



*Presented by*

*Ballet Society of Colorado Springs*

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Youth Ballet's "Aurora's Wedding" brings the international world of ballet to local dancers and audiences

The third season for **Colorado's Classical Youth Ballet** hits full stride in Feb. as this pre-professional company's *Annual Concert* presents an evening and an afternoon of ballet encompassing virtually all styles of expression. The program, entitled *Aurora's Wedding*, features five works: two inspired by the greatest names in choreographic history and three original pieces choreographed by the company's artistic directors and guest choreographer. These fully-staged, costumed and theatrically designed performances will take place on Fri, Feb. 17 at 7:00 pm and Sat, Feb. 18 at 2:30 pm at Rampart High School Theatre, 8250 Lexington Drive.

"When we started **Ballet Society** in 1997, it was our goal to be able to produce a performance of this quality," said Patty Hoffman, who founded the teaching studio that would give birth to the Youth Ballet. "Our current roster of dancers has happily accepted the challenge of performing a professional quality

program. I'd like to think this concert will be an inspiration and a model for our city. We can produce world-class expression from our own community.”

The cornerstone of the presentation is *Act III* from Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty*, known as *Aurora's Wedding*. This fantasy-filled celebration filled with charming guests from the fairy tale world is inspired by the work of the 19<sup>th</sup> century genius Marius Petipa, considered the greatest choreographer in history. Critics hold the 20<sup>th</sup> century's George Balanchine as a close second place in continuum of choreographic greatness and the Youth Ballet is proud to present *Valse Fantaisie*, a Balanchine Ballet® presented by arrangement with **The George Balanchine Trust** and realized by guest choreographer Viki Bromberg Psihoyos. Psihoyos will also have her own setting of Tchaikovsky's *Onegin Waltz* on the program.

Hoffman's setting of Mozart's *Les Petits riens* is also being presented. It was premiered this January for the **Chamber Orchestra of the Springs' Mozart in Paris** Birthday Celebration. Youth Ballet's co-artistic director, Holly Marble, was inspired by the music of the Gypsy Kings to produce *Espanola*, a contemporary piece with a Spanish flair.

“I know that ballet studios and companies are usually thought of as the place where dancers' dreams can be made real, but Ballet Society and the Youth Ballet have been a dream factory for me,” said Marble. “It's always a tough moment when a professional dancer, such as myself, has to hang up her point shoes. But our current group of dancers, essentially no older than 16, has been able to attain an excellent facility and can go forward in the world of ballet. I am profoundly gratified by their accomplishment.”

Mandy-Jayne Richardson, Ballet Mistress at **National Ballet of Canada**, has also been impressed by Ballet Society and the Youth Ballet. “This is one of three pre-professional training centers in the United States that is producing dancers ready for professional training and careers. Patty and Holly not only are providing their dancers with the right physical tools, but are also imparting the spirit and work ethic that dancers need in the competitive world of ballet.”

The Ballet Society of Colorado Springs was founded in 1997 with the mission of training young dancers with the specific goal of balancing dance, health and excellence. Ballet Society offers extensive training in classical ballet, as well as programs in jazz, lyrical, hip hop, and worship dance for children and adults. Colorado's Classical Youth Ballet Company was launched in September of 2003 in response to the high level of achievement Hoffman and Marble were finding in their studio. The process is under way to attain 501c3 non-profit status for the Company, an effort that should translate to even greater performance opportunities for the dancers and the community.

This group of 38 young dancers, who study and rehearse year-round, presents classical and contemporary ballet to audiences throughout the city. Performing both as the Youth Ballet and as principal dancers for Ballet Society performances, they have been featured in collaboration with Colorado

Springs Philharmonic and stars from American Ballet Theatre from New York City. This past June, a company-wide presentation featuring a full length version of the ballet classic *Coppelia* was met by a sold out, standing ovation. In December, the world premiere of the Youth Ballet's *Holiday Tea with Tchaikovsky* was greeted by four sold-out performances.

This will be the final performance of Youth Ballet for the 2005-2006 season, but its dancers will continue to be featured in upcoming Ballet Society presentations the *Family Series Concert: Ferdinand the Bull* with the **Colorado Springs Philharmonic** on April 2, 2006 and the studio's annual concert featuring Benjamin Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* on May 13.

Tickets and information regarding *Aurora's Wedding* are available by calling the Ballet Society office at (719) 272-7078 or by email: [balletsocietyinfo@msn.com](mailto:balletsocietyinfo@msn.com). Any inquires about the Studio or the Company can also be made in this way. Additional information is available at [www.balletsocietyofcoloradosprings.com](http://www.balletsocietyofcoloradosprings.com) .

## CALENDAR

**Who: Colorado's Classical Youth Ballet**

**What: *Aurora's Wedding*, the Annual Company Concert:**

A celebration of classic, romantic and modern ballet including Act III from Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty (Aurora's Wedding)*; *Espanola* with original choreography by Holly Marble; *Le Petits Riens* featuring the music of Mozart with original choreography by Patricia Hoffman; *Onegin Waltz* with original choreography Viki Bromberg Psihoyous and *Valse Fantaisie*, a Balanchine Ballet® presented by arrangement with The George Balanchine Trust

**Where: Rampart High School Theatre:**  
8250Lexington Drive in Colorado Springs

**When: Friday, February 17, 2006 at 7:00 pm**  
Saturday, February 18, 2006 at 2:30 pm

**Tickets: \$12, \$8 for children under 12 and senior citizens**

Available by calling (719) 272-7078 (Ballet Society studio) or by email at [balletsocietyinfo@msn.com](mailto:balletsocietyinfo@msn.com).

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