

UTAH
METROPOLITAN
BALLET

news

SPRING ISSUE N°6



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NEVERLAND

12 2023-2024 SEASON
ANNOUNCEMENT

30 UMB AT A
GLANCE

“Exploring the arts
in various capacities,
inspires our minds,
touches our hearts,
and enriches our lives.”

JACQUELINE P. COLLEDGE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



UMB PERFORMS NUTCRACKER



**FOR
SOLD OUT
AUDIENCES**

Even snowy weather that made travel hazardous couldn't keep audiences away from Utah Metropolitan Ballet's Nutcracker. With every one of 16 magical performances almost or completely sold out, it was clear that audiences were excited to be able to return to this favorite holiday tradition.

On several occasions, latecomers to the Covey Center for the Arts were met with a disappointing sign informing them that there were no more seats available.

Nearly every one of 16 magical performances completely sold out

The lucky people who were able to get a seat were treated to breathtaking costumes and majestic scenery by Cassandra Barney, combined with original choreography by Artistic Director Jacqueline Colledge, in UMB's original take on the classic production, which premiered in 2017.

The Utah Metropolitan Ballet Orchestra, now in its second year, worked musical magic to create a rich aural backdrop with Tchaikovsky's enchanting classic score.

The orchestra director is Dr. Bryce Rytting, who has been working with UMB for over two decades, and was conducted this year by Marcel Bowman.

Syndey Lee, Josie DeNosky and Ellie Maddox delighted audiences as Clara.

Amy Cook and Jennifer Christie impressed audiences with their charm as the Sugar Plum Fairy, while Sebastian Vinet and Matteo Garattoni commanded the stage with strength and precision as the Nutcracker Cavalier. The grace and elegance of the Snow Queen were captured beautifully by Emeline Terranova, Lily Stephenson, Jennifer Christie and Amy Cook.

Two outreach performances were offered for elementary school students and two were offered free of charge for families affected by autism. All four sold out.

Every year, Nutcracker brings UMB together with dancers from Jacqueline's School of Ballet as well as other local dance studios, allowing young dancers to experience what it's like to be part of a professional production while giving the professional dancers the chance to mentor and encourage the young artists.

UMB is pleased to present this timeless production for our community every year.

Written by: Autumn Cook



OFF TO NEVERLAND

WITH UTAH METROPOLITAN BALLET

It's the story of the boy who refuses to grow up – and his adventures with mesmerizing mermaids, pillaging pirates, the mischievous Lost Boys and three genteel children from London.

And of course, the crocodile, who's always famished and looking for a bite of pirate.

UMB is excited to present the classic swash-buckling tale of Peter Pan March 3-6 at the Covey Center for the Arts.

An original ballet choreographed by Jacqueline P. Colledge, Founder and Artistic Director of UMB, the show features music composed by Silvio Amato, along with original costumes by Suellen Baum.

This is a lively and engaging show, with Peter flying across the stage, the crocodile creeping out from the wings and multiple set changes drawing the audience along from the Nursery to Neverland, and from the Mermaid Lagoon to the Jolly Roger.

“Choreographing the Lost Boys sections was one of the highlights for me”

Even the audience gets a part, clapping to save Tinkerbell's light in the moment of crisis. Cheering is welcome as Peter engages Hook in the final dramatic sword fight.

While sometimes performances of Peter Pan lump the Lost Boys together, in this production the role of each Lost Boy has been crafted and developed individually.

“Choreographing the Lost Boys sections was one of the highlights for me,” Jacqueline said. “The talents of UMB's second company gave

me the inspiration for movement and character development.”

But don't let the lively tone and fanciful innovations make you think the ballet will lack the technical strength of UMB's characteristic performances. Be prepared for technically strong dancing, plenty of humor and even some emotional acting.

Jacqueline said that the music was originally written for a full length ice ballet in Italy. Amato, the composer, was delighted to have it used to create the full length stage ballet.

“Working with Silvio was such a pleasure!” she said. “His beautiful music inspired me for every scene. He was very helpful in the original creation of the ballet.”

The part of Peter Pan will be performed by UMB principal dancers Stephen Kessler and Cyrus Shaskan, with Wendy performed by Amy Cook and Hallie Jo Johnson, and Princess Tiger Lily by Jennifer Christie, Shelbi Yagi and Emeline Terranova.

They will be threatened and harassed by Captain Hook, who will be portrayed by special guest artist Johnny Zhong. Zhong's son will share the stage with his dad as he plays the part of Michael.

This will be the fourth time UMB performs this classic tale, and Jacqueline is excited to bring it back to the stage.

Public shows will be held March 3-6. **Thanks to a generous sponsorship from Crumbl Cookie, Utah Metropolitan Ballet is proud to announce that on March 6 there will also be a 5:00 pm show, free of charge, for families affected by autism.**

Written by: Autumn Cook



OUR OUTREACH

It is our mission to inspire, enrich, unite, educate, and captivate our community. This commitment to Utah has allowed us to touch many people through the art of dance. It is important to UMB to give back and be a part of the community that supports us.

Over 8,000 people from families who have been affected by autism have had the opportunity to enjoy a live performance together, free of charge and worry, through Utah Metropolitan Ballet's Families Affected by Autism outreach program.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT **UMB'S OUTREACH**

DONOR HIGHLIGHT

Crumbl is honored to support Utah Metropolitan Ballet in creating meaningful moments for families.





A SEASON SUBSCRIPTION

Gives you the best seats, prices, and perks!

ALL THE PERKS

Priority Seating: Choose the best seats before single tickets go on sale to the public.

Save: Your season subscription saves you 20% over single ticket prices

Free Exchanges: Exchange tickets to a future 2023-24 season performance (with 48 hours' notice)

Additional Nutcracker Tickets: Purchase additional tickets for Nutcracker before they go on sale to the public.

Exclusive Give-away: Entrance into the "Sweetest Seats in the House" giveaway



SIGN-UP AND BE
FIRST IN LINE **WHEN**
SEASON TICKETS GO
ON SALE!

WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE

**UTAH METROPOLITAN BALLET'S
2023-2024 SEASON!**

THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ

OCTOBER 5-7

NUTCRACKER

DECEMBER 9-20

CINDERELLA

FEBRUARY 29-MARCH 2

TRIBUTE

MAY 2-3

LOOKING BACK AT UTAH
METROPOLITAN BALLET'S

STELLAR EVENTS!

Sponsored by: Wadley Farms



OUR MOST POPULAR EVENT OF THE SEASON

FANTASTIC FEAST & FESTIVAL

YEAR 4- THE TOURNAMENT!

"We had such a magical time at the Fantastic Feast and Festival! The details were over the top, the costumes and characters were so fun, and the castle was beautiful! Dinner did not disappoint- the food and butter beer were delicious and the interactive tournament was so fun. Our house champion won!! We can't wait to go again next year!!"

— Lindy

"Our family had a fabulous time at the Harry Potter Feast and Festival. The ambiance of the castle was wonderful. The actors/actresses looked amazing and kept the night exciting. The dancers and entertainment was engaging and made us feel like we were in a magical world. We will definitely make this a yearly tradition."

— Raechal

"Loved everything about this event...Great venue, fun staff, yummy food, immersive entertainment. Cannot wait until UMB does this next year!"

— Brad



Learn more about
this **magical event**



COME FLY WITH US

NEVERLAND GALA

Our Neverland Gala was **the most successful fundraising of the year!** The event was magical, entertaining, and delicious thanks to the talents of Mille Fleur Design, Jeff Beck of Grandpa Beck's Games, chef Jason Merryweather, and our incredible Utah Metropolitan Ballet company dancers. We are grateful to our generous guests who made it possible to Fly to Neverland by raising three times the amount of our original goal! Think happy thoughts and we hope to see you all at next year's gala.

In the words of J.M. Barrie, author of Peter Pan, "**The moment you doubt whether you can fly, you cease forever to be able to do it**". Thanks to the generous donors and guests at our gala we were able to fly and will continue to do so!



Learn more about
this **spectacular event**

CLARA'S TEA PARTY

Guests joined Clara and the Nutcracker at a magical holiday event where they enjoyed tea party treats, made a fun Christmas craft, completed Clara's Christmas quest becoming part of the Sugar Plum Fairy's court, took a swordplay class, met Godfather Drosselmeyer and enjoyed excerpts of Nutcracker performed by Utah Metropolitan Ballet... complete with photo ops!

Oh and best of all...it was in a castle!

"My daughters and I had a wonderful time at Clara's Tea Party! The activities were so fun, they especially loved Clara's Christmas Quest and the Royal Guard fencing class. The ambiance of Wadley Farms Castle made the day feel even more special. This was an event that we will remember for years to come!"

Pam P.



Learn more about
this **charming event**



TRIBUTE

HONORING COMMUNITY FAVORITES
APRIL 6-7



TICKETS
ON SALE NOW

Utah Metropolitan Ballet is pleased to announce this year's honorees as they round out the season on April 6 and 7 with TRIBUTE. This performance combines "Art and Heart" as we honor outstanding individuals in the community whose hearts help make Utah Valley an exceptional place to live. This celebratory evening features traditional and new works that will both inspire and entertain.



JOHN DYE



OAKLEY PETERSON



GIDEON GEORGE



ELLEN CHRISTENSON

THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Youth America Grand Prix Semi-Final Results

Congratulations to Jacqueline's School of Ballet, the official school of Utah Metropolitan Ballet, on their amazing accomplishments at this year's Youth America Grand Prix Semi-Finals!

In addition to winning top awards in the semi-final rounds of competition, Sydney Lee, McKell Haynie, and Aliyah Sonneberg were invited to compete in the YAGP finals in Tampa Florida. All three ensemble pieces that were awarded first place were also selected to compete in the YAGP Finals. Jesyca Chugg was selected as part of the International Contemporary Ensemble performing at the YAGP Finals. The final round of competition will take place in April of 2023.

IN THE SALT LAKE CITY SEMI-FINALS:

Jacqueline's School of Ballet awarded - **Most Outstanding School**

First Place Ensemble

"Cadence", Choreographer - Ariel Wright
"Beyond", Choreographer - Brittnee Squires
"The Winner Is", Choreographer - Malece Miller

SENIOR DIVISION

Sydney Lee

1st place Classical and top 12 Contemporary

Jesyca Chugg

2nd place Contemporary and Top 12 Classical

Aria Staker

Top 12 Classical

McKell Haynie

Top 24 Classical

JUNIOR DIVISION

Ellie Maddox

3rd place Contemporary and Top 12 Classical

Josie Denosky

Top 12 Classical

Mariia Voronetska

Top 12 Classical

Pepper Christensen

Top 24 Classical

PRE-COMPETITIVE

Holland Furguson

Top 12 Contemporary and
Top 12 Classical

Evie Denosky

Top 12 Classical

IN THE LAS VEGAS, NV SEMI-FINALS:

SENIOR DIVISION

McKell Hainee

3rd place Classical

Aliyah Sonnenberg

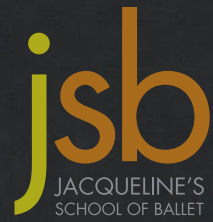
Top 12 Contemporary and
Top 24 Classical

JUNIOR DIVISION

Lyla Oakeson

Top 12 Classical





Summer Intensive

2023

JSB Classical and Contemporary Intensive

June 5-16th

JSB 5 week Intensive
June 19-28th (week of the 4th off)



To register visit
Jacquelinesballet.com



MEET OUR SPONSORS





DONOR HIGHLIGHT

JILL MOULTON

Even though Todd and Jill Moulton fondly called Idaho home throughout their growing years, they have made Utah their home over the past 42 years. “It’s been a delightful and scenic place to raise our seven children. We love living in a place that really has provided the best of both worlds—having majestic mountain peaks right next door for hiking, biking, skiing, rock climbing, and water sports—paired right alongside a richly vibrant, opportunity-filled Arts community that truly is world class.”

Jill reflects, “Our real introduction to ballet came when our youngest daughter, Elisabeth, began dancing at the age of four. “This beautifully exquisite art form really lit a fire in me, and I found the expression of ballet, whether in the simple setting of a studio or a breathtakingly lavish production, richly meaningful.”

Signing up to help on a committee for UMB II, a training program for pre-professionals, unexpectedly ended up landing Jill on the board of Utah Metropolitan Ballet where she served for several years. During this time of service, her appreciation for the immense amount of time, energy, funding, commitment, dedication, and the sacrifice demanded to sustain Arts programs expanded exponentially.

She found it involves many, many dedicated and talented individuals both inside and outside the ballet community who are committed to the betterment of our society. “I absolutely believe the Arts have a unique role in society to unleash a formidable power in uniting and strengthening communities regardless of differences. The beauty of the Arts dignifies all humankind.”

It has been gratifying to see the growth and recognition with which Utah Metropolitan Ballet has been favored. Knowing it all began with the vision and determination of one gifted woman, Jacqueline P. Colledge, and her family, should serve to inspire us all to offer gifts we can bring to serve and bless our community. We are most grateful for the remarkable and meaningful experiences we have enjoyed with Utah Metropolitan Ballet through the years and anticipate many more wonderful shared experiences to come!

When we are not at the ballet or serving in the community, we are golfing, gardening, baking, reading, traveling, or loving our time with our wonderful children and grandchildren.

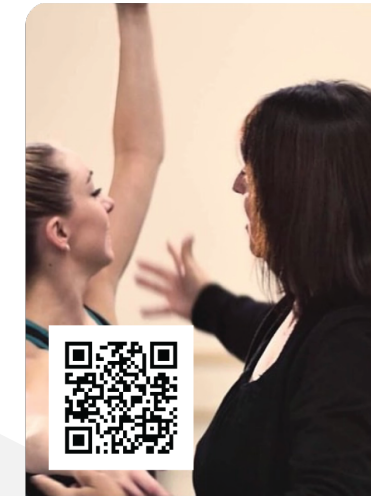
UTAH METROPOLITAN BALLET AT A GLANCE

Founded in 1980 by Artistic Director Jacqueline P. Colledge, Utah Metropolitan Ballet (UMB) is Utah Valley's premiere professional ballet company. UMB dancers are comprised of a talented and unique group of accomplished, professional performers from both national and international locations. They dance with passion and remarkable athleticism, providing a rich and diverse tapestry of artistic expression. Among UMB's many achievements are the premiere of twelve original full-length ballets. The company has toured extensively in China, Europe and throughout the United States, as well as performed at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. Performances are enhanced by the UMB orchestra, comprised of nearly 30 musicians led by award-winning conductor, Bryce Rytting.



Our Dancers

Utah Metropolitan Ballet's professional dancers are comprised of a talented and unique group of accomplished performers. **Our artists come from all walks of life, hailing from regions as far as Chile and Russia to everywhere in between.** They dance with passion and remarkable athleticism, providing a rich and diverse tapestry of artistic expression.



From the Director

Utah Metropolitan Ballet Founder and Artistic Director, Jacqueline P. Colledge, shares the touching and personal life journey which led her to create this beautiful company **that has enriched and elevated our community for 40 years!**



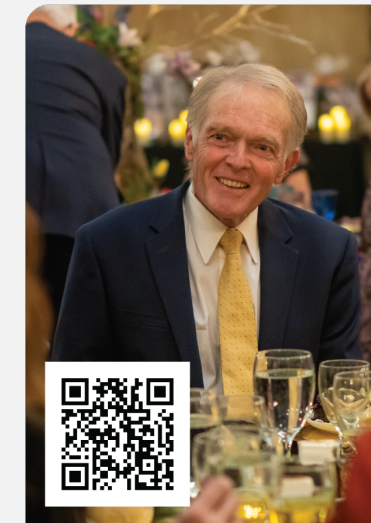
A Tradition of Excellence

Utah Metropolitan Ballet has been performing the beloved holiday favorite, Nutcracker, for over 40 years. **Learn more about this magical production!**



What We Give Back to the Community

Utah Metropolitan Ballet is committed to providing outreach opportunities through **lectures, workshops, and performances for students, families affected by autism, and other under-served communities.**



Corporate Partnerships

Corporate partners with Utah Metropolitan Ballet **enjoy increased marketing visibility, exclusive benefits, and strengthened community and employee engagement.**



What People are Saying

WANT A BACKSTAGE PASS?

VOLUNTEER

Get to know the ballet community on a personal level and experience what it's like to be back stage and behind the scenes with Utah Metropolitan Ballet.

Opportunities include, but are not limited to, committee assignments, staffing events and performances, and assisting in many behind the scenes tasks. Volunteer opportunities vary in hours, requirements, knowledge, and skill level. Volunteers will be sent more information about opportunities to serve throughout the year as needs arise.



Help promote the beauty of the arts in our community - sign up today!

Scan to learn more



SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS

DONATE

Your generosity can help support giveback initiatives across the state each year through our education and outreach programs as well as making it possible to bring the beauty of world-class ballet to our community through:

- **Free performances** for families affected by autism
- **Creative movement** workshops for children with autism
- **Free workshops** and performances for high school students throughout the state
- **Free and discounted performances** and education for elementary age school students
- **Opportunities** for young dancers to perform in professional ballets
- **Affordable pricing**



Help promote the beauty of the arts in our community - donate today!

Scan to learn more



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BEAU PEARSON PHOTOGRAPHY



For tickets & other information, please
scan QR Code to visit umballet.org

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