

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Going Deep

Ann Haskins · Tuesday, May 16th, 2023

A long-time presence in San Francisco, **Alonzo King Lines Ballet Company** has an international reputation for the liquid, catlike qualities of its dancers and artistic director Alonzo King's distinctive blend of pointe shoe and contemporary ballet choreography that can morph in an instant from elegant to explosive. The company returns for performances at two local venues. On Saturday, May 27, Segerstrom Center for the Performing Arts hosts company in Costa Mesa. On Friday and Saturday, June 9 and 10, the dancers are in Beverly Hills at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills.

The calling card at both venues is *Deep River*, a heart-felt work that marked the company's post-pandemic return to live performance and also launched the troupe's 40th anniversary season last May. Reviewing the May 2022 premiere, *San Francisco Chronicle* critic Rachel Howard wrote "Seeing how these Black Christian spirituals could meld so naturally with dance imagery that suggests influences from both yogic philosophy and Islam, is a striking reminder of the universality King has reclaimed for ballet." [Datebook](#).



Alonzo King LINES Ballet. Photo by Jamie Lyons

In a recent telephone interview, King talked about *Deep River*, his company's longevity, and the underlying spiritual/physical approach that distinguish the dancers, the company, and his dance making.

The initial question was what was the spark for *Deep River* as the work for the 40th anniversary?"

King: *"During the pandemic, we were given a lot of support by organizations to build bubbles so that we could continue to work, because the premise was artists should continue to do what they do. The goal eventually became doing a work for the 40th anniversary, and collecting some of the people we have worked with a long time."*



Deanne Fitzmaurice 2007 / The Chronicle

Alonzo King. Photo courtesy of the artist

That collection effort reunited King with two of his frequent collaborators Lisa Fischer and Jason Moran.

Grammy-award winning vocalist Fischer was the subject of the academy award winning documentary *'Twenty Feet from Stardom.'* This time Fischer is in the thick of the onstage action, singing among the dancers. From available video clips of *Deep River*, she may not consider herself a dancer, but like her singing, she certainly knows how to move with the music.



Vocalist Lisa Fischer and the LINES dancers. Photo by Jamie Lyons

MacArthur genius award-winning composer Moran is artistic director of Jazz at the Kennedy Center among his other laurels. For *Deep River*, Moran not only composed and arranged, he collaborated in adding jazz moments by Pariah Sanders, James Weldon Johnson, and the Maurice Ravel.

King: *“Jason and Lisa are both extraordinary artists. I just feel a strong kinship with their interpretation and creativity, and even more because I don’t separate that from who they are as human beings. They are selflessly generous and always living in a state of gratitude, really glad about their lives. So who wouldn’t want to hang around with those people?”*

“Voices like Lisa’s, it is always more than the beauty of the sound. It’s the intuition, the intelligence that is behind all of it. Her understanding was what was at work, bringing something naturally and I could say ‘That’s it.’ Because that’s what we’re trying to do, relax and be ourselves.”



Vocalist Lisa Fischer and dancer Babatunji Johnson. Photo by Jamie Lyons

“These are people I adored and there were wonderful successes we had before, so it builds a team. Because you’ve worked with people, you know them and they know you, it’s easier. You have a language, not even a language, a sense of their hearing, of non-verbal communication, about places to go. So anyone throwing out seed ideas that come through words, you have responses that comes from that intuitive collaboration.”

In an interview several years ago when Moran and King collaborated at the Vail Dance Festival, Moran described how he writes down melodies then sets them aside, then collaboration often starts over dinner.

“The melody sits on my piano or in my head until Alonzo calls and says let’s have dinner and the melody says, well, I want to go too, and I end up taking the melodies along and ask if there is anything there. Our most frequent conversations is about space. The music is about space. Does the music have enough space for the body to be in conversation with the melody.” Moran told the Vail interviewer.

An anomaly was how music by Maurice Ravel came to be included in the jazz-infused *Deep River*?

King: *“Ravel’s “Kaddish” is incredible, and something I’ve wanted to do for a long time. So we have this combination of spiritual songs from the African American community, from the Jewish community, and other combinations that were chosen because they were deeply heartfelt and we wanted to aim the arrow directly toward the heart. We wanted to address the idea that regardless of what you’re going through, no matter how difficult things are, there is a choice for another focus and nothing lasts forever, inevitably things will change.”*

“Something that everyone has in common is that they want to avoid pain and suffering, and they want some kind of joy that never goes stale. That’s it, across the board. So a lot of it is how to live life, how to not give up, and how there is something deep inside of us that can overcome any

obstacle we ask and access it to.

For me, my obsession is that the ideas are clear and that regardless, and this surprises people for some reason, regardless of the discipline or the occupation, we're all doing the same thing. One of the things that people who are serious about their lives do is they are always interested in self-reform, how can I be clearer, how can I be concise, how can I be improved? And that goes from painting, writing, living your life, whatever is affirmation, improvement, and expansion, that is where my eye is going."

After four decades, King's approach has extended far beyond the dance company to a collaborative BFA program with Dominican College, the dance center, and extensive community programs.

King sees the myriad aspects of LINES as logical extensions of the vision of the founding trio who set out to start the dance company.

King: *There were three of us, Pam Hagen, Robert Rossenwasser and me. We had worked together in Santa Barbara, came to San Francisco and decided to start a company. The idea of a company was always there. When we first came to San Francisco, there were tons of students, a very positive environments among directors and dance makers, and we decided to build a company. The seed for a dance company was always there but it began with classes.*



Alonzo King. Photo by Franck Thibault

Why did they choose San Francisco?.

King: *I lived in New York for a long time and I grew up in Santa Barbara. In New York I found myself trying to find some nature and I could not take it after awhile. I returned to Santa Barbara first. I knew I did not want to go to Europe. I had spent time in Europe and wanted to live in America. San Francisco was a vibrant dance center and it was close to nature.*

Asked why the company is called LINES, King initially quips that the names that he wanted were taken, but then turns to a recurring theme of the interrelationship of dance and the natural world.

King: *"When we look in nature, everything is in phenomena is straight line or circle. We believe that the union of the east and west, whether left brain or right brain, whether female or male,*

whether feeling or logic, there was a necessity for balance that we wanted embodied in the company and the teaching. The name reflects that.”

Videos of King teaching class reflect a distinctive approach that emphasizes avoiding what dancers think are their limits, but instead providing cues for dancers to find things inside themselves that can take their bodies beyond accepted limitations.



Alonzo King LINES Ballet. Photo courtesy of the artists

The strongest evidence for King’s approach is not in the photos of LINES’ often unworldly lithe, long-limbed dancers that the company is known for, but in how LINES dancers move on the way to and from a particular position that might end up captured in a photo.

King: *“When people are new I sometimes have to say ‘stop posing’, this isn’t a photographic session. You have to live in the moment. A dancer is singing the music, just as a musician is dancing the music. A dancer is the embodiment of the idea, not the steps. Steps can be expressed academically in beautiful bodies, yet seem small. What is really important here, is the mind and the heart. I’m working with human beings who I challenge to inhabit their genius and at the same time challenge them to be little kids and follow the idea where the dance goes.*

As a dancer, I might have an idea about a role, how I would dance it, how it will look on me, and I have to get rid of that. What needs to happen is asking what does the role require? To forget about myself for awhile, to give an impersonal analysis and think about what should this be to become to be the most luminous? That's a most beautiful place to be because you are in the service of the idea, instead of wanting to be liked and seeking applause.

Dancers scheduled to perform at both venues include Babatunji, Adji Cissoko, Madeline DeVries, Theo Duff-Grant, Lorris Eichinger, Shuaib Elhassan, Joshua Francique, James Gowan, Ilaria Guerra, Maya Harr, Marusya Madubuko, Michael Montgomery and Tatum Quiñónez.

Alonzo King Lines Ballet Company in *Deep River* — At Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Sat., May 27, 7:30 pm, \$29-\$109. [SCFTA](#).

Also at The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Fri.-Sat., June 9-10, 7:30 pm, \$39-\$125. [The Wallis](#).

More about **Alonzo King LINES Ballet** on [their site](#). Preview clips of *Deep River* on [YouTube](#).

A portion of a company class conducted in 2016 by King. [YouTube](#).

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Using Fundamental Analysis to Predict Cryptocurrency Prices

Our Friends · Tuesday, May 16th, 2023

Cryptocurrency is a relatively new and actively developing concept that attracts the attention of many users worldwide. Among the main features is the possibility of competent investment planning and good earnings with proper resource planning.

Now you can efficiently study [live crypto prices](#) to determine your earnings. Shortly, the market capitalization of cryptocurrency is expected to exceed five billion dollars, which is significantly higher than today.

Cryptocurrency is also actively attracting young investors looking for opportunities to plan personal investments. The studies show that most of today's investors are young and ambitious. Everyone follows the pace of cryptocurrency development to get the maximum benefit from investments. At the same time, not all people understand what cryptography is, what methods are used to earn cryptocurrency, and what are the main reasons for the popularity of cryptocurrency.

Analysis plays a vital role in predicting the value of a cryptocurrency. For example, investors can use a wide variety of valuation parameters that will take into account abrupt changes in the parameters of a cryptocurrency. As a rule, it is best to use fundamental analysis methods, as they allow the most profound assessment of the feasibility of investments using available tools and predict specific indicators of the effectiveness of investments in cryptocurrency.

Cryptocurrency Price Prediction Rules

Fundamental analysis usually consists of several vital parameters, often used to assess the feasibility of investments and set the market situation. For example, earlier, numerous charts could be used for fundamental analysis of crypto prices in real-time that directly affect the appropriateness of specific results. Among the basic norms of fundamental analysis, you should pay attention to the following:

- Technical analysis is the primary process that helps to study the statistical parameters of pricing based on numerous price charts and models in real time.
- Fundamental analysis provides an opportunity to learn all the factors of market development, including global and domestic factors, as well as political and economic features of products.
- Quantitative analysis provides an opportunity to assess the performance and efficiency of the market in question. It is usually used in conjunction with fundamental analysis to enable an efficient investment planning and design process. With the help of various coefficients, it is possible to establish profit for a specific type of digital asset and the efficiency of cash flow in the modern market.

Fundamental analysis is viral among those users who want to predict the rise and fall of a particular cryptocurrency. Usually, data from a previous study is used for evaluation, which allows you to set a crypto price live. Fundamental analysis will enable you to determine the long-term prospects for developing investments based on a wide range of information and various parameters.

Features of fundamental analysis

Fundamental analysis is a kind of methodology that allows investors to fully evaluate the variables that directly affect the value of a particular cryptocurrency in real-time. When assessing the intrinsic value of a cryptocurrency, external or internal parameters are taken into account that affects the qualitative factors of economic development, determining the general state of the market and the market capitalization of the cryptocurrency asset in question.

Among the critical features of fundamental analysis, one should pay attention to the fact that crucial factors are evaluated that consider various aspects of the development of cryptocurrency and not just price charts for cryptocurrency or other resources.

The fundamental analysis makes it possible to consider and study a broader picture of the development of the value of a cryptocurrency, taking into account various factors. At the same time, when compared with technical analysis, technical parameters, and charts are evaluated as other fundamental values.

The main goal of fundamental analysis is to establish the causes and consequences of certain decisions for investors. The main advantage of fundamental analysis is that various external and internal factors can be used to evaluate and set parameters that directly affect the behavior of a cryptocurrency in real-time.

Fundamental aspects of cryptocurrency fundamental analysis

To understand the features of cryptocurrency development, fundamental analysis needs to use several vital parameters. A broader one is distinguished among the primary approaches, covering

many concepts. Here it is essential to consider the market, national and macroeconomic parameters that can directly impact the formation of the value of the cryptocurrency in real-time.

There is also an approach that considers independent factors that directly impact the formation of a cryptocurrency's value in the modern market. Fundamental analysis works on the same principle as traditional assets but has some significant changes, considering various asset options when planning investments. Investors who want to understand the peculiarities of market development should pay attention to the following fundamental parameters:

- Questions about the market capitalization of a particular coin in the market.
- Supply and demand for the tokens in question.
- Usefulness and features of the use of tokens.
- Community development. This is one of the critical indicators determining a particular cryptocurrency's popularity.
- Cryptocurrency developers. They define the basic rules and features of the development of the cryptocurrency in question in the long term.
- The trading volume of a particular coin directly affects the market capitalization parameters.
- Listings on significant cryptocurrency exchanges play a fundamental role in investment planning.
- The latest news about cryptocurrency from the general state and features of the development of the cryptocurrency market.
- Government regulation plays a vital role in the pricing process.

Fundamental analysis also only sometimes gives a complete picture of the development of a particular cryptocurrency, which is very important to consider when investing. You can use the technical documentation to build a more complete picture or other options. You can also use critical metrics that will help you evaluate the feasibility of investments and consider crypto prices live.

Beforehand, it is essential to evaluate the primary metrics of the Blockchain and to reveal the critical technological processes and features of the development of the cryptocurrency in question for effective and productive investments. The hash rate is one of the critical parameters that determine the rate at which new tokens appear, as well as the total system power required to mine and keep all the tokens running.

For example, some cryptocurrencies use algorithms based on the cryptographic hashing of data. This means that lower speeds can be used to complete transactions and process data, which leads to a decrease in interest in cryptocurrency from potential investors.

When conducting fundamental analysis, one should consider many parameters of efficiency and reliability. With the help of forecasting, you can evaluate the speed and characteristics of making a specific decision and make decisions related to the perception of a particular cryptocurrency. The different backgrounds and the general situation make understanding how profitable investments in the cryptocurrency in question will be possible.

Fundamental analysis has found wide application among investors due to the ability to follow the news background and the general situation, which allows you to establish the general location of a cryptocurrency project. Cryptocurrency is the factor that affects the development of many modern industries, determining their efficiency and reliability. It is essential to be able to conduct your investigation and to be able to ask questions to reduce possible risks and optimize all tasks. This

will allow you to correctly distribute the available resources and reduce the likelihood of losing many funds when investing in new projects.

When forecasting, it is essential to consider the issues of state regulation, the general news background, and the distribution of a particular cryptocurrency. It is also necessary to study the cost of the cryptocurrency and the various parameters that change every month to get the most realistic idea of pricing. Keeping track of live crypto pricing is also essential, which will help you stay updated with the latest events.

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David Rigsbee: Two Poems

David Rigsbee · Monday, May 15th, 2023

Joan

It was no different than any other day.
Already, we were hyper-aware of the clock
Whose poker-face ticked toward nine.

Our teacher was a clueless woman with her
Upswept, stainless pussycat glasses,
Slip strap inching down her sleeveless arm

as she diagrammed sentences that looked
like the cutaway of a ship, words on deck,
then all the way down to steerage.

The late student was a tall girl, Joan,
first heir of integration. I will not say
beneficiary, because it was the day

we tortured her. She seemed a lonely girl,
but it would be more correct to say our prank
only bolded the torment of her being

there, where she belonged, to learn
how language sought the measure,
to release her from the trap of thoughts

unexpressed. Someone had the brilliant
idea to bring a box of thumbtacks
and shared them with us before class.

We leaned over to pour three or four
like spilled candy on the oak desk seat.
Then we returned to our zits and waited,

staring at desktops, books closed.
She appeared, and the teacher looked up,
said nothing, and returned to her chore.

Wishing to be invisible, Joan moved
among the seats, pulling the skirt of her
white dress aside to pass down the row

until she found her seat and looking up
at the gray teacher, sat. She was the color
of plum, of internal sweetness fading,

the jolt of the joke revealed. So much
we could never know passed us then
the way a blanket of blackbirds

suddenly sweeps itself off the sweetgum
and scatters into the Carolina night,
leaving the leaves for a moment shaken.

For she was a child and we were children.

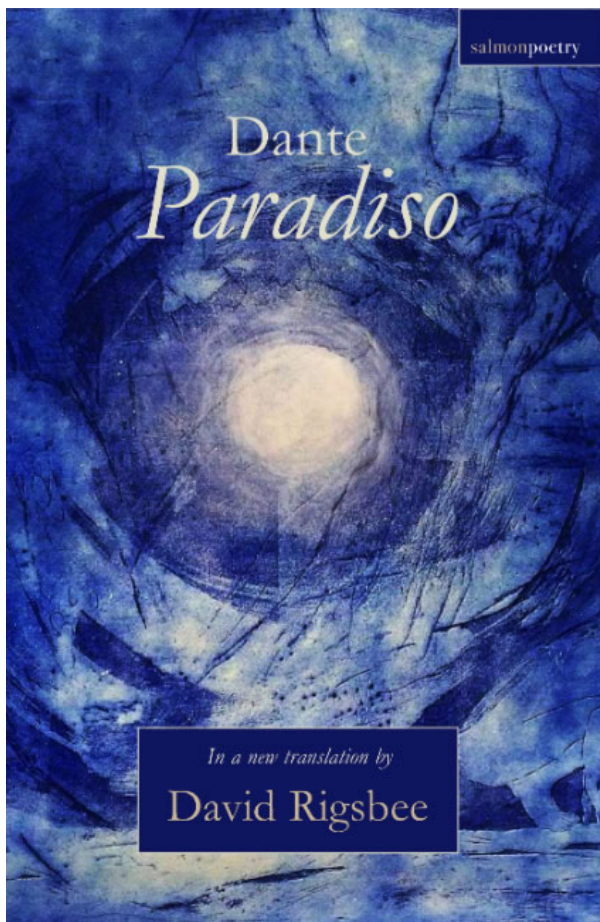
*

Why We Marry

For Kurt Erickson and Heidi Moss

You see it when night returns
and you think, yes, I could have
stayed far away, but did not.
And the night rises immediately
to meet that small affirmative,
bringing with it smoky clouds
that will separate and reform
into a darkening monochrome,
according to the law.
Starlings race across the rooftops
as the west pulls the light after it.
The banter of birds is pronounced,
each insisting on its rights.
A few peel off and fly upward
as if they wanted to see the curvature
of the earth. They remember
how it is, living the days in disbelief.
A man presents his torso to the window

and cars go by below, their missions
useless to speculate upon. Some kids
gather on the corner. One lights another's
cigarette. A third stares down, texting,
her face glowing. Or not unglowing,
and yet clear and not ungracious.
For the night moves each
into a renewed formation, the night
that contains the past, the way the soil
contains every single one of the dead.
Your hand extends on a day in the future
like a small beetle, raising its wingcase
with a flick, which is not an announcement
but a portion of silence, pretending one thing,
and meaning the invisible other.



Dante's *Paradiso*, translated by David Rigsbee

Purchase Dante's *Paradiso*, translated by David Rigsbee

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Review: *like everything else we loved* by Sarah A Chavez

Bess N Mobley · Wednesday, May 10th, 2023

The poems in Sarah A Chavez’s new chapbook, *like everything else we loved*, have a sullen undertone, but they are not devoid of hope. In fact, the entire text offers a unique way to be hopeful when you’ve lost someone incredibly important—especially via that person’s untimely death.

The collection, which is epistolary in nature (rare in an entire collection of contemporary works), is forthcoming from [Pork Belly Press](#).

In “Dear Carole, Dermatologists call the body a ‘trunk’,” the narrator says:

“Like losing you, the loss
of the tree was quick. One day,
diagnosis, the next day dust
from the wood chipper coated
the large hold in the grass
where the stump was pulled out.
A hole so big I could sit in it;

So I did, and I ran my hand
along the edges of still root,
connectionless beneath
the grassy surface. I put
my tongue to the limbs’ ashes,
sawdust caught in my lashes.

Even so, I like the idea
of being a tree” (5).

This poem tries to deal with the loss of something firm in the narrator’s life which has now disappeared. Because trees live so long, most of us forget that they all die—just like us. The narrator crawls into the emptiness where the tree used to be and we can feel that depth of loneliness we all feel one time or another.

The themes of death, loss of love, internal and surface level disease and mental health can help a range of readers cope with various types of loss but the poems do not play out like a lot of other love poems I have read. There is a darkness in Chavez’s work that is just so real and realistic. The text doesn’t sugarcoat anything, and it doesn’t try to be happy. The narrator is just trying to be.

In “Dear Carole, it hurts to look at things,” the narrator writes:

“I am the ink, you the ghost skin
the paper, and the moment
I stop writing
you’ll disappear again
taking these words with you” (7).

Like an offering to a lost love, the poems offer a chance to try and heal, but not in the cliché ways

of polite society. Here, it seems like the narrator is working through the fear of losing someone completely. Death takes people away in one way, but then we slowly lose them more over time. When someone dies people say things like “time heals all wounds” or “they’ll still be with you” and other such nonsense, but loss of loved ones often seems to never dissipate. Chavez’s collection does not attempt to comfort the reader, because the narrator finds little comfort in Carole’s death. Carole is obviously one of the most important relationships the narrator has ever had, and I think we can all relate to the collection in this way, whether we have lost loves due to death or to just falling apart. Loss always seems to connote an emptiness and the work does a good job at unboxing the empty shell left behind by this sort of loss.

The narrator of the letters keeps the lover alive through the act of dreaming. In “Dear Carole, in my dream last night,” it says:

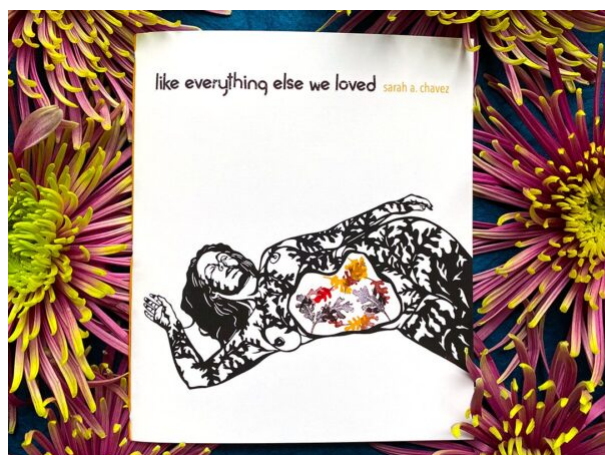
“I hear it like a stage whisper, breathing in my ear,
Nina Simone’s ‘I put a spell on you.’
I like this song, I say, shouting again

to cover the distance and din of your voice
reverberating against the mirrors. You don’t respond” (8).

The narrator walks the reader through the stages of grief, ending the collection with ghosts. In “Dear Carole, I look out the window,” we are left with a stark but somehow hopeful image:

“you will
feel the tingling
touch of my fingers
on your phantom limbs
and remember
you meant to haunt me”

And even though ghosts may not sound hopeful at first—when you’ve lost someone you can’t live without, you’ll understand that haunting is still presence and sometimes that has to be good enough because it’s all you’ve got (12). I loved every word of *like everything else we loved* because it helped me cope with my own hauntings. And it can help you, too.



like everything else we loved by Sarah A. Chavez

Purchase *like everything else we loved* by Sarah A. Chavez

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4 Reasons Why a Gutter System Impacts the Value of Your Property

Our Friends · Wednesday, May 10th, 2023

Whether you're [selling your house](#) or buying a new one, you'll want to get the best deal possible. That means finding a reliable contractor who knows what he's doing. You also want someone who's experienced, because if something goes wrong during construction, you could end up paying for repairs months later. And finally, you want an installer who's licensed and insured.

That said, here are four reasons why gutters can boost the value of your home.

Gutters Can Increase the Value of Your Home

1. Add Curb Appeal

Curb-appealing has a dramatic effect on the value of a house. It's a first impression that hits prospective homeowners from the minute they arrive at the address of the house behind the "for sale" sign. A great deal of emphasis is put on interior staging when trying to draw highly qualified prospects (buyer prospects), with little work beyond a manicured lawn, and trim hedging to accentuate the outside. We can safely say we should pay equal if not more consideration to **outside staging**. By doing so, we will improve curb-appealing and boost the value of our property.

We can follow up that statement by telling you that by installing a new gutter system before putting your house on the open marketplace (or launching a re-marketing plan) you will instantly make a noticeable improvement to that appearance. Select a gutter system that best fits the design of the house. For instance, copper gutters look amazing on historic or historical-styling houses while black on black aluminum or zinc gray look amazing on modern properties.

2. Protects the Home's Exterior

When you install a sound new gutter system you immediately add an incomparable layer of protection to the exterior of your home. New gutters will properly direct rainwater away from the sides of your home, preventing exterior paint from peeling and mold/mildew and rust from forming on the outside. When integrated with a strong and adequately targeted downspout your home's landscaping (at the base surrounding the house) is effectively protected as well. A well-protected home exterior adds value to the entire property.

Also, products like ice dams are especially important if you live in the north where there's a lot of snowfall and freezing temperatures.

3. Protects the Home's Interior

Rain water is one of the biggest threats to any house. Water damage inside a house can cause serious problems. Gutter systems help prevent water damage by keeping rain out of the house. A properly installed gutter system should keep water off the roof and downspouts.

4. Public Perception is Key

A gutter system can make a big difference to the appearance of your house. In addition to improving the aesthetic appeal of your exterior, a quality gutter system also helps prevent water damage to your roof and walls. Gutter systems come in various styles and materials, so it pays to shop around before choosing one. You should consider how much space you have between your roof and wall surfaces, what type of weather conditions you live in, and whether you plan to add any additional features such as dormers or skylights.

You may be wondering whether you should put your home up for sale, now that the market is expected to cool down. Or, maybe you're just thinking ahead, planning for a time when you might want to move into another house. Or maybe you're already looking at [houses for sale](#). Whatever the case, we can help you get started!

Photo by Pawel Czerwinski on Unsplash

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