

# Young composer's work catalyst for new ballet

## Rebecca Kelly Ballet's 'Cascade' premieres at LPCA

**BY ROBIN CAUDELL**  
Press-Republican

LAKE PLACID — Adirondack waters in all their permutations is the subject of Rebecca Kelly Ballet's "Cascade," a must-see premiere tonight at the Lake Placid Center for the Arts.

Rebecca Kelly dancers Therese Wendler, Nile Baker and Joshus Christopher perform the ballet that burst upon Kelly at a Brooklyn party last year.

"I was at a grown-up party, and we were in a room with a piano," Kelly said.

"This kid was playing beautifully. He played this one particular piece."

The music evoked images of rushing water for Kelly, who lives along the Saranac River, when she's not in New York City.

"I never go to Brooklyn but I went to Brooklyn to this party that somebody who lives in Essex was giving," Kelly said. "There were a couple of other Adirondack types. The boy was very modest and not showing off. We were encouraging him to play louder."

Kelly spoke to a woman, Kate Hosford, who was the

mother of the boy, Andreas Welch.

"I said, 'I love this music, and I'm interested in creating a ballet piece,'" Kelly said. "She said, 'We will make this happen.'"

Welch created the piece when he was 8 but he was 10 when Kelly heard him play it.

"It's really remarkable," Kelly said. "What I love about Andreas, he has all this feeling but he's a typical soccer-playing, happy kid that happens to be an incredibly talented player and composer. He plays cello, too."

After Welch created a studio recording, Kelly roughed out the dance with her students. It was more about space and energy than about steps.

"I wanted to convey the water going from one location to another, fast and slow, and leaving by going to another location," she said.

Kelly was challenged to create a version for her young students and a more elaborate version for her professional company.

The company's version is coupled with a reflective work by an Estonian composer before it segues to the tumbling torrents of "Cascade."

NYC-based Anna-Alisa Belous designed costumes, a collage of fabric of different hues, to suggest the many variations of water.

"Andreas is coming (today) with his dad, Chris Welch, and his mother, who is an author of children's books," Kelly said.

"My young people will meet a person younger than them who is extremely talented. It's a privilege to introduce Andreas. He has been really inspirational to my dancers."

Email: [rcaudell@pressrepublican.com](mailto:rcaudell@pressrepublican.com)

Twitter: [@RobinCaudell](https://twitter.com/RobinCaudell)

