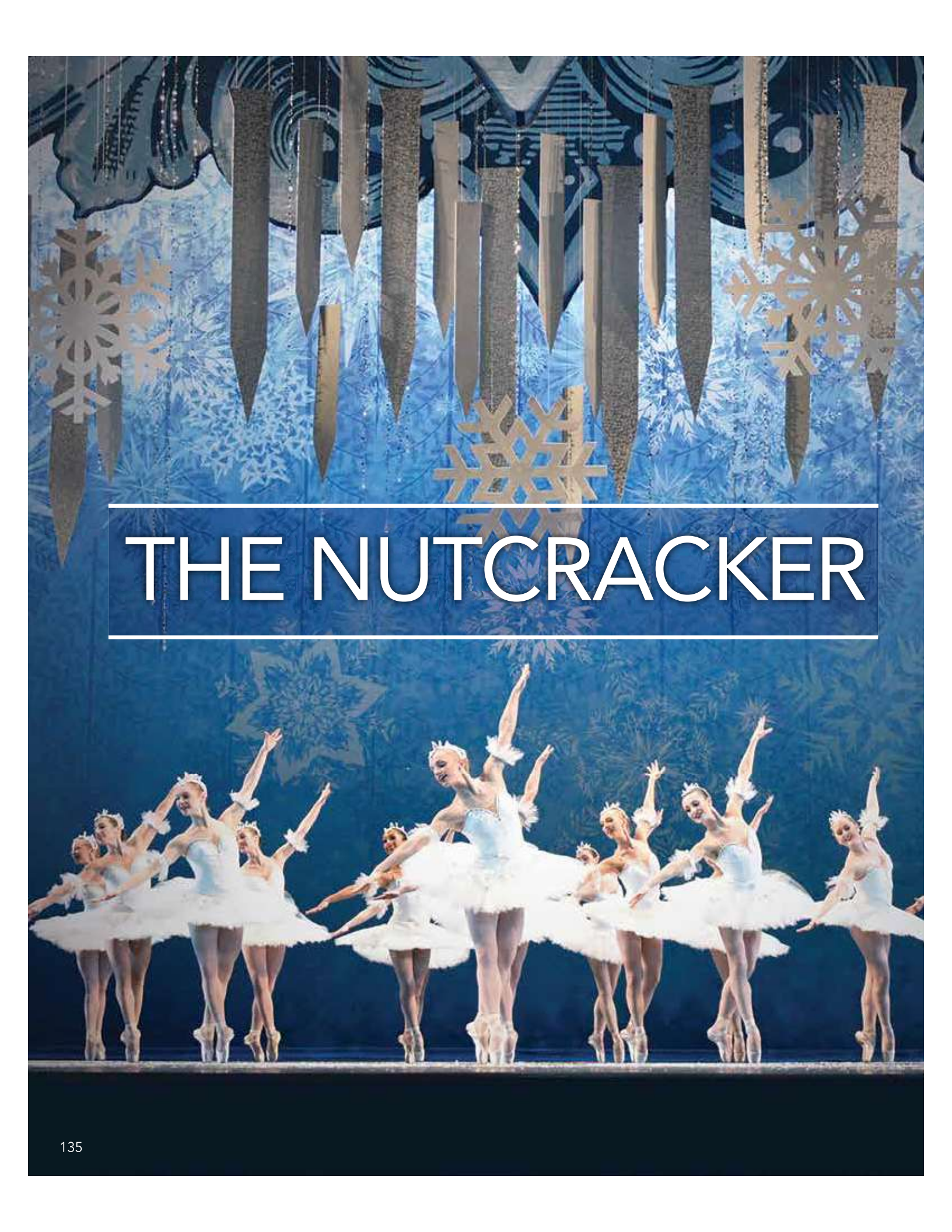


A stage performance of The Nutcracker. In the foreground, a line of ballerinas in white tutus and crowns are performing a synchronized dance. The background is a deep blue with large, stylized white snowflakes. Numerous gold, pointed, icicle-like decorations hang from the top of the stage. The title 'THE NUTCRACKER' is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the middle of the image.

THE NUTCRACKER

Fri.
NOV. 27

at 2:00pm & 7:00pm

Sat.
NOV. 28

at 2:00pm & 7:00pm

Sun.
NOV. 29

at 2:00pm

Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts

Thomas Wilson *conductor*
University of Oklahoma School of Dance
Principals from Oklahoma City Ballet
Colorado Springs Children's Chorale
Student dancers from the Pikes Peak region

Step into a realm of holiday magic this Thanksgiving with Clara, the Sugar Plum Fairy, and the wicked Mouse King. Tchaikovsky's magical score takes the stage with the University of Oklahoma School of Dance and Colorado Springs Children's Chorale.

Tchaikovsky *The Nutcracker*

Act 1

- I. Overture: Toy Shop
- II. The Christmas Party
- III. The Battle
- IV. Land of the Snow

Act 2

- I. The Kingdom of the Sugar Plum Fairy
- II. Divertissements
 - Spanish
 - Papillon
 - Ribbon Dance
 - Trepak
 - Marzipan
 - Mother Ginger
- III. Waltz of the Flowers
- IV. Grande Pas De Deux: Adagio

Season presented by:



Presented by:



Lodging provided by:



Colorado Springs Philharmonic Guild



Visit the Nutcracker Boutique in the lobby at all five performances

The Nutcracker

90 minutes

Act One

It's Christmas Eve in a small, snow-covered German village where the Stahlbaum family is having a holiday party. Herr Drossylmeyer, an old toy maker and Stahlbaum family friend, is in his workshop making last minute touch-ups on a beautiful, handcrafted Nutcracker. Hans, Drossylmeyer's nephew and young apprentice, watches and assists his mentor. Meanwhile, back at the Stahlbaum home, Clara and brother Fritz are very excited about the festivities. The maids and the butler are working to be sure everything is prepared and Mr. and Mrs. Stahlbaum are tending to their dress.

Fritz and Clara have a wonderful time dancing and playing with friends. Herr Drossylmeyer and Hans arrive at the party. They bring gifts for everyone, including magical life-size dolls that dance and amaze all the guests. Drosselmeyer saves the best for last - the magical Nutcracker doll that he presents to Clara. Clara is enthralled by her gift and dances with the wooden toy. Out of jealousy, Fritz breaks the Nutcracker, but Drossylmeyer is able to fix him with a little magic.

Later that night, after all the guests have gone home and the Stahlbaum family has gone to bed, Clara sneaks back downstairs to check on her Nutcracker. She finds him resting on the settee. There are strange noises everywhere! Suddenly giant mice fill the room and begin to chase Clara.

The living room is magically transformed into a battleground between giant mice and toy soldiers. Clara finds that her toy Nutcracker has come to life and is fighting to save her from the evil Mouse King. As the battle rages, Clara sees that the Mouse King is winning! Clara hits the Mouse King on the head with her shoe. This distracts the Mouse King, and the Nutcracker heralds the final blow.

Clara is distraught and faints from the commotion. When she awakens, she has grown and her beloved Nutcracker has magically transformed into a handsome prince. It is Hans, the young boy whom she met at the party! Clara and Hans travel through a winter wonderland, where they are greeted by dancing snowflakes. There they begin their magical journey.

Act Two

Prince Hans and Clara arrive in the Land of the Sweets where angels have blessed the path before them. The Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier greet the couple and introduce them to delectable treats and toys. Clara and Hans tell the story of their battle with the Mouse King. As a reward for her bravery, the Sugar Plum Fairy gives Clara her magic wand. In celebration, everyone dances for Clara and Hans. The exquisite Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier dance last and capture Clara's heart with their dazzling performance. They all dance one last grand finale, until at last it is time for Clara to return home. Everyone

bids her farewell as she and her Nutcracker prince fly away on their magical bird.

Clara awakens and finds herself back in her own home. Before she goes to bed, she runs to get her beloved Nutcracker. As she does, she finds on the floor the glittering magic wand that was given to her by the Sugar Plum Fairy and she wonders: *Was it all a dream?*



In 1961, Ballet Russe De Monte Carlo principals Miguel Terekhov and Yvonne Chouteau were invited to "teach a few classes" at the University of Oklahoma. Response to these classes was overwhelming, and Terekhov was subsequently invited to develop the Department of Dance. In 1976, Kozaburo Yukihiro joined the department and worked with Terekhov to develop the curricula for a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Modern Dance.

The program quickly rose to national prominence and cemented a reputation for the strong performance capabilities and professionalism of its graduates. In recognition of its growth in national stature and rankings, the Department of Dance was elevated to the School of Dance in 1998 under the direction of Mary Margaret Holt.

From its inception, the school has been performance-oriented and now boasts two active performing companies. Oklahoma Festival Ballet has a repertoire of over 50 ballets, and Contemporary Dance Oklahoma performs a variety of original works. Both companies perform works from the national repertoire.



Michael Bearden

DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA SCHOOL OF DANCE

Michael Bearden

Michael Bearden is the third Director of the University of Oklahoma School of Dance, which was founded in 1963 by Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo dancers Miguel Terekhov and Yvonne Chouteau. Prior to joining OU, he was the Artistic Director of Ballet Arkansas and an Assistant Professor at the University of Utah. Mr. Bearden was a Principal Dancer with Ballet West in Salt Lake City and had a career of 14 years with the company touring across the United States and the world. Michael performed leading roles in works by some of the world's greatest choreographers including Balanchine, Ashton, Tudor, Forsythe, Stevenson, Welch, Dove, Tetley, Sharp, Kylian, and Christopher Bruce. As a choreographer, Mr. Bearden has created or staged his works for Ballet West, the University of Utah, Brigham Young University, the University of Cincinnati, Belhaven University, Texas Christian University and Bucknell University.



Lloyd Cracknell

COSTUME DESIGNER

Lloyd Cracknell

Lloyd Cracknell, originally from Cambridge, England, is the associate professor of Costume Design and resident Costume Designer at the University of Oklahoma. Lloyd's career includes both costume and fashion design, working for prestigious design houses including The Emanuels and Versace. Lloyd's designs have been seen in London, New York, Paris, Milan, and South America. He was invited to exhibit his costume designs at the World Creativity Forum in Cardiff, Wales in 2010. Lloyd has costume designed in all genres of the performing arts, including drama, opera, classical ballet, modern dance and musical theatre. He has designed costumes for over a hundred productions, including over

forty for OU's University Theatre. Highlights include: *The Pearl Fishers (Reimagined)*; *Grand Hotel The Musical*; *Swan Lake Act II*; *Harlequinade*; *The Nutcracker*; *Falstaff*; *Gianni Schicchi*; *Is he Dead?*; *Mary Stuart*; and the U.S.A. premiere of *Let the Right One In*.

Lloyd Cracknell's notable awards include the 2023 USITT-SW Oscar Brockett Teaching Award and the 2020 Irene and Julian J. Rothbaum Professor of Excellence in the Arts Award. He has also received the USITT-SW Mildred and Glen Martin Jr. Award for Outstanding Service. Additional recognition includes the DFW Theatre Critics Forum Award for Best Design Team (2015, 2017), the Theatre Jones Best Costume Design Runner-up Award (2015), and the Kennedy Center American College Theater Award (2010). In 2021, he won the Broadway World Oklahoma Award for Best Costume Design for *Pride and Prejudice*.

SET DESIGNER, OKLAHOMA CITY BALLET

Gregory Crane

Gregory R. Crane is an Emmy Award-winning set designer on the Oklahoma Centennial Spectacular which featured a cast of hundreds and numerous headline performances including Toby Keith, The All American Rejects, The Flaming Lips, Blake Shelton, and Reba McEntire.

Having completed designs for over 180 productions, he had the privilege of designing for such companies as Six Flags Theme Parks, the Dallas Cowboys, Herschend Family Entertainment, Royal Productions, Fee Hedrick Family Entertainment Group, and Corporate Magic.

In conjunction with Corporate Magic, Crane has designed many high-energy corporate events for Mazda, Rite Aid Pharmacies, the Dallas Cowboys, Miller Lite, Salvation Army, Whataburger, and Prudential Real Estate.

Recently Crane's designs have been featured in the internationally famous Dallas Cowboys - Salvation Army Thanksgiving Day Halftime Show on FOX starring Enrique Iglesias (2011). He has also designed for past performers Keith Urban (2010), Daughtry (2009), The Jonas Brothers (2008), Kelly Clarkson (2007), Carrie Underwood (2006), Sheryl Crow (2005), and the 2004 Halftime Show starring Destiny's Child. In 2010 Crane designed the opening to the Tournament of Roses Parade on ABC, the Super Bowl XLV Press Conference 2010, and the BSA 2010 National Scout Jamboree – Celebrating 100 years and featuring Mike Rowe and Switchfoot (Winner 2011 Excellence in Live Design Award for Corporate Events). In addition, his work has been seen on CBS, NBC, ESPN, HGTV, Univision, and PBS/OETA.

In 2011, Crane unveiled his new set design for *The Tournament of Kings* at the Excalibur Resort and Casino in Las Vegas and a Christmas themed amusement park in Tennessee. Other memorable projects include: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at The Miracle Theater, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Encore*, *The Smoky Mountain Opry*,

COSTUME DESIGNER, OKLAHOMA CITY BALLET

Susanne Hubbs

Susanne Hubbs has been designing and sewing costumes for dancers, figure skaters, and synchronized swimmers for 35 years. Her costumes have been worn by hundreds of Youth America Grand Prix competitors, as well as many elite international figure skaters. Tutus designed and created by Hubbs have been featured in Pointe Magazine in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2013. Other ballet designs were created for and worn by the Brandywine Ballet, St. Lucie Ballet, Imagine Ballet Theatre, Ballet Nouveau Colorado, and Oklahoma City Ballet.

Hubbs collaborated for many years with the choreographers and dancers of Ormao in Colorado Springs, creating hundreds of innovative contemporary dance costumes.

She started ballet training at the age of five, continuing to perform with the Olympia Festival Ballet, the American Jazz Dance Company, Dayton Ballet and Dayton Ballet II, Alaska Dance Theatre, and Ballet Alaska. She received the "Young Choreographer's" award from Regional Dance America in 1983. Additionally, Hubbs has been teaching ballet for 37 years, with students going on to prestigious college dance programs and professional careers in dance.

Today, her design studio is a bustling creative space, located in Colorado Springs at the foot of Pikes Peak, where the mountains provide her with daily inspiration.



ARTISTIC COORDINATOR/CONDUCTOR

Abigail Gast

COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

David Acton and Nicholas Watterson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Marcia Hendricks

The Colorado Springs Children's Chorale is now in its 47th season of musical excellence in the choral arts for youth serving all corners of the Pikes Peak Region. Groups from the Children's Chorale perform locally, nationally, and internationally serving as musical ambassadors from Colorado Springs. Their fun, fast-paced, and musically impressive performances are a hallmark of the organization and are treasured by those who hear them.

"Recently I had the privilege once again to work with the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale.... what an incredible group of young singers. Their expressivity, musicality and passion is inspirational! Each time I heard them perform, I was moved by their connection with the audience artistically." Henry Leck, conductor, composer, and author.

The Chorale's musical excellence has earned them national recognition as one of the country's outstanding children's choirs and first place awards from numerous international choir festivals. In the United States, the choirs of the Children's Chorale have been honored to be guest performers at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, the Lincoln Center, and several times at Carnegie Hall. The Colorado Springs Children's Chorale has received the El Pomar Award for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities for the state of Colorado, the Mayor's International Award for International Outreach, and has been honored to receive several awards from the Pikes Peak Arts Council.

Colorado Springs Children's Chorale is thrilled to return to another year of Nutcracker performing with the wonderful Colorado Springs Philharmonic. Nutcracker heralds the beginning of a magical holiday season which finds the Children's Chorale all over the region spreading holiday cheer through song.

**Special thanks to
CIVA Charter High School,
who donates their space for
auditions and all rehearsals.**





Thomas Wilson

Associate Conductor

Thomas Wilson is one of today's most versatile and dynamic musicians, celebrated as a conductor, composer, orchestrator, and trumpeter. His extensive catalog of works and arrangements has been performed worldwide, creating new opportunities for orchestras and artists alike. His orchestrations have been heard with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Gothenburg Symphony, and dozens of other ensembles.

As Associate Conductor of the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, Thomas leads nearly half the season across Pops, Classical, and educational concerts, and often joins the trumpet section when not on the podium. He also serves as Music Director of the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs, transforming it into one of the nation's most vibrant chamber ensembles. Under his leadership, the orchestra has earned national recognition for bold, and diverse programming.

Education is at the heart of Thomas's work. He has conducted the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony, founded the Young Concert Artists Orchestra, and continues to mentor young musicians as a guest conductor, clinician, and faculty member at Colorado College and the Colorado Springs Conservatory.

Equally at home in the concert hall, theater, or opera house, Thomas has collaborated on countless projects in dance, film, and stage. Recent productions such as *Blind Injustice* and *Glory Denied* highlight his dedication to making the arts vital and relevant to contemporary audiences.

A summa cum laude graduate of the University of Northern Colorado, where he received the School of Music's highest honor, Thomas also holds a master's degree in Conducting from Colorado State University. He has studied with leading mentors including Lawrence Leighton Smith, Gustav Meier, and Michael Tilson Thomas, who described him as "someone to watch." Away from the podium, Thomas is a lifelong learner and adventurer. He is a voracious reader, a classic car enthusiast, and happiest exploring Colorado trails with his beloved dog, Ella.