

A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC AND DANCE™

AN EVENING AT THE

Ballet

- symphonic program -

Mireille Favarel & Ronald Foster, Artistic Directors | Ronald Foster, Conductor | Yumelia Garcia & Randy Crespo, Dancers

Mireille Favarel

Mireille Favarel was born in Toulon, France. After studying with Rosella Hightower at the Centre de Danse International in Cannes, Lydia Menchova from the Bolshoi, Robert Bestonso from the Royal Ballet, and Raymond Franchetti from the Paris Opera, Ms. Favarel began her professional career at seventeen with Ballet du Rhin in Strasbourg. She subsequently joined Royal Ballet of Flanders in Belgium as a soloist, where she performed her first principal role as Swanilda in the August Bournonville version of *Coppelia*, at nineteen. Ms. Favarel later joined Ballet der Deutsch Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf, Germany, as a soloist, under the direction of Paolo Bortoluzzi, and Ballet du Nord in Roubaix, France, under the direction of Alphonso Cata, as a principal dancer.

In addition to appearing with the Ballet du Nord during many of its international tours, Ms. Favarel represented France in the first New York International Ballet Competition. She was invited to perform in the gala performance for the next competition, and later returned as a coach and teacher for the NYIBC.

Ms. Favarel joined Milwaukee Ballet as a principal dancer in 1989, where she performed all of the major roles in the company repertoire. The most memorable are her interpretations of *Swan Lake*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Coppelia*, and *Giselle*. In 1990, dance critic Tom Strini named her "Dancer of the Year" for her interpretations of *Swan Lake*, *Serenade*, and *Coppelia*. During her time with Milwaukee Ballet, many choreographers created works for her, including Kathy Posin's *Tehillim* and *Bach's Lunch*, and Simon Dow's *Spartacus*. In May, 2000, Ms. Favarel gave her farewell performance, and became Ballet Mistress for the company. Mireille Favarel is currently Associate Director of the Milwaukee Ballet II. She also teaches and coaches the Milwaukee Ballet company and MBII. Mireille is a frequent guest teacher at major ballet schools and companies in Bulgaria, California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Texas, including Chicago, Albuquerque, Palm Beach, Kansas City, and in her native country of France. In March of 2012, Ms. Favarel was invited to stage Kathy Posin's *Scheherazade* for the National Ballet of Bulgaria, in Sofia. She staged *Scheherazade* again for the Milwaukee Ballet in 2016. She continues to perform character roles for Milwaukee Ballet, most recently as James' mother in *La Sylphide*, and the Queen in *Swan Lake*.



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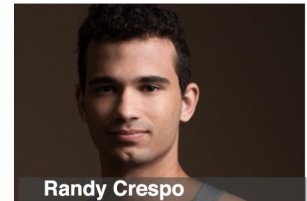
Mireille Favarel



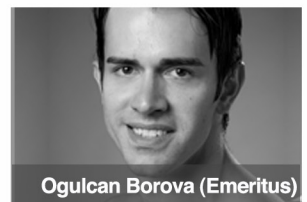
Ronald Foster



Yumelia Garcia



Randy Crespo



Ogulcan Borova (Emeritus)

Ronald Foster

Ronald Foster is one of the new breed of composer/conductors capable of working within a wide variety of musical genres. Whether it be on the concert stage, in the theater, or with jazz and popular music, Mr. Foster has earned a reputation as a creative, innovative, and sensitive musician.

Mr. Foster was a frequent guest conductor with the Milwaukee Symphony from 1998-2008, and has served as guest conductor with the Milwaukee Ballet, Milwaukee Chamber Orchestra, Anchorage Symphony, South Carolina Philharmonic, Traverse Symphony, Colorado Springs Symphony, Sheboygan Symphony, Waukesha Symphony, Skokie Valley Symphony, Pueblo Symphony, Chamber Orchestra of the Springs, Soundscapes Chamber Ensemble, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Orchestra.

Ronald Foster is Co-Artistic Director of [An Evening at the Ballet](#) (with Mireille Favarel), a symphonic program for dancers and orchestra, inaugurated during the 2013-14 season.

Mr. Foster was Composer/Conductor with the Milwaukee Symphony's [Arts in Community Education \(ACE\)](#) program from 1997-2013, and was Guest Composer with the MSO in January, 2000. He was also Artistic Director of the St. Luke's Chamber Music Series from 2010-2012. In addition, he has been Adjunct Professor at Carroll University since 2009 (American Film Music, The Music of the Movies: Cultural Perspectives), and was Adjunct Professor of Composition at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee from 1999-2006. Mr. Foster was Music Director, Conductor, and Co-Founder of the Broadmoor Pops Orchestra from 1992-98, Music Director/Conductor of the Pikes Peak Civic Orchestra from 1989-91 and 1994-95, Music Director/Conductor of the Colorado College Chamber Orchestra from 1990-95, Assistant Conductor of the Pueblo Symphony from 1989-91, and Music Director, Conductor, Composer, and Arranger for the Broadmoor Ice Revue Orchestra from 1985-95.

The music of Ronald Foster has been performed and/or recorded by the Milwaukee Symphony, Fort Worth Symphony, Dayton Philharmonic, Amarillo Symphony, Charleston Symphony, Colorado Springs Symphony (Colorado Springs Philharmonic), National Repertory Orchestra, Garden State Philharmonic, Cape Cod Symphony, Lubbock Symphony, Traverse Symphony, Fox Valley Symphony, Kokomo Symphony, Michigan Philharmonic (Plymouth Symphony), Ohlone Symphony, Pueblo Symphony, Wellesley Symphony, Winston-Salem Piedmont Triad Symphony, Lamont Symphony, Bloomington Pops, Broadmoor Pops, Aureole, Da Vinci String Quartet, Eclectix, Juilliard Brass Quintet, Present Music, Stephen Burns, Woody Herman, Bobby McFerrin, Heidi Grant Murphy, Doc Severinsen, David Shostac, The Four Freshmen, Dallas Jazz Orchestra, St. Luke's Chamber Players, Air Force Academy Band (Air Force Band of the Rockies), Air Force Band of Liberty (Boston), Air Force Band of Flight (Dayton), Band of the Royal Air Force College, and leading chamber, collegiate, and military ensembles. His works include music for orchestra, wind ensemble/band, brass and percussion ensemble, string quartet, chamber ensembles, solo clarinet, solo guitar, chorus, children's chorus, jazz band, and electronic orchestration. He is the former Chief Composer/Arranger for the United States Air Force Academy Band.

Ronald Foster attended the University of North Texas and holds degrees from the University of Denver (MA: Orchestral Conducting/Composition) and the University of Southern Colorado (BS: Music Performance: Woodwinds). He studied conducting with [Harold Farberman](#), Vincent La Guardia, and Daniel Lewis, and composition with [John Corigliano](#) and Donald Keats. Mr. Foster won the 1993 America the Beautiful Commissioning Project and has received yearly ASCAP Composer Awards since 1992. *On the Wings of Angels*, a commission for the Dayton Philharmonic and the Air Force Band of Flight, commemorating the 2003 Centennial of Powered Flight, premiered in 2003. His chamber orchestra version of David Carlson's [The Midnight Angel](#), commissioned by Milwaukee's renowned Skylight Music Theatre, opened the Skylight's 2007-2008 season.

Mr. Foster and [An Evening at the Ballet](#) are represented exclusively by arrangement with Jack Price.

Yumelia Garcia

After a 27-year career as a professional classical dancer, Yumelia Garcia retired as a principal dancer from Joffrey Ballet in 2014. Ms. Garcia has not let the grass grow under her feet; she returned to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and graduated with honors in Communication in 2017. Garcia continues to advance her communications degree by planning, organizing, and implementing Spanish curriculum for elementary students at St. Adalbert School in Milwaukee, and has taught for Joffrey Ballet's Academy teaching workshops in San Antonio and Chicago. She inspires students, teaching and coaching in ballet schools across the country, from Buffalo, Los Angeles, Greenville, NC, to West Palm Beach, FL. Certified in Barre Workout Fitness, Garcia continues to train and inspire movers at Danceworks Milwaukee, and is part of the fitness curriculum in the Klotsche Center at UWM.

Ms. Garcia continued performing as a guest artist with the Jacksonville Symphony as the Sugar Plum Fairy this past Holiday season in *The Nutcracker*. She performed in *Sleeping Beauty* and *Cinderella* during Jacksonville's 2014-15 and 2015-16 seasons, and has become a Jacksonville favorite. In 2015, Garcia was included in the Chicago Sun-Times best performances of the year, for *Day of the Gypsy* at the Harris Theater, a ballet created by Gordon Pierce Schmidt. In 2015 she worked in New York with the Kathryn Posin Dance Company and Meredith Monk, in a commissioned ballet for the Harkness Dance Festival in Manhattan.

Yumelia Garcia was born in Caracas, Venezuela, where she received her professional training at the Escuela de Ballet Gustavo Franklin (Vaganova school). Graduating at the top of her class, Vicente Nebrada invited her to join the National Ballet of Caracas at the tender age of 15, and promoted her to soloist one year later. Ms. Garcia began her U.S. career with Heinz Pohl at Ohio Ballet, and soon thereafter joined Milwaukee Ballet, performing a breathtaking performance of *Carmen* that elevated her to principal dancer; she became a Milwaukee favorite. In her tenure with Milwaukee Ballet, Kathryn Posin created *Scheherazade* on Garcia, and she performed the classical principal roles of Kitri in *Don Quixote*, *Giselle*, Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty*, Cinderella, Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*, and *Carmen*. Garcia later moved on to Ballet Florida, expanding her repertoire in contemporary and classical works, including *Cleopatra*, by Ben Stevenson. In 2009, Ms. Garcia was invited by Ashley Wheeler to join Joffrey Ballet of Chicago, where she hit the stage to critical acclaim, most notably with her performance in Ashton's *Cinderella*, which was featured in Point Magazine as one of the "Best Performances of the Year 2010." She received critical acclaim in principal roles, such as Valencienne in *The Merry Widow* and the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*. The Chicago Tribune included her with the best dancers of the year for 2010, and Chicago Magazine nominated and featured her as one of the 50 Most Beautiful Chicagoans for 2011.

Garcia's dancing career spans choreographers that include Vicente Nebrada, Alonzo King, Choo San Goh, David Parsons, Heinz Poll, Laura Dean, Lucinda Childs, Jean Paul Comelin, Kathryn Posin, Mark Godden, George Balanchine, Trey McIntyre, Jimmy Gamonet, Christopher Wheeldon, Lar Lubovitch, Jiri Kylian, William Forsythe, Wayne McGregor, Robert Joffrey, Gerald Arpino, Kurt Jooss, Frederick Ashton, August Bournonville, Ben Stevenson, Dominic Walsh, Charlotte Boye-Christensen, Lisa de Ribere, and Val Caniparoli, whose work she selected for her final performance with Joffrey Ballet.

Randy Crespo

Randy Crespo began dancing at age nine at the Cuban National Ballet School, where he won 2nd place at the International Competition of Ballet in 2009. Crespo joined The National Ballet of Cuba under the direction of Alicia Alonso in 2009. During his five seasons with the company, he performed in *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *Don Quixote*, *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Nutcracker*. In 2013, Crespo joined Cuban Classical Ballet of Miami where he performed leading roles in *Le Corsaire*, *Firebird*, and *Specter of the Rose*. He later joined Ballet Arizona under the direction of Ib Anderson, where he performed many classical ballets, contemporary pieces, George Balanchine repertoire, as well as original works by Ib Andersen and Nayo Lovino. His most memorable roles are Golden Idol in *La Bayadère*, Arabian pas de deux in *The Nutcracker*, and pas de trois in *Swan Lake*, as well as Balanchine's *Four Temperaments* and *Western Symphony*. Last season, Crespo danced as Sinbad in *Scheherazade*, Karl/The Prince in *The Nutcracker*, and James in *La Sylphide*.

Simon Dow, Choreographer

SIMON DOW graduated from the Australian Ballet School. Simon has danced all the major leading roles in the classical repertoire and company affiliations include Principal Artist with the Australian Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Boston Ballet, Washington Ballet, and dancer with the Stuttgart Ballet. Simon was also a frequent guest artist internationally and danced works by Balanchine, Forsythe, Ashton, MacMillan, Bèjart, Kudelka, and many others. Simon has choreographed over fifty works for companies internationally, including five full-evening narrative works. His *La Bohème* toured Australia and Asia.

Simon has been Artistic Director for the Milwaukee Ballet, West Australian Ballet, and Associate Artistic Director for the Washington Ballet. Simon has been on the international juries of the USA International Ballet Competition, Helsinki International Ballet Competition, and South African International Ballet Competition, among many other competition juries. He has been a member of the Dance Board of the Australia Council and has participated on boards for many organizations. Simon has a reputation as a master teacher internationally, is currently senior faculty at the Australian Ballet School, and is a freelance choreographer and creative director.