

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

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ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET ANNOUNCES 2018 SUMMER PERFORMANCE SERIES IN ASPEN, CO

Performances by Hubbard Street Dance Chicago & Pilobolus
World Premiere Ballet by Bryan Arias • Company Premiere of Alexander Ekman's Tuptlet

With multiple company premieres and performances by two popular guest companies, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet brings a strong line-up to Aspen for the 2018 summer season. **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet** opens the summer with a one-night-only performance that features a world premiere by Bryan Arias, a company premiere of Alexander Ekman's *Tuptlet*, and the return of Jiri Kylian's *Sleepless* (July 7).

Formerly a dancer with Nederlands Dans Theater and Kidd Pivot, **Bryan Arias** is rapidly emerging as an in-demand choreographic voice, receiving the 2017 Princess Grace Choreography Fellowship Award. To date, the majority of this Puerto-Rican born, New York native's work has taken place in Europe and ASFB is thrilled to be among the very first companies in the United States to commission a new ballet.

Swedish choreographer **Alexander Ekman's *Tuptlet*** is a swift, pulsating, eighteen-minute tour-de-force that explores the question, what is rhythm? Utilizing a score that employs the dancers' bodies as percussion instruments, the soundscape is integrated with jazz and original electronic music. The composition bounces back and forth between the live body sounds of the dancers and the recorded score in combinations of irrational rhythms and groupings, to stunning visual and aural effect.

In collaboration with the Aspen Music Festival & School, **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet** presents a two-night encore of this winter's milestone collaborative project with award-winning pianist **Joyce Yang** (Aug. 10-11). Featuring *Half/Cut/Split*, the new ballet set to the music of Schumann's *Carnaval* by the noted Finnish choreographer **Jorma Elo**, Yang will be on stage the entire evening in a thrilling fusion of dance and live music. Also on the program are master choreographer Jiří Kylián's *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.

ASFB Presents the return of two audience favorites: **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago** (July 20-21) and **Pilobolus** (July 28). Celebrating its 40th season, Hubbard Street continues to innovate, supporting ascendant creative talent while presenting repertory by internationally recognized

living artists. Their program in Aspen will feature a reimagining of revolutionary choreographer Ohad Naharin's signature *Minus 16*, as well as *Solo Echo* by Crystal Pite.

Take the most diverse and impactful elements of Pilobolus - some old, and some brand new -- and assemble them into an evening of repertoire that will take audiences on a journey from a community of lost souls to competitions in the animal kingdom. Pilobolus will further adapt their repertoire into an engaging and lively presentation for ASFB's *Dance for Kids!* series, aimed at the younger dance-goer (July 28, 4pm).

Tickets for all summer series performances go on sale to the public on Wednesday, May 16.

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

Saturday, July 7

8pm

Generously underwritten by Carolyn Powers

Start your summer of dance off on the right foot with an unforgettable evening of contemporary ballet featuring a world premiere by rising star choreographer Bryan Arias in his ASFB debut. Exploring the interplay between rhythms both human-made and from jazz, ASFB's company premiere of Swedish phenom Alexander Ekman's *Tuplet* is deft, multi-media entertainment. Master dancemaker Jiří Kylián's stark and mysterious *Sleepless* explores the thin line between the conscious and subconscious. Be there when three clever choreographic voices come together in one magical evening!

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

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

Friday, July 20 & Saturday, July 21

8pm

Generously underwritten by Les Dames d'Aspen

One of only a few, select stops on a tour celebrating the company's 40th anniversary, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago lands in Aspen with a specially curated program of highlights from the world's leading dancemakers. Set to two of Brahms' sonatas for cello and piano, celebrated Canadian choreographer Crystal Pite's poignant *Solo Echo* conveys a message of acceptance and

loss. HSDC's virtuosic and versatile dancers will also tackle a reimagining of master contemporary choreographer Ohad Naharin's eclectic signature, *Minus 16*.

"One thing must be made abundantly clear: The Hubbard Street dancers are simply phenomenal." – *Chicago Sun-Times*

Dance for Kids! Pilobolus

Saturday, July 28

4pm

Generously underwritten by Bebe and David Schweppe

Dance for Kids! offers a special, condensed version of Pilobolus' *Rushes* as an imaginative and athletic show that will delight children of all ages. With music from jazz to Dixieland, whimsical costumes, and awe-inspiring partnering, this hour-long, family-friendly matinee performance will demonstrate rhythm and acrobatics in a visually engaging format that's sure to leave kids wanting more!

"Stunning and brilliant." – *Broadway World*

Pilobolus

Saturday, July 28

8pm

Generously underwritten by Bebe and David Schweppe

Continually testing the limits of human physicality, the internationally recognized troupe Pilobolus brings an evening of repertoire to Aspen that reveals just how diverse and surprising its work can be. Part Darwinian investigation, part love story, *Symbiosis* sweeps viewers away in an emotional duet. In *Rushes*, journey to what the *Los Angeles Times* called "a Fellini-esque carnival." Whether exploring the competition between animals in *Branches*, or executing classic Pilobolus feats of strength in *Gnomen*, prepare to be amazed!

"A triumph of ingenuity." – *The Huffington Post*

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet: An Evening with Pianist Joyce Yang

Presented in collaboration with the Aspen Music Festival & School

Friday, August 10 & Saturday, August 11

8pm

Generous underwriting of this special performance provided by Mona Look-Mazza & Tony Mazza and Judith Z. Steinberg & Paul J. Hoenmans

Enjoy a special two-night encore of this milestone evening of live piano and dance that wowed sold-out audiences in its winter premiere! At the center of this program is the world-renowned pianist Joyce Yang, a Van Cliburn International Piano Competition silver medalist. ASFB tackles the quirky *Half/Cut/Split* by noted Finnish choreographer Jorma Elo, who collaborated with Yang to bring Robert Schumann's *Carnaval* to life. Also on the program are Jiří Kylián's

poetic *Return to a Strange Land* set to the music of Leoš Janáček, and Nicolo Fonte's enthralling *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.”

– *The 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>