

three events you don't want to miss this month

BY BRIT MOTT

## The Wizard of Oz

Jennifer Larsen is Dorothy, Alyssa Chapates is the Scarecrow, Stephanie Taylor is the Tin Man, and Susan Shepherd is the Lion in Plano Metropolitan Ballet's *The Wizard of Oz*. In all, these dancers have 27 years' Plano Met experience among them including *toe, tap and ballet! Oh, my!*

When asked if the girls get nervous on stage, Alyssa, who has danced with Plano Met the fewest years, was the first to assert, "I don't get nervous anymore." The Allen High School student was more interested in talking about Girl Scout Nights. "The Scouts receive a badge for coming and that's fun," she said.

"That's the best part!" Stephanie agreed. The McKinney High School student has garnered 10 years' experience with Plano Met. Putting her stiff Tin Man character aside, Stephanie shrugs her shoulders and says, "I just like performing."

Susan, a Plano Senior High School student with seven years' Plano Met experience under her belt, is playing the Cowardly Lion. Yet, Susan

is looking forward to braving the flurry of fans after the show. "I mostly enjoy meeting all of the kids at the autograph session," she shares.

Then there's Jennifer, our Dorothy. Lacing up her iconic ruby red ballet slippers, Jennifer reveals that she's been dancing for 15 years. This is the starlet's "biggest" role, so she was excited upon discovering the part was hers. "Excited but shocked," she reflects. "It seemed surreal."

After graduating from Lovejoy High School, Jennifer is uncertain of her next step. "I would love to dance after college, but I don't know what I'm going to do."

So for now, Dorothy's eyes are on the yellow brick road and she, Toto and friends are dancing their way to the Emerald City.

Join their journey January 8–22 at the Courtyard Theater in downtown Plano. Performances are Fridays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 3 p.m. *There is no performance on Friday, January 15.* Girl Scout (only) Nights are Saturdays, January 9 and 16 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15.

► January 8–22 • 972.769.0017 • [planometballet.org](http://planometballet.org)



Profile photo/Mike Newman



## The Texas Prairie Bluegrass Band

Eager for a toe-tapping, knee-slapping bluegrass jam that doesn't cost a dime?

The Texas Prairie Bluegrass Band performs at the Allen Public Library Civic Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, January 22. This group's music is characterized by hard-driving, fast paced tunes with frequent solo breakouts.

"We hope our audience hears the descriptive differences in bluegrass music as compared to other genres," said bandleader Patrick Bouldin. "The live 'orchestration' of the different pieces and the vocal harmony will put their mind squarely in the middle of old town mountain life!"

► Friday, January 22 • 214.509.4911

## The 5th Dimension

Enjoy favorites such as "Up, Up and Away" and "Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In" when the Plano Symphony Orchestra presents **The 5th Dimension**. This Grammy award-winning vocal group boasts 21 best-selling albums featuring pop, R&B, soul, and jazz. The show begins at 8:15 p.m. at the Eisemann Center. Tickets are \$9–\$75.

► Saturday, January 23 • 972.473.7262 • [planosymphony.org](http://planosymphony.org)



Photo/Maurice Rinaldi