

UTAH  
METROPOLITAN  
BALLET

news

ISSUE N°1



04 SEASON  
ANNOUNCEMENT

16 FANTASTIC  
FEASTS

20 UMB'S NEW  
ORCHESTRA



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“When I have a room  
full of dancers, I have  
every possibility.”

Jacqueline P. Colledge  
UMB FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Message from the Director:  
[umballet.org/from-the-director](http://umballet.org/from-the-director)



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2021-22

# SEASON

**PROVO, UTAH, August 2021 - Utah Metropolitan Ballet Artistic Director Jacqueline P. Colledge announces the Company's 40th season** which features four full programs, beginning in October at the Covey Center for the Arts Theatre. "Even though our audience size was limited last year, we were very proud to be one of the few companies to present a full in-person season," said Colledge, "I am looking forward to this 40th anniversary season which promises continued beautiful choreography and stunning performances."

**SEASON TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE**

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October 8-9

# TRIBUTE

**The 2021-22 season begins on October 8-9 with Tribute.** This performance combines “Art and Heart” as we honor outstanding individuals whose hearts help make Utah Valley an exceptional place to live. Featuring the “Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux”, choreography by George Balanchine, staged by Stacey Calvert by permission™ Balanchine Trust, a new contemporary work by Ariel Wright, Heather Gray’s “Electric Noir”, and closing with an audience favorite, Alan Hines’s “Fünf” to the music of Erwin Schlegel. This celebratory evening will both inspire and entertain.

**TRIBUTE TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE**





December 10-21

## NUTCRACKER

December is a time for joy as your dreams come to life at *Nutcracker* - December 10-21. This re-imagined holiday favorite premiered in 2017 with sets and costume designs by Cassandra Barney. Whether you're seeing it for the first time or it's an annual treat, kick off your holiday season in grand style making memories to cherish with the ones you love.



March 3-5  
**COPPÉLIA**

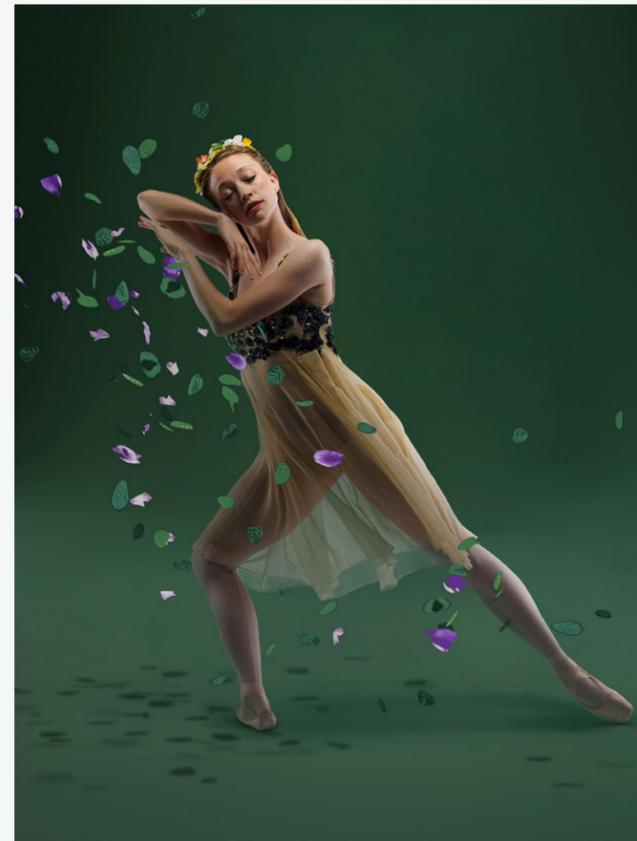
March 3-5 brings magic and mayhem as Utah Metropolitan Ballet presents *Coppélia*. This brilliant new production of a romantic and light hearted tale is sure to delight audiences.



April 7-9

## A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Hold onto your heart as Shakespeare's tale, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, rounds out the season on April 7-9. Enhanced by Mendelssohn's beautiful score, the audience is transported into an enchanted realm of fairies, mythical characters, and romance.



# GUEST ARTIST JOINS UMB FOR 2021-22 SEASON

**LINDON, UTAH, August 2021** - Utah Metropolitan Ballet is excited to welcome principal guest artist Sebastián Vinet for the 2021-2022 season.

Vinet was born in Santiago, Chile, where he trained at Escuela de Ballet del Teatro Municipal de Santiago. He moved to Houston to finish his training at Ben Stevenson Houston Ballet Academy.

In 2009, he joined the Houston Ballet and in 2010, the San Francisco Ballet.

Vinet's list of awards and professional activities is extensive. He has danced at international ballet galas all over the world. In 2009, he was one of the winners and an apprenticeship recipient at the Prix de Lausanne. Also in 2009, he appeared as a special guest dancer at the Grammy Awards.

In 2017 Vinet was the artistic director and creator of the first international ballet gala to be presented at the emblematic theater in Chile Teatro Oriente. In 2018, he was recognized as one of the best performances at the premier of FORTE in Melbourne, Australia. In 2020 he founded the digital show inter Mission, a production filmed on three continents and gathering some of ballet's biggest stars. The production raises money for the international charity Save The Children.



Most recently, Vinet was honored to be the youngest person in history to be invited to serve as a judge at the 2020 Prix de Lausanne competition in Switzerland.

Vinet began freelancing in 2019. "One of the reasons I wanted to become a freelancer after experiencing big companies is because I love meeting people," he said. "I love traveling. Each country, each city, each company, each school has something different to offer."

This past summer, Vinet was a guest teacher for the summer intensive at Jacqueline's School of Ballet. That led to an invitation from Jackie to join the company as a principal guest artist.

Jackie has followed Vinet's career and is thrilled to have him dance with company. "I think it will really elevate them and inspire them," she said.

## UMB Welcomes Four New Company Members

Vinet describes himself as a "workaholic" who loves his art. In addition to directing intermission and dancing around the world, he holds a parallel career in modeling, with brands such as Armani, Burberry, Newman, and Dolce and Gabbana in his portfolio.

He was attracted by the culture of UMB. "You feel an energy when you come work with Jackie and the school and the company." While the dancers work very hard to do a good job because the art of ballet demands that respect, at the same time there's a sense of trust for the work of the dancers. "That's something you can't take for granted."

Vinet will perform in all of UMB's productions and is looking forward to dancing for audiences in Utah. He will dance his first performance live on stage since Covid with UMB in October.

### **UMB welcomes four new company members.**

Matteo Garattoni hails from Cesena, Italy. He has been dancing since he was nine years old. He trained at The Washington School of Ballet under full scholarship, and has performed several leading roles with The Washington Ballet.

Renee Castonguay grew up in Huntington Beach, California, where she began training when she was five. Renee placed in the top 12 of her age division and was asked to dance at the YAGP NYC Finals, where she received the opportunity to dance on the Lincoln Center Stage. She has danced as a trainee with the Cincinnati Ballet, in the Colorado Ballet's second company, and with Ballet Des Moines.

Stephen Kessler began his training at Long Beach Ballet Academy at the age of seven. He performed with the Classical Ballet of Guangzhou China, traveling twice to China with Mr. Wilcox's Ballet Ambassadors to China Tour. He was selected to compete at the USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi and has also competed in Youth America Grand Prix and the Los Angeles Spotlight Awards. He trained on full scholarship at the Houston Ballet Academy.

Jackie is happy that more trainees from UMB II will be included this year. And she is very happy about the lineup of dancers. "I like my company because it has a lot of different types of dancers in it."

With the distinguished guest artists joining the company productions this year, Jackie said, "The caliber is so high... I think our audiences are going to love it."

Written by: Autumn Cook



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**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!

**SIGN UP TODAY**

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## 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 workshops and performances for Families Affected by Autism
- Free workshops and performances for high school students throughout the state
- Free and discounted performances for elementary age school students
- Opportunities for young dancers to perform in professional ballets
- Bringing live orchestra to every production
- Affordable pricing

**DONATE TODAY**



# Fantastic Feast and Festival

year 3  
The Escape

**October 18-19**

**Come to an enchanted castle with a feast** catered by the wizarding chef Hyrum Knapp. Join an interactive quest to win the house cup. Shop at the wizarding village for wizarding wares, wands, butter beer, and sweets! Exchange your green for gold at the wizard's bank to use as bribes, and be entered to win prizes!

**THIS YEAR ONLY...AN ESCAPE ROOM!**

**TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE**

## FOR WIZARDS & WITCHES OF ALL AGES



"We've been to the Ballet's Fantastic Feast every year, and are never disappointed. My kids are crazy about Harry Potter, so the highlight of their night was the wand maker, who helped them find the wand that 'chose them.' This event is truly geared for wizards and witches of all ages!"

- Chelsi Pulley



## STRAIGHT UP MAGIC

"This event is straight up MAGIC! I loved the butter beer, and the witches and wizards working at the village made the night so fun!"

- Andrew Morrill



## WE FELT LIKE WE WERE AT HOGWARTS

"I loved how interactive the night was - so cool! The food at the feast was delicious, and the castle was enchanting. We felt like we were at Hogwarts."

- Whitney Larsen



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# UTAH METROPOLITAN BALLET ADDS LIVE ORCHESTRA

**PROVO, UTAH, August 20, 2021** – Utah Metropolitan Ballet (UMB) is pleased to announce the formation of the Utah Metropolitan Ballet Orchestra. It will be directed by Dr. Bryce Rytting and provide live music for all of UMB’s classical performances.

The creation of a permanent orchestra advances a long-standing relationship between UMB and Rytting, who for over 20 years has conducted the orchestra for the ballet’s annual performance of *The Nutcracker*.

Jacqueline P. Colledge, founder and Artistic Director of UMB, said everyone in the company is excited to add a live orchestra to performances. When dancers are supported by the dynamic give and take of live music, their performances take on a greater level of vibrancy and expression.

“There’s nothing like it because it happens exactly at the moment. Everything looks fresh, it’s not over-rehearsed because it’s a collaboration. I’ve just seen them light up when they have the orchestra. Their dancing is on a much higher level because of that inspiration.”



Rytting has seen the same thing from his vantage point in the orchestra pit.

“They really enjoy having a real artistic collaboration with the musicians,” he said of the dancers. “If you’ve got a conductor and live musicians, then you can react to each other in real time. For instance,

I will conduct pieces at different speeds depending upon who the soloist is. Different dancers have different styles, and that will affect the way the music will go. So it’s nice for the dancers to feel that symbiosis.”

The orchestra will have about 30 players, which is the number that can fit in the orchestra pit at the Covey Center for the Performing Arts in Provo. Rytting, who will hold auditions in the near future, said it will

enhance the quality of performances to have a group of players who are used to each other and familiar with the ballets.

Colledge and Rytting have worked together to produce *The Nutcracker* every year since 1998. In 2019, he conducted a live orchestra for UMB’s performance of Colledge’s original

work, *Legend of Timpanogos*. Colledge thinks very highly of the conductor’s work and is excited about what their expanded collaboration will mean for the ballet company.

Rytting holds a B.S. from the University of Utah, a diploma from The Frankfurt Conservatory (Germany), and an MFA and PhD from Princeton University. He has taught at the Eastman School of Music and Brigham Young University. He currently teaches at Utah Valley University. He also conducts the Utah Valley Symphony.

When it comes to ballet, Rytting is enthusiastic about the way it ties physics and music together. As a conductor, he works with an internal sense of what he calls musical inertia and musical momentum.

“Dance, of course, is the ultimate embodiment of that. So I just really love teaming this primary way in which I experience music with actual people who are actually doing physics – leaping, landing, arcing through the air and making rhythm and flows and shapes with their bodies.”

“One of the things that makes me happiest is when I can tell that I’ve nailed a tempo that is working perfectly for the dancers. When that happens, I’m in heaven.”

This season, the new orchestra will play for performances of *The Nutcracker*, *Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *Coppelia*.

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Written by: Autumn Cook



# SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

Utah Metropolitan Ballet would like to thank  
Wadley Farms for their generous support.

*A family legacy that spans generations*

# WADLEY FARMS



**Nestled in the middle of our rapidly growing community sits our family farm** which has been here and farming for more than 150 years. We've seen most of our neighboring farms disappear and feel a great passion to preserve what is becoming lost. We take pride in caring for our land and sharing our fresh produce with our visitors and community.

# UTAH VALLEY IS HOME TO TOP INTERNATIONAL BALLET DANCER AND “OUTSTANDING DANCE SCHOOL.”

**LINDON, UTAH, July 2021** - Utah Metropolitan Ballet dancer and Pleasant Grove High School class of '22 Senior, Sylvie Squires, won the top individual honor of “First Place,” at the Youth American Grand Prix North America Finals, in Tampa, Florida on May 26, 2021. The Youth America Grand Prix is the world’s largest global network of dance and its premier dance competition provides opportunities for dancers to perform, learn, and receive scholarships. The field was narrowed down from thousands competing at regional competitions earlier this year to 132 finalists in the senior division (ages 15-20).

Sylvie Squires is part of a long legacy of professional ballet dancers in Utah. Her grandmother (Jacqueline Colledge), aunt (Heather Gray), and her mother (Brittnee Squires), all danced professionally with Ballet West as well as other prestigious professional ballet companies. They are also the very talented team behind Jacqueline’s School of Ballet, the official training school of Utah Metropolitan Ballet. Located in Lindon Utah, Ms. Colledge oversees the school she founded in 1985, Ms. Squires is the Director, and Ms. Gray is Co-Director of the Pre-Professional division. Ms. Colledge is also the artistic director and founder



of Utah Metropolitan Ballet, one of only two professional ballet companies in Utah.

Competing against 234 schools from around the world, Jacqueline’s School of Ballet, earned the top honor of “Outstanding School.” Through regional competitions, the school qualified to send 7 dancers and 2 ensembles of 14 dancers each to the final competition in Tampa. Hallie Jo Johnson and Olivia Newell, also advanced to the final round and were offered multiple scholarships. It is extremely rare for a school to have three dancers advance to the final round. The school also won second place



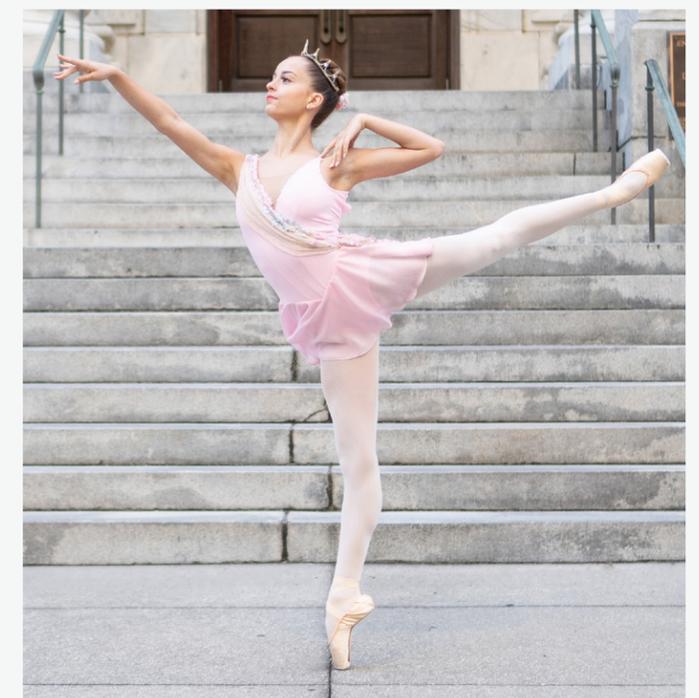
in the ensemble division with the piece, “Cortex,” choreographed by Ms. Gray.

At the awards ceremony the dancers were universally praised by the judges. One judge stated, “Ballet is 350 years old. It was invented in the French courts of King Louis the IV. It Survived Napoleon, the French Revolution, World Wars, and COVID, now in part because of you. You are now a part of the history of this art form. Thank you for keeping it alive. Thank you for your dedication, for practicing in your garages, your bedrooms...for taking classes over Zoom and with pets underfoot. You have shown an

even greater level of commitment this year and have excelled beyond our expectations.”

YAGP invited Sylvie to perform in the Genova Italy Festival in “The Stars of Today Meet the Stars of Tomorrow “ Gala this past July.

Sylvie plans to continue training with Jacqueline’s School of Ballet and performing with Utah Metropolitan Ballet while she finishes her Senior year at Pleasant Grove High School



Written by: Brittany Peterson

