



# ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

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## Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet will have arrived in New York City for its seventh appearance at the famed Joyce Theater – unprecedented for a company based outside of New York. This weeklong engagement is part of an East Coast tour that takes the company (and the names of our two small cities) to Akron, Pittsburgh, Penn State and Virginia Tech. Later this winter, ASFB travels to Omaha, Denver, St. Louis, Tucson, Los Angeles and San Antonio; this spring, the company makes its much-anticipated debut in Canada's capital, Ottawa.

Back home in Colorado and New Mexico, over 450 children have enrolled in The School of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet and over 300 are anxiously awaiting the announcement of their roles in our annual production of *The Nutcracker*. The opening of our newest studio in Glenwood Springs generated excitement, bringing a sixth location to our school's growing network, and providing outstanding dance education to our hometowns and their neighboring communities.

This fall we bid a bittersweet farewell to a longtime member of our Aspen faculty. Charlotte Bowlby has enchanted countless children over the years with her creative and imaginative teaching methods. Many of her students, once grown, were so moved by their experiences that they brought their own children to experience the magic of dance with "Miss Charlotte."

We are happy to introduce you to our newest Aspen Santa Fe Ballet dancer, Corwin Barnette. A native of Mesa, Arizona, Cory brings a diverse background of dance styles and a prestigious BFA from The Juilliard School.

Summer may be gone, but the festive mood remains as we look back at the many ASFB events and celebrations that took place. These gatherings were not only fun, but were crucial to our financial success. We are grateful to those of you who attended our galas and showed your enthusiasm so generously. Because of you, we enjoyed our best year ever.

As we begin our new season, we gratefully acknowledge our longtime Season Presenting Sponsors: Alpine Bank in Aspen and BODY of Santa Fe. Their loyal support has helped ASFB remain at the forefront of American dance – recognized nationally as an innovative purveyor of creativity, live performance and education.

Tom Mossbrucker

Jean-Philippe Malaty



# The Next Steps

## Glenwood Expansion and New Horizons

by Gretchen Hayduk Wroblewski

The soft swoosh and snap of ballet slippers gliding across gleaming wood floors, the hushed breath of young dancers circling the room, the voice of a nurturing teacher sharing her passion for dance—for many in the Roaring Fork Valley, these sounds are synonymous with childhood. For such a small community, an extraordinary number of children have had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of ballet, thanks to The School of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet and its dedicated teachers.

When Bebe Schweppe opened the doors of Aspen Ballet Company and School to an eager public in 1991, no one could have imagined the success that was to come, with hundreds of children attending each year and classes extending further and further down valley. Such auspicious growth suggests that “good energy leads to more good energy” and that ASFB serves as a convergence point for the brightest stars, both seasoned and emerging. Over the past summer, two significant developments at the school highlight the serendipitous nature of ASFB’s evolution: the further expansion of the school into a beautiful Glenwood Springs dance studio, and a fond farewell to a teacher who has played an essential role at ASFB.

It isn’t easy to describe the profound impact of a beloved ballet teacher, the mention of whose name elicits a spontaneous smile and exclamation, “I love her!” from generations of students who have passed through her classroom. The indomitable spirit of what would soon become the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet was already tangible in “Miss Charlotte” Bowlby when she began teaching in 1991 at Aspen Ballet School, before even directors Jean-Philippe Malaty and Tom Mossbrucker had come on board.

As the primary children’s ballet teacher for over 20 years, Bowlby has had what she would call the extraordinary privilege of doing what she

loves on a daily basis. Now, Bowlby is retiring in order to exchange one passion for another: to pursue dreams beyond her life here in the valley of traveling, living near the beach and learning to sail.

The long-lasting impact Bowlby has had on students and staff is a familiar and recurring theme. ASFB school director Melanie Duskocil praises her passion for dance and loving and caring demeanor with the children. Students regularly greet Bowlby on the street with a hug, or young parents show up at the studio saying, "Miss Charlotte, I was your student, and now I want my daughter to experience your class," Duskocil says. She recalls meeting Bowlby herself for the first time, having just arrived in Aspen and knowing no one: "She embraced me and was so welcoming—she completely swept me off my feet."

Bowlby's passion for teaching is matched only by her love of dance. "Dance has always been the love of my life," she says. "It is the basis for so many other things—confidence and inner strength. It's a joy to see those things emerging in a child." The expansion of ASFB's educational programming can certainly be traced back to Bowlby's uncanny ability to instill a strong sense of dance in the community.

Case in point is the new Glenwood Springs location, which opened on September 1, 2014. Glenwood Dance Academy founder DeAnna Anderson, a former professional dancer with American Ballet Theatre in New York, opened Glenwood Dance Academy nine years ago when she and her husband relocated to Glenwood Springs. "I was aware of the instruction available in Aspen, but I also knew that for many Glenwood families, that was too far to travel for dance classes," said Anderson, quickly identifying an underlying need in her new community.

So Anderson set about building a state-of-the-art dance studio in Glenwood Springs. The result is one of the finest dance spaces in the valley: a 9,000-square-foot facility with three beautiful studios and lots of light—a remarkable accomplishment considering that small-town dance classes are often relegated to inadequate spaces. Part of Anderson's mission was to make dance classes accessible to anyone who had an interest in learning how to dance, not just those who hoped to pursue a career in the field.

Due to health issues in her family, Anderson decided this year that the time was right to pass her torch on to The School of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. Echoes of her passion for spreading the joy of dance reverberate at the heart of ASFB, making the transition a natural one. Executive Director Jean-Philippe Malaty notes the recent acquisition is not merely "growth for the sake of growth." Rather, this was an organic opportunity that presented itself and made sense for ASFB. With existing locations

in Aspen, Basalt and Carbondale, Malaty says it felt natural to extend to Glenwood. Now, with four locations and over 300 students in Colorado alone, The School of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet is the most extensive arts education program in the Roaring Fork Valley.

The down-valley expansion also opened the door for new faculty members to join the school's stellar team and provided important opportunities for ASFB family members to make the shift from professional dancer to teacher. Two former ASFB dancers have joined the faculty: Katie Dehler as a dance instructor, and Eric Chase as school administrator and teacher for the new Glenwood location. "I'm delighted how many of our dancers consider this valley their home," Malaty says, "and how many want to stay here after they retire from dancing."

"Part of being a thriving, organic arts organization is transitioning," says Duskocil, and this transition is one more example of the fluidity of ASFB's evolution. Filling the shoes of a beloved teacher like Bowlby is not an easy task, but Duskocil welcomed her feedback when searching for her replacement.

Bowlby had the opportunity to observe the new teachers as they assisted with some of her classes and "she felt they were just perfect—they had an instant rapport with the children," said Duskocil. "It's important for her to leave knowing that the organization she helped to create is on solid footing."

One of the new dance teachers, Alessandra Strickland, has lived in the area for a while, after dancing professionally with American Ballet Theater and in Brazil. Another, Marisa Paull Gorst, conveniently just moved to the area with lead faculty experience at an international dance school in Slovenia. "We couldn't have asked for anyone better," Duskocil says. "We feel so lucky to have them show up at this time."

Lucky, too, is the community of Glenwood Springs that will continue to benefit from DeAnna Anderson's vision of providing high-caliber dance instruction in the immediate locale. ASFB's new location in Glenwood Springs offers the full gamut of classes: creative and pre-ballet classes for children starting age 3, as well as more formal ballet, jazz and modern training at all levels, with scholarship assistance available. An exciting aspect of the new location is that it will provide a Glenwood home for the ASFB Folklórico program, like the Third Street Center does for Carbondale. Rounding out the schedule will be the Pilates program that Anderson will continue to teach.

This combination of high-quality dance education with the opportunity to share in the love of dance is the hallmark of The School of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. A close affiliation to a professional ballet company with the chance to perform alongside those same dancers in *The Nutcracker* is a special opportunity for all of the students. "The dancers in the company are accessible and nurturing, and many of them love to mentor the younger dancers," says Duskocil.

Bowlby echoes the sentiment, mentioning that the annual *Nutcracker* production, an experience that never loses its magic for her, is among the things she'll miss the most. "The children are always so excited to dance with the company, and all of the dancers treat them so beautifully. The students have the opportunity to see what they're capable of, what they could do someday. When I'm backstage on opening night, it brings tears to my eyes. I feel like I'm part of a Degas painting, standing there in the wings, watching them rush out into the lights."

With the dance education program in which she invested so much of herself in good hands, Bowlby is free to move on to pursue other dreams. "Charlotte has given her passion for dance to so many others," Malaty says. "Now it's time for us to support her as she pursues her other passions." While she may be out of the area for a while, she will never be out of the hearts of the many whose lives she has touched, who wish for her nothing short of an infinite horizon.



PHOTO: ROSALE O'CONNOR



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# ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

## 2014/2015 TOURING SEASON

### AKRON, OH

E.J. Thomas Hall  
October 5

### PITTSBURGH, PA

Byham Theater  
October 11

### UNIVERSITY PARK, PA

Eisenhower Auditorium  
October 14

### BURLINGTON, VT

Flynn Center for the Performing Arts  
October 18

### NEW YORK, NY

The Joyce Theater  
October 22-26

### BLACKSBURG, VA

Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre  
October 30

### BEAVER CREEK, CO

Vilar Performing Arts Center  
January 25

### OMAHA, NE

Orpheum Theater  
February 19

### DENVER, CO

The Newman Center  
February 21-22

### ST LOUIS, MO

Touhill Performing  
Arts Center  
February 27-28

### TUCSON, AZ

Stevie Eller Dance Theatre  
March 24-26

### LOS ANGELES, CA

Luckman Fine Arts Complex  
March 28

### SAN ANTONIO, TX

The Majestic Theater  
April 10

### EAST LANSING, MI

Wharton Center for the Performing Arts  
April 16

### BURLINGTON, ON, CANADA

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# Spotlight: Corwin Barnette

by Jessica Moore

Originally from Arizona, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's newest member, Corwin Barnette, packed up his belongings and headed back out West with a diploma from The Juilliard School still fresh in his hands. Wasting no time, Corwin dove right into ASFB's packed summer season, quickly learning new choreography and preparing for performances, including the company's festival-closing run at the historic Jacob's Pillow. With the whirlwind summer now behind him, we had some time to shine the spotlight on Corwin and learn more about this latest addition to the ASFB company.

**How did you get started with dance and what made you decide to pursue it as a career?**

I started dancing at the age of three. My older sister danced at a recreational dance studio, and I instantly fell in love with all of her tap dances! I grew up around the studio, so I was quickly thrown into classes. I focused primarily on tap dancing until I was fifteen. I really decided that I wanted to pursue a professional career in dance in the beginning of my senior year in high school. I had just attended a two-week summer intensive course in New York City and fell in love with the rigor of dancing every day, working with other dancers who were serious and hard-working, as well as the excitement and eclectic vibe of the city. I auditioned for five or six university dance programs around NYC and sort of found my way to Juilliard unexpectedly!

**Are you happy to be closer to home? Were you ready to leave NYC?**

I am happy to be closer to home. After my senior year of high school, I was so ready to get out of my hometown, but it's funny how time changes your perception. The more time I spent at Juilliard, the more excited I became about going home! When it came to my last year at Juilliard, leaving NYC seemed to be the appropriate next step.

**You've mentioned that you enjoy learning about other cultures while traveling; what are some past travel experiences that stand out in your mind?**

Some really great memories from my past travels would include: seeing the Matterhorn in Zermatt, Switzerland; climbing the Great Wall of China with close friends; performing in the Edinburgh International Festival in Scotland; riding a bike around Den Haag; and eating at a very quaint cafe in Wuppertal, Germany!

**What would be your ideal next vacation?**

I would love to spend some time in Greece. Its history is incredibly rich and accessible, and spending some time in or around the Mediterranean wouldn't be so bad either!

**If you had a month of free time and an unlimited budget, what "cause" would you spend it on?**

A cause I would like to donate my time and money to would be mental illness, particularly Asperger's Syndrome and those in the Autistic spectrum. My older brother has struggled with mental illness his entire life, and I would love the opportunity to help, research and discover more about the lives affected by mental illness.

**What profession would you like to pursue if you weren't a dancer?**

I have to admit, I'm a bit of a nerd. I love math, science and music. I have always been fascinated with biology, in general, and I took quite a few classes when I was in school, so I imagine I would like to pursue something within that realm of science.

**What's currently on your playlist? Do you play any instruments yourself?**

Some of my current favorite artists include Joni Mitchell, Van Morrison, Cat Stevens, Beirut, Tegan and Sara and HAIM. I played the cello for eight years in grade school. I stopped playing when I went to Juilliard, but I am hoping to pick it back up in the near future!

**What are your initial impressions of Aspen and Santa Fe?**

They are both beautiful places filled with open, loving people. I'm excited to discover more in both cities!

**Where do you see yourself twenty years from now?**

Healthy, happy, still learning, pursuing the arts in some form or another and perhaps going back to school!

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's National Council, led by Esther Pearlstone, gathers twice each year in Aspen and Santa Fe to hear important news about upcoming events and performances. This summer, the Aspen National Council reception took place at Hotel Jerome. Directors Jean-Philippe Malaty and Tom Mossbrucker introduced Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's newest dance partner, Juan Siddi Flamenco Santa Fe. National Council members were treated to an intimate performance featuring the passionate and authentic flamenco troupe.



An Auberge Resort



National Council member Kathy Weiss with dancer Samantha Campanile and development manager Kaitlin Windle



Dancer Craig Black and underwriters of Juan Siddi Flamenco Santa Fe, Yoly and Mark Davis



Artistic Director Tom Mossbrucker with National Council members Tita and Gene Zeffren



National Council member Catherine Gildor and Artistic Director Tom Mossbrucker



Dancers Sadie Brown and Emily Proctor with trustee Nic DuBrul



National Council members Charles and Diane Lott



Dancer Peter Franc with National Council member Lita Heller



The dancers of Juan Siddi Flamenco Santa Fe



Juan Siddi Flamenco dancer Emmy Grimm with Paul Taddune, trustee Melinda Payson and dancer Nolan McGahan



National Council members Lois Siegel, Sherry Felson, Scott Davidson and trustee Barbara Gold



Executive Director Jean-Philippe Malaty and board president Judy Steinberg



Dancers Katherine Bolanos and Samantha Campanile with National Council member Phil Rothblum

*Raise the Barre*, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's largest annual fundraising event in Santa Fe, took place at The Club at Las Campanas. The evening featured a fabulous dinner, an enticing live auction and a special performance by Juan Siddi Flamenco Santa Fe. Thank you to all those who attended and contributed. You made the event a record-breaking success! Special thanks to our event sponsors and auction donors: Fiasco Fine Wine, Secco Italian Bubbles, Butterfield & Robinson, Four Seasons Denver, Dancing with the Stars, and chef James Campbell Caruso of La Boca, Taberna and MÁS restaurants.

Las Campanas



Dancer Craig Black with Kazukuni Sugiyama



Dancers Joseph Watson and Seia Rassenti and National Council members Chet and Joy Siuda



Trustees Stephanie Wirt and Leigh Moiola



Michael and Marsha Bourque with dancer Joseph Watson



Elisa Llewellyn and Juan Siddi, of Juan Siddi Flamenco Santa Fe



Lorin Parrish of BODY of Santa Fe, and Robin Gress



Don Shina, dancer Emily Proctor, and Robin Hardin



National Council member James Posch with Cole Martelli



National Council member Patricia Brewer, Santa Fe Mayor Javier Gonzales and Adelma Hnasko



Ocean Munds-Dry and Karen Schaefer



National Council member Henrietta Hall and dancer Nolan McGahan



Trustee Leigh Moiola with Charles Dale

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's annual Aspen gala, *Dancing with the Aspen Stars*, took place this July at the St. Regis Aspen. Chaired by Rita Adler, with special host, Ali MacGraw, this year's sold-out event honored Barbara and Bruce Berger for their tireless commitment to supporting ASFB. Aspen "Stars" Yoly Davis, Joe Felson, Jay R. Lerner and Carrie Morgridge wowed the audience with stellar performances in a fierce ballroom competition, helping to break records in support of our many programs.

Special thanks to our event sponsor *Aspen Sojourner*, our host, the St. Regis Aspen, and our auction donors: Butterfield & Robinson, Amangiri, Aman Resorts, Fasano, Auberge Resorts, Copacabana Palace, Mandarin Oriental San Francisco and Langham Place.



Trustees Mona Look-Mazza and Rita Adler with Executive Director Jean-Philippe Malaty and gala host, Ali MacGraw



Trustee Tony DiLucia with National Council member Nancy Rogers



Nancy and Bob Magoon on the dance floor



Executive Director Jean-Philippe Malaty with gala honorees Barbara and Bruce Berger



Jay R. Lerner competing with Seia Rassenti in the cha-cha



Sherry and Joe Felson with Kara Felson and Jayme and Adam Bolden



Carrie Morgridge competing with Joseph Watson in the disco



Yoly Davis competing with Craig Black in the salsa



Emily Proctor competing with Joe Felson in the jive



National Council members Melony and Adam Lewis



John Rowland and trustee Sarah Broughton



Dancer Seia Rassenti and trustee Jay R. Lerner



Dancers Paul Busch, Samantha Campanile, Katherine Bolanos and Peter Franc with trustee Kelley Purnell



Previous Aspen "Stars" Lester and Sue Smith



Trustee Deborah Sharpe and her husband Robert



National Council members Jim Horowitz and Carrie Morgridge on the dance floor

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# ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

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