



## Atlanta, GATimeline

**DATE: January 8-11, 2026**

**ClassVenue:** ATLANTA BALLET, MICHAEL C. CARLOS DANCE CENTRE  
1695 Marietta Boulevard, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30318

**Performance Venue:** KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY DANCE THEATER  
860 Rossbacher Way  
Marietta, GA 30060

TIME	Thursday January 8, 2026	LOCATION
12:30pm	Check in Primary	Atlanta Ballet
1-2:30pm	<b><u>Primary Technique Evaluation Class</u></b>	Atlanta Ballet
2:15pm	Check in Junior Group One	Atlanta Ballet
2:45-4:15pm	<b><u>Junior Group One Technique Evaluation Class</u></b>	Atlanta Ballet
4pm	Check in Junior Group Two	Atlanta Ballet
4:30-6pm	<b><u>Junior Group Two Technique Evaluation Class</u></b>	Atlanta Ballet

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TIME	Friday January 9, 2026	LOCATION
9am	Staff Arrive at Atlanta Ballet	
9am	Check in Senior Group One	Atlanta Ballet
9:20-10:50am	<b><u>Senior Group One Technique Evaluation Class</u></b>	Atlanta Ballet
10:15am	Check in senior Group Two	Atlanta Ballet
11am-12:30pm	<b><u>Senior Group Two Technique Evaluation Class</u></b>	Atlanta Ballet
12:30pm	MOVE TO THEATER/ LUNCH	
2pm	Doors to Theater Open to Public	KSU
2:40pm	Open Stage Primary Classical (20mins)	KSU
3-3:55pm	<b><u>Primary Classical Division Competition</u></b>	KSU
3:55pm	Open Stage Junior Group One Contemporary (20mins)	KSU
4:15-5:45pm	<b><u>Junior Group One Contemporary Division Competition</u></b>	KSU
5:45-6:15pm	DINNER	KSU
6:15pm	Open Stage Junior Group Two Contemporary (20mins)	KSU
6:35-7:50pm	<b><u>Junior Group Two Contemporary Division Competition</u></b>	KSU



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TIME	Saturday January 10, 2026	LOCATION
11am	Doors Open to Public	KSU
11:15am	<u>Open Stage Primary Contemporary (15mins)</u>	KSU
11:30-12pm	<b><u>Primary Contemporary Division Competition</u></b>	KSU
12-12:30pm	LUNCH	KSU
12:30pm	Open Stage Junior Group One Classical (30mins)	KSU
1-2:30pm	<b><u>Junior Group One Classical Division Competition</u></b>	KSU
2:30pm	Open Stage Junior Group Two Classical (30mins)	KSU
3-4:30pm	<b><u>Junior Group Two Classical Division Competition</u></b>	KSU
4:30pm	Open Stage Senior Group One Contemporary (20mins)	KSU
4:50-6pm	<b><u>Senior Group One Contemporary Division Competition</u></b>	KSU
6-6:30pm	DINNER	KSU
6:30pm	Open Stage Senior Group Two Contemporary (20mins)	KSU
6:50-8:40pm	<b><u>Senior Group Two Contemporary Division Competition</u></b>	KSU

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TIME	Sunday January 11, 2026	LOCATION
11pm	Doors open to Public	KSU
11:30am	Open Stage Ensembles (30mins)	KSU
12-12:50pm	<b><u>Ensemble Division Competition</u></b>	KSU
12:50-1:15pm	Lunch	KSU
1:15pm	Open Stage Senior Group One Classical (30mins)	KSU
1:45-4:00pm	<b><u>Senior Group One Classical Division Competition</u></b>	KSU
4pm	<u>Open Stage Senior Group Two Classical (30mins)</u>	KSU
4:30- 6:30pm	<b><u>Senior Group Two Classical Division Competition</u></b>	KSU
6:30-7pm	Dinner	KSU
7:30-8pm	<b><u>Panel Discussion Forum</u></b>	KSU
8-9pm	<b><u>AWARDS</u></b>	KSU

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**Alexey Kulpin**  
**The Harid Conservatory, Faculty Member**

Alexey Kulpin is a graduate of the University of Culture and Art in St. Petersburg, Russia. He holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in ballet methodology and choreography. In 1998, he was the Grand Prix winner at the Muse of St. Petersburg Ballet Competition.

As a professional dancer, Mr. Kulpin has performed soloist and principal roles in both classical and contemporary ballets in Russia, Israel, and the United States. He danced professionally with St. Petersburg State Opera Ballet, St. Petersburg State Male Theatre by Mihailovsky, Ballet Israel, City Ballet of San Diego, Grand Rapids Ballet, Charleston Ballet Theater, Stars of St. Petersburg Municipal

Theater of Music and Dance, and Krasnoyarsk Dance Ensemble. His roles included Basilio in Don Quixote; James in La Sylphide; Prince Ivan in Firebird; Spirit of the Rose in Le Spectre de la Rose; Swan Lake Pas de Trois; and the male leads in Tarentella and Maurice Bejart's Trik Trak.



**Brandon Ragland**  
**Dayton Ballet, Artistic Director**

Brandon Ragland received early training in Birmingham, AL, and graduated from Butler University with a B.S. in Dance-Arts Administration. After graduation, he joined the Alabama Ballet, performing numerous classical and neoclassical works by choreographers such as Roger Van Fleteren, George Balanchine, Christopher Bruce, and Septime Webre. He joined the Louisville Ballet in 2010, where he spent 13 years as a leading artist and performed featured roles in classical, neoclassical, and contemporary works by choreographers such as Alun Jones, George Balanchine, Adam Hougland, Val Caniparoli, Ma Cong, Lucas Jervies, Stanton Welch, Ronald Hynd, and Tim Harbour.

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**Sharon Story**  
**Atlanta Ballet; Dean of Education**

Dean Story is currently in her 21st season with Atlanta Ballet. She joined Atlanta Ballet after a professional dance career that spanned more than 20 years, including tenures with Joffrey Ballet, the School of American Ballet, New York City Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, and ten years with Boston Ballet. In 1996, in addition to her role as ballet mistress, John McFall's vision and mentorship brought Sharon to her current position as dean of the Centre for Dance Education, which has rapidly grown to one of the largest dance schools in the nation. The Centre for Dance Education is nationally recognized for great accomplishments in its programs and community initiatives. Under Sharon's direction, the Centre achieved accreditation with National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD). Sharon is a member of the Board of Directors for NASD and is delighted to serve on many community and national boards. Sharon received the 2015 Women Making a Mark award from Atlanta Magazine. She is committed to providing a noncompetitive atmosphere and access to dance education that is shaped by the community needs, is innovative, and inspires the commitment and excellence that are the trademarks of Atlanta Ballet. She is very proud of the dancers who have studied at the Centre for Dance Education and continue to share their experiences on stage in the Atlanta Ballet company and around the globe. She thanks her family for all their love and support during her career.



**Maria Torija**  
**BalletMet, Academy Director**

MARIA TORIJA, was born in Madrid, Spain. Dr. Torija began her ballet studies with Lola de Avila, Luis Fuentes and Carmen Roche. At the age of thirteen, she was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study for three years at the School of American Ballet in New York. After a short stint with the Ballet Nacional de España Clásico, she began her 20-year career as a dancer with the Deutsche Oper Berlin ballet company, currently the Staatsballett Berlin. During her time in Berlin, Maria performed in solo and principal roles in numerous classic ballets, including works choreographed by George Balanchine, Maurice Bejart, John Neumeier, William Forsythe, John Cranko, Jiri Kilian and Kenneth McMillan among others. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Ballet Teaching, and graduated summa cum laude with a Master's and PhD in Performing Arts from the

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Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, in Madrid. She also has an extensive teaching resume. Beginning with the Opera Ballet of Deutsche Oper Berlin, she has served as a faculty member at the Palucca Hochschule für Tanz, Dresden. Maria has participated in seminars and has been invited to teach classes throughout Europe, Japan and Hong Kong and the United States.

While on the faculty of the Miami City Ballet and Miami City Ballet School, Maria taught dancing as well as classes on the history of ballet and other associated topics. She organized and conceived a popular program for the Open Barre at the Miami City Ballet, inviting the public to see a demonstration of the progression of professional ballet training. Maria came to BalletMet as the Academy Director, in 2017 from Marin Ballet the same school where Artistic Director Edwaard Liang received his early training.