

The Nutcracker



fort wayne
ballet

KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

DECEMBER 3 -12, 2021 | ARTS UNITED CENTER



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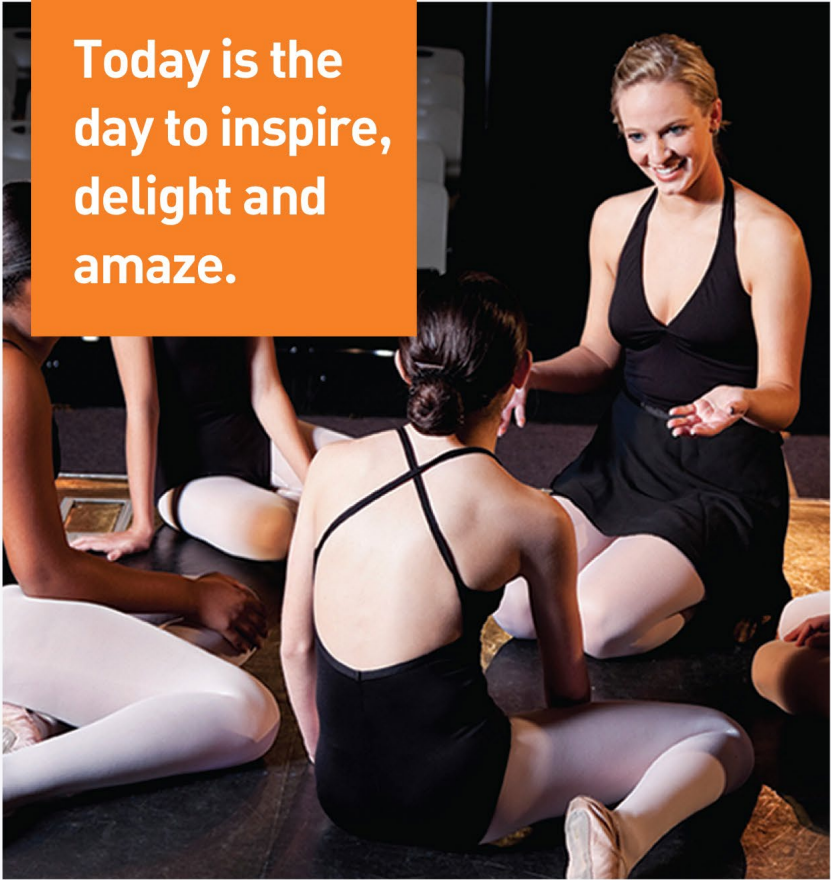
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Thank you, Fort Wayne Ballet, for all you do
to make our community a beautiful place.

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fort wayne
ballet 65

KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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It's Christmas Eve in 1892 and something sinister is afoot . . .

THE NUTCRACKER STORY — as most of us know and love — is about a young girl's fantastical dream of her beloved Nutcracker that comes to life, battles an evil mischief of mice, and whisks her away to a magical land of sugary delights. We know because we've seen and enjoyed the iconic musical score for generations. The ballet was choreographed in 1892.

What many may not know is the background story. The ballet is based on German author E.T.A. Hoffmann's 1816 shadowy tale filled with rivalry and revenge! The original story involves a back-and-forth battle between the king's family and the Mouse Queen, who puts a magic spell on the king's daughter, transforming her into a nutcracker with a grossly large head, wide grinning mouth, and a white beard. As the story goes, the only cure is for her to eat a Crackatook nut offered by a man who must keep his eyes closed and take seven steps backward without stumbling.

In the story, Drosselmeyer is the king's inventor, and his handsome nephew is the only young man able to crack the Crackatook nut and feed it to the king's daughter, restoring her beauty. By doing so, the princess and young Drosselmeyer are to be wed. But alas, on his seventh step backward, the hero trips over the Mouse Queen who casts a nutcracker curse on him, giving the young man a nutcracker's unappealing oversized head, wide grinning mouth, and a beard.

Initially, the princess rejects the Nutcracker because of his hideous appearance. Ultimately, the Nutcracker fights and wins the battle with the Mouse Queen, and then celebrates by taking the story's heroine to a kingdom of dolls where she sees many wonderful things. She tells the Nutcracker she loves him in spite of his looks, and by confessing her love, she breaks the curse, restoring his handsome face. They wed and live happily ever after.

It's a time-honored, imaginative tale and truly a holiday classic. We hope you enjoy!

OUR SPRING SEASON begins with a sumptuous treat for Valentine's Day with performances of *Love Notes*, our new **Celebration Series** in March, the much-anticipated *The Sleeping Beauty* in April, and *Romeo & Juliet* in May with Fort Wayne Philharmonic. Check our website and social media for details to come.

Finally, a note of gratitude to every one of our patrons, parents, dancers, and instructors. We're in challenging times, but together, we are making a notably positive difference through dance. Collectively, we will continue to engage and empower others to know the importance of the arts. **Thank you** for joining us on this journey!

Karen Gibbons-Brown

Karen Gibbons-Brown

Artistic Director

fortwayneballet.org

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*Performance time is about 35 minutes, ideal for all ages!

fort wayne ballet
KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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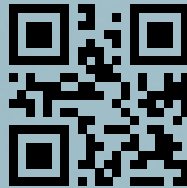
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To each, we say:

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Thank you!

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The story of The Nutcracker

It is Christmas Eve at the estate of Herr and Frau Von Stahlbaum. Their two children, Clara and Fritz, are eagerly anticipating the traditional holiday party that is about to begin. As the curtain opens, relatives and guests make their way through the wintery evening toward the Von Stahlbaum mansion.

Preparing to put in a surprise appearance at the party is an old family friend, Uncle Drosselmeyer. Herr Drosselmeyer is an inventor of magical toys, and it is his intention to entertain the guests at the Von Stahlbaum party.

When Herr Drosselmeyer arrives at the party with his nephew, Christian Drosselmeyer, the guests are delighted with the surprises and gifts he has brought. After the traditional Christmas promenade, Herr Drosselmeyer presents a special gift to Clara — a magical Nutcracker. Fritz and his friends tease Clara and the other girls, and in the process Fritz seizes the toy from Clara and breaks it. Clara is in tears as Herr Drosselmeyer mends the Nutcracker, then gently puts him back in Clara's arms. Clara and Fritz are taken to bed as the guests leave.

Later that evening, long after the party is over, Clara quietly tiptoes back to the parlor to find

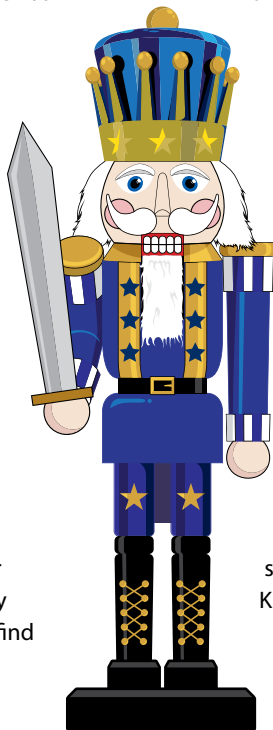
her beloved Nutcracker. Cradling it in her arms, she falls asleep in a chair and begins to dream that tiny frightening mice have come to steal the Christmas presents. As the clock strikes midnight, more mice appear and snatch the Nutcracker from Clara's arms. Herr Drosselmeyer intervenes and the magical journey begins.

The Nutcracker comes to life and calls together an army of toy soldiers to protect Clara from the nasty mice. Together, they battle the mice, now joined by their Queen Mouserink. As Clara watches in horror, she sees that the mice are winning and bravely strikes the Queen with her own shoe.

The Queen falls dead and the mice carry her away as Clara is left in tears with the collapsed Nutcracker. Herr

Drosselmeyer reappears and makes the lifeless hero magically arise as a charming Prince. The courage of young Clara has delivered him from an evil spell that had imprisoned him in the misshapen form of a Nutcracker.

The Prince thanks Clara for saving his life and leads her outside. A wintery landscape greets the two voyagers as the Snow Queen welcomes Clara and the Nutcracker Prince. Showered by swirling snow, Clara and her Prince are sent along to the enchanting Kingdom of Sweets.



FORT WAYNE BALLET'S ORIGINAL

The Nutcracker

3 - 12 DECEMBER 2021 | ARTS UNITED CENTER

Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Staging & Choreography Karen Gibbons-Brown
Additional Choreography & Rehearsers Eleonora Pokhitonova Hartung, Tracy Tritz

Costume Design Nan Possemato
Costume Execution Nan Possemato, Duncan Smith
Lighting Director Miriam Morgan
Production Managers Christina Brinker, Luke Holliger

Sets Design & Execution Adam Fletcher, Elizabeth Sandmaier, Jonathon Sandmaier

Master Tree Design Troy Trinkle
Set redesign and tree sponsored by McMillen Foundation
Adoptable pets provided by Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control and Humane Fort Wayne



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FORT WAYNE BALLET'S ORIGINAL

The Nutcracker

The Christmas Party

<i>Herr Drosselmeyer</i>	Jim Schmidt
<i>Frau Von Stahlbaum</i>	Raleigh Sparrow
<i>Herr Von Stahlbaum</i>	Kent Bixler
<i>Clara</i>	Sadie Jones^, Abby Zinsser*
<i>Fritz</i>	Devlin Affolder-Walker*, Zane Faulstich^
<i>Christian Drosselmeyer</i>	Zion Harris^, Talbot Rue*
<i>Party Ladies</i>	Joni Dick, Cailin Kluttz^, Janet Leezer*, Elizabeth Mueller*, Carmie Schiano Nelson*, Savannah Norwood^, Beth Perkins*, Patricia Reeves^, Grace Sauls^
<i>Party Men</i>	David Claypoole*, Rudolph Davis, Todd Opacinch*, Thomas Caleb Roberts^, Darton Shafer^, Graeham Toomey
<i>Grandfather</i>	RJ Benninghoff
<i>Grandmother</i>	Marita O'Neil Maloley^, Jackie Coburn*
<i>Party Girls</i>	Jillian Knowles*, Emori Lawson^, Bianca Parra^, Katherine Potter*, Lauren Thomas^, Leah Thomas*, Sophia Whetstone*
<i>Party Boys</i>	Devlin Affolder-Walker^, Zane Faulstich*, Evan Naish, Matias Parra, Dexter Shafer
<i>Maids</i>	Samantha Berry*, Avalou Burns^, Katie Brown^, Adella-Mae Huffer*
<i>Butler</i>	Yu-Chieh Chao*, Talbot Rue^
<i>Sugar Plum Fairy Puppet</i>	Charlotte Mueller*, Zoe Johnson^
<i>Nutcracker Puppet</i>	Charlotte Campbell^, Olivia Latham*
<i>Queen Mouserink Puppet</i>	Elizabeth Grable
<i>Sugar Plum Fairy Doll</i>	Amber Bailey^, Saki Morimoto*
<i>Soldier Doll</i>	David Claypoole^, Thomas Caleb Roberts* (Special Guest appearance from Gigi's Playhouse: December 7, AWS performance)

FORT WAYNE BALLET'S ORIGINAL

The Nutcracker

The Battle

<i>Nutcracker Prince</i>	Zion Harris^, Talbot Rue*
<i>Queen Mouserink</i>	Rachel Aron^, Babette Hunter*
<i>Baby Mice</i>	Elizabeth Grable, Gabrielle Hire^, Evan Naish*
<i>Big Mice</i>	Victoria Angle^, Teagan Bentley^, Alan Dario Barragan Campos^, Gracie Carpenter*, Yu-Chieh Chao, David Claypoole*, Rudolph Davis, May Kawashima*, Olivia Ley^, Caraline Schuppe*, Graeham Toomey, Leah Wolfe
<i>Mouse Queen Sentry</i>	Tekhylon Armour, Allen Sizemore
<i>Little Soldiers</i>	Charlotte Campbell^, Olivia Latham*, Wren Kurzen
<i>Soldier Captain</i>	Leo Walker
<i>Soldier Brigade</i>	Trinity Armour-Kelsaw, Ellis Baron, Samantha Berry^, Alexa Bremer, Isabella Carrillo*, Katie Carr, Ella Emrick, Joanna Evanich, Jade Henry, Yevva Ireland, Olivia Johnson, Harper Kurzen, Gigi McDowell, Olivia Myers*, 1, Rocco O'Reilly, Rhiana Pelance, Shiloh Petersen, Tabitha Wolf

The Land of Snow

<i>Snow Queen</i>	Amanda Eve Carrick*, Izumi Masaki^
<i>Snow Cavalier</i>	Alan Dario Barragan Campos*, Keisuke Nishikawa^
<i>Snow Crystals</i>	Tatum Farlow*, Jessica Humphrey^, Babette Hunter^, Lindsay Navarre*
<i>Snowflakes</i>	Alexis Andrews^, Teagan Bentley*, Katherine Cakovic*, Erin Ekin*, Stella Falconer, Grace Gephart*, Katherine Grable^, Anna Hess^, Sandra Imbriaco*, Olivia Myers^, Abigail Reiber*, Hitomi Shiraishi^, Victoria Stocker^, Abby Storer*, Fiona Tippmann^

— *Intermission* —

As Act II begins, 12 beautiful Angels, along with the Blossoms and Sugar Plum Fairy Attendants, guide Clara's voyage to Konfiturenburg, the Kingdom of Sweets. She is welcomed by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. The Nutcracker Prince relates the story of the battle and of Clara's bravery. Clara is crowned and a ceremony is performed to honor her for saving the Nutcracker Prince, featuring dances from several lands: Spain, Arabia, China, Russia and France. Then the enchanted Flowers perform a beautiful swirling waltz. After the Grand Pas de Deux by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier, a joyous Finale is performed by all inhabitants of the Kingdom of Sweets. As Clara's dream begins to fade, her mother returns and gently guides the sleeping Clara back to her bed. The magic of this Christmas Eve will always remain with Clara, just as the magic of *The Nutcracker* continues to touch the ageless heart.

The Kingdom of Sweets

<i>Sugar Plum Fairy</i>	Amber Bailey^, Saki Morimoto*
<i>Sugar Plum Cavalier</i>	David Claypoole^, Thomas Caleb Roberts*
<i>Unicorns</i>	Gracie Carpenter^, Jade Henry*, Yevva Ireland^, Olivia Johnson*, Savannah Norwood*, Grace Sauls^, Tabitha Wolf
<i>Pages</i>	Kennedy Benzinger*, Natasha Cartwright^, Rebecca Fletcher^, Aubrey Ziel*
<i>Sugar Plum Attendants</i>	Stella Falconer*, Grace Gephart^, Abby Storer^, Fiona Tippmann*
<i>Blossoms</i>	Polly Ahrens*, Virginia Cutter^, Mary Jandorf^, Allyson Sherman^, Regina Tippmann*, Aubrey Ziel^
<i>Angels</i>	Ellis Baron^, Elizabeth Bose*, Alexa Bremer*, Wednesday Carrier^, Adelyn Doxsee*, Ella Emrick*, Nora Gillen*, Elizabeth Grable*, Isabel Hoffer, Ryla Jackson^, Isabelle Johnson, Harper Kurzen, Elyn Lawson, Nayomie Marret, Bianca Parra*, Katherine Potter^, Jossalyn Sherman^, Allison Todd^, Sophia Whetstone^
<i>Spanish Chocolate Ladies</i>	Rachel Aron^, Samantha Berry*, Katie Brown*, Avalou Burns*, Katherine Cackovic^, Isabel Carrillo*, Tatum Farlow^, Brittany Focht^, Babette Hunter^, Cailin Kluttz*
<i>Spanish Chocolate Men</i>	Tekhylon Armour, Allen Sizemore
<i>Arabian Coffee Princess</i>	Carmie Schiano Nelson
<i>Arabian Coffee Prince</i>	Graeham Toomey
<i>Parrots</i>	Virginia Cutter*, Violet Harris, Wren Kurzen, Olivia Latham*, Amelia Leitch^, Regina Tippmann^

FORT WAYNE BALLET'S ORIGINAL

The Nutcracker

<i>Chinese Tea Soloists</i>	Amber Bailey*, Amanda Eve Carrick^, Saki Morimoto^, Ashleigh Sewell*
<i>Chinese Dragon</i>	Alexis Andrews, Victoria Angle^, Katie Carr, Joanna Evanich, Katherine Grable, May Kawashima, Savannah Norwood, Caraline Schuppe*, Hitomi Shiraishi
<i>Trepak Corps Men</i>	Alan Dario Barragan Campos^, David Claypoole*, Zion Harris*, Keisuke Nishikawa*, Thomas Caleb Roberts^, Talbot Rue^
<i>Trepak Corps Ladies</i>	Victoria Angle*, Isabel Carrillo^, Anna Hess*, Olivia Ley, Olivia Myers, Caraline Schuppe^
<i>Marzipan Shepherdess</i>	Rachel Aron*, Samantha Berry^, Katie Brown^, Avalou Burns^, Cailin Kluttz*, Ashleigh Sewell^, Payton Wilson*, Leah Wolfe*
<i>Sheep</i>	Trinity Armour-Kelsaw, Ellis Baron*, Alexa Bremer^, Isabel Hoffer*, Nayomie Marret*, Rhiana Pelance^, Leah Thomas^
<i>Mother Ginger</i>	Raleigh Sparrow
<i>BonBons</i>	Zadie Bell, Ella Emrick, Jillian Knowles, Elyn Lawson, Emori Lawson, Matias Parra, Gabriella Stroh, Lauren Thomas
<i>Dew Drop</i>	Maddie Opacinch
<i>Flower Demi Soloist</i>	Tatum Farlow^, Jessica Humphrey*, Babette Hunter*, Lindsay Navarre^
<i>Flowers</i>	Avalou Burns*, Katherine Cackovic, Clara Delaney, Brittany Focht, Sandra Imbriaco, Sadie Jones*, Gigi McDowell*, Abigayle Reiber, Victoria Stocker^, Payton Wilson^, Abby Zinsser^

— *Fin* —

Performance Key:

* December 3 at 7:30 PM; December 4 @ 2 PM; December 11 at 7:30 PM; December 12 at 2 PM; and December 7: AWS performance.

^ December 4 at 7:30 PM; December 5 at 2 PM; December 9 at 7:30 PM; December 10 at 7:30; December 11 at 2 PM.

Others as announced from the stage.

ANDREW CONSTANTINE
MUSIC DIRECTOR
FORT WAYNE PHILHARMONIC

Andrew Constantine began his musical studies on the cello. His first studies were with John Carewe and Norman Del Mar in London and later with Leonard Bernstein at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival in Germany. At the same time, he founded the Bardi Orchestra in Leicester. With this ensemble he performed throughout Europe and the UK and had his first taste and experience of conducting an enormous range of the orchestral repertoire.

A British Council scholarship took Constantine to the Leningrad State Conservatory in 1991 where he studied with the legendary pedagogue Ilya Musin. He cites Musin as being the strongest influence on his conducting, both technically and philosophically. His Royal Festival Hall debut in 1992 with the London Philharmonic was met with unanimous critical acclaim and praise.

In 2004, he was awarded a highly prestigious British NESTA Fellowship to further develop his international career. This was also a recognition of Constantine's commitment to the breaking down of barriers that blur the perceptions of classical music and to bringing a refreshed approach to the concert-going experience. This is a commitment that he has carried throughout his work and which continues with his advocacy for music education for all ages.

Another project created by Constantine geared towards the 'contextualizing' of composers' lives is The Composer: REVEALED. In these programs the work of well-known composers is brought to life through the combination of dramatic interludes acted out between segments of chamber, instrumental and orchestral music, culminating with a complete performance of a major orchestral work. The year 2015 saw the debut of Tchaikovsky: REVEALED.

In 2004, Andrew Constantine was invited by the great Russian maestro Yuri Temirkanov to become Assistant Conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Within a year he became Associate Conductor and has enjoyed a wonderful working relationship with the orchestra since that time.

In 2007 he accepted the position of Music Director of the Reading Symphony Orchestra in Pennsylvania – after the RSO considered over 300 candidates - and helped the orchestra celebrate its 100th Anniversary as they continue to perform to capacity audiences. In addition, in 2009 he was chosen as the Music Director of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic from a field of more than 250 candidates.

He has worked with the Buffalo Philharmonic, Rochester Philharmonic, Syracuse Symphony, Jacksonville Symphony, Chautauqua Festival Orchestra and Phoenix Symphony, among others. Again, critical acclaim has been hugely positive, the press review of his Phoenix debut describing it as "the best concert in the last ten years."



FORT WAYNE PHILHARMONIC

Andrew Constantine, Music Director

VIOLIN I

Violetta Todorova
Johanna Bourkova-Morunov,
Timothy Tan
Tomer Marcus
Joachim Stepniewski
Marcella Trentacosti

VIOLIN II

Betsy Gephart
David Ling
Alexandra Tsilibes
Pablo Vasquez
Kristin Westover
Michael Acosta

VIOLA

Derek Reeves
Debra Welter
Bruce Graham
Theodore E. Chemey III

CELLO

Peter Opie
Deborah Nitka Hicks
David Rezits
Elizabeth Lee Heald

BASS

Adrian Mann
Kevin Piekarski

FLUTE

Vivianne Bélanger
Jessica Warren
Hillary Feibel

OBOE

Orion Rapp
Pavel Morunov
Jennet Ingle

CLARINET

Laurie Blanchet
Gavin Arnold
Dan Heaton

BASSOON

Dennis Fick
Anne Devine

HORN

Michelle Hembree
Katherine Loesch
Michael Galbraith
Kenji Ulmer

TRUMPET

Akira Murotani
Daniel Ross

TROMBONE

Brian Johnston
Kevin Dombrowski
Andrew Hicks

TUBA

Chance Trotman-Huiet

TIMPANI

Eric Schweikert

PERCUSSION

Alison Chorn
Kevin Kosnik

HARP

Eleanor Kirk

PIANO

Alexander Klepach



JONATHAN BUSAROW
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
FORT WAYNE CHILDREN'S CHOIR



Mr. Busarow holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Valparaiso University, a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from The Ohio State University, and Kodály Certification from the Kodály Institute at Capital University. Mr. Busarow also serves on the faculty of Purdue University Fort Wayne where he teaches voice and choral music education. He has also served as the interim director of choral studies at IPFW and Valparaiso University. Mr. Busarow serves as the choir director at Emanuel Lutheran Church in New Haven, Indiana.

Mr. Busarow is in frequent demand as a clinician and as a tenor soloist. He has conducted at the American Choral Director's Association National and Regional Conferences, the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, the Indiana Music Educators Association Convention, and the Bach Institute at Valparaiso University. Mr. Busarow serves as the Reading Session Chair for the American Choral Directors Association Central Division Conference. In 2015, he received the Arts United Award as the Emerging Leader. Valparaiso University awarded him the Distinguished Decade Award in 2018.

TREBLE CHOIR 2021 - 2022

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| Micah Cecil | Adrian Martinez | Alicia Seals |
| LaQuaisiah Cummings | Melody Masloob | Brylee Stoffer |
| Alivia Delagrange | Olivia Milligan | Audrey Todd |
| Hailey Ensley | Niang Nuam | Ryan Waikel |
| Chloe Fogle | Amillia Palacios | Liam Wilson |
| Zeya Gill | Zoey Pinedo | Anamaria Yaney |
| Breanna Hinderer | JohnPaul Ramsey | |
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The Nutcracker

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Stage Manager	Luke Holliger
Lighting Design	Miriam Morgan
Fly Master	Ryan Myers
Costume Designer	Nan Possemato
Costume Shop Supervisor	Nan Possemato
Costume Shop Assistant	Duncan Smith
Costume Shop Volunteers	Anna Hess, Pam Laux, Christyna Schuppe
Backstage Crew	Christine Baron, Andrea Benzinger, Julie Bremer, Matt Faley, Lorenzo Kleine, Jordan Kurzen, Russell Lauer, Gretchen Lawson, Robert Marracino, Rob Pelance, Jimmy Sizemore, Julie Sizemore, Maria Victoria
Special Thanks	Adam Fletcher, Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, Luke Holliger, Corey Lee, Miriam Morgan, Pappas Furs
ArtsTix Community Box Office	Reuben Albaugh, Director De'Andre Martin, Assistant Director

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KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Karen Gibbons-Brown's resume contains an impressive list of credentials. She began her early training in Columbia, South Carolina under Ann Brodie, Naomi Calvert and Adolphina Suarez-More. Her early training and performing included ballet as well as modern, jazz, tap and theater dance. She continued her studies at American Ballet Theatre with Maria Swoboda, Michael Lland, Patricia Wilde and Leon Danelian and studied on scholarship at David Howard School of Ballet.

Her professional experiences also include South Carolina Chamber Dance Ensemble, Ballet Celeste, Bristol Ballet and the Theatre Ballet of San Francisco where she recreated Anna Pavlova's roles *The California Poppy* and *The Dragonfly*. Other performing highlights include performances at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, the title role in *Cinderella*, *The Sugar Plum Fairy* in *The Nutcracker*, *Swanhilda* in *Coppelia*, *Aurora* in *The Sleeping Beauty* and "Spring Waters" pas de deux, an exciting display of partnering created by the great Russian choreographer Asaf Messerer. Ms. Gibbons-Brown considers herself fortunate to have had works created especially for her including solos, *Pentimento* by Jill Eathorne Barr and the role of Anna in Richard Monroe's work, *The Hussar*. Throughout her career, she has made numerous guest appearances throughout the United States.

Ms. Gibbons-Brown is known for her work in the classroom and enjoys teaching a variety of dance related subjects including ballet, pointe, repertoire, terminology, dance history, pedagogy and makeup and hair for stage as well as restaging major classical works. She has often been invited to teach guest classes and workshops including in Sicily, Italy, Fontenay le Fleury, France and the prestigious Joffrey San Antonio Workshop under the directorship of her mentor Jeremy Blanton. She received her certification in Labanotation while serving on the faculty of Virginia Intermont College under the direction of Constance Hardinge and served as Ballet Mistress for John McFall as he created his production of *The Nutcracker* for Atlanta Ballet. In 1985, Ms. Gibbons-Brown founded the Kingsport Guild of Ballet and became Artistic Director of the State of Franklin Dance Alliance at its inception in 1988. Other dance administrative duties include serving on the Tennessee Association Board of Directors in many capacities including as president and serving on the Performing Arts Panel for the Tennessee Arts Commission. She assumed directorship of Fort Wayne Ballet in August of 1998. Other career highlights include Outstanding Dance Artist Award in 1997, serving as a juror for Concours International de Danse Classique in Paris, France in 2000, a 2002 graduate of Leadership Fort Wayne and being listed in *Who's Who in the 21st Century*. In 2010, a new book authored by renowned choreographer Dean Speer, entitled *On Technique*, identifies Ms. Gibbons-Brown as among the world's 18 most respected ballet masters, pedagogues and artistic directors. Karen is currently involved with the ABT training curriculum and has been certified through level 7.

FORT WAYNE BALLET STAFF & FACULTY

Click an individual's image to learn more at fortwayneballet.org/staff



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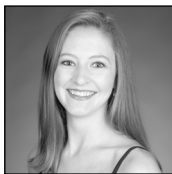
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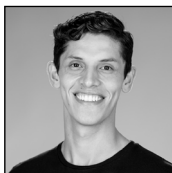
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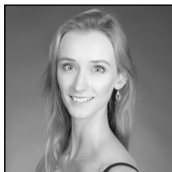
AMBER BAILEY

Amber began dancing in Traverse City, Michigan and continued her training at the University of Oklahoma. She graduated in 2018 with a BFA in Dance and BA in Mathematics. Amber is entering her fourth season with Fort Wayne Ballet where she has had the opportunity to perform as Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, Helena in *A Midsummer's Night's Dream*, Lucy in Tracy Tritz's *Dracula* and Christine in Darren McIntyre's *The Phantom of the Opera*. Amber has also been featured in works by Gerald Arpino, Robert Joffrey and Edward Stierle. She's performed abroad in Taizhou, China with Fort Wayne Ballet and in Barcelona, Spain with Centre de Dansa de Catalunya. Her choreography has been performed at both the University of Oklahoma and Fort Wayne Ballet. She's a fully certified, ABT® Affiliate Instructor and enjoys sharing her passion with growing artists. Amber looks forward to another season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



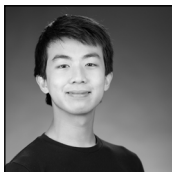
**ALAN BARRAGÁN
CAMPOS**

Alan is from Cancun, Mexico. He began his training at Talulah Centro Integral de Danza and attended Point Park University's International Summer Dance. He since has attended Escuela Superior de Música y Danza de Monterrey and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Classical Dance. At Escuela Superior de Música y Danza de Monterrey (ESMDM) he has performed feature roles in *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle*, *La Bayadere* and *The Sleeping Beauty* as well as original works by Diego Landín and Louis Stains. He was a guest artist with Quenedit Dance Theater several times. While at ESMDM, he participated in the Monterrey International Ballet Gala and Workshop, Concurso Internacional de Ballet La Superior and Youth America Grand Prix Mexico. Alan is excited to be joining Fort Wayne Ballet for his first season.



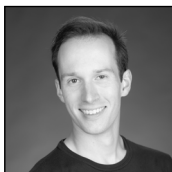
**AMANDA EVE
CARRICK**

Amanda Eve is originally from Southfield, Michigan. She is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma – School of Dance (2016) with a Bachelors of Fine Arts and minor in Nonprofit Management. Amanda Eve danced with the Louisville Ballet for their 2016-2018 seasons, appearing in such performances as Balanchine's *Rubies* and Stephen Baynes' American premiere of *Requiem*. She first joined Fort Wayne Ballet for the 2018-2019 season as a corps member. Amanda Eve was so honored to have represented Fort Wayne Ballet on the tour to Taizhou, China with Sister Cities International (2018), and to have performed her first principal role in Fort Wayne Ballet's production of *Cinderella* (2019). She has since performed roles such as "The Sugar Plum Fairy" and "Dew Drop" in *The Nutcracker*, and "Mina" in the premiere of Tracy Tritz's *Dracula* (2020). This will be her fourth season performing with Fort Wayne Ballet.



YU-CHIEH CHAO

Yu-Chieh Chao, of Pingtung, Taiwan, joined Fort Wayne Ballet in 2020. Chao began dancing at the age of 10 in his hometown and subsequently began training with the Taipei National University of Arts at the age of 15. One year later, he started training in Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School's Pre-Professional Division and continued throughout high school. While Chao was a member of the PBT School he performed in Etudes, Graduation Ball, the Bluebird Pas de Deux and George Balanchine's *Western Symphony*. In 2018, he joined PBT as a company member and has performed in PBT productions of *The Nutcracker*, Jerome Robbins' *West Side Story Suite*, as well as *The Great Gatsby*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Giselle* and *The Sleeping Beauty*.



DAVID CLAYPOOLE

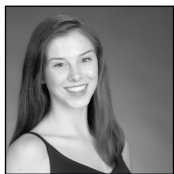
Originally from Richmond, Virginia, David Claypoole started dancing at the age of 9, training at The School of Richmond Ballet and attending summer programs with Joffrey Ballet New York, Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet, and Richmond Ballet. David earned his college degree in Dance and Performance through Virginia Commonwealth University dual program with The Richmond Ballet trainee program. He spent two years performing in Richmond Ballet's second company dancing ballets such as Malcom Burn's *Romeo and Juliet* and *Swipe* by Bal Canaperoli. David has danced numerous roles with Fort Wayne Ballet including *Dracula* in Fort Wayne Ballet's original *Dracula*, Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and leading roles in *Pas de Deesses*, *Light Rain*, Edward Stierle's *Empyrean Dances*, and *Cinderella*. He has worked with guest choreographers including Cameron Basden, Jeremy Blanton, Kim Sagami, and Adam Sklute. David is excited to be performing in his sixth season.

FORT WAYNE BALLET

MEET THE DANCERS

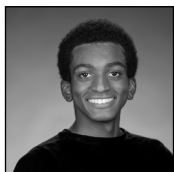
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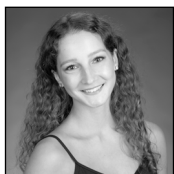
TATUM FARLOW

Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Tatum trained at the Ballet Memphis School under Janet Parke. Tatum continued her training at Butler University, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance, and graduating cum laude with departmental honors. While at Butler, Tatum performed notable roles in *The Nutcracker*, *Paquita*, *La Vivandiere*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and Paul Taylor's *Piazzolla Caldera*. Tatum joined Fort Wayne Ballet in 2019, and since has enjoyed the opportunity to perform in Gerald Arpino's *Italian Suite*, Edward Stierle's *Empyrean Dances*, Tracy Tritz's *Finding Meaning*, Weird Sister in *Dracula*, and the "Pas de Trois" from *Swan Lake*. Tatum is eager to be dancing with Fort Wayne Ballet for a third Season.



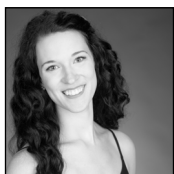
ZION HARRIS

Zion is from Boston, Massachusetts, and began his dance training at the age of 4 at the Walnut Hill Dance Academy. He continued training at the Boston Ballet School when he turned 11 and the next year from was accepted into their Pre-Professional program where he spent seven years, including two as a trainee. In 2018 Zion joined Richmond Ballet's second company under the direction of Stoner Winslett and Igor Antonov. While there he performed in *Cinderella*, Salvatore Aiello's *Senza Fretta*, and Ron Cunningham's *Summerset*, among others. In 2019 Zion joined First State Ballet Theatre in Wilmington, Delaware. During his time there he danced in Plotnikov's *Dracula*, *Carnival in Venice*, and others. The next year he joined Fort Wayne Ballet and danced in Tracy Tritz's *Dracula*, "Russian" in *The Nutcracker*, and *Swan Lake*'s "Pas de Trois". Zion is looking forward to his second season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



JESSICA HUMPHREY

Jessica began her ballet training in her hometown of Birmingham, Michigan. She then studied as a trainee at The Joffrey Ballet in Chicago and performed in *Coppélia*, *Paquita*, *Swan Lake*, and Gerald Arpino's *Viva Vivaldi*. She performed with the company in Jerome Robbins' *Glass Pieces* and Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*. Since joining Fort Wayne Ballet, Jessica has performed in a variety of works including Gerald Arpino's *Italian Suite*, Tracy Tritz's *Adagio for Strings*, *Tarantella*, Little Swans, as Snow Queen in *The Nutcracker*, and as Little Red in *The Sleeping Beauty*. Jessica is excited and grateful to start another season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



BABETTE HUNTER

Originally from Springville, Iowa, Babette started dancing at age 3. After high school she joined BalletMet as a trainee, studying under Edwaard Liang and Timothy Lynch. She then joined Oklahoma City Ballet as a trainee, performing in Robert Mills' *Sleeping Beauty*. In 2017, Babette joined Fort Wayne Ballet and has performed roles such as the Stepmother in *Cinderella*, works from Gerald Arpino including *Light Rain* and *Italian Suites*, Dew Drop from *The Nutcracker*, Little Swans from *Swan Lake*, and several pieces from Tracy Tritz including *Bolero* and the Weird Sisters in *Dracula*. Babette is looking forward to her fifth season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



IZUMI MASAKI

Izumi was born in Yamanashi, Japan, and started ballet at Miwa's Ballet school. She later studied on full scholarship at ABS (Austrian Ballet School). Izumi received First Place Award at the 41st Saitama Prefecture Dance Association National Contest in 2008. Concurrent with her graduation from the Austrian Ballet School, Izumi was promoted to ABC Tokyo Ballet Company as a Soloist Dancer in 2013. Izumi also danced with Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida before joining Fort Wayne Ballet.

FORT WAYNE BALLET

MEET THE DANCERS

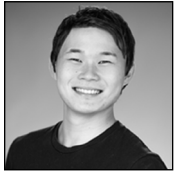
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COMPANY



SAKI MORIMOTO

Saki grew up in Osaka, Japan, where she studied ballet at Yamamoto Sanae Ballet School. At 15, she moved to the United States, where she trained at the Academy of Ballet NJ under the direction of David Gallagher. She continued her training at UNCSCA under the direction of Susan Jaffe and graduated with a BFA in Dance. Since joining Fort Wayne Ballet, Saki's danced featured roles including *Confetti* by Gerald Arpino, *Empyrean Dances* by Edward Stierle and *Pas de Deesses* by Robert Joffrey. Her classical repertoire includes *Coppelia* (Swanhilda), *Cinderella* (Cinderella), and *Swan Lake* (Black Swan). She had the opportunity to tour to Taizhou, China (2018), and to Erie, Pennsylvania as Sugar Plum (2019). As a choreographer, she's created original works for Fort Wayne Ballet, including Main Stage production, *Diversions 2020*. Saki has been recognized by the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) as an Artist of Extraordinary Ability.



**KEISUKE
NISHIKAWA**

Keisuke was born in Hyogo, Japan. He began his training at the Seiko Kuramoto Ballet School. In 2013, Keisuke received First Place Award at the Osaka Prix Competition and a scholarship from the Vaganova Ballet Academy. Keisuke studied at Vaganova Ballet Academy for two years. In 2015, he was awarded with a First Place at the Japan Grand Prix. Keisuke danced with the Gelsey Kirkland Ballet Company and Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida before joining Fort Wayne Ballet.



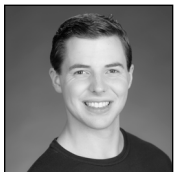
**LINDSAY
NAVARRE**

Lindsay grew up in Monroe, Michigan, where she progressed through the Cecchetti method. Under the direction of Timothy Lynch, she danced as a trainee at BalletMet and performed works alongside the professional company for the 2013-2014 season. After joining Louisville Ballet in 2014, she performed in many productions including Balanchine's *Western Symphony*, *Concerto Barocco*, Val Caniparoli's *The Nutcracker* and Adam Houghland's *Petrouchka*. In her three seasons with Fort Wayne Ballet, Lindsay's repertoire includes Gerald Arpino's *Light Rain* and *Italian Suite*, Edward Stierle's *Empyrean Dances* and *Swan Lake's* "Pas de Trois". She was also featured as Christine in Darren McIntyre's *Phantom of the Opera* and Winter Fairy in Fort Wayne Ballet's *Cinderella*. She is an ABT® Certified Instructor and holds the Cecchetti Grade I teaching certification. Lindsay is excited to be joining Fort Wayne Ballet for a fourth season.



**THOMAS CALEB
ROBERTS**

Thomas began his pre-professional dance training at the Center for Dance Education under the direction of Mimi Worrell. He graduated from the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts under the tutelage of Stanislav Issaev and attended North Carolina School for the Arts, studying with Ethan Stiefel. Thomas has attended summer programs with ABT, Boston Ballet, South Carolina Summer Dance Conservatory, and North Carolina School of the Arts, to name a few. His professional career began with Boston Ballet as a trainee, continued with Cincinnati Ballet as a corps de ballet member and later with Columbia City Ballet as a demi-soloist. He's been a frequent guest artist with various regional companies including Carolina Ballet. Thomas joined Fort Wayne Ballet last season and has enjoyed performing in pas de deux's of Black Swan, *Don Quixote*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *Spartacus*. Thomas looks forward to his second season with the company.



TALBOT RUE

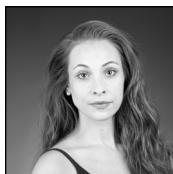
From Fort Wayne, Indiana, Talbot started dancing at the age of nine with a local dance school. He then studied in the Auer Academy of Fort Wayne Ballet for seven years. His training at summer intensives includes Fort Wayne Ballet, Next Generation Ballet, Chautauqua Ballet Program, Richmond Ballet, and Nashville Ballet. After serving as a trainee at Richmond Ballet, he was a company dancer at First State Ballet Theater in Delaware. He then moved to Nashville Ballet to dance with their Second Company. He is excited to be back for his third season at Fort Wayne Ballet.

FORT WAYNE BALLET

MEET THE DANCERS

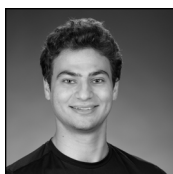
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COMPANY



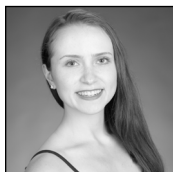
CARMIE SCHIANO NELSON

Carmie began her early dance training in New York City. At age 12, she was accepted to Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, D.C. and attended the year-round boarding school. After graduating high school early, Carmie continued her training with Boston Ballet and has attended summer programs at ABT, Ballet Austin, Boston Ballet, Nashville Ballet, among others, all on scholarship. Carmie has danced professionally with Festival Ballet Providence, Richmond Ballet, American Contemporary Ballet as a soloist, and with Columbia City Ballet for 10 seasons. During her tenure with Columbia City Ballet, Carmie performed numerous notable roles in both classical and contemporary works, receiving a promotion to demi-soloist just prior to leaving. After joining Fort Wayne Ballet this past season, her most memorable performance opportunity has been performing the *Spartacus* "Pas de Deux". Carmie looks forward to her second season at Fort Wayne Ballet and continuing to explore the city.



GRAEHAM TOOMEY

Graeham is from Elmhurst, Illinois, where he began training at a small studio in his home town. He attended Butler University, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance. At Butler, Graeham performed in various soloist or feature roles of *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, *La Vivandere*, *The Bayadere*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and Rothbart in *Swan Lake*. As a guest artist with USA Ballet, Graeham performed the Nutcracker Prince in *The Nutcracker*. Along with his work in Ballet he has been part of original pieces by Susan McGuire and Derek Reid, as well as working with Patrick de Baña on his work *Falling Sky*. Graeham is excited to return to Fort Wayne Ballet for his second season with the company.



LEAH WOLFE

Born in Florham Park, New Jersey, Leah began her dance training at the New Jersey School of Ballet before going on to study at the Gelsey Kirkland Academy and the French Academie of Ballet. In 2019, she graduated from Butler University with honors with a BFA in dance performance and a secondary major in economics. Leah is an ABT® Certified Teacher and has completed the ABT® Teacher Training Intensive in Pre-Primary through Level 3. This year, she is very excited for her third season with Fort Wayne Ballet, as well as her second season teaching for Fort Wayne Ballet's Auer Academy and serving as Co-Director of the Auer Academy's Youth Company!



ABBY ZINSSER

Abby began training at the School of Richmond Ballet in 2006, working with Stoner Winslett, Judy Jacob, and Malcolm Burn. After graduating from high school in 2016 she was accepted into Nashville Ballet's Trainee program. There she had the opportunity to work with Paul Vasterling, Nick Mullikin, and Kathryn Crews Linsley, and performed in such works as *La Bayadere*, *Swan Lake*, *Paquita*, and *The Nutcracker*, along with original contemporary works. Abby joined Fort Wayne Ballet in 2019 as a corps de ballet member. She's performed in Eddie Stierle's *Empyrean Dances*, the Bluebird Pas de Deux from *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Spring Waters*, and Clara in Fort Wayne Ballet's *The Nutcracker*. Abby is very excited to start her third season with Fort Wayne Ballet – first as a company member!

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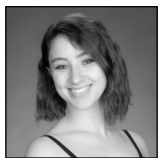
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FORT WAYNE BALLET

MEET THE DANCERS

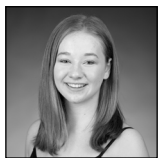
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CORPS DE BALLET



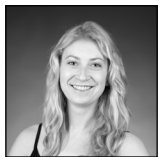
RACHEL ARON

Rachel trained at Dancer's Studio/Backstage in Atlanta, Georgia under Jonnie Kelley and Victoria Leigh. She then attended Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's full time high school and Graduate program, and joined Nashville Ballet as a trainee. Rachel has danced professionally with Columbia Classical Ballet and Lexington Ballet, where she performed principal and soloist roles like Sugar Plum Fairy and Bread Crumb Fairy. During her three seasons with Fort Wayne Ballet, she's enjoyed performing Marzipan in *The Nutcracker*, and working with her fellow company members in pieces from the *Progressions* series. She looks forward to performing in and celebrating Fort Wayne Ballet's 65th season!



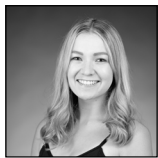
SAMANTHA BERRY

Samantha is from Rochester Hills, Michigan and began dancing at age three. She trained with Cornelia Sampson and Samantha Shelton at Rochester School of Dance. Samantha then joined A&A Ballet in Chicago under the direction of Alexei Kremnev and Anna Reznik. She later danced as a trainee with Charlotte Ballet. She has attended summer programs at School of American Ballet, Miami City Ballet, and Joffrey Ballet. After joining corps de ballet last season, she performed as a Wolf in *Dracula* as well as Spanish and Marzipan in the televised *Nutcracker Sweets*. She is so excited to start her second season!



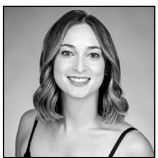
KATIE BROWN

Katie trained at School of Grand Rapids Ballet in the Professional Trainee program and performed with the company in many productions. She has danced professionally with Grand Rapids Ballet and Deos Contemporary Ballet. She has attended numerous summer intensives at Grand Rapids Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, BalletMet, and Cincinnati Ballet. With Fort Wayne Ballet she has performed Carlotta in *Phantom Of The Opera*, Stepsister in *Cinderella*, in Gerald Arpino's *Light Rain* and *Italian Suite*, and Marzipan, Demi Flower, and Snow Crystal in *The Nutcracker*.



AVALOU BURNS

Raised in Dayton, Ohio, Avalou trained at Pontecorvo Ballet Studios dancing with the attached pre-professional company, Gem City Ballet. In December 2019, Ava graduated with her BFA summa cum laude majoring in Ballet from the University of Cincinnati's College - Conservatory of Music, under Qi Jiang and Deirdre Carberry. During her final two years at CCM, Ava was accepted into BalletMet's trainee program, where she worked under the direction of Edward Liang and Maria Torija. She has enjoyed performing in Liang's *Don Quixote*, Balanchine's *Serenade*, and Tracy Tritz's *Dracula*. She is excited for her second season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



KATHERINE CACKOVIC

Raised in Wheaton, Illinois, Katherine received her formal training at Salt Creek Ballet under Sergey Kozadayev and Zhanna Dubrovskaya. She graduated from Butler University with a Bachelor of Science in Dance – Arts Administration, graduating cum laude with high departmental distinctions. While at Butler, Katherine performed soloist, demi-soloist, and corps roles in *The Nutcracker*, *Coppélia*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*, as well as soloist roles in contemporary works by Derek Reid and Susan McGuire. Katherine is excited to start her first season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



CLARA DELANEY

Born in Abilene, Texas, Clara began her ballet training in Fort Worth at the age of four. She joined Texas Ballet Theater School in 2009 where she was fortunate to be a part of Ben Stevenson's *The Nutcracker* for several years. She's also attended numerous summer intensive programs including, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Colorado Ballet, and American Ballet Theatre in NYC. In 2019, Clara joined Texas Ballet Theater's Studio Training Company under the direction of Kathy Warakowski-Li. Clara is excited to be joining Fort Wayne Ballet for her first season.

FORT WAYNE BALLET

MEET THE DANCERS

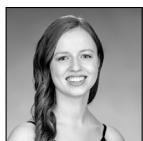
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CORPS DE BALLET



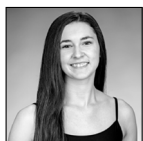
BRITTANY FOCHT

Raised in Columbus, Ohio, Brittany began her training at the Columbus City Ballet School and Conservatory. At 17, she joined the Washington School of Ballet where she trained with Xiomara Reyes and Rinat Imaev. In 2019 Brittany was promoted into the Trainee program under the direction of Julie Kent. There she performed multiple ballets with the professional company including *The Nutcracker* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. Brittany then spent one season in the trainee division of the second company with Kansas City Ballet headed by Christopher Ruud and Devon Carney. Brittany is excited for her first season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



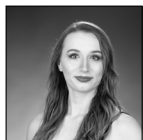
**SANDRA
IMBRIACIO**

Sandra started ballet at age 10 at Destiny Dance Institute in Wake Forest, North Carolina. There she also trained in contemporary, jazz, hip hop, and tap. After graduating high school she went on to further her ballet training at The Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory, Milwaukee Ballet, and Nashville Ballet. Some of her favorite roles she has performed include 4 Little Swans with The Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory, Balanchine's *Serenade* with Milwaukee Ballet 2, and Sugar Court in Nashville Ballet's *The Nutcracker*. Sandra is so excited to be joining Fort Wayne Ballet this season.



SADIE JONES

Sadie is from Macon, Georgia, where she began dancing at age three. At age thirteen, she began training at the International City School of Ballet in Atlanta, Georgia under the instruction of Georné Aucoin and Musashi Alvarez. She completed her Bachelor's of Fine Arts at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts under instruction of faculty including Laura Martin, Angelina Sansone, Jennet Zerbe, Eva Draw, and Jared Redick. She enjoyed performing various roles in *Paquita*, *Raymonda*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, George Balanchine's *Concerto Barocco*, and Ethan Stiefel's *The Nutcracker*. Sadie's excited for her first season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



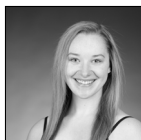
CAILIN KLUTTZ

Cailin Kluttz is originally from North Carolina, where she trained at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts under teachers such as Susan Jaffe, Jared Redick, Mikhail Tchoupakov, Jennet Zerbe, and Laura Martin, and graduated with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts with a concentration in Dance in 2018. Since joining Fort Wayne Ballet in 2018, she's been fortunate to dance roles such as Snow Crystal, Flower, and Spanish in *The Nutcracker*, as well as dancing in ballets such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Cinderella*, and *The Phantom of the Opera*.



OLIVIA LEY

Originally from Pittsburgh, Olivia's early training took place at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School. At fifteen she began to attend Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. There she had the opportunity to train with Marcia Dale Weary, Darla Hoover and Nicholas Ade. Olivia spent her summers training at a number of summer intensives including Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet Academy, Milwaukee Ballet and BalletMet. For the past two seasons Olivia has been a trainee with the Fort Wayne Ballet. Olivia's thrilled to be staying in Fort Wayne for her first season as a member of the Corps de Ballet.



**MADDIE
OPACINCH**

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, Maddie began her ballet training at age 3 after moving to Indiana. She has grown up in Fort Wayne Ballet's Auer Academy under the direction of Karen Gibbons-Brown, Eleanora Pokhionova-Hartung, and Tracy Tritz. She's attended many summer programs including American Ballet Theatre NYC, Ballet West, and Kaatsbaan Extreme Ballet. After graduating high school, Maddie joined the Studio Company at Texas Ballet Theater. Since then, Maddie's enjoyed dancing in numerous Fort Wayne Ballet productions such as *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and Gerald Arpino's *Birthday Variations*, and is thrilled to be back for her second season with the company.

FORT WAYNE BALLET

MEET THE DANCERS

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CORPS DE BALLET



ABIGAYLE REIBER

Abigail began her training in Lincoln, Nebraska. After graduating high school, she began dancing at The University of Oklahoma and received her BFA in Ballet Performance in 2021. There, she performed in notable works such as, Willam Christensen's *The Nutcracker* and Gerald Arpino's *Reflections*. She also had the opportunity to perform at the International Dance Encounter in Cancún, Mexico, in works by Michael Bearden and Boyko Dossev. She is very excited to begin her first season with Fort Wayne Ballet!



GRACE SAULS

Grace received her developmental training under Lynette Mason-Gregg of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Houston. She was a soloist with Juxtapose Arts Collective where she debuted as an emerging choreographer and performed her favorite role to date, Myrtha in *Giselle*. She's shared the stage with renowned ballerina Misty Copeland in Open World Dance Foundation's *Cinderella* at Houston Hobby Center and performed in New York with Gelsey Kirkland Ballet's *The Nutcracker*. She completed her latest training through Misha Bart with The National Theatre of Belgrade in Europe. Grace is excited to be dancing with Fort Wayne Ballet for her second season.



ASHLEIGH SEWELL

Ashleigh was born in Kentucky and began dancing at Dance Arts of Bowling Green under Clifton Keefer Brown and Ashleigh Keefer. At 14, she began additional training at Western Kentucky University. As a high school senior, Ashleigh joined the Trainee Program at Nashville Ballet. After one season, she was promoted to the Second Company where she danced from 2017-2020, performing in both classical and contemporary roles. Ashleigh joined Fort Wayne Ballet for the 2020-2021 season and her most memorable experience was performing Pas de Trois from *Swan Lake*. Ashleigh is grateful to be returning for a second season.



**VICTORIA
STOCKER**

Victoria is originally from Spring Grove, Illinois, where she began her training under the direction of Alyce Keaggy-Brinkmann. In 2015, Victoria continued her professional training with Ballet Austin under the direction of Michelle Martin and Bill Piner. In 2016, Victoria joined Lexington Ballet Company under the direction of Luis Dominguez, where she enjoyed performing roles such as Lilac Fairy in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, and leading soloist in Tim Harbour's *Models*, a collaboration with Louisville Ballet. Victoria is looking forward to joining Fort Wayne Ballet this season.



PAYTON WILSON

Raised in Fort Wayne, Payton started dancing at the age of four. She grew up through Fort Wayne Ballet's Auer Academy training under the direction of Karen Gibbons-Brown, Eleonora Pokhitonova-Hartung, and Tracy Tritz. She has attended Kaatsbaan Extreme Ballet summer program. Payton has loved getting to perform in ballets such as *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and *Cinderella*. She's excited to begin her first season with the company.



TRAINEES

Top Row: Isabel Carrillo, Christyna Schuppe, Victoria Angle, Caraline Schuppe
Bottom Row: Rudolph Davis, Rosemary Aarons, May Kawashima, Teagan Bentley, Erin Ekin, Gracie Carpenter, Anna Hess
Not Pictured: Abby Storer

PRE-PROFESSIONALS

Top Row:
 Allen Sizemore, Stella Falconer,
 Gigi McDowell, Grace Gephart,
 Tekhylon Armour

Bottom Row:
 Fiona Tippmann, Olivia Myers,
 Katherine Grable, Alexis Andrews



YOUTH COMPANY

Top Row:
 Ella Emrick, Olivia Johnson,
 Tabitha Wolf, Yevva Ireland,
 Rocco O'Reilly, Zane Faulstich

Middle Row:
 Rhiana Pelance, Emori Lawson,
 Leah Thomas, Harper Kurzen,
 Alexa Bremer, Sophia Whetstone,
 Ellis Baron

Bottom Row:
 Nayomie Marret, Bianca Parra,
 Elyn Lawson, Jillian Knowles,
 Katherine Potter, Lauren Thomas
Not Pictured: Isabel Hoffer



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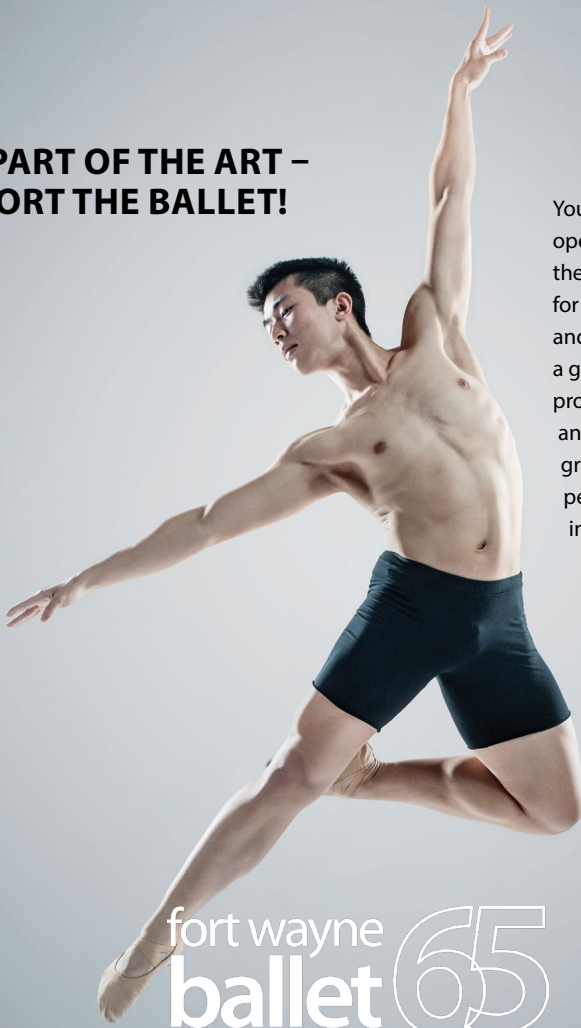
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