GRAINGER ACADEMY
OF THE JOFFREY BALLET

GRAINGER ACADEMY OF
THE JOFFREY BALLET PRESENTS THE

FALL PROGRAM

November 13–15, 2026

Joffrey Tower | 10 E Randolph Street | Chicago, IL



Dear Academy Families, Students, Supporters, and Guests,

Welcome to the 2026 Fall Program. Today, more than 100 students from our Pre-Professional, Conservatory, Ballet Trainee, and Contemporary Ballet Trainee Programs, as well as the Joffrey Studio Company, bring months of focused work to the stage. Preparing for performance sharpens a student's technique and builds stamina. It also develops artistry and the camaraderie that comes from working toward a shared goal. We find these opportunities incredibly valuable for students, and we know you will be as impressed as we are by their achievements.

Our Pre-Professional and Conservatory students will perform excerpts of *La Bayadère,* arranged by department head Karin Ellis-Wentz. This focus on classical ballet during these formative years lays the foundation for future careers in dance. New works by former Winning Works choreographers and current Grainger Academy Teaching Artists Alexandra Schooling and Taylor Carrasco give students firsthand experience in the creative process while advancing our commitment to emerging artists. And that's only a glimpse of what you'll see in this wonderful program!

Performances like the Fall Program show our students' growth, not only as dancers, but as artists and people. Their dedication shines through in every movement. Thank you for joining us—enjoy the performance.

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



Cover: Photo by Cheryl Mann. **Page 2:** Photo by Carolyn McCabe.

FALL PROGRAM

Friday, November 13, 7:30 PM CT
Saturday, November 14, 1:00 PM CT & 6:00 PM CT
Sunday, November 15, 2:00 PM CT

joffrey.org/GraingerAcademy
@graingeracademyjoffrey



Photo by Cheryl Mann.

FALL PROGRAM

✶ Act I Waltz from *Swan Lake*

Choreography by Oğulcan Borova, Marius Petipa, and David McAllister
Staging by Oğulcan Borova and Raúl Casasola
Music Composition by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Performed by the Ballet Trainees — Blue Group

✶ *Off The Tip Of An Angel's Wing*

Choreography and Staging by Katlin Michael Bourgeois
Rehearsal Assistance by Racquel Mar
Music Composition by Cosmo Sheldrake
Performed by the Contemporary Ballet Trainees

✶ *Firebird Suite*

Choreography and Staging by Alexandra Schooling
Music Composition by Igor Stravinsky
Performed by the Joffrey Studio Company and Ballet Trainees — Red Group

✶ *La Bayadère Suite*

Choreography After Marius Petipa
Staging by Karin Ellis-Wentz (Conservatory, Ballet Trainees); Kenneth Easter (Pre-Pro IV and VI); Alexandra Schooling (Pre-Pro V); Meaghann Mueller (Pre-Pro III)
Music Composition by Ludwig Minkus
Performed by the Pre-Professional, Conservatory, and Ballet Trainee Programs

✶ Excerpts from *The Comedians*

Choreography and staging by Taylor Carrasco
Music Composition by Dimitri Kabalevsky
Performed by the Joffrey Studio Company and Ballet Trainees — Red Group

ARTISTS

JOFFREY STUDIO COMPANY | Ireber Bilbao, Yuki Chikai, Jake Cohen, Jack Guitreau, Jordan Henry, Elliot Jacob, Jiyoung Kang, Elena Martinez Santamaria, Allyson Schmitt-Vallejo

BALLET TRAINEE PROGRAM | Makenzie Agdeppa, Nolan Alcott, Aiko Arakaki, Emerson Barnes, Noe Calleja, Adien Carmichael, Luciana Victoria Choy Lu, Samantha Ciske, Rowan Craske, Kelby Farnsworth, Olivia Flanyak, Tess Gottschall, Devin Griffith, Leah Hillman, Olivia Jalandoon, Zaria Johnson, Jessica Latto, Audrey Lyons, Kross Michaels, Alta Millhollin, Grant Milne, Natalie Moon, Lyla Oakeson, Meghan Ong, Julia Pack, Charlotte Park, Max Prince-Rosenberg, Ashlie Rohan, Ruby Rosenquist, Isabela Saraiva, Selene Schwartzman, Sabina Shriver, Jackson Stillman, Rico Takahashi, Abigail Tallman, Adeline Vinson, Kate Waters Barcena, Meguru Yasui, Ivy Zigler, Gianna Zingone, Rachel Zwieschowski

CONTEMPORARY BALLET TRAINEE PROGRAM | Karli Babineau, Hannah Brandt, Koko Chang, Audrey Domingo, Ava Elliot, Aria Geye, Savannah Gibbs, Chloe Hogan, Megan Malone, Scarlett Mueller, Lara Murphy, Madison Niese, Lorraine Robinson, Ella Tonseth, Clair-Elise Villaflor, Isabella Wei, Abigail Welenc, Anni Wu

CONSERVATORY PROGRAM | Munkhtulga Batmunkh, Georgia Blackwell, Myra Broederdorf, Alina Djordjevic, Katie Fuhrmann, Ariana Mendoza, Mari Million, Amelia Parkinson, Owen Petersen, Charlize Rosario, Arlie Sathyamoorthy, Lily Sawickij, Zoey Schmit, Samantha Storms

PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM—LEVEL VI | Serena Chang, Chloe Hazizi, Nanaka Wada, Melissa Yin

PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM—LEVEL V | Jillia Aralis, Jenna Barber, Natalia Covington, Margaret Paldy, Francesca Pelc, Lilah Raphael, Bailey Scribner

PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM—LEVEL IV | Mabel Baker, Camilla Conti, Norah Cuevas, Scarlett Diol, Emily Jakola, Nieva Kaeding Valentine, Cadence Ostrowski, Annette Paldy, Gia Perona, Mira Caroline Price, Elle Stemler

PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM—LEVEL III | Aracelie Aguilar, Lilly DeForest, Lyla Foster, Amaliah Guerrero, Delilah Gulbrandsen, Ruri Kishi, Elin Kranz, Alan Ruesch, Olivia Torres, Eloise Verma

SPECIAL THANKS

The Joffrey Ballet would like to thank lead supporter of Grainger Academy scholarships: **The Grainger Foundation**

We also extend our thanks to the following:

Scholarship Sponsors

Liz Boshardy Memorial Scholarship
Eric B. Eatherly Memorial Scholarship
Richard Ellis and Christine DuBoulay Ellis Scholarship
Lorna Ferguson and Terry Clark
Joanna Hwu
Lefkofsky Family Foundation
Luminarts Cultural Foundation and Cherilyn G. Murer
The John Palatinus and Jack Alexander Memorial Scholarship
Rose L. Shure and Sidney N. Shure Endowed Scholarship
Maureen Dwyer Smith Scholarship
Marjorie Staples
Jeanette Stevens
Stephanie Thierer and Connor Still
The Trachtenberg Family Charitable Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald V. Waters III

Academy and Scholarship Supporters

Anonymous (2)
Rachel and Jeremy Bartunek
Edward B. Beam, Jr. in Loving Memory of John Palatinus and Jack Alexander
D. Jeffrey† and Joan H. Blumenthal
In Memory of John and Marilyn Brazzale
Sean Breedlove
Rebecca Coke and Chris Beukenkamp
Jackie Fischel
Nancy Follis
Alyssa Glass
Michelle Goodman and Larry J. Goodman, MD
Martin John Gorbien, MD
Sandra Henley
Yessica Herrera
Lauren Huefner
Lissette Cortes Lade and David Lade
Liz and Eric Lefkofsky
Lucy and Ken Lehman
Jay Byron Leibovitz in loving memory of Eric B. Eatherly
Ms. Linda Levey
Elizabeth Marcus and Ira Belcove
Scott McCausland
Dr. Elaine Moor
Drs. Marsha and Robert† Mrtek
Jamin and Phoebe Nixon
Barbara Provus and Fred Wackerle
Barbara and Sam Psimoulis
Matilda Rose (and her family)
Heidi Schultz
Mrs. Marjorie Staples
Jeffrey Mitchell Wojciechowski
Roger Chang and Emily Yang

Maureen Dwyer Smith Scholarship Supporters

Mr.† and Mrs. Brian W. Babcock, Sr.
Mary Jo and Doug Basler
Patti S. Eylar and Charles R. Gardner
Mr. and Mrs. William Farley
Ms. Sharon K. Hoge
Marci and Ronald Holzer
ITW
Marcie Lape and Andy Raia
The Northern Trust Company
Barbara E. Reed
Jennifer Zobair and Chuck Smith
Mr. Edward B. Smith, Jr.
Liz Stiffel
Pamela and Russ Strobel
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Townsend

THE GRAINGER ACADEMY OF THE JOFFREY BALLET

Ashley Wheater MBE, The Mary B. Galvin Artistic Director
Greg Cameron, President and CEO
Suzanne Lopez, Abbott Academy Director
Keesha Beckford, Dance Lab Program Liaison
Oğulcan Borova, Head of Studio Company and Ballet Trainee Program
Katlin Michael Bourgeois, Head of Contemporary Ballet Trainee Program
Brianna Brandon, Academy Managing Director
Alex Bray, Academy Marketing and Communications Coordinator
Jason Butler, Academy Registrar and Student Life Manager
Raúl Casasola, Head of the Adult Division and Principal Teacher
Karin Ellis-Wentz, Head of Conservatory Program and Pre-Professional Program
Amy Giancarlo, Head of Children's Program
Meghann Mueller, Adaptive Program Liaison
Hannah Ogunnubi, Academy Production Coordinator
Megan Peters, Student Services Specialist
Mary Swansburg, Academy Services Associate
Evan Wilhite, Lead Academy Services Associate

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS AND PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM FACULTY

Catie Armbrecht, Victoria Barlow, Katie Bartels, Keesha Beckford, Taylor Carrasco, Idy Ciss, Kenneth Easter, Jacqueline Farina, James Gowan, Jennifer Grund, Stacy Keller, Racquel Mar, Tom Mattingly, Meghann Mueller, Irina Ovsyannikova, Anne O'Donnell Passero, Katie Rafferty, Christina Salerno, Alexandra Schooling, Deanna Stetsura, Martin Ortiz Tapia, Kara Zimmerman

GRAINGER ACADEMY ACCOMPANISTS

Maralgua Darjaa, Benjamin Gamze, Joshua Guy, Wilson Hicken, Lisa Krueger, Nataliya Kushnir, John Mannos, Andrew Milliken, Kyle Nelson, Gretel Rodriguez, Tommy Sagins, Jonathan Schang, Elena Stavropoulos, Patricia Spaeth, Vera Vasilenko

PROGRAM PHOTO CREDITS Cheryl Mann

Ashley Wheater MBE, The Mary B. Galvin Artistic Director
Greg Cameron, President and CEO
Suzanne Lopez, Abbott Academy Director

Grainger Academy of The Joffrey Ballet is the only training program owned, operated or endorsed by The Joffrey Ballet. The Joffrey Ballet is not affiliated with any other dance training or school program, including the Joffrey Ballet School in New York. The Grainger Academy, located in the Exelon Education Center at Joffrey Tower in Chicago, Illinois is the only school that follows the organizational mission, training syllabi, and artistic vision of The Joffrey Ballet. No other program, including those holding the Joffrey name, is sanctioned by The Joffrey Ballet. For more information, please contact Joffrey Reception at 312.784.4600.

OFFICIAL PROVIDER OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

ATHLETICO PHYSICAL THERAPY