

★  
**GRAINGER ACADEMY  
OF THE JOFFREY BALLET**

**GRAINGER ACADEMY OF  
THE JOFFREY BALLET PRESENTS THE**  
**SPRING PROGRAM**

★  
May 3–30, 2026  
Joffrey Tower | 10 E Randolph Street | Chicago, IL



## Dear Families, Friends, and Students,

### **Welcome to the 2026 Spring Program, featuring the students of the Grainger Academy of The Joffrey Ballet.**

The students participating in this year's performances range in age from 5 to 22, all at different points in their artistic journey. Whether they're stepping onto the stage of our Gerald Arpino Black Box Theater for the first time, or perhaps are graduating this year with us, we celebrate our students' accomplishments. In all disciplines of dance, it takes hours in the studio working on technique, artistry, musicality, posture, and expression to achieve this moment on stage, all the while trying to make it look effortless. However, we know the effort it takes from our incredible faculty who teach at the highest caliber to the families who juggle schedules to get their children here on time and ready for class. We appreciate you as we sit and watch the dedication of our students and their joy of dance. This is a special moment for all of us, and we share in your pride as you watch the next generations of dance.

Thank you for being here and enjoy the performance!

With gratitude and pride,



Suzanne Lopez,  
Abbott Academy Director  
Grainger Academy of The Joffrey Ballet



# SPRING PROGRAM



## WEEKEND ONE | MAY 3

Adaptive Program: May 3 at 3:00 PM

## WEEKEND TWO | MAY 7-10

Dance Lab Program: May 7 and 8 at 7:30 PM

Children's Program — Pre-Ballet and Boys' Dance A: May 9 at 10:30 AM

Children's Program — Pre-Ballet B: May 9 at 1:30 PM

Children's Program — Pre-Ballet C: May 9 at 4:30 PM

Children's Program — Ballet I, Ballet II, and Boys' Dance B: May 10 at 12:00 and 2:00 PM

## WEEKEND THREE | MAY 16-17

Pre-Professional Program: May 16 and 17 at 1:00 PM


Professional Training Programs: May 16 and 17 at 6:00 PM


## WEEKEND FOUR | MAY 29-30


Young Moves: May 29 at 7:30 PM

Contemporary Motions: May 30 at 1:00 and 3:30 PM

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# SPRING PROGRAM: WEEKEND THREE

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## PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

### ★ *Coppélia Waltz of the Hours*

Choreography by Arthur Saint-Léon

As staged by Jennifer Ingle-Grund

Music Composition by Léo Delibes

PERFORMED BY PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM — LEVEL V

### ★ *Alicante*

Choreography by Sasha Lazarus

Music Composition by HUGEL, Tom Enzy & Danny Roma x Manrix

PERFORMED BY PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM — LEVEL VI

### ★ *Excerpt from Giselle*

Choreography adapted from Marius Petipa

As staged by Meghann Mueller

Music Composition by Adolphe Adam

PERFORMED BY PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM — LEVEL III

### ★ *Crazy*

Choreography by Katie Rafferty & Sasha Lazarus

Music Composition by The Fly Boys

PERFORMED BY PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM — LEVEL IV

### ★ *They Told Us to Wait*

Choreography by Keesha Beckford

Music Composition by Saashwathi Prabhu and Amir Soi

PERFORMED BY THE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM — LEVELS V AND VI

### ★ *Polyanka*

Choreography by Jacqueline Farina, based on and inspired by Igor Moiseyev's Polyanka

Music Composition by Traditional Folk Music

PERFORMED BY THE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM — LEVEL III

★ Excerpts from *The Little Humped Back Horse*

Choreography by Cesar Pugh

As staged by Kenneth Easter

Music Composition by Arthur Saint-Léon

PERFORMED BY PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM — LEVEL IV

★ *Mexican Dance*

Choreography by Irina Ovsyannikova

Music Composition by El Balaju and Serenata Huasteca

PERFORMED BY PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM — LEVELS V AND VI

★ *As a Matter of Fact*

Choreography by Keesha Beckford

Music Composition by Rodrigo y Gabriela

PERFORMED BY PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM — LEVEL III

★ *Spanish Dance*

Choreography by Jacqueline Farina; Cape work by Kenneth Easter

Music Composition by Geronimo Gimenez

PERFORMED BY THE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM — LEVEL IV

★ *I Got Rhythm*

Choreography by Sasha Lazarus

Music Composition by Judy Garland

PERFORMED BY PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM — LEVEL V

★ *SIX2TANGO*

Choreography by Kenneth Easter

Music Composition by Astor Piazzolla

PERFORMED BY PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM — LEVEL VI

# PERFORMING ARTISTS



**PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM—LEVEL III** | Mabel Baker, Liliana Borggren, Camilla Conti, Norah Cuevas, Amaliah Guerrero, Delilah Gulbrandsen, Emily Jakola, Nieva Kaeding Valentine, Emmy Kao, Ruri Kishi, Elizabeth Lee, Cadence Ostrowski, Annette Paldy, Gia Perona, Alan Ruesch, Olivia Torres, Eloise Verma

**PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM—LEVEL IV** | Natalia Covington, Annie Jankovski, Sheppard Littrell, Penelope Mcallister, Francesca Pelc, Mira Caroline Price, Elle Stemler

**PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM—LEVEL V** | Jillia Aralis, Chloe Hazizi, Margaret Paldy, Lilah Raphael, Nanaka Wada

**PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM—LEVEL VI** | Myra Broederdorf, Serena Chang, Genevieve Demaret, Oliver Libke, Maya Shah, Melissa Yin

# SPRING PROGRAM: WEEKEND THREE



## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS

### ★ *The Fairy Doll*

Choreography by Sergey & Nikolay Legat

As staged by Oğulcan Borova and Raúl Casasola

Music Composition by Josef Bayer

**PERFORMED BY THE BALLET TRAINEE PROGRAM**

**MAY 16:** Elena Martinez Santamaria, Devin Griffith, William Hanford

**MAY 17:** Allyson Schmitt-Vallejo, Jacob Anderson, Naranbaatar Myagmarsuren

### ★ Excerpt from *Italian Suite*

Choreography by Gerald Arpino

As staged by Suzanne Lopez

Rehearsal Assistant: Karin Ellis-Wentz

Music Composition by Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari

**PERFORMED BY THE CONSERVATORY PROGRAM**

The performance of *Italian Suite*, an Arpino Ballet, is presented with permission of The Gerald Arpino Foundation and has been produced in accordance with the Foundation service standards established and provided by the Foundation.

### ★ *Heartstrings*

Choreography by Sophie Minouche Allen

Music Composition by Dexter Britain; Billie Holiday, Irving Hahal, Sammy Fain

**PERFORMED BY THE CONTEMPORARY BALLET TRAINEE PROGRAM**

**MAY 16:** Sophia Castellano, Ella Champion, Koko Chang, Amelie Rose Clyde, Charlotte Deike, Sophie Jacqueline Dupressoir, Aria Geye, Savannah Gibbs, Hannah Kreft, Lorraine Robinson, Abby Sanchez, Tatiyana Subotnik, Emma Terry, Clair-Elise Villaflor, Abigail Welenc

**MAY 17:** Sophia Castellano, Ella Champion, Koko Chang, Amelie Rose Clyde, Charlotte Deike, Sophie Jacqueline Dupressoir, Talula Estes, Aria Geye, Savannah Gibbs, Skyler Jarman, Hannah Kreft, Lorraine Robinson, Abby Sanchez, Tatiyana Subotnik, Emma Terry, Clair-Elise Villaflor, Abigail Welenc

## ★ *Le Corsaire*

Choreography by Marius Petipa

As staged by Oğulcan Borova and Raúl Casasola

Music Composition by Adolphe Adam

PERFORMED BY THE JOFFREY STUDIO COMPANY AND BALLET TRAINEE PROGRAM

**MAY 16:** Jiyoung Kang, Rowen Lindamood, Paul Rivard

**MAY 17:** Aoi Morohashi, Ireber Bilbao, Uzay Usta

## ★ *Hushed Power*

Choreography by Alexandra Schooling

Music Composition by Claude Debussy, Gregor Quendel, Christian Sinding,  
Anonymous Choir, and Chris Desien

PERFORMED BY THE CONSERVATORY PROGRAM

**MAY 16:** Paloma Bas, Georgia Blackwell, Zaria Johnson, Ariana Mendoza, Amelia Parkinson,  
Zoey Schmit, Luisa Suarez, Alizé Valencony, Adeline Vinson, Kate Waters, Gianna Zingone

**MAY 17:** Paloma Bas, Georgia Blackwell, Zaria Johnson, Mary Elizabeth Kurek,  
Ariana Mendoza, Amelia Parkinson, Zoey Schmit, Alizé Valencony, Adeline Vinson,  
Kate Waters, Gianna Zingone

## ★ *Variation from Paquita*

Choreography by Marius Petipa

As staged by Kenneth Easter and Karin Ellis-Wentz

PERFORMED BY DAICHI HOSHINO FROM THE CONSERVATORY PROGRAM

## ★ *Fractals*

Choreography by James Gowan

Music Composition by Hanna Ekström

PERFORMED BY THE CONTEMPORARY BALLET TRAINEE PROGRAM

**MAY 16:** Sophia Castellano, Koko Chang, Amelie Rose Clyde, Aria Geye, Lorraine Robinson,  
Abby Sanchez, Emma Terry, Abigail Welenc

**MAY 17:** Ella Champion, Sophie Jacqueline Dupressoir, Talula Estes, Savannah Gibbs,  
Skyler Jarman, Hannah Kreft, Tatiyana Subotnik, Clair-Elise Villaflor

## ★ *La Esmeralda*

Choreography by Marius Petipa

As staged by Oğulcan Borova and Raúl Casasola

Music Composition by Cesare Pugni

PERFORMED BY THE JOFFREY STUDIO COMPANY AND BALLET TRAINEE PROGRAM

### MAY 16:

**Principal Couple:** Cassidy Leishman, William Hanford

**Esmeralda Variation:** HannahJane Case

**Soloist Couples:** Sophia Longid, Xiao Ortega Valverde, Kross Michaels,  
Max Prince-Rosenberg

**Pas de Quatre:** Elsa Herr, Millicent Huang, Olivia Jalandoon, Ava Kinzler

**Men's Duet:** Kross Michaels, Max Prince-Rosenberg

**Corps:** Makenzie Agdeppa, Jennifer Firschein, Alexiane Fivaz, Leah Hillman,  
Millicent Huang, Madeline Kobayashi, Audrey Lyons, Natalie Moon, Meghan Ong,  
Julia Pack, Zosia Penhershki, Ashlie Rohan, Emma Tomlinson, Reilly VerSchure, Ivy Zigler,  
Rachel Zwieschowski

### MAY 17:

**Principal Couple:** Rose Grim, Paul Rivard

**Esmeralda Variation:** Aiko Arakaki

**Soloist Couples:** Aiko Arakaki, Elsa Herr, Hugo Levine, Max Prince-Rosenberg

**Pas de Quatre:** Alexiane Fivaz, Ashlie Rohan, Emma Tomlinson, Rachel Zwieschowski

**Men's Duet:** Hugo Levine, Max Prince-Rosenberg

**Corps:** Makenzie Agdeppa, Jennifer Firschein, Alexiane Fivaz, Leah Hillman,  
Millicent Huang, Olivia Jalandoon, Madeline Kobayashi, Audrey Lyons, Natalie Moon,  
Georgia Neal, Julia Pack, Zosia Penhershki, Ashlie Rohan, Emma Tomlinson, Reilly VerSchure,  
Ivy Zigler

# PERFORMING ARTISTS



**JOFFREY STUDIO COMPANY** | Ireber Bilbao, HannahJane Case, Rose Grim, Jiyoung Kang, Cassidy Leishman, Rowan Lindamood, Aoi Morohashi, Paul Rivard

**BALLET TRAINEE PROGRAM** | Makenzie Agdeppa, Jacob Anderson, Gael Arturo Andrade Rodriguez, Aiko Arakaki, Jennifer Firschein, Alexiane Fivaz, Olivia Friedman-Blixt, Devin Griffith, Meghan Gutowski, William Hanford, Elsa Herr, Leah Hillman, Millicent Huang, Olivia Jalandoon, Ava Kinzler, Madeline Kobayashi, Jake Lapham, Hugo Levine, Sophia Longid, Audrey Lyons, Elena Martinez Santamaria, Sydney McAllister-Bowen, Kross Michaels, Natalie Moon, Naranbaatar Myagmarsuren, Georgia Neal, Meghan Ong, Xiao Ortega Valverde, Julia Pack, Zosia Penhersi, Max Prince-Rosenberg, Ashlie Rohan, Allyson Schmitt-Vallejo, Emma Tomlinson, Uzay Usta, Reilly VerSchure, Ivy Zigler, Rachel Zwieschowski

**CONTEMPORARY BALLET TRAINEE PROGRAM** | Sophia Castellano, Ella Champion, Koko Chang, Amelie Rose Clyde, Charlotte Deike, Sophie Jacqueline Dupressoir, Talula Estes, Aria Geye, Savannah Gibbs, Skyler Jarman, Hannah Kreft, Lorraine Robinson, Abby Sanchez, Tatiyana Subotnik, Emma Terry, Clair-Elise Villaflor, Abigail Welenc

**CONSERVATORY PROGRAM** | Paloma Bas, Georgia Blackwell, Daichi Hoshino, Zaria Johnson, Mary Elizabeth Kurek, Ariana Mendoza, Amelia Parkinson, Zoey Schmit, Luisa Suarez, Alizé Valencony, Adeline Vinson, Kate Waters, Gianna Zingone

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Rowan Lindamood | *Mr. and Mrs. Ronald V. Waters III*

Aoi Morohashi | *Marjorie Staples*

Paul Rivard | *Lorna Ferguson and Terry Clark, Luminarts Cultural Foundation*

## BALLET TRAINEE PROGRAM

Devin Griffith | *Eric B. Eatherly Memorial Scholarship*

Meghan Gutowski | *Maureen Dwyer Smith Scholarship*

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Ashlie Rohan | *Joanna Hwu*

Xiao Ortega Valverde | *Liz Boshardy Memorial Scholarship*

## CONSERVATORY PROGRAM

Luisa Suarez | *Liz Boshardy Memorial Scholarship*

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# 2026 FALL AND YEAR-ROUND REGISTRATION

Priority Registration Begins June 24 | Open Registration Begins July 8



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Joffrey Company Artists Victoria Jaiani and Alberto Velazquez. Photo by Todd Rosenberg.



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Joffrey Company Artist Gayeon Jung in *The Sleeping Beauty*. Photo by Carolyn McCabe.

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