

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

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

*One-Night-Only Performances by Ailey II, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo •
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 Santa Fe. Featuring hundreds of young dancers from The School of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet alongside professional dancers, this winter classic creates lifelong memories for ballet students and audiences alike. With four performances over the weekend of **December 16-17**, there are multiple opportunities to bring the family together for this magical theatrical experience.

In collaboration with the acclaimed 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 world-renowned pianist **Joyce Yang (March 31)**. 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.

ASFB Presents brings a strong winter line-up to Santa Fe with exclusive, one-night-only engagements by renowned companies **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo** (Jan. 23) and **Ailey II** (Feb. 13). Although both companies were founded in 1974 and have spent the past forty years touring the world to resounding acclaim, they could not be more different performing ensembles. Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo—or "The Trocks," as they're affectionately known—is an all-male ensemble that wittily presents playful parodies of classical ballet and modern repertoire in drag. Ailey II is a high-energy, athletically astounding company of 12 of the country's best young dancers whose repertory spans classics by company namesake Alvin Ailey, to rising choreographers such as Kyle Abraham.

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

Tickets Santa Fe at 505-988-1234; or in person at The Lensic Performing Arts Center box office located at 211 W. San Francisco St. Ticket prices range from \$36-\$94.

All performances take place at The Lensic, Santa Fe's Performing Arts Center (211 W. San Francisco St.).

Ticket prices and programs subject to change.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's *The Nutcracker*

Saturday, December 16 at 2pm & 7:30pm

Sunday, December 17 at 1pm & 5pm

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 Santa Fe 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

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

Tuesday, January 23

7:30pm

Generously underwritten by Bill Thornton

Dancing the fine line between high art and high camp, the internationally beloved Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo has delighted audiences around the world for four decades. Risking comfort for brilliant pointe work, this all-male troupe wittily parodies dance classics, from *Swan Lake* to Martha Graham. Combining an encyclopedic knowledge of ballet with their uniquely wicked comedic sensibility, the Trocks offer buoyant and hilarious evenings for dance aficionados and complete novices alike.

"The funniest night you will ever have at the ballet." – *Sunday Times*

AILEY® II

Tuesday, February 13

7:30pm

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 31

7:30pm

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>*