

Colorado's Classical Youth Ballet

Presented by

Ballet Society of Colorado Springs

NEWS RELEASE

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Great Family Holiday Fare kicks off 2005-2006 season for Colorado's Classical Youth Ballet

The third season for *Colorado's Classical Youth Ballet* promises to be both memorable and historic. It all begins this December as the "Youth Ballet" brings its magic to the north and south of the Pikes Peak Region. The **Holiday Tea with Tchaikovsky** is scheduled for four Sunday performances: Sun, Dec 11 at 1:30 and 4 pm at the da Vinci Academy at 1335 Bridle Oaks in Colorado Springs and then again on Sun, Dec 18 at 1:30 and 4 pm in the Louisa Performing Arts Center on the campus of the Colorado Springs School, 21 Broadmoor Avenue.

"This year's edition of our 'Holiday Tea' is designed to be nothing short of irresistible for everyone in the family," said Patty Hoffman, the founder and co-artistic director of the *Ballet Society of Colorado Springs*, the Youth Ballet's parent organization. "We commissioned David Sckolnik, who does great things for the arts in the region, to write an original script. So we'll be providing a 'miraculous' appearance of the great ballet composer Tchaikovsky who will take our Delphina Ballerina and the audience on an inspired tour of his greatest creations – complete with some fun comedy and touching moments."

Members of the Youth Ballet will perform excerpts from *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty* and the *Nutcracker* as Tchaikovsky (performed by Lincoln Thomas, a part-time announcer for KCME-FM, 88.7) and Delphina Ballerina (performed by Rachel Combs, who studies at Ballet Society and is aspiring to become a member of the Youth Ballet Company) create the theatrical setting. Immediately following each of the four performances, the audience becomes the center of attention and will be treated to a delicious feast of sweets and refreshments likely to rival the fantasy candies and cakes portrayed in the *Nutcracker* itself.

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“Last December’s ‘Holiday Tea’ was a joyous experience for all,” said Holly Marble, co-artistic director of the Youth Ballet and Ballet Society with Hoffman. “Our dancers really lit up the audience and then it was so special to have everyone share in the goodies. I think this is the perfect event for the Holiday season. It really brings people together.”

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 addition to the ‘Holiday Tea,’ Youth Ballet members will present a performance at Rampart High School on February 17 and 18 featuring the complete Act III from Tchaikovsky’s *Sleeping Beauty (Aurora’s Wedding)*; a performance of *Valse Fantaisie*, a Balanchine Ballet® presented by arrangement with The George Balanchine Trust; and an original work choreographed by Holly Marble entitled *Espanola*. The Youth Ballet dancers will also be featured in Ballet Society’s three highly visible collaborations this season: *Deck the Hall* with the **Colorado Springs Chorale** on Dec.9; *Mozart in Paris* with the **Chamber Orchestra of the Springs** on Jan. 14 & 15, 2006 ; and the *Family Series Concert: Ferdinand the Bull* with the **Colorado Springs Philharmonic**, which also includes Saint Saëns’ *Carnival of The Animals* on April 2, 2006.

“We have a special thing going on with the Youth Ballet,” said Hoffman. “Our dancers all have a great attitude about working as a company and taking on new challenges. We believe we are building them as artists who will be able to continue this spirit in whatever they go on to try in their lives.”

Tickets and information regarding the Holiday Tea with Tchaikovsky are available by calling the Ballet Society office at (719) 272-7078 or by email: balletsocietyinfo@msn.com. Any inquires about the Studio or the Company can also be made in this way. -MORE-

CALENDAR

Who: Colorado's Classical Youth Ballet and actors Lincoln Thomas and Rachel Combs

What: *Holiday Tea with Tchaikovsky:* Through an original play, the great composer introduces dance excerpts from his Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty and Nutcracker Ballets after which all are treated to a delicious Holiday Tea of sweets and refreshments

When and Where- Four performances:

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2005 at 1:30 and 4:00pm

The da Vinci Academy, 1335 Bridle Oaks in Colorado Springs
and

Sunday, Dec. 18, 2005 at 1:30 and 4:00pm

The Colorado Springs School's Louisa Performing Arts Center, 21 Broadmoor Ave, in Colorado Springs

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. Reservations accepted.

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