

VANESSA ZAHORIAN

PRINCIPAL DANCER



**BORN**

Allentown, Pennsylvania

**TRAINING**

Kirov Academy of Ballet  
Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet

**SAN FRANCISCO BALLET**

Joined the Company as a member of the corps de ballet in 1997  
Promoted to soloist in 1999  
Promoted to principal dancer in 2002

**OTHER COMPANIES**

Kirov Ballet (apprentice)

**BALLETS—SAN FRANCISCO BALLET**

- Giselle, Myrtha, pas de cinq, and Solo Wili in *Giselle* (Tomasson)
- Grand Pas de Deux Ballerina, Sugar Plum Fairy, and Queen of the Snow in *Nutcracker* (Tomasson)
- Juliet and Acrobats in *Romeo & Juliet* (Tomasson)
- Aurora, Enchanted Princess, Fairy, and pas de six in *The Sleeping Beauty* (Tomasson)
- Odette/Odile, pas de trois, and Neapolitan in *Swan Lake* (Tomasson)
- Sugar Plum Fairy, Snow Queen, and Butterfly in *Nutcracker* (Christensen/Tomasson)
- Kitri and Kitri's Friends in *Don Quixote* (Tomasson/Possokhov)
- Swanilda in *Coppélia* (Balanchine)
- Tatiana in *Onegin* (Cranko)
- Carnival Dancer in *Othello* (Lubovitch)
- Sylvia in *Sylvia* (Morris)
- Princess in *The Little Mermaid* (Neumeier)
- Cinderella and Stepsister Edwina in *Cinderella* (Wheeldon)
- 7 for Eight, Turning Girl in *Beads of Memory*, created role in *Blue Rose*, *Chaconne for Piano and Two Dancers*, Aves–Scarlatti movement principal in *Criss-Cross*, principal in *The Fifth Season*, principal in "Haffner" *Symphony*, soloist in *Handel—A Celebration*, created principal role in *On a Theme of Paganini*, pas de trois in *Prism*, 4th variation in *Quartette*, principal in Spring in *Le Quattro Stagioni*, pas de trois in *Silver Ladders*, 1st and 3rd movement principal in *Trio*, and *Two Bits* (Tomasson)

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BALLETS—SAN FRANCISCO BALLET (CONTINUED)

- 1st and 2nd pas de trois in *Agon*, principal in *Allegro Brillante*, Polyhymnia in *Apollo*, principal in *Ballo della Regina*, principal in *Diamonds*, principal in *Divertimento No. 15*, pas de trois in *Emeralds*, Sanguinic in *The Four Temperaments*, principal pas de deux in *Rubies*, Ballerina principal in *Scotch Symphony*, Russian Girl in *Serenade*, principal in *Square Dance*, Pas de Deux from *Stars and Stripes*, Aria II in *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*, 1st, 2nd, and 4th movement principal in *Symphony in C*, principal in *Symphony in Three Movements*, *Tarantella*, *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux*, principal in *Theme and Variations*, *Western Symphony*, and principal in *Who Cares?* (Balanchine)
- 2nd pas de deux in *Angelo* and principal in *Night* (Adam)
- 1st and 3rd movement principal in *The Dance House* (Bintley)
- Hedda Gabler in *Ibsen's House* and principal in *Lambarena* (Caniparoli)
- Pas de trois in *Divertissement D'Auber* (L. Christensen)
- Created role in *Double Evil* (Elo)
- *in the middle, somewhat elevated* and *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude* (Forsythe)
- *Dreams of Harmony* (Kudelka)
- *Études* (Lander)
- Pas de trois and Cigarette in *Suite en Blanc* (Lifar)
- *Elite Syncopations* and Olga in *Winter Dreams* (MacMillan)
- 1st and 2nd variation in "The Kingdom of the Shades" from *La Bayadère, Act II*, and pas de trois and 4th variation in *Paquita* (Makarova after Petipa)
- 1st pas de deux in *Black Cake*, *Grosse Fuge*, and *Variations for Two Couples* (van Manen)
- *Delibes Suite* (Martinez)
- *Chroma* and *Eden/Eden* (McGregor)
- *Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes*, pas de deux in *A Garden*, *Joyride*, *Pacific*, and *Sandpaper Ballet* (Morris)
- Principal in *Concordia* (Mrozewski)
- *New Pizzicato Polka* (Neumeier)
- *Raymonda*, 3rd variation, and pas de trois in *Raymonda—Act III* (Nureyev)
- Created role in *Guide to Strange Places* (Page)
- *Le Corsaire* Pas de Deux (Petipa)
- Principal in *Classical Symphony*, created principal role in *Fusion*, principal in *Reflections*, and *Study in Motion* (Possokhov)
- Hen in *Le Carnaval des Animaux*; Polish, Russian, and Hungarian in *From Foreign Lands*; Blue in *Russian Seasons*; *Seven Sonatas*; and *Symphony #9* and *Chamber Symphony in Shostakovich Trilogy* (Ratmansky)
- *The Cage*, Ballerina in *The Concert*, Mauve and Pink in *Dances at a Gathering*, principal in *Dybbuk*, *Fancy Free*, *Fanfare*, principal in *Glass Pieces*, and 1st pas de deux in *In the Night* (Robbins)
- *Fearful Symmetries* (Scarlett)
- *Opus 50* (Stowell)
- Principal in *Spring Rounds* (Taylor)

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BALLETS—SAN FRANCISCO BALLET (CONTINUED)

- *Diana and Acteon* Pas de Deux (after Vaganova)

- *Falling*, principal in *Naked*, and 1st movement principal in *Tu Tu* (Welch)
- *Continuum*, principal in *Number Nine*, *Polyphonia*, *Rush*, *Sea Pictures*, *There Where She Loved*, and *Within the Golden Hour* (Wheeldon)
- Red Woman in *Celts* (York)

#### BALLETS—OTHER COMPANIES

- Waltz Couple in *Serenade* (Balanchine)
- Swanilda in *Coppelia* full length in Santiago, Chile (Hynd) (2001)
- Giselle full length and Paquita Principal in Japan (2005)
- Kitri in *Don Quixote* full length in Yerevan, Armenia with National Ballet of Armenian (2013)

#### AWARDS

- Awarded the Best Dancer of the Year in *Continuum* (Wheeldon), *Dances At a Gathering* (Robbins), *Seven Sonatas* (Ratmansky), October 2016 Issue of *Dance Europe Magazine*.
- Received an Isadora Duncan Dance Special Award for “Many Faces of Giselle,” noting stellar interpretation of the title role, 2012.
- Won best couple in the senior division with Davit Karapetyan at the USA International Ballet Competition, Jackson, Mississippi, summer 2006.
- Nominated for Isadora Duncan Dance Award for Best Ensemble Performance in Balanchine’s “Rubies” from *Jewels* during the 2006 Repertory Season.
- Nominated for an Isadora Duncan Dance Award for Best Ensemble Performance in Balanchine’s *Rubies* during the 2006 Repertory Season.
- Won The International Competition for the Erik Bruhn Prize in Toronto, Canada, November 1999. Performed *Nutcracker* Grand Pas de Deux and Tomasson’s *Two Bits* with Gennadi Nedvigin, who tied for the prize in the men’s category.
- Awarded Best Young Soloist at the 2nd International Ballet Competition in memory of Nureyev, Budapest, Hungary, 1996.
- Awarded Silver Medal and Love of Audience Award at ARABESK 96, instituted by the Lovers of Ballet Society of Russia, 1996.
- Awarded Bronze Medal at 2nd Japan International Ballet and Modern Dance Competition in Nagoya, Japan, 1996.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Faculty Member at the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet Summer Session, June 2016
- Performed pas de deux from Cranko’s *Onegin* and Balanchine’s *Rubies* with Davit Karapetyan at the 9th International Ballet Gala in Taipei, Taiwan, May 21-22, 2016.
- Danced *Don Quixote* Pas de Deux with Taras Domitro at the Youth America Grand Prix Gala in Salt Lake City, Utah, in collaboration with Ballet West, February 27, 2016.
- Danced Sugar Plum Fairy in *Nutcracker* with Seth Orza at Mid-Columbia Ballet, Long Beach, California, December 2015.
- Danced Sugar Plum Fairy in *Nutcracker* with Anthony Vincent at Tri-Cities Academy of Ballet and Music, Richland, Washington, December 2015.
- Faculty Member at the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet Summer Session, June 2015
- Teacher Training Course at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet August Session, 2014
- Danced Kitri in *Don Quixote* with Davit Karapetyan at National Ballet of Armenia, Yerevan, Armenia, November 2013.
- Guest teacher for San Francisco Ballet School Summer Session, July 2013.

- Faculty member at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet's summer intensive, June 2013.
- Performed pas de deux from Balanchine's *Rubies* and Blanc's *After Having Been* with Dmitri Kulev Classical Ballet Academy in Orange County, June 2013.
- Granted Balanchine Repetiteur with The George Balanchine Trust, 2012

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

- Performed pas de deux from Tomasson's *Chaconne for Piano and Two Dancers* and Balanchine's *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux* at "Stars of the San Francisco Ballet," Lively Arts Foundation in Fresno, California, August 2012.
- Performed pas de deux from Tomasson's *Chaconne for Piano and Two Dancers* at The Hamburg Ballet's Nijinsky Gala, July 2012.
- Performed with The Hamburg Ballet, June 2012.
- Performed at the Bolshoi Theater, Moscow, Russia, June 2012.
- Performed *Don Quixote* Pas de Deux with Gennadi Nedvigin at Gala of Ballet Stars, Orlando, Florida, June 2010.
- Performed in the Noosa Longweekend Festival as part of the International Stars of Ballet, Noosa, Australia, June 2010.
- Performed *Diana and Acteon* Pas de Deux at the Gala for International Ballet Stars, Hildesheim and Leverkusen, Germany, May 2008.
- Performed with Mateo Klemmayer and other SF Ballet dancers in six cities in Europe, May 2008.
- Performed Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty* with José Manuel Carreño, August 2006.
- Performed *Who Cares?* with Phillip Neal in Japan, 2006.
- Performed full-length *Giselle* and principal in *Paquita* in Fukuoka, Japan, summer 2005
- Performed *Apollo* and Kitri in Act 3 of *Don Quixote*, Sacramento, California, 2004.
- Performed *Con Brio*, *Lambarena*, and *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude* in the "Gala for Stars from San Francisco," Santa Fe, New Mexico, June 2003.
- Performed *Tarantella* in "Yuan Yuan Tan and Eight Ballet Stars Gala," Nara, Japan, May 2003.
- Performed with Yuri Possokhov and other SF Ballet dancers in St. Petersburg, Russia, and Tbilisi, Georgia, June 2002.
- Performed Wedding Pas de Deux from *The Sleeping Beauty* at "Tribute to Marcia Dale Weary Alumni Performance" at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, 2001.
- Performed *Le Corsaire* Pas de Deux at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, 1999.
- Selected by Oleg Vinogradov and La Fondation Ballets Russes as the 1st American recipient of the Kirov Ballet Russian-American Young Dancers Performing Scholarship, 1995.
- Selected as the 1st recipient of a scholarship to study at the Vaganova Academy, St. Petersburg, Russia, 1990.

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