
Ballet Melange
Presents
Beyond
the Fairy Tale
The KRD Venue
1755 W 48th Ave,
Denver, CO 80221
November 7, 2026 @ 6 p.m.



Letter from the Artistic Director

Dear Friends of Ballet Melange,

Welcome to our first performance of the 2026-2027 season!

We're thrilled to begin another exciting year and look forward to sharing several new productions with the Denver community.

Since our inaugural production in 2017, Ballet Melange has continued to grow, and we're proud to now have more than 10 paid company dancers and 15 apprentices and trainees. With this talented group of artists, we're excited to expand our reach through additional productions and outreach performances throughout Denver and the surrounding communities.

None of this would be possible without your support. By attending tonight's fundraising performance, you are helping us create more opportunities for our dancers and bring more performances to the stage. Your generosity also brings us closer to some of our longer-term dreams, including new dedicated rehearsal spaces and opportunities to collaborate with live musicians. Every performance we share and every step we take toward these goals is made possible by the community that believes in us.

Tonight's program celebrates a range of repertoire, from classical excerpts of The Sleeping Beauty to contemporary works. We hope you enjoy the performance and leave inspired by the artistry and dedication of our dancers.

Thank you for being part of our journey and helping Ballet Melange continue to grow.
We're grateful to share another season with you!

With gratitude,

Elizabeth Shipiatsky
Artistic Director
Ballet Melange

Beyond the Fairy Tale

Presented by Ballet Melange
KRD Venue
November 7, 2026

Lighting:
TODD MORTON

Costumes provided by **BALLET MELANGE ACADEMY**

Artistic Director:
ELIZABETH SHIPIATSKY, FOUNDER

President of the Ballet Melange Board:
SHANNON THERKILDSEN

Faculty:
ELIZABETH SHIPIATSKY, MAGGIE MEHLMAN, KATHERYNE METOLKINA, EMILY MORAN

We gratefully acknowledge the **KRD Venue** for their support in making this production possible.
Their commitment to the arts creates a welcoming space for our dancers and community.
We sincerely thank them for their partnership.

Act 1

WALTZ

Averill Johnson, Ashley Kaichen, Magdalena Kossek, Hazel Kovalik, Alyssa Lamb, Emily Ripper, Alexandria Rogers, Savannah Sherman, Kaley Spurgeon, Veronica Vigor, Shelby Willis, Roxy Woods

Choreographer: **M. Petipa** Composer: **P. Tchaikovsky**

AURORA FRIENDS

Anna Hammond, Kalah Jackson, Carolyn Lott, Avery McDougall, Emily Moran, Savannah Riggs, Lilliana Roccaforte, Jenna Turner

Choreographer: **M. Petipa** Composer: **P. Tchaikovsky**

AURORA VARIATION ACT 1

Brayley Willits

Choreographer: **M. Petipa** Composer: **P. Tchaikovsky**

AURORA VARIATION ACT 2

Sylvia Williamsen

Choreographer: **M. Petipa** Composer: **P. Tchaikovsky**

PUSS IN BOOTS

Kaley Spurgeon, Hazel Kovalik

Choreographer: **M. Petipa** Composer: **P. Tchaikovsky**

PRINCESS FLORINE VARIATION

Carolyn Lott

Choreographer: **M. Petipa** Composer: **P. Tchaikovsky**

Act 1

RED RIDING HOOD AND WOOLF

Lina Skalbania, Savannah Riggs

Choreographer: **M. Petipa** Composer: **P. Tchaikovsky**

AURORA VARIATION ACT 3

Isabella Ginter

Choreographer: **M. Petipa** Composer: **P. Tchaikovskyi**

SHADOWS AFTER DARK

Averill Johnson, Ashley Kaichen, Hazel Kovalik, Alyssa Lamb, Emily Ripper, Savannah Sherman, Kaley Spurgeon, Veronica Vigor, Shelby Willis, Roxy Woods

Choreographer: **M. Mehlman** Music: **New Beastly by Vulfpeck**

ANEMOI

Isabella Ginter, Anna Hammond, Kendyl Hanson, Kalah Jackson, Ashley Kaichen, Magdalena Kossek, Carolyn Lott, Avery McDougall, Savannah Riggs, Lilliana Roccaforte, Lina Skalbania, Kaley Spurgeon, Aleksandra Volodina, Sylvia Williamsen, Brayley Willits

Choreographer: **E. Moran** Music: **Maurice Ravel**

INTERMISSION

Act 2

WHERE I GO, I COME FROM

Averill Johnson, Ashley Kaichen, Hazel Kovalik, Alyssa Lamb, Savannah Sherman, Lina Skalbania, Kaley Spurgeon, Veronica Vigor, Shelby Willis, Roxy Woods

Choreographer: **E. Moran** Music: **Caleb Arredondo**

LILAC FAIRY VARIATION

Avery McDougall

Choreographer: **M. Petipa** Composer: **P. Tchaikovskyi**

ROCK FAIRIES

Jenna Turner, Kalah Jackson, Sylvia Williamsen, Isabella Ginter

Variation

Lilliana Roccaforte, Kendyl Hanson, Emily Moran

Diamond variation

Aleksandra Volodina

Coda

Lina Skalbania, Lilliana Roccaforte, Magdalena Kossek, Kalah Jackson

Choreographer: **M. Petipa** Composer: **P. Tchaikovskyi**

PROLOGUE

Corps: **Averill Johnson, Ashley Kaichen, Magdalena Kossek, Hazel Kovalik, Alyssa Lamb, Emily Ripper, Alexandria Rogers, Savannah Sherman, Kaley Spurgeon, Veronica Vigor, Shelby Willis, Roxy Woods**

Act 2

Entree and Adagio:

Fairy of Tenderness - Carolyn Lott
Fairy of Playfulness - Lina Skalbania
Fairy of Generosity - Isabella Ginter
Fairy of Carelessness - Kendyl Hanson
Fairy of Courage - Savannah Riggs
Lilac Fairy - Avery McDougall

Variations Coda

Fairy of Tenderness - Anna Hammond
Fairy of Playfulness - Aleksandra Volodina
Fairy of Generosity - Sylvia Williamsen
Fairy of Carelessness - Maya Vought
Fairy of Courage - Jenna Turner
Lilac Fairy - Brayley Willits

Choreographer: **M. Petipa**

Composer: **P. Tchaikovskyi**

Click here for more information

Ballet Melange

IS A 501 (C) (3) NOT FOR PROFIT
PROFESSIONAL BALLET COMPANY

First Company Dancers

Isabella Ginter

Originally from Chicago, IL, **Isabella** studied classical ballet and modern at The Academy of Movement and Music and danced with MOMENTA Dance Company. Later, she graduated from TCU's School for Classical & Contemporary Dance where she earned her BFA in Ballet with a teaching certificate in Pilates, Summa Cum Laude. During her time in both schools, Isabella enjoyed dancing in various repertoire, especially the classical roles of "Aurora" in the second act of Sleeping Beauty, "Giselle" in the second act of Giselle, "Swanhilda" in excerpts from Coppelia, and "Nikya" in the second act of La Bayadere. While earning her degree, Isabella also joined the corps de ballet of two of Ballet Concerto's Summer Dance Concerts and danced as a guest artist at the AT&T Performing Arts Center in Dallas with Elevator Project's A Lily Among Thorns. Following graduation, Isabella moved to Denver where she joined Ballet Ariel in their 2023-2024 season and guested with Ballet Papillon, Dallas, TX in Tea for Two, An Afternoon of Pas de Deux. Most recently, Isabella co-directed and choreographed a new evening length concert for Bouquet Theater and danced with Maureen Breeze Dance Theater. Currently, Isabella is pleased to be in her third season with Ballet Melange.

Brayley Willits

Brayley is in her second season as a First Company Dancer with Ballet Melange. She is originally from Collierville, TN and began dancing at age 3 in all styles of dance. At age 12, Brayley decided to pursue ballet full-time and began training at Ballet Memphis. After 3 years, Brayley joined Ballet West and the Pre-Professional Training Program, which she graduated from. She then joined Texas Ballet Theatre Studio Company before beginning her professional career with Ballet Pensacola. She has performed in a wide array of repertoire including Balanchine's Western Symphony, Bourbonville's Conservatoriat, Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, Midsummer Nights Dream, Alice in Wonderland, The Nutcracker, Don Quixote, Cinderella, Dracula, Le Corsaire and La Bayadere.

Carolyn Lott

Carolyn trained at Nan Klinger's Excellence in Dance from 2008-2018, where she performed with the youth company Ballet Excel Ohio. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and a minor in Psychology from The University of Akron in 2022. Carolyn enjoys sharing her passion for ballet as a Principal Teacher at Tutu School Castle Rock and Cherry Creek. Previously, she has performed roles such as Alice in Alice in Wonderland and Palace Princess in The Nutcracker. Carolyn is thrilled to be returning to Ballet Melange for a second season.

Lina Skalbania

Lina is from Seattle, WA and grew up training at the Pacific Northwest Ballet School. She received additional training at the Boston Ballet School, Ballet Academy East, Adage Ballet Academy, and danced with Nevada Ballet Theatre II. She has attended summer courses at the School of American Ballet, the Royal Ballet School, and the Boston Ballet School. Lina is excited to be in her first season with Ballet Melange.

Guest Dancers

Maya Vought

Maya returns to Ballet Melange as a Guest Artist for the 2025-2026 season after dancing two seasons in Czech Republic at the DJKT Plzeň Theatre. She previously trained at Ballet Melange Academy and joined their Trainee program before dancing professionally. Some of her favorite roles include Giselle, Gulnara in Le Corsaire, Sugarplum in the Nutcracker, and Radish in Cipollino.

Emily Moran

Born in Santa Cruz, California, **Emily** began her ballet training at The Studio School of Classical Ballet under Diane Cypher. She attended year-round at the Moscow State Academy of Choreography (Bolshoi Ballet Academy) before graduating from the Trainee Program at Tulsa Ballet under Beatrice Sebelin. Emily's notable performed repertoire includes Giselle as the featured role of Myrtha, Ma Cong's Match Point and C'est Plus D'Amour, Ma Cong and Val Caniparoli's The Nutcracker, and a soloist in Eva Stone's Remains Nameless which was awarded "Best Presented Work" at the Ballet Alliance Festival 2023. Throughout her training years, Emily also continued to nurture her ability as a choreographer, creating original works for the Tannery World Dance and Cultural Center, Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre, and the Tulsa Ballet Center for Dance Education, along with her own private projects. Emily joined Ballet Melange as a first company artist in 2025 and is continuing this season as a guest artist while taking on a new role as resident choreographer for the company and affiliate academy.

Second Company Dancers

Jenna Turner

Jenna received her pre-professional ballet and contemporary dance training at The Kirov Academy, Washington DC and The Rock School for Dance Education, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, both on scholarship. She competed at Youth America Grand Prix competitions, placing third in Hartford, Connecticut and second in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and was invited to the New York City finals both times. She debuted as a professional at Huntsville Ballet Company, Alabama as a principal dancer, then went on to join City Ballet of San Diego. During her professional career she danced the roles of Sugarplum Fairy and Dewdrop Fairy in "The Nutcracker", Christine in "Phantom of the Ballet", Fairy Godmother in "Cinderella", and many works by George Balanchine. With the arrival of Covid, Jenna took a hiatus from her professional career to attend college at University of California, Santa Barbara on scholarship. There, she received extensive modern dance training and had the privilege of touring internationally with their dance company and performing contemporary choreography by Meredith Ventura, Delilah Mosley, and Christina McCarthy. She graduated with high honors, receiving her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in dance. She also received two awards: "Best Choreography" and "Generosity of Spirit and Professionalism". Jenna is thrilled to be dancing professionally with Ballet Melange.

Lilliana Roccaforte

Lilliana was born and raised in Flagstaff, Arizona, and trained in classical ballet through the Royal Academy of Dance curriculum. In 2023 and 2024, she competed as a semi-finalist at the Fonteyn International Ballet Competition in London, UK. She has been dancing with Ballet Melange since Fall 2025. In addition to dancing in the Second Company, Lilliana is a Filmmaking Practices student at ASU Online, a voice, piano, and guitar teacher, and a songwriter and performer.

Kendyl Hanson

Kendyl is originally from Rapid City, South Dakota. She began her training at the age of 5 with the Rapid City Academy of Dance Arts. To further pursue her training, she completed a two-year program with the Nutmeg Ballet from which she graduated from. Following her graduation, she joined Ballet Melange as a Second Company Dancer in 2025. Here she has performed in roles such as Chinese soloist and Gulnare Pas de Sclave. Kendyl is excited to continue her journey with Ballet Melange, and is looking forward to the upcoming year!

Avery McDougall

Avery grew up in Philadelphia, PA attending The Rock School for Dance Education. After graduating in 2024, she spent a year as a trainee with Orlando Ballet in Orlando, FL. This is her second year as a second company member with Ballet Melange and she is excited to see where this year takes her!

Sylvia Williamsen

Sylvia was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and moved to Denver at the age of 6, where she studied at Colorado Ballet Academy and later at Ballet Melange Academy under Elizabeth Shipiatsky and Sergii Sydorskyi. She also trained in the professional program at Houston Ballet Academy for two years and attended summer programs at ABT JKO School. She first joined Ballet Melange as a trainee in 2023 and returned as a second company member in 2026. Notable performance credits include Big Masha in the Nutcracker and Talisman Pas de Deux at Ballet Melange.

Magdalena Kossek

Magdalena received her training at Zamuel Ballet School, Colorado Ballet Society, and Studio Iku in Colorado Springs, as well as in Colorado Ballet Academy's Pre-Professional Division. She was also a trainee with Sarasota Ballet and has attended various summer programs, including those at the Royal Danish Ballet and Ballet West. She has had the opportunity to perform roles such as Titania in A Midsummer Night's Dream and the Sugar Plum Fairy and Snow Queen in The Nutcracker. In addition to her passion for dance, she recently earned a PhD in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Denver. Magdalena is delighted to continue dancing with Ballet Melange for her second season.

Apprentices

Savannah Riggs

Originally from South Jersey, **Savannah** began her dance journey at the age of three, building a strong foundation in ballet through years of dedicated training, competition, and performance. She competed in Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) and was a member of her studio's competition team. Throughout her training, she spent summers expanding her technique through intensives at Ballet Austin, ABT, CPYB, and Walnut Hill. After progressing through the levels at her home studio, Lowe Dance Studio, she finished her training as a part of the preprofessional program with Voorhees Ballet Theatre. She then moved to Massachusetts completing high school at Walnut Hill School for the Arts as a dance major, affiliated with Boston Ballet. Following graduation, she spent two years exploring commercial dance in New York City studying at Pace University. Savannah earned degrees in Psychology and Dance, graduating with a bachelor's degree from Stockton University. Savannah is pleased to be in her second season at Ballet Melange.

Anna Hammond

Anna is delighted to return to Ballet Melange for her second season. Her dance journey began with Maple Youth Ballet in Southern California and continued at Hope College, where she double majored in Dance Performance and Choreography and English. During her time at Hope, she traveled to Barcelona to further her training at Programa d'Alt Rendiment en Dansa, led by former principal dancers of the Cuban National Ballet and the Mariinsky Ballet. Throughout her career, Anna has had the privilege of performing with Ballet Project OC, H2 Dance Company, and StrikeTime Dance Company. Anna thanks God for the opportunity to continue growing as an artist with Ballet Melange and hopes you enjoy the show!

Aleksandra Volodina

Aleksandra, originally from Helena, MT, attended Texas Christian University as a Dean's and Nordan Fine Arts Scholar. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BFA in Ballet and BA in Psychology, along with her Pilates Teacher Training Certificate. She began dancing at Queen City Ballet under Campbell Midgley, former Houston Ballet professional. She performed roles such as "Clara" and "Sugar Plum Fairy" in The Nutcracker. In 2016, she attended the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Moscow, Russia. Sasha competed in international competitions, placing 1st at the Universal Ballet Competition. She served as the Senior Cohort Student Representative in the TCU SCCDance. She performed in DanceTCU performances, dancing roles such as "Giselle," "Paquita," "Bluebird," and other contemporary ballet works. Sasha is thrilled to be in her first season with Ballet Melange.

Kalah Jackson

Jackson, a Colorado native, is proud to be in her third year with Ballet Melange. Following two years as a Trainee, she recently advanced to the rank of Apprentice. She has enjoyed performing in productions including The Nutcracker, Coppélia, and Le Corsaire.

Trainees

Averill Johnson, Ashley Kaichen, Hazel Kovalik, Alyssa Lamb, Emily Ripper, Alexandria Rogers, Savannah Sherman, Kaley Spurgeon, Veronica Vigor, Shelby Willis, Roxy Woods

With Gratitude to Our Dancers Circle Donors

Ballet Melange extends our heartfelt thanks to our Dancers Circle donors for their generosity and support.

Your contributions help our dancers grow, our artists thrive, and our company continue to bring the beauty of ballet to our community.

We are grateful to have you as part of the Ballet Melange family!

We would like to thank our sponsor

DanceExtreme

Click here for more information

for their continued support!



As a non-profit, **Ballet Melange** depends on our wonderful community.

You can make a real difference in a dancer's life tonight—simply

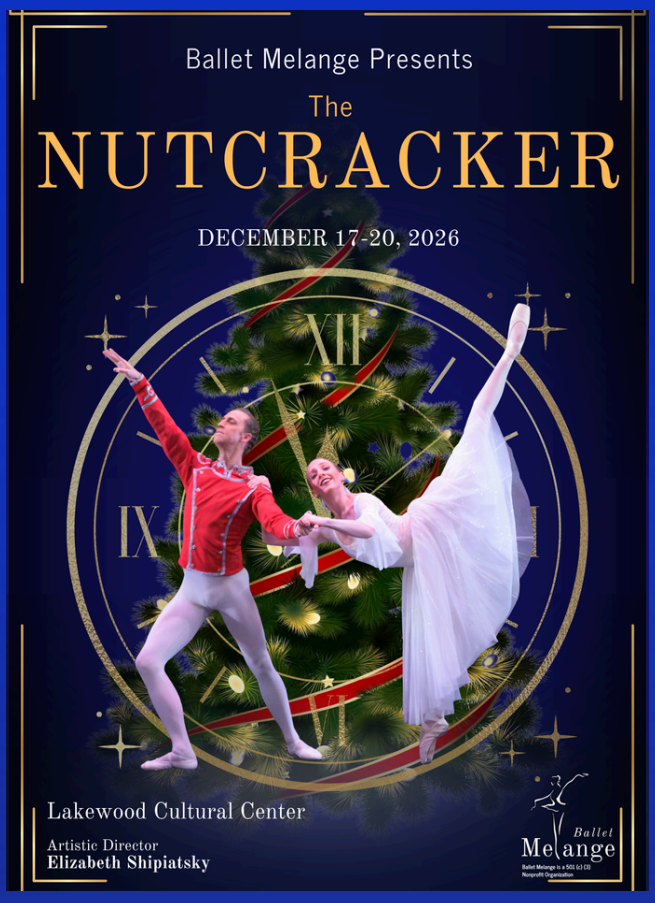
join our silent auction

Click above for more information

and bid on one of our premier travel packages.

Thank you for your support!

Upcoming Events





We Fund Culture.
SCFD