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you're dealing with complicated music. If you think about music and numbers, music and math are so intertwined. And to be a dancer you have to listen to the music, you have to understand it, you have to be able to count it and hear it."

The Geometry of Balanchine

"The beauty of Balanchine is being in the audience," she continues, "and I think that's where you see the mathematical, the architectural brilliance in all of his pieces. ... All of a sudden the dancers become like a flock of birds and they just move in these mesmerizing ways. ... He knew lines and structure and geometric shapes and ways to move three people versus five people versus the whole group ... which goes back to science and math. I feel like that's what every mathematician or scientist is doing."

For instance, the geometrical complexities of ballet come to the fore in one short dance sequence from Westside Ballet's *Waltz of the Snowflakes* ("Snow" for short), which the dancers call "the box" and bears resemblance to a vignette in Balanchine's own version of the dance (Westside's "Nutcracker" is billed as "a close rendition" of Balanchine's).

"It's four girls. They come out one at a time and make the shape of a box," explains Lowery. "This box travels around the stage and rotates, but they stay in their box. ... And they're moving and they're running and they're jumping and ... all of a sudden it just unfolds into something else, and then it's no longer a box. It's beautiful."

"When we learn it, we always have to hold hands," adds Weinbach as Abarbanel and Grynberg, who are dancing in "Snow" this year, burst into giggles. "It's a thing. ... Everyone holds hands and walks the pattern, and I'm always impressed ... especially when people have done it for multiple years, it's faster and faster. The first year when



Upper Left: Abarbanel, Weinbach, Grynberg and NYCB alumna Savannah Lowery, who is on her way to medical school. Upper Right: Rose Abarbanel, who has researched pancreatic beta cells, dances Lead Angel in "The Nutcracker." Below: Mirabelle Weinbach studies plant science when not performing lead roles in Westside Ballet showcases.

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