

# GENEVA CONCERTS

presents

*State Street Ballet of Santa Barbara*

## *Carmen*



Friday, September 29, 2006 • 8:15 p.m.  
Smith Opera House

# GENEVA CONCERTS, INC.

## 2006-2007 SEASON

Friday, 29 September 2006, 8:15 p.m.

State Street Ballet of Santa Barbara

### *Carmen*

A passionate story of lust, treachery and fate, based on the fabled temptress of Seville, told in ballet and set to the music of Georges Bizet.

Thursday, 2 November 2006, 8:15 p.m.

Syracuse Symphony Orchestra

Daniel Hege, conductor

To Be Announced, narrator

### "Shakespeare in Music"

Walton, Mendelssohn, Sibelius, Strauss

Saturday, 20 January 2007, 8:15 p.m.

### Cantus

One of America's finest professional male vocal ensembles, Cantus' repertoire spans many periods and genres including Gregorian chant, Renaissance motets, contemporary works, art songs, folk music, spirituals, and pop.

Friday, 9 March 2007, 8:15 p.m.

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra

Pinchas Zukerman, conductor and violin

Ariana Ghez, oboe

Bach, Stravinsky, Elgar

Saturday, 21 April 2007, 8:15 p.m.

Syracuse Symphony Orchestra

Ron Spigelman, conductor

Allen Vizzutti, trumpet

De Falla, Vizzutti, Bernstein, Copland

Performed at the Smith Opera House, 82 Seneca Street, Geneva, NY

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# GENEVA CONCERTS, INC.

Friday, September 29, 2006 • 8:15 p.m.

*State Street Ballet of Santa Barbara*

## *Carmen*

Music by Georges Bizet/arr. Rodion Shchedrin

Choreography by William Soleau

Lighting and Set Design by Mark Somerfield

Stefania Piazzo - Scenic Artist

Costumes Designed by A. Christina Giannini

*Carmen is a tragedy about obsessive love. It is the story of Don José, a young military officer who is fatefully drawn to the earthly charms and magnetic beauty of a Gypsy girl, Carmen.*

A FULL LENGTH BALLET IN TWO ACTS

**Carmen**..... Silvia Rotaru  
**Don José** ..... Ryan Camou  
**Escamillo** (*Toreador*) ..... Yuan Ming-Chang/Brixio Bell  
**Micaela** (*Don José's girlfriend*) ..... Jennifer Rowe  
**Mercedes** (*Carmen's gypsy friend*) ..... Corina Gill  
**Zungia** (*Captain of the Guards*) ..... Brixio Bell/Yuan Ming-Chang

**Dancers:** Andrea Blankstein, Raydel Caceres, Leila Drake,  
Terez Dean, Sergei Domrachev, Dana Young,  
Corina Hough-Gill, Alyson Mattoon, Katie McDermott,  
Christine Sawyer, Bethany Mitchell

### **Scene I: A City Square in Seville**

Carmen, a gypsy woman working in a cigar factory, enchants and bewitches the soldier Don José. Although he is already betrothed to Micaela, a country girl from his hometown, he cannot resist the attraction of Carmen. After causing a fight in the factory, Carmen is arrested and he is told to take her to jail. Left alone, Carmen exerts her wiles on the innocent Don José. He agrees to let her escape if she promises to love him. Carmen flees and it is Don José who is arrested.

### **Intermission**

### **Scene II: The Tavern of Lillas Pastia**

Carmen and her gypsy friends are entertaining officers in a local tavern. During the dancing the great swaggering toreador Escamillo enters and immediately sets his eyes on Carmen. Each attracted by the sense of conquest over the other, they become lovers.

### **Scene III: A Gypsy Camp in the Mountains**

Released from jail, Don José comes looking for Carmen. Though she still loves him, she has also been taken by the dashing bull-fighter. Don José's desire to possess her makes her grow tired of him. When Escamillo arrives at the camp and invites Carmen to his next bullfight, Don José confronts him but Carmen intervenes. Micaela slips into camp to tell him that his mother is dying and that he must return home. Don José vows to Carmen he will return and that she will never leave him. Severing her relationship finally, a cold and dispassionate Carmen urges him to go. Her friend Mercedes foretells death for her and Don José in the cards of Fate, but Carmen is not afraid.

### **Scene IV: Outside the Bullring**

A crowd has gathered to watch Escamillo enter the arena. Mercedes warns Carmen that Don José has returned and has been told of her affair with the handsome toreador. Unafraid, Carmen waits for him; he appears and desperately pleads with her to return to him, but Carmen will not be possessed. As she tries to enter the arena, Don José stabs and kills her in a jealous rage, just as the crowd cheers Escamillo's conquest of the bull in the ring.

# *State Street Ballet*

Rodney Gustafson, Artistic Director

**Combining classical traditions with diversity and sophisticated style**

## *Our Mission*

State Street Ballet is a professional dance company dedicated to presenting excellence in dance through public performances and educational outreach programs. By combining classical tradition with diversity and sophisticated style, we are committed to exploring new avenues in dance while preserving the classics.

## *Who we are*

State Street Ballet is Santa Barbara's acclaimed professional ballet company, founded in 1994 by Artistic Director Rodney Gustafson. Mr. Gustafson was a dancer with American Ballet Theatre and continues his work for them directing a national summer program. State Street Ballet is a dynamic young company that has gained a reputation for excellence and innovation. The company has toured to New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, Louisiana, Georgia, Wisconsin, Florida, and throughout California. The company has also performed internationally in China and Taiwan. State Street Ballet has achieved its level of excellence by the diversity of its original productions, from the most innovative ballets choreographed by Director Rodney Gustafson, to others including Robert Sund, William Soleau, Peter Pucci, Margo Sappington, and such legends as Agnes de Mille.

The *Los Angeles Times* says, "there is little doubt that the fine looking Santa Barbara based State Street Ballet, under the direction of Rodney Gustafson, is thriving."

State Street Ballet's current touring productions include an exciting variety of excellent ballets including *Carmen*, *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, and the *Holly-*

*wood Nutcracker*. These works are all original pieces produced by our company.

Artistic Director Rodney Gustafson possesses a rare combination of credentials among artistic directors – an undergraduate and master’s degree in business, enhanced by a successful dance career with American Ballet Theatre where he continues his association as a coordinator for one of their national educational programs. As a dancer with American Ballet Theatre, Gustafson worked with many of the greatest dancers of our time such as Mikhail Baryshnikov, and the most famous choreographers of the era: Alvin Ailey, George Balanchine, Rudolf Nureyev, Jerome Robbins, and Anthony Tudor. He also appeared in the films *Turning Point*, Baryshnikov’s *Nutcracker*, and several *Live from Lincoln Center* productions. During his tenure as Artistic Director for State Street Ballet, Mr. Gustafson has created three full-length ballets for the company including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hollywood Nutcracker*, and *Cinderella*. His most current production is *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* that premiered in April of 2006 to rave reviews.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Gustafson has built a company respected for its choreography, dancing and fiscally responsible management, “proving against all odds, and nay-sayers, that ballet is alive and kicking in Southern California.”

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# *State Street Ballet Company Bios*

2006-2007

**Sophie Monat, Ballet Mistress.** Ms. Monat was born in London, England, and began her professional career in Europe where she danced with the Lillie Opera Ballet in France and the National Ballet of Portugal. Following eight years as Ballet Mistress of the New Jersey Ballet, she moved to California and helped Mr. Gustafson to establish State Street Ballet. Ms. Monat is currently on the faculty of California State University Long Beach Dance Department. She has been the Ballet Mistress of the State Street Ballet since its inaugural season in 1994 and has staged the classical ballets *La Vivandière*, *Packet*, *Diane and Acteon*, and *Giselle (Act II)*. She has been the ballet mistress for numerous works by contemporary choreographers including William Soleau and Robert Sund. Ms. Monat guest teaches extensively and has taught and staged a wide range of classical and contemporary ballets for ballet companies, universities, and professional schools throughout the USA.

**Marina Fliaguina, Ballet Mistress.** Born in Russia, Ms. Fliaguina graduated with distinction from the Perm State College of Choreography in Russia. In 1990 she was admitted to the Moscow State Theatre Kremlin Ballet where she worked with the renowned Vladimir Vasiliev and Ekaterina Maximova. She has performed roles in all of the famous classical ballets and has toured internationally with the Russian Imperial Ballet, Moscow Classical Ballet, and the Moscow Festival Ballet. Ms. Fliaguina joined State Street Ballet as a dancer in 1998 and was promoted to Ballet Mistress in for the 2000-2001 Season. In addition to her duties as Ballet Mistress for the company, she continues to appear in character roles such as the Nanny in Robert Sund's *Alice in Wonderland*, and the Nurse Maid in Rodney Gustafson's *Romeo and Juliet*.

**William Soleau, Choreographer.** Mr. Soleau has worked as a principal dancer in both ballet and modern companies with choreographers such as Anthony Tudor, John Butler, Alvin Ailey, Toer

Van Shayk, and Grey Verdon. While dancing with Finis Jhung's Chamber Ballet U.S.A. in New York City, Mr. Soleau created his first work, *Isle*, which became an instant success. In 1987 he gained international recognition for his full evening work *Universe* for the Shanghai Ballet of China during its first International Shanghai Arts Festival. He soon stopped dancing and began to devote himself entirely to choreography. Mr. Soleau has over seventy ballets in the repertoires of many companies including Ballet British Columbia, The Icelandic Ballet, Ballet de Montreal, Louisville Ballet, Richmond Ballet, Ballet Austin, and Ballet Florida. Mr. Soleau set his award-winning multimedia ballet *Starry Night* on State Street Ballet during their 1999 season. During the spring of 2003 Mr. Soleau created a world premiere ballet titled *Airwaves* for the company.

**Mark Somerfield, Production Manager/Lighting Designer.**

Mr. Somerfield is the Production Manager for the Department of Music at the University of California, Santa Barbara as well as Resident Lighting Designer for Opera Santa Barbara and State Street Ballet of Santa Barbara. Other credits include: The Guthrie Theatre, New York City Opera, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, Provincetown Theatre Company, Pennsylvania Stage Company, the Santa Fe Opera, Virginia Stage Company, Cincinnati Ballet, Pennsylvania Dance Theatre, American Music Theatre Festival and the Adriatic Music Festival in Termoli, Italy. He holds a BFA from Penn State and an MFA from The Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

**Christina Giannini, Costume Designer.** Ms. Giannini has designed costumes for the best ballet companies throughout the world including such legendary dance troupes as American Ballet Theatre, Joffrey Ballet, New York City Ballet, and many others. Her design work also includes set design in productions such as the current *Carmen* that is touring nationally by Santa Barbara's State Street Ballet.



## *Artists of the Company*

**Brixio Bell** was born in Maracaibo, Venezuela, where he attended the Contemporary Dance School. His training includes Classical Dance Techniques, Graham Style, Post-Modern Dance, and Choreographic Workshops. His professional career began with the Contemporary Dance Company of Maracaibo. He was invited to dance in the Koln Movements 92-Germany, and in the International Summer Theatre Festival in Hamburg, Germany. He later joined the Danzahoy Company and toured Chile, Colombia, Brazil, and the United States. He then joined the Ballet Nacional de Caracas as soloist and principal dancer, performing in *Romeo and Juliet*, *Don Quixote*, *Coppelia*, *Swan Lake*, *Spartacus*, *Le Corsaire*, *Concerto Barroco*, *Firebird*, *Fever*, *A Handel Celebration*, *Pentimento*, *Our Waltzes*, and *Double Clef*. The company toured extensively in the United States, including Trinidad Island, Curacao and Bogotá-Colombia. Mr. Bell has recently joined State Street Ballet as a company dancer.

**Andrea Blankstein** was born in Borås, Sweden, and grew up in Tempe, Arizona, where she got her training at Adams Ballet Academy R.A.D. She was awarded a prize in the National Arts and Letters competition. She started her professional career at a very early age performing with Arizona Dance Theater. She was discovered by Peter Schaufuss, and was invited to join Deutsche Oper Berlin in Berlin, Germany, where she danced in *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Nutcracker*. She has also performed at the Spoleto Festival in Italy, Edinburgh Festival in Scotland, and Festival Internacional de Danza in Seville, Spain. She worked with the Cleveland/San José Ballet, which toured San José, California; Los Angeles, California; and Detroit, Michigan. A few years later, she returned to guest with Ballet Arizona, and later to guest with the Milwaukee Ballet Company. Ms. Blankstein has recently joined State Street Ballet as a company dancer.

**Raydel Caceres** was born in Pinar Del Rio, Cuba, where he began his dance training at age eight with Mabel Carrillo at the Professional School of Arts Raul Sanchez. He obtained his high school diploma as the best student of the school in classical ballet. Following his studies, he attended the National School of Ballet in Havana, Cuba, under the direction of Marta Ulloa and Ramona de Saá Belo. He started his professional career at the Centro De Promocio De La Danza De Cuba, and

toured nationally and internationally. He performed in a montage of *Dracula* from The Ballet of Pennsylvania. He has performed in *Swan Lake*, *Don Quixote*, *La Fille Mal Gardée*, *Giselle*, *Coppelia*, *Le Corsaire*, *Paquita*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *La Bayadere*, *The Nutcracker*, *Spring Waters*, and other ballets that include Classic and Contemporary Dance in Cuba and Brazil.

**Ryan Camou** was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and he joined State Street Ballet in 2005. He received his training from John Landovsky in Hawaii, San Francisco Ballet School, and as an apprentice to the Houston Ballet in 2004-05. Mr. Camou is a powerful young dancer with a natural sense of performance quality. He has appeared in many principal roles including: *Romeo & Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *The Nutcracker*, *La Bayadere*, *Black Swan Pas*, and *Carmina Burana*. Mr. Camou appeared throughout the country as Don José in the national tour of State Street Ballet's production of *Carmen* by Choreographer William Soleau.

**Terez Dean** was born in Poughkeepsie, New York, and trained with the Ballet Arts Studio directed by Valerie Feit. She then went on to study at the prestigious School of American Ballet, the official school of the New York City Ballet Company, where she performed in various Balanchine ballets such as *Western Symphony*, *The Nutcracker*, *Union Jack*, and *Scherzo a la Russe*. Ms. Dean has spent her summers training with the Chautauqua Institute, Miami City Ballet, and San Francisco Ballet. This is her second season with State Street Ballet.

**Yuan-Ming Chang** was born in Taiwan. He received his classical ballet training from the Joffrey Ballet School in New York, the Houston Ballet Academy in Texas, as well as Cal Arts. He joined State Street Ballet in 2003 and has been seen in several roles including the Arabian dancer in *The Nutcracker*, as well as several soloist roles in *Tango Rain*, *Estancia*, and *The Handkerchief*. He has also appeared with the Houston Ballet in *Cleopatra*, *Raymonda*, *Five Poem*, and *The Nutcracker*.

**Sergei Domrachev** was born in Russia. Mr. Domrachev graduated from the Perm Ballet Academy and was a prizewinner in the Vaganova Competition and International Arabesque-92 Competition. He has danced professionally, as a soloist, with both the Moscow Classical Ballet and the Los Angeles Classical Ballet. He has performed many character roles that have showcased his talent for comical acting, such as the Buffoon in *Swan Lake*, Benvolio and Mercutio in *Romeo and*

*Juliet*, Gamash in *Don Quixote*, and Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Mr. Domrachev joined State Street Ballet in 1998.

**Corina Gill** was born in southern California. She received her Bachelor of Arts as a scholarship recipient at the University of California Irvine. Her training includes American Ballet Theatre, Houston Ballet Academy, and the Boston Ballet. Before joining State Street Ballet in 2005, Ms. Gill appeared as a principal dancer with Ballet Pacifica in roles that included Sugar Plum in *The Nutcracker*, Tiger Lily in *Alice in Wonderland*, and Tina Gerstler's *Blessed Temper*.

**Steven Jasso** (Apprentice Dancer 2006-07 Season) was born in Lompoc, California. He began dancing as a self-taught pop'n'lock/hip hop dancer and began his formal training at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, California. He also studied ballet folklorico (Mexican folk dancing), music theory, and music education. Mr. Jasso became affiliated with State Street Ballet in 2006 when he attended their summer intensive program. Before starting dance, Mr. Jasso performed and trained with other visual performing groups such as Pacific Crest Drum and Bugle corp, Santa Ana Winds Marching Band, and was invited to perform in Paris, France with the United Spirit Association.

**Alyson Bryce Mattoon** was born in Sedona, Arizona. Ms. Mattoon attended the Virginia School of Arts on scholarship and graduated with Honors. Her association with State Street Ballet began at a Summer Intensive in 2000. During the summer of 2001 she received a full time position with the Company. During the 2001-02 Season Ms. Mattoon had leading roles created for her by William Soleau in the world premiere of *Five by Gershwin*, and the part of the White Rabbit in Robert Sund's *Alice in Wonderland*.

**Katie McDermott** was born in California where she began her training with Jo Anna Jarvis at the Ballet Studio by the Sea and Performing Arts Academy in Malibu, California. Ms. McDermott also studied classical ballet with The Royal Academy of Dance. Her professional experience includes Ballet New York, Ballet San Joaquin, and Malibu Civic Ballet where she performed leading roles in *Le Corsair*, *Paquita*, *Coppelia*, *Swan Lake*, and *The Nutcracker*, among others. Ms. McDermott was invited in the 2005 season to perform with State Street Ballet in their production of *Giselle*. She returned later to appear in Rodney Gustafson's *Bolero*, and Bill Soleau's *Carmen*. Ms. McDermott performed the role of Chinese in Rodney Gustafson's *Hollywood Nutcracker*, and has

since performed in Robert Sund's *Beauty and the Beast*, and Rodney Gustafson's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

**Silvia Rotaru** was born in Romania where she worked with Bucharest National Opera as a Principal Dancer performing all the major classical roles. She toured throughout Europe and came to the United States to dance in New York in 2004. After being noticed in a performance during the summer of 2004 in New York City, she was invited to join State Street Ballet. She received excellent critical acclaim for her performance of *Giselle* with the company. Ms. Rotaru was given the lead role of *Carmen* for the company's national tour in 2006.

**Jennifer Rowe** was born in Honolulu, Hawaii where she received her training from John Landovsky of Hawaii State Ballet. At the age of 17, she was chosen to be one of 42 dancers from around the world to compete in the prestigious International Ballet Competition. She was singled out, and commended for her fearless dancing as one of the youngest competitors in the 2002 competition. Shortly thereafter, Rodney Gustafson invited her to dance with State Street Ballet as an apprentice for the 2003-04 Season.

**Dana Young** was born in Fresno, California. She has trained with the Houston Ballet School and Mia Michaels Workshop in Choreography and technique. Awarded several scholarships to Joffrey Ballet School, New York, and trained in Ballet, Jazz, and Modern techniques. She is company member and teaching assistant with MKF Altered Modalities Company in Fresno, California. Ms. Young joined State Street Ballet as a company dancer in 2006.

**Christine Sawyer** (Apprentice Dancer 2006-07 Season) was born in Hackensack, New Jersey. She received her training in several Summer Intensive Workshops, and competitions progressing to The School at Steps/Steps on Broadway in New York with a full range in Ballet, Pointe, Jazz, Tap, and Modern. She has danced with Kozlov Dance Academy, Nunbetter Dance Theatre, Belle Meade Ballet Company, Victoria Ballet Theatre, and The School at Steps Showcase in New York. She has performed *Dancers Responding to AIDS Benefit Concert*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, *The Firebird*, *Don Quixote*, and several other ballets.

## *What People Say . . .*

“Blending classical ballet with highly original choreography and contemporary themes is the company’s artistic hallmark.”

*Point Magazine*, New York City, Rose Eichenbaum

“There is little doubt that the fine looking Santa Barbara based State Street Ballet, under Rodney Gustafson’s artistic direction, is thriving.”

*Los Angeles Times*, Victoria Loosleaf

“State Street Ballet’s new Cinderella soars into glory...deluxe throughout... masterfully choreographed...will undoubtedly be danced time and again over the years.”

Los Angeles, Margo Kline

“Gustafson’s Cinderella opened the State Street Ballet’s 11<sup>th</sup> season with the equivalent of the unfurling of a red carpet—smooth, luxurious and a joy to embark upon. Cinderella has set the stage for another 10 years of thrilling dance from State Street Ballet.”

*Santa Barbara Independent*, Felicia M. Tomasko

“State Street Ballet worked their magic in Los Angeles with a company that is well coached, directed and with much polish.”

*Beverly Hills Outlook*, Diane Monroe

“Sweeping turns, high lifts and flashing footwork that shows off the company’s confident and often dazzling skill.”

*Santa Barbara News Press*, Michael Smith

“State Street Ballet remains not only a classical company, but also a classy one, freely combining traditional dance forms with modern music, costumes, mood and energy.”

*Santa Barbara Independent*, Margo Kline

“Clearly, State Street Ballet is a young company on the move with an enviable repertory that makes the most of its dancers.”

CriticalDance.com

“State Street Ballet’s fast-paced rendition of the Bard’s timeless love story blends classic line with modern flair and a satisfying dose of sexiness...between Artistic Director Rodney Gustafson’s adroit choreography and the company’s professional execution, Romeo & Juliet is among the strongest performances we’ve seen from State Street Ballet... Bravo!”

*Santa Barbara Independent*, Elizabeth Schwyzer

“According to tradition, a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary should be celebrated with a gift of tin or aluminum. Fortunately, the State Street Ballet ignored tradition and alchemized a golden performance to celebrate their first ten years of existence.”

*Santa Barbara Independent*, Maureen Foley

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