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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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### *Three Performances!*

Tchaikovsky's back with a new edition of his "Holiday Tea" –  
Ideal entertainment for the whole family

The Pikes Peak region will once again be treated to a magical visit from the ballet's greatest composer. The **Holiday Tea with Tchaikovsky** returns for a second year courtesy of **Colorado's Classical Youth Ballet**, a pre-professional performing ensemble comprised of select dancers chosen from its parent organization – **The Ballet Society of Colorado Springs**. The **Holiday Tea with Tchaikovsky** is scheduled for three performances all at the **Rampart High School Theatre**, 8250 Lexington Ave. in Colorado Springs: on Sat. Dec. 16 at 2 pm and Sun. Dec. 17 at 1 pm and 5 pm.

"It seems we've started a holiday tradition of our own," said Patty Hoffman, the founder and co-artistic director of the Ballet Society and Youth Ballet. "There will always be numerous performances available of Tchaikovsky's **Nutcracker Ballet**, but audiences last year raved about our original presentation, which provided an ideal selection of traditional ballet followed by a sweet-filled holiday tea. We've created a truly family-friendly event!"

The presentation includes excerpts from Tchaikovsky's big three: *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty* and the *Nutcracker* - danced by Youth Ballet members. It is held together by an original script written by David Skolnik, a local arts advocate and marketing consultant, who this year will don the garb and beard to actually portray Tchaikovsky on the stage.

"It's going to be so much fun to update this fantasy and actually be inside the production this year," said Skolnik. "Luckily, we have 12-year-old Rachel Combs back to reprise her role as Delphina Ballerina, the

aspiring dancer who last year was the reason Tchaikovsky and his ‘heavenly’ ballet troupe shared their art on earth. We’ve got some great new spins that will continue the story while making it easy for new audience members to quickly catch up.”

“The Holiday Tea works so well for our dancers,” said Holly Marble, co-artistic director of the Youth Ballet and Ballet Society with Hoffman. “They have to manage performing many roles and are asked to add a professional theatricality to the proceedings. These performances give them a genuine taste of the real-world of the ballet.”

The Ballet Society of Colorado Springs is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was founded 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.

This group of 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 many of the Pikes Peak region’s performing organizations. This season’s calendar still includes performances with the **Colorado Springs Conservatory** (Dec. 18-21 *Amahl and the Night Visitors*), **The Colorado Springs Dance Theatre** (Jan. 20-21 *Dessert, Dance, Dreams*), **Opera Theatre of the Rockies** (March 3 *Hansel and Gretel*), **Colorado Springs Philharmonic** (April 1 *Family Concert #2* & April 29 *Family Concert #3*), **Annual Company Concert** (May 18-19 *Cinderella*), and a collaboration with the **Chamber Orchestra of the Springs** and the **Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble** (June 9-10 Menotti’s *Unicorn*). It’s easy to see why the promotional materials for the Ballet Society refer to their organization as “Southern Colorado’s Dance Leader.”

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

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# CALENDAR

**Who:** Colorado's Classical Youth Ballet and actors **David Sckolnik** (Tchaikovsky) and **Rachel Combs** (Delphina Ballerina)

**What:** *Holiday Tea with Tchaikovsky 2006:* After a wildly successful visit to earth last year, the great Russian composer returns with his heavenly ballet troupe and a fresh theatrical presentation featuring excerpts from his *Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty* and *Nutcracker Ballets...* after which all are treated to a delicious Holiday Tea of sweets and refreshments

**Where:** Rampart High School Theatre, 8250 Lexington Drive

**When:** Saturday, Dec. 16, 2006 at 2:00pm  
*and*  
Sunday, Dec. 17, 2006 at 1:00 and 5:00pm

**Tickets:** **\$16, \$12 for children under 12 and senior citizens.**  
**Group discounts available**  
Available by calling (719) 272-7078 (Ballet Society studio) or by email at [info@danceinthesprings.com](mailto:info@danceinthesprings.com) - Reservations accepted.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

### 30 Second PSA

Tchaikovsky's back with his heavenly ballet troupe. The Holiday Tea *with* Tchaikovsky again features Colorado's Classical Youth Ballet and excerpts from Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty and the Nutcracker followed by delicious sweets and refreshments. The Holiday Tea with Tchaikovsky has three performances at Rampart High School on the afternoons of Saturday and Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Tickets and information are available at the Ballet Society of Colorado Springs studios - 272-7078.

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