

# ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

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## ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET ANNOUNCES ITS 2019-20 WINTER PERFORMANCE SERIES IN ASPEN, CO

*Holiday Classic “The Nutcracker” • Guest Performance by Diavolo •  
Encore of Summer Hit “Beautiful Decay”*

ASFB’s *The Nutcracker* is a staple of the holiday season in Aspen. Featuring young dancers from The School of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet’s four Roaring Fork valley locations alongside professional dancers (including authentic Russian, Spanish, and Chinese folk dancers and an aerialist), this winter classic creates lifelong memories for ballet students and audiences alike. With four performances over the weekend of **December 21-22, 2019**, there are multiple opportunities to bring the family together for this magical theatrical experience right in time for the Christmas holiday.

Audience members this summer raved about **Nicolo Fonte’s *Beautiful Decay***, so **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet** is bringing it back for a special encore weekend. This haunting, evening-length work in two parts juxtaposes daring athleticism and technical prowess against the reality of aging. Returning for the winter encore are guest artists Hilary Cartwright and Gregg Bielemeier, both in their seventies and boasting long dance careers. With an original set design by the Tony Award-winning Mimi Lien, and using both the timeless music of Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons* and Max Richter’s reinterpretation of the same, ASFB will perform *Beautiful Decay* **February 28 & 29, 2020**.

Seen by over 95 million people as a top 10 finalist on NBC’s *America’s Got Talent*, **Diavolo** returns to Aspen for the first time since 2014. Led by the inventive genius of Artistic Director Jacques Heim and his fearless, athletic daredevils, the Los Angeles-based company continues to push a new edge of performance. With a unique style that encompasses dance, acrobatics, and gymnastics, Diavolo explores the relationship between the human body and its surrounding architectural environment.

For their Aspen performance Diavolo performs *Voyage* and *Trajectoire*. *Voyage* is Diavolo’s newest adventure, inspired by travels in space and the 50th Anniversary of the first moon landing. *Trajectoire* takes the audience on a visceral and emotional journey through the ebb and flow of the human experience. **ASFB Presents: Diavolo on March 27, 2020.**

**Tickets for all winter series performances go on sale to the public on Wednesday, November 6.** Tickets will be available online at [www.aspensantafeballet.com](http://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 start at \$36.

All performances take place at the Aspen District Theater (235 High School Road), unless otherwise noted.

***Ticket prices and programs subject to change.***

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## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's *The Nutcracker***

Saturday, December 21, 2019 | 2pm & 7:30pm

Sunday, December 22, 2019 | 1pm & 5pm

*Generously underwritten by Kelley & 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

### **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet: *Beautiful Decay***

Friday, February 28, 2020 | 7:30pm

Saturday, February 29, 2020 | 7:30pm

*Generously underwritten by Jessica & John Fullerton*

After bringing down the house in its summer premiere, ASFB is back with an encore performance of Nicolo Fonte's *Beautiful Decay*! Featuring an original set design by Tony Award-winner Mimi Lien, and the timeless music of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* and Max Richter's reinterpretation of the same, this haunting work juxtaposes daring athleticism against the reality of aging. Returning to join ASFB are guest artists Hilary Cartwright and Gregg Bielemeier—two septuagenarians with distinguished dance careers.

*"...an evening of explosive, athletic dance that leaves the audience speechless after just the first act..."* – The Dance Journal

### **ASFB Presents: *Diavolo***

Friday, March 27, 2020 | 7:30pm

*Generously underwritten by Melinda & Norman Payson*

Seen by over 95 million people as a top 10 finalist on NBC's *America's Got Talent*, *Diavolo* shatters boundaries and soars beyond the grasps of gravity. Led by the inventive genius of Artistic Director Jacques Heim and his fearless, athletic daredevils, the Los Angeles-based company continues to push a new edge of performance. With a unique style that encompasses

dance, acrobatics, and gymnastics, Diavolo explores the relationship between the human body and its surrounding architectural environment.

*“The thrill of watching seemingly impossible physicality, displays of fearless strength, and breathtaking risks...” – TheaterJones*

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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](http://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>*