

# Symphony in the Valley

*presents*

## Sugar Plums & Sleigh Bells

❧ A Colorado Christmas ❧

Ute Theater - Rifle

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> - 2:00pm & 7:00pm

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> - 2:00pm & 4:30pm

Featuring  
selections from

**The Nutcracker**

with dancers

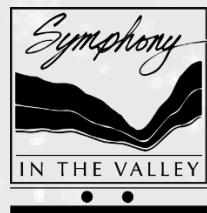
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Colorado West

Ballet



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Erin Miller – Alto Saxophone  
Brad & Ruth Mollman – Flute  
Randy & Cristina Ruiz – Vocals  
Greg Russi – Trombone  
Burt Saunders – Violin II  
Camille Schuman – Violin I  
John & Ann Spencer – Percussion  
Anonymous – Violin



# Concert Program

A Christmas Festival ..... Leroy Anderson

A Hanukkah Festival ..... Arr: Chris M. Bernotas

Hometown Holiday ..... Ian Aleister Pasternak

Christmas Heart ..... Tim Veazey  
*Vocals: Warren Lucio*

My Colorado Christmas ..... John Goss  
*Vocals: Kelly Thompson*  
*Conductor: Barry Melton*

Sleigh Ride ..... Leroy Anderson

## Intermission



Selections from:

# The Nutcracker

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Movement:

Dancers:

Miniature Overture	
Arrival of Drosselmeyer	12/6 2:00pm Mindy Lasko, Serenity Blee, Juan Magacho 12/6 7:00pm Alyssa Pankey, Shannon Mullaney, Jeremy Rohm 12/7 2:00pm Mindy Lasko, Shannon Mullaney, Jeremy Rohm 12/7 4:30pm Mindy Lasko, Serenity Blee, Juan Magacho
A Pine Forest in Winter	12/6 2:00pm Alyssa Pankey, Zephani Holt 12/6 7:00pm Serenity Blee, Juan Magacho 12/7 2:00pm Hikari Jacobson Magacho, Caleb Knight 12/7 4:30pm Alyssa Pankey, Zephani Holt
March	
Spanish Dance (Chocolate)	12/6 2:00pm Katherine Grace-Shamburek 12/6 7:00pm Hikari Jacobson Magacho 12/7 2:00pm Valerie Garcia 12/7 4:30pm Katherine Grace-Shamburek
Chinese Dance (Tea)	12/6 2:00pm Valerie Garcia, Morgan Montour 12/6 7:00pm Alyssa Pankey, Ella Bates 12/7 2:00pm Ella Bates, Shannon Mullaney 12/7 4:30pm Valerie Garcia, Morgan Montour
Arabian Dance (Coffee)	12/6 2:00pm Mindy Lasko, Jeremy Rohm 12/6 7:00pm Valerie Garcia, Zephani Holt 12/7 2:00pm Serenity Blee, Juan Magacho 12/7 4:30pm Mindy Lasko, Jeremy Rohm
Russian Dance (Trepak)	12/6 2:00pm Serenity Blee, Zephani Holt, Caleb Knight 12/6 7:00pm Shannon Mullaney, Caleb Knight, Juan Magacho 12/7 2:00pm Mindy Lasko, Caleb Knight, Jeremy Rohm 12/7 4:30pm Serenity Blee, Zephani Holt, Caleb Knight
Dance of the Toy Flutes	12/6 2:00pm Ella Bates, Katherine Grace-Shamburek, Alyssa Pankey 12/6 7:00pm Serenity Blee, Hikari Jacobson Magacho, Morgan Montour 12/7 2:00pm Valerie Garcia, Hikari Jacobson Magacho, Mindy Lasko 12/7 4:30pm Ella Bates, Katherine Grace-Shamburek, Alyssa Pankey
Pas de Deux	
<i>Andante Maestoso</i>	12/6 2:00pm Hikari Jacobson Magacho, Juan Magacho
<i>Tarantella</i>	12/6 7:00pm Mindy Lasko, Jeremy Rohm
<i>Sugar Plum Fairy</i>	12/7 2:00pm Katherine Grace-Shamburek, Zephani Holt 12/7 4:30pm Hikari Jacobson Magacho, Juan Magacho
Waltz of the Flowers	12/6 2:00pm Dew Drop: Shannon Mullaney Flowers: Ella Bates, Valerie Garcia, Lainey Marquez, Morgan Montour 12/6 7:00pm Dew Drop: Katherine Grace-Shamburek Flowers: Valerie Garcia, Lainey Marquez, Morgan Montour, Alyssa Pankey 12/7 2:00pm Dew Drop: Alyssa Pankey Flowers: Ella Bates, Serenity Blee, Lainey Marquez, Morgan Montour 12/7 4:30pm Dew Drop: Shannon Mullaney Flowers: Ella Bates, Valerie Garcia, Lainey Marquez, Morgan Montour



# Symphony in the Valley Members

## Violin I

Amara Sperber *Eagle*  
- *Concertmaster*  
Judy Ingelhart *Glenwood Springs*  
Paige Middleton *Parachute*  
Camille Schuman *Carbondale*

## Violin II

Steve Hessler \* *Carbondale*  
Katriona Hembury *Aspen*  
George Saunders *Eagle*

## Viola

Imani Coker \* *Glenwood Springs*  
Jasmine Buniger *Grand Junction*  
Peggy Sconce *New Castle*

## Cello

Justin Kattnig \* *New Castle*  
Aaron Opstein *Rifle*

## Bass

Ashton Taufer \* *Glenwood Springs*  
Roran Quint *Glenwood Springs*

## Flute

Ruth Mollman \* *New Castle*  
Julianna O'Clair *New Castle*

## Piccolo

Ruth Mollman *New Castle*

## Oboe

Allison Christie \* *Glenwood Springs*

## English Horn

Allison Christie *Glenwood Springs*

## Bassoon

Karen Hessler \* *Carbondale*  
Ian Pasternak *Rifle*

## Clarinet

Kim Whelan \* *Parachute*  
Kenneth Cremer *Carbondale*  
Lindsay Dudycha *Carbondale*  
Jodi Henderson *Carbondale*  
Divia Martinez *Rifle*  
Xavier Weisbrod *Rifle*

## Bass Clarinet

Warren Lucio *New Castle*  
Barry Melton *Parachute*

## Alto Saxophone

Lindsay Dudycha *Carbondale*  
Warren Lucio *New Castle*

## Trumpet

John Bokram \* *Aspen*  
Abbey Beaton *Parachute*  
Gage Goin *Rifle*

## French Horn

Janeal Weisbrod \* *Rifle*  
Jennifer Carden *New Castle*  
Alex Foreman *Rifle*  
Gage Goin *Rifle*  
Alexander Weisbrod *Rifle*  
Lilly Weisbrod *Rifle*

## Trombone

Randy Adams \* *Meeker*  
Anderson Amaya *Glenwood Springs*  
Benjamin Bontrager *Glenwood Springs*  
Don Parkison *Glenwood Springs*

## Tuba

James Starbuck \* *Parachute*

## Percussion

Cindy Hester \* *Glenwood Springs*  
Don Parkison *Glenwood Springs*  
Ian Pasternak *Rifle*  
Matt Weisbrod *Rifle*  
Sharon Young *Glenwood Springs*

## Keyboard

Christina Wenning *Carbondale*

## Vocals

Warren Lucio *New Castle*  
Kelly Thompson *Rifle*  
Tim Veazey *Paoia*

## Conductor

Kelly Thompson *Rifle*

## Associate Conductor

Barry Melton *Parachute*

\* Indicates Section Principal

The Symphony is currently seeking  
interested musicians to join the  
Orchestra. Please contact us at:  
[www.sitv.org](http://www.sitv.org)





Ella Bates



Serenity Blee



Valerie Garcia



Katherine  
Grace-Shamburek



Zephany Holt

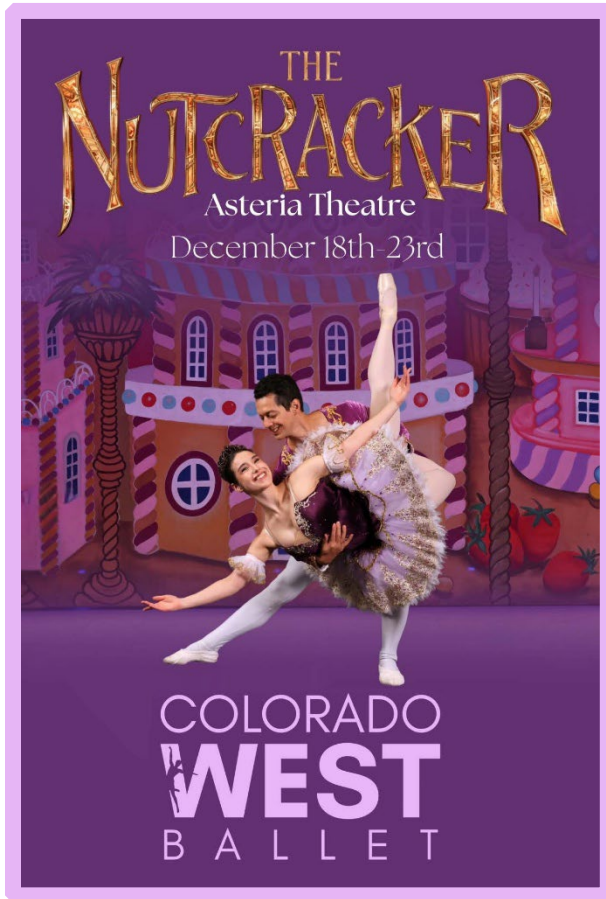


Caleb Knight



Mindy Lasko

# Dancers



## Western Slope's Premier Ballet Company

Colorado West Ballet is the first professional ballet  
company on the Western Slope.

What began as a small-town dance and performance  
company has now blossomed into the premier ballet  
company in the Grand Valley. Colorado West Ballet  
hired in professional dancers from all over the world  
as well as local dancers to provide Grand Junction  
with an exceptional experience in performing arts.

Learn more:

[www.coloradowestballet.org](http://www.coloradowestballet.org)



Hikari Jacobson  
Magacho



Juan Magacho



Morgan Montour



Lainey Marquez



Shannon Mullaney



Alyssa Pankey



Jeremy Rohm

# Program Notes

## A Christmas Festival – Leroy Anderson

Composed in 1950, *A Christmas Festival* is a concert overture built upon traditional Christmas songs. Originally recorded by the Boston Pops, it is the Christmas medley that sets the standard for all others. Anderson has encompassed the joy, celebration, and solemnity of Christmas in his arrangements of *Joy to the World* • *Deck the Halls* • *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* • *Good King Wenceslas* • *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* • *The First Noel* • *Silent Night* • *Jingle Bells* • and *O Come, All Ye Faithful*. Listen for the clever ways that Anderson weaves these themes together and his unconventional treatments of one or two of the traditional carols.

## A Hanukkah Festival

*A Hanukkah Festival*, arranged by Chris M. Bernotas, is a medley of three traditional Hanukkah songs, *Sevivon*, *Maoz Tzur*, and *Hanukkah*. *Sevivon* has a dramatic melody and is written with a variety of accompaniments leading to a brief, but impressive, clarinet cadenza that leads into *Maoz Tzur*. This traditional piece is scored with full, rich voicings along with a beautiful melody. *Hanukkah* is the festival of lights and the last section of the piece. It is a bright, playful march with an exciting conclusion. These memorable tunes are a delight with audiences while paying homage to this important holiday.

## Hometown Holiday (Program notes by Ian Aleister Pasternak)

The emotions of happiness and joy are among the most elusive parts of the mundane. When I wrote *Hometown Holiday*, I was attempting to make sense of them. Happiness and joy surface every day in one shape or another, yet seem to dissolve unless renewed. Even so, some moments allow these emotions to breathe more freely: holidays are a good example of this. As I grow older, I find myself yearning for my childhood more and more. Some of the rawest joys I've felt came on Christmas; long months of anticipation narrowed to a single exuberant hour just after sunrise. Those moments held everything I valued most, and I often return to them in memory.

*Hometown Holiday* serves as an essay on these expressions of eagerness, anxiety, and wistfulness. The piece moves sporadically, twisting and turning through processes, gallops, and fanfares. The work isn't afraid to make you feel comfortable or uncomfortable; it's nothing more than an expression of occurrence; an empathetic celebration of existence.

## Christmas Heart (Program notes by Tim Veazey)

My wife and I had decided to move from Nashville to Chattanooga, Tennessee, to be closer to my aging parents. Some magic happened and we ended up buying the house literally next door to them. I was feeling extra grateful and sentimental that Christmas, flooded with memories and feeling very blessed.

Those acute thoughts and emotions compelled me to write and record *Christmas Heart* on Christmas Eve right there in our new living room. The whole process, from putting pen to paper to finishing the recording, took around two hours. As a songwriter, it's my experience and belief that the best songs come very quickly, flowing irresistibly from the heart.

*Christmas Heart* came to me as a blessing and has seemingly since been a blessing to others as well. Its message is a reminder of what a better place this world could be if we would retain that true, loving spirit we find at Christmas throughout the rest of the year.

I'd like to thank John Goss of Glenwood Vaudeville Revue, Warren Lucio, and Kelly Thompson, and I'm honored to have Symphony in the Valley help me share this song with you.



# My Colorado Christmas

*My Colorado Christmas* by John Goss, is a heartfelt musical journey that encapsulates the warmth and joy of family holiday gatherings. The song serves as a nostalgic homage to the cherished memories we all hold dear during the festive season. John invites everyone to reflect on their own holiday traditions, encouraging listeners to celebrate the connections that bind us, the food that brings us together, and the laughter that renounces the challenges of the past year. Through its relatable themes and festive spirit, this song aims to resonate with all who share the magic of Christmas in their hearts.

## Sleigh Ride – Leroy Anderson

*Sleigh Ride*, composed by Leroy Anderson in 1948, remains a timeless holiday classic that continues to enchant audiences around the globe. Celebrating its enduring legacy, this lively piece has cemented its place as one of the ten most popular Christmas music compositions worldwide, captivating listeners with its joyful melody and whimsical imagery.

Join us in relishing the uplifting spirit of *Sleigh Ride*, a piece that captures the joy and magic of winter festivities, transporting us on a delightful ride through snowy landscapes and heartwarming holiday moments.

## Selections from The Nutcracker

Chances are good that you've seen *The Nutcracker* - in fact, it might be the only ballet you've ever seen. But even if you haven't, you've certainly heard of it and can probably even hum a few bars from Pyotr Tchaikovsky's famous score, which has been featured in movies, television shows, commercials, and even a version of *Tetris*. But no matter how well you know the choreography or music, there might be a few pieces of *Nutcracker* lore that you haven't heard before. Here are a few facts that you just might not know about the country's favorite holiday spectacular.

1. *The Nutcracker* was a dud when it first premiered in 1892 at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia. Although the music was applauded, the storyline was considered boring, and the presence of so many children onstage (even the title roles were originally performed by children) was, as one critic described, "unbearable." Even Tchaikovsky himself did not care for the production, thinking the music subpar to his compositions for the ballet *Sleeping Beauty*, which premiered in 1890.

2. "The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" is probably one of the world's more familiar pieces of music - its tinkling opening bars are instantly recognizable. The piece's distinctive sound is made by the celesta - a relative of the piano - which was invented only a few years before *The Nutcracker* was written. Tchaikovsky had the celesta brought to Russia from France in secret so that he would be the first among his competitors to make his mark on the instrument. *The Nutcracker* is thought to be the first work to employ the celesta with a full symphony orchestra.

3. The first full-length version of *The Nutcracker* was performed in the United States in 1944 by the San Francisco Ballet Company - more than 52 years after its premiere in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

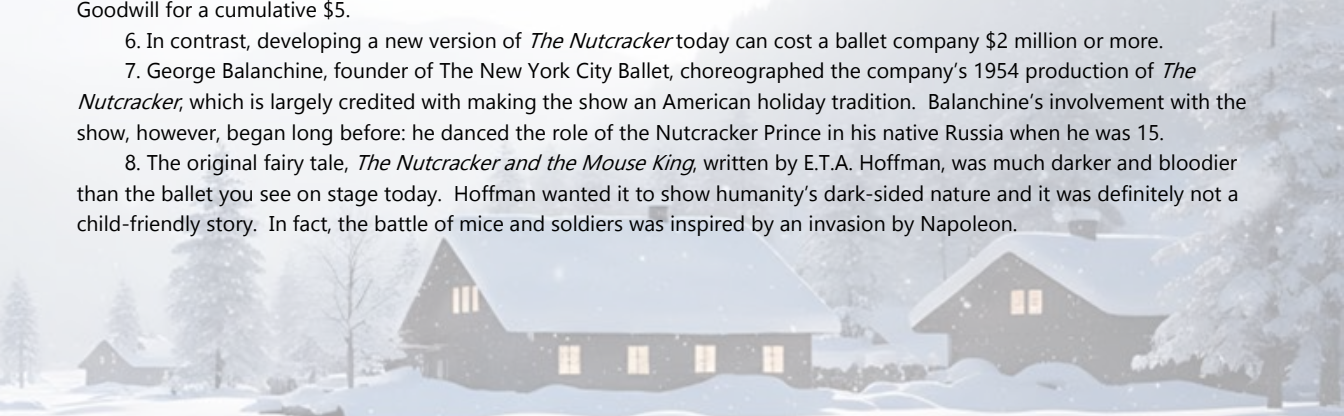
4. However, American audiences were first introduced to Tchaikovsky's score for *The Nutcracker* in Disney's 1940 animated film, *Fantasia*.

5. The San Francisco Ballet's 1944 staging of *The Nutcracker* had a budget of a \$1,000. Thanks to wartime rations, only ten yards of fabric were sold to individuals at a time, meaning multiple company members had to wait in line in order to purchase all the fabric necessary to make the show's costumes. All of the jewelry, flowers, and baubles were bought at Goodwill for a cumulative \$5.

6. In contrast, developing a new version of *The Nutcracker* today can cost a ballet company \$2 million or more.

7. George Balanchine, founder of The New York City Ballet, choreographed the company's 1954 production of *The Nutcracker*, which is largely credited with making the show an American holiday tradition. Balanchine's involvement with the show, however, began long before: he danced the role of the Nutcracker Prince in his native Russia when he was 15.

8. The original fairy tale, *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, written by E.T.A. Hoffman, was much darker and bloodier than the ballet you see on stage today. Hoffman wanted it to show humanity's dark-sided nature and it was definitely not a child-friendly story. In fact, the battle of mice and soldiers was inspired by an invasion by Napoleon.



# Symphony in the Valley

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# PUTTIN' ON THE GLITZ

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FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 13TH, 2026  
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Step into a night of champagne sparkle and Jazz Age romance. Symphony in the Valley invites you to a dazzling Roaring '20s Valentine's celebration - where Gershwin meets Gatsby and every note shimmers with vintage glamour.



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# Season Calendar

## Winter Concert - The Nutcracker

Saturday, December 6th, 2025

Ute Theater - Rifle, Colorado

2:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 7th, 2025

Ute Theater - Rifle, Colorado

2:00 pm and 4:30 pm

## Symphony Swing - Roaring 20's Gala Fundraiser

Friday, February 13th, 2026

Ute Theater - Rifle

Saturday, February 14th, 2026

Hotel Colorado - Glenwood Springs

## Spring Concert - The Symphony Goes East

Friday, May 8th, 2026

Ute Theater - Rifle

Saturday, May 9th, 2026

TBD

## Spring Swing

Fore the Love of Music – Benefit Golf Tournament

Friday, June 5th, 2026

Lakota Canyon Ranch Golf Club, New Castle

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