

## Spring in Their Steps: Ballet Quad Cities' "Spring Is in the Air" at the Adler Theatre

Written by Thom White  
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There were several moments during the evening performance of *Spring Is in the Air* – presented April 12 at the Adler Theatre – in which I sat slack-jawed in awe of the choreography executed by Ballet Quad Cities.

The lifts, in particular, impressed me to full attention, and I was especially eager to see what would come next within Elie Lazar's choreography for the presentation's first half: the ballet *Tehilah*, set to Aaron Copland's "Appalachian Spring." My astonishment started with a sweeping lift in which Margaret Huling held her arched legs aloft as Patrick Green held her up, while also spinning so that her feet skimmed the stage. While this struck me as exquisite, their movements were topped again and again as the piece progressed, as when Emily Kate Long later used the calf of Alec Roth's bent leg to step up into a lift, and Roth was seen spinning Long backwards while she held a tucked position.

Such beautifully unexpected motions marked much of the first half of *Spring Is in the Air*, with Lazar's choreographed constant movement peppered with abstract, sometimes odd steps or actions, and performed with breathtaking musicality by the entire company. With their indisputable connection to the music, the dancers made Lazar's nonstop steps seem lilting despite their rapidity, as if the effort exerted were no effort at all; the piece felt like a quick-paced physical poem.

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