

“Tharp is America’s crossover dance queen... She melds classical ballet with modern dance, avant-garde experiment with Broadway pizzazz, technical rigor with off-the-cuff attitude, uptown glamor with downtown grit,” —The Guardian

Twyla Tharp Dance: 60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee

“Diabelli” (1998) featuring pianist Vladimir Romyantsev performing Beethoven’s Diabelli Variations and “SLACKTIDE” (2025) New Work with music by Philip Glass

Sat, Feb 22 at 8PM and Sun, Feb 23 at 3PM

Tickets start at \$47 and are now available at [TheSoraya.org](https://www.thesoraya.org).

(Los Angeles, CA) February 6, 2025 —Revolutionary choreographer **Twyla Tharp** celebrates her 60th year as a dance maker with a national tour that offers audiences a breathtaking vista of her range as an icon in American dance. **The Soraya** presents two performances: Sat, Feb 22 at 8PM and Sun, Feb 23 at 3PM.

The Soraya program features two West Coast premieres: Tharp’s 1998 Olivier Award nominated **“Diabelli,”** set to Beethoven’s monumental “Diabelli Variations,” with a live performance by pianist Vladimir Romyantsev, and **“SLACKTIDE”** which marks the first collaboration between Tharp and composer **Philip Glass** since their 1986 work “In the Upper Room.” The reimagining of Glass’ “Águas da Amazônia” has been arranged and recorded by Third Coast Percussion in collaboration with Tharp.

The New York Times wrote, “Unpredictable and dynamic, Tharps’ creations solidify her place as one of the greatest artists of our time. The choreographer Twyla Tharp has been a classicist, a modernist, a postmodernist — often at the same time — and maybe now and then a feminist and a Romantic, too. She also has a strong streak of the clown: tough, solemn-deadpan, with crazy timing, making a joke of how impossible things can be.”

About the Twyla Tharp 60th Anniversary Program

“Diabelli” (1998)

In its West Coast premiere, Tharp revives “Diabelli,” her 1998 triumph that challenges 11 dancers and a pianist to embody Beethoven’s endlessly inventive “Diabelli Variations,” performed live by pianist Vladimir Rumyantsev. The first and only choreographer to take on Beethoven’s intensely demanding and demonically complex “Diabelli Variations,” Tharp makes visible the elegant humor and depth of the composer’s layered genius in her piece “Diabelli.”

With each section of the Beethoven, unique in mood and texture, Tharp’s response—tender, teasing, transcendent, cheeky—commands all the performers’ technical prowess and energy. The dancers change effortlessly from ballet to jazz to modern, with unexpected bits of social dance. “Diabelli” challenges performers to embody Beethoven’s demanding piano work, intertwining the music with the movement to create a truly unique dance experience.

“SLACKTIDE” (2025) World Premiere Performances

Almost two centuries later in years and spirit from Beethoven’s “Diabelli Variations” (1819-23), is Philip Glass’s “Águas da Amazônia,” the composer’s reflection on the climate change crisis, arranged and recorded by members of Third Coast Percussion in close collaboration with Tharp and performed on a unique collection of custom-designed percussion instruments. Drawing on South American rhythms and evoking the rich ecosystem of the rainforest Glass’ distinctive music comes alive in Tharp’s new work as Tharp’s dancers capture all the rhythmic, propulsive energy of this Glass suite. Her use of music to create works of startling originality and beauty defines “SLACKTIDE” as an important milestone performance.

About Twyla Tharp

Since graduating from Barnard College in 1963, Ms. Tharp has choreographed more than 160 works: 129 dances, 12 television specials, six Hollywood movies, four full-length ballets, four Broadway shows and two figure skating routines. She received one Tony Award, two Emmy Awards, 19 honorary doctorates, the Vietnam Veterans of America President’s Award, the 2004 National Medal of the Arts, the 2008 Jerome Robbins Prize, and a 2008 Kennedy Center Honor. Her many grants include the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

In 1965, Ms. Tharp founded her dance company, Twyla Tharp Dance. Her dances are known for creativity, wit and technical precision coupled with a streetwise nonchalance. By combining different forms of movement – such as jazz, ballet, boxing and inventions of her own making – Ms. Tharp’s work expands the boundaries of ballet and modern dance.

In addition to choreographing for her own company, she has created dances for The Joffrey Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, The Paris Opera Ballet, The Royal Ballet, New York City Ballet,

The Boston Ballet, The Australian Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, The Martha Graham Dance Company, Miami City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Atlanta Ballet and Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Today, ballet and dance companies around the world continue to perform Ms. Tharp's works.

Ms. Tharp's work first appeared on Broadway in 1980 with *When We Were Very Young*, followed by her collaboration with musician David Byrne on *The Catherine Wheel* and later by *Singin' in the Rain*. In 2002, Ms. Tharp's dance musical *Movin' Out*, set to the music and lyrics of Billy Joel. Ms. Tharp later worked with Bob Dylan's music and lyrics in *The Times They Are A-Changin'* and *Come Fly Away*, set to songs sung by Frank Sinatra.

In film, Ms. Tharp has collaborated with director Milos Forman on *Hair*, *Ragtime* and *Amadeus*. She has also worked with Taylor Hackford on *White Nights* and James Brooks on *I'll Do Anything*.

Her television credits include choreographing "Sue's Leg" for the inaugural episode of PBS' "Dance in America in 1976," co-producing and directing "Making Television Dance," and directing *The Catherine Wheel* for BBC Television. Ms. Tharp co-directed the television special "Baryshnikov By Tharp."

In 1992, Ms. Tharp published her autobiography *Push Comes To Shove*. She went on to write *The Creative Habit: Learn it and Use it for Life*, followed by *The Collaborative Habit: Life Lessons for Working Together*. In 2019, her fourth book was published, *Keep It Moving: Lessons for the Rest Of Your Life*.

Today, Ms. Tharp continues to create.

For story development and interview requests, please contact:

- The Soraya Communications Associate Marie Estrada (marie.estrada@csun.edu)
- PR Consultant Gary Murphy (Garymurphypr@garymurphypr.com)
- [Click HERE](#) to access your press kit.

About the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for The Performing Arts (The Soraya) is an award-winning, state-of-the-art 1,700-seat theatre designed and built by HGA Architects and Engineers and opened in January 2011 as the Valley Performing Arts Center (VPAC). Through a transformative gift by Younes and Soraya Nazarian, the venue was renamed The Soraya in 2017. Vibrant programming has served to establish The Soraya as the intellectual and cultural heart of the San Fernando Valley and its 1.8 million residents and as one of the top arts and culture venues in Southern California. Since its inaugural season, The Soraya has presented over 500 artists and companies across the genres of music, dance, theater, and film and is a highly in-demand location for filming and rental events.

The Soraya's 2024-25 Season boldly advances the expansive sound of orchestras both traditional and contemporary; the freestyle vibe of jazz; an array of dance luminaries, and a cultural bounty drawn from the musical well of global voices. The Soraya continues its vigorous commitment to innovating, excelling, and amplifying access by offering a wide variety of performances that reflect Los Angeles' many distinctive

communities and featuring new and original work and artists from the local region as well as nationally and around the world.

Located on the vibrant campus of California State University Northridge (CSUN), The Soraya and the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication share an integral link that enhances student access and opportunities in the arts and performing arts. A \$5 million contribution from record producer and former California Lieutenant Governor Mike Curb was pivotal in ensuring the completion and opening of The Soraya in 2011. For his founding support and in acknowledgment of the integral relationship between the Mike Curb College and The Soraya, Mike Curb is recognized as one of The Soraya's Cornerstone Benefactors. This partnership fosters academic and artistic excellence, elevating the talents and the future growth of CSUN's students through master classes, student tickets, concerts of student ensembles, and students appearing alongside renowned artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Aida Cuevas, and Martha Graham Dance Company.

Calendar Listing:

What: Twyla Tharp Dance: 60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee

- "Diabelli" (1998) *featuring pianist Vladimir Romyantsev performing Beethoven's "Diabelli Variations"*
- "SLACKTIDE" (2025) *New Work with music by Philip Glass*

When: Sat, Feb 22 at 8pm and Sun, Feb 23 at 3pm

Where: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330

Website: www.TheSoraya.org

Tickets: \$47 - \$128

Ticket Office: 818-677-3000

Soraya Press Contacts

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