is grateful for her family, friends, and instructors, and is excited to share the vibrant energy of the Spanish variation.



Abigail Smith (*Dorothy Palmer, Dew Drop Fairy*), 18, has been dancing at Colorado Ballet Society since she was nine years old. She has been a part of the Colorado Youth Ballet for five years and has performed in many productions such as *A Colorado Nutcracker*, *Coppelia*, *Don Quixote*, *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Cinderella*. Aside from ballet she enjoys taking jazz, tap, and contemporary classes. Abigail is extremely grateful for all the teachers at Colorado Ballet Society who have given her their guidance and support throughout the years. She hopes to pursue a professional career in dance after she graduates in May.



Anna Song (*Lead Chinese*), 13, started ballet at age four and has been with CBS since 2018. As a member of CYB and CDC, she has had the privilege of performing in numerous productions, including *A Colorado Nutcracker* for the past six years. Her past roles include Small Angel, Snow Puff, Clara, Russian Tea Cake, and Arabian Corp. She has also had many opportunities to participate in various competitions since 2023. Some highlights include: 7th place at UBC Denver and top 24 at YAGP Denver in junior classical solo category; 1st place in Duo/Trio category at UBC Denver ('24); a finalist in Junior category at DBG. From competitions in 2025, she received several summer intensive scholarships and was able to attend The Harid Conservatory on a 100% tuition scholarship in summer, 2025. Anna feels so blessed to do what she loves and grateful for the support and guidance of CBS teachers and her family. Soli Deo Gloria!

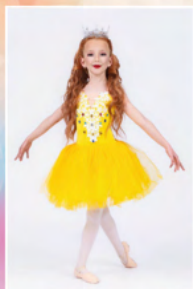


Dancer Shoutouts

Bravo!

Sparrow,
We are forever blessed
to have been invited
to dance through
this life with you.

Love,
Mama, Daddy, Teo,
Bebe, BawBaw,
Auntie Kara, Nanny,
Tater, & Papa



Sparrow Kilgore

A Colorado Nutcracker 2025



Miriam Holiday

*A Colorado
Nutcracker
2025*



Bravo!

Mimi,
From a Snow
Puff to the Snow
Queen...we are
proud of every
step you have
taken along
the way.
Congratulations!

Love,
Mom & Dad



Charlize Alexandra Fisk



*A Colorado
Nutcracker
2025*



Bravo!

Charlize,
every time you
feet hit the
stage and the
lights catch your
eyes and your
smile, we see in
you the glory of
God and a
testament to His
amazing talent
and creation.

Love you!
Mom, Dad,
and Aurelia



Karis Platz



*A Colorado
Nutcracker
2025*



Bravo!

Karis,
Watching your
joy on stage is a
gift! We are so
proud of your
hard work and
even prouder to
call you ours!

We love you!
Mom, Dad,
& Drake

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State Street Ballet
Texas Ballet Theatre
The Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet
The HARID Conservatory
The Jilana School
The Rock School
The Royal Ballet School of London
University of NC School of the Arts

*Dancer: Gabriella Vidano,
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