

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

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ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET ANNOUNCES ITS 2017-18 WINTER PERFORMANCE SERIES IN ASPEN, CO

*One-Night-Only Performance by Ailey II • Special Ski Season Performance •
World Premiere Collaboration with Pianist Joyce Yang and Choreographer Jorma Elo*

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's 2017-18 winter season is one for the dance enthusiast and novice alike with performances spanning the holiday tradition of ASFB's *The Nutcracker*, to the world premiere of a brand new collaboration between noted choreographer Jorma Elo and superstar pianist Joyce Yang.

ASFB's *The Nutcracker* is a staple of the holiday season in Aspen. Featuring hundreds of young dancers from The School of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's four Roaring Fork valley locations alongside professional dancers, this winter classic creates lifelong memories for ballet students and audiences alike. With four performances over the weekend of **December 9-10**, there are multiple opportunities to bring the family together for this magical theatrical experience. Deepen the experience with a special **Sugar Plum Tea Party** in the historic Hotel Jerome (**Dec 10**). Children will enjoy hot chocolate and cookies as they meet and take pictures with their favorite characters from the ballet.

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet will perform a night of audience favorites (**Jan. 20**) to light up the heart of the ski season. After touring these works to enthusiastic crowds, ASFB brings back such popular ballets as Alejandro Cerrudo's *Silent Ghost*, Cayetano Soto's *Huma Rojo*, and Fernando Melo's *Dream Play* for one thrilling evening.

ASFB Presents brings an exclusive, one-night-only engagement by **Ailey II (Feb. 16)**. Founded in 1974 by Alvin Ailey himself as a stepping stone from The Ailey School to a professional dance company, Ailey II is a high-energy, athletically astounding ensemble of 12 of the country's best young dancers. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Troy Powell, Ailey II's repertory spans classics by company namesake Alvin Ailey, to rising choreographers such as Kyle Abraham.

Finally, in collaboration with the Aspen Music Festival & School, this winter **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet** will unveil the premiere of a new ballet by Boston Ballet's resident choreographer, **Jorma Elo**, performed to live accompaniment by renowned pianist **Joyce Yang (March 24)**. Set to the music of Schumann's *Carnaval*, the premiere is one of three pieces that Yang will perform on ASFB's first-ever all-piano evening. Also on the program are Jiří Kylián's seminal *Return to a*

Strange Land set to the music of Leoš Janáček, and Nicolo Fonte's *Where We Left Off* with music by Philip Glass.

Tickets for all winter series performances go on sale to the public on Wednesday, November 8. Tickets will be available online at www.aspensantafeballet.com; by phone through Aspen ShowTix at 970-920-5770; or in person at the Wheeler Opera House box office (320 E. Hyman Ave.). Ticket prices range from \$36-\$94.

All performances take place at the Aspen District Theater (335 High School Road).

Ticket prices and programs subject to change.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's *The Nutcracker*

Saturday, December 9 at 2pm & 7:30pm

Sunday, December 10 at 1pm & 5pm

Generously underwritten by Kelley and Mark Purnell

Embrace the holiday spirit and revel in the magic of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's *The Nutcracker*! This iconic production—both uplifting and filled with humor—has become a seasonal Aspen tradition. With its whimsical twist on the classic story and a cast of over 60 performers, don't miss this perfect opportunity to create lifelong memories for you and your loved ones.

"Aspen Santa Fe Ballet has brought joy and creative abandon to a holiday classic."
– Santa Fe New Mexican

Sugar Plum Tea Party

Sunday, December 10 at 3pm

Hotel Jerome

Held at the historic Hotel Jerome, bring the magic of *The Nutcracker* to life at this lavish afternoon event! Meet and take pictures with your favorite characters while enjoying decadent chocolates, sweets, warm drinks, and surprise entertainment. Tickets are \$30 for the general public. ASFB donors receive two complimentary Tea Party tickets with advance reservations. Email info@aspensantafeballet.com to reserve.

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet

Saturday, January 20

7:30pm

Generously underwritten by Bebe and David Schweppe

Just in time for the height of ski season, enjoy this special one-night-only performance of fan favorites from ASFB's repertoire. The program includes Alejandro Cerrudo's enigmatic *Silent Ghost* with its haunting closing duet, Cayetano Soto's brash and extroverted *Huma Rojo* set to

the popular music of Xavier Cugat, and the perspective-bending *Dream Play* by Fernando Melo. These audience-tested ballets have been performed the world over to rousing acclaim and now ASFB is bringing them back home to light up the winter!

“Aspen Santa Fe Ballet is ready for its Hollywood close-up.” – *Los Angeles Times*

AILEY® II

Friday, February 16

7:30pm

Generously underwritten by Melinda and Norman Payson

The talented dancers of **Ailey II** are renowned for captivating audiences and translating their strength and agility into powerful performances. Under the artistic direction of Troy Powell, this critically-acclaimed company presents vibrant performances and innovative community programs across the country and internationally. The Ailey spirit shines as these artists perform an exhilarating and diverse repertory that includes Alvin Ailey’s timeless classics and thrilling new works by today’s outstanding emerging choreographers.

“The future is theirs.” -*The New York Times*

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet: An Evening with Pianist Joyce Yang

Saturday, March 24

7:30pm

Generously underwritten by Judith Steinberg and Paul Hoenemans

Presented in collaboration with the Aspen Music Festival & School

Experience a milestone in Aspen Santa Fe Ballet history: an entire evening performed to live piano brought to life by the world-renowned Joyce Yang, a Van Cliburn International Piano Competition silver medalist and Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient. At the center of this program is a world premiere by noted Finnish choreographer Jorma Elo, who collaborated with Yang on a new ballet set to Robert Schumann’s *Carnaval*. Also on the program are Jiří Kylián’s seminal *Return to a Strange Land* set to the music of Leoš Janáček, and Nicolo Fonte’s *Where We Left Off* with music by Philip Glass.

“[Yang’s] attention to detail and clarity is as impressive as her agility, balance and velocity.”

– *Washington Post*

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Aspen Santa Fe Ballet

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's bold vision – top global choreographers, distinctive groundbreaking works, and virtuoso dancers – has fostered a jewel of a dance company in the American West and beyond. ASFB's unique pioneering spirit arises from a paired set of home cities: Aspen, nestled high in the Rocky Mountains, and Santa Fe, gracing the majestic Southwestern plateau.

Since its founding in 1996 by Bebe Schweppe, the company has served as a prestigious incubator and a showcase for choreographic invention to popular and critical acclaim. The performing troupe forms the core of a multifaceted arts organization with activities in both Aspen and Santa Fe. Repeat engagements at the Joyce Theater, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, the American Dance Festival and the Harris Theater for Music and Dance have built a national reputation. The company has also toured internationally to Brazil, Canada, France, Greece, Guatemala, Israel and Italy.

A respected arts presenter, ASFB curates high-quality dance programming for home audiences. Dance education is a priority, with well-established ballet schools training children and adults in both markets. An outreach program steeped in Mexico's rich folkloric culture fortifies community connections. Premier funders such as the National Endowment of the Arts, the Joyce Foundation, the Wolf Trap Foundation, Dance St. Louis and The Princess Grace Foundation have supported ASFB's growth. In 2010 the Joyce Theater Foundation conferred upon Artistic Director Tom Mossbrucker and Executive Director Jean-Philippe Malaty the Joyce Theater Award in honor of their pioneering and innovative model for American dance.

For dancer and full director bios, media, and more, visit www.aspensantafeballet.com.

High-resolution images available upon request.

Video clips and web-resolution images available for download on our media page here: <http://www.aspensantafeballet.com/asfb/media.html>