

Today is your day



{ become the dancer you dream to be }



fort wayne
ballet
AUER ACADEMY

KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA USA

Auer Academy of Fort Wayne Ballet

➤ our mission:

Fort Wayne Ballet feeds the spirit and sparks the imagination through the highest caliber dance education, performance experiences, and community engagement.

➤ our academy:

We are the region's only dance training academy affiliated with a professional ballet company. At Fort Wayne Ballet we provide a balanced, health-focused atmosphere that allows children and adults to develop strong dance technique, as well as a strong body, poise, confidence, and a sense of music, creativity, and artistry. All students are assured safe, quality-focused dance training with the option for vocational training for a professional career of dance or dance for recreation. We offer classes for three-year olds through adults.

➤ our philosophy:

The foremost goal of Auer Academy of Fort Wayne Ballet is to help students develop a firm foundation of quality dance, regardless of their aspirations for dance in the future. Our students range from very young children simply exploring movement to pre-professional students driven to dance as a career. For more than 60 years, we have provided a safe yet aggressive syllabus, strategically and personally created, with the physical, cognitive, and social development of each student at heart.

➤ our community engagement:

You never know where you might find a Fort Wayne Ballet dancer! Beyond our scheduled season performances, Fort Wayne Ballet is actively sharing the art of dance in healthcare facilities, schools, shopping centers, and a variety of community events and venues.

See and learn more online:

fortwayneballet.org

Studios & Offices:

300 E. Main Street
Fort Wayne IN 46802
260.484.9646

Dancers thrive here . . .



We offer

- **60+ years of dance training** for girls and boys by experienced professional teaching staff.
- **A safe, secure environment** to learn: studios equipped with sprung Marley dance floors for a better dance surface, appropriately sized dance bars for development assistance, and mirrored studio walls to promote proper technique.
- **Live accompaniment** for classes — we are one of the few remaining dance studios to provide this added element.
- **Low student-teacher ratio** for enhanced, personalized training with an appropriately assertive and progressive curriculum.
- **Performance opportunities:** all students have the opportunity to perform during the Academy Showcase at the end of the year. Dancers ages 6 years and up may audition for *The Nutcracker*. These auditions are held at the beginning of September. Dancers may also audition for other performance opportunities as they reach higher levels of ballet technique.



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 Aldolphina 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*, Swanilda in *Coppélia*, Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty* and "Spring Waters" pas de deux an exciting display of partnering created by the great Russian Asaf Messerer. Ms. Gibbons-Brown considers herself fortunate to have had a few 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, pedagogue 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 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 president and serving on the Performing Arts Panel for the Tennessee Arts Commission. She assumed directorship of Fort Wayne Ballet in August 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. In 2017, she received the Arts United Lifetime Achievement Award.

Pre-Ballet AGES 3 - 6



Once a child reaches the age of 3,

the student begins in our pre-ballet, creative movement classes. These classes are designed to stimulate the body and mind of the student as they explore movement and develop their motor skills through play and creative dance. At this level, these classes are separated by age and focus on age-appropriate gross motor skills and cognitive development.

We believe in teaching children dance concepts and elements: we teach the child to learn *to* dance not *a* dance.. Children learn body awareness, control, balance, and coordination while gaining physical strength, flexibility, stamina, and agility.

Students whose attendance and tuition are in good standing are eligible to perform in the Academy Showcase in May.

- Joy of Dance** — 3 year olds (must turn 3 by August 1)
- Fun 'N' Dance** — 4 year olds (must turn 4 by August 1)
- Creative I** — 5 year olds (must turn 5 by August 1)
- Creative II** — 6 year olds (must turn 6 by August 1)



Lower School: Ballet I, II, III AGES 7 - 18



Formal ballet training begins

with Ballet I, starting as early as 7 years old, one day per week and up. This is where the art of dance is shared and shown to be more than a performance art, but rather a foundation for developing the whole person. Students progressively move through each level based on careful evaluation of physical strength, artistic growth, and level of technique achieved based on the required curriculum.

Students progress through the levels based on their knowledge, ability, and safety for their specific bodies. It is not uncommon for a student to spend more than one year in a particular level.

For a placement class, please contact the Fort Wayne Ballet Academy Principal.

Students whose attendance and tuition are in good standing are eligible to perform in the Academy Showcase in May.



Upper School: Ballet IV, V, VI



Our syllabus is structured with a balance

of honoring the traditions of classical dance, meeting the needs of the developing child, and providing a safe space for blossoming artists to grow.

In addition to the foundation of classical ballet, students may add a variety of dance training, including character, modern, contemporary, jazz, tap, hip hop, and dance academics at this level.

For a placement class, please contact the Fort Wayne Ballet Academy Principal.

Students whose attendance and tuition are in good standing are eligible to perform in the Academy Showcase in May.



Youth Company

AUDITION REQUIRED: LEVELS III - VI



The Fort Wayne Ballet Youth Company

is for students who have reached a certain level of ballet technique and are now eligible to audition for this company. Auditions are held in the spring prior to the new school year. Students in levels Ballet II-B and higher are welcome and encouraged to audition.

Youth Company students take all required technique classes, as well as have a Youth Company day on Saturdays with a dance academic class and rehearsals.

As part of the main performance season, the Youth Company performs three short story ballets as part of Fort Wayne Ballet's Family Series (Fables, Folk & Fairy Tales), are assigned roles in *The Nutcracker*, and perform in multiple community engagements throughout the season.

Pre-Professional Program

AUDITION REQUIRED



Our nationally-recognized program

The Pre-Professional program is open to dance students who have achieved an advanced level of classical ballet technique but seek additional training to prepare for a professional career in the dance world. *This is not the next level within our Academy; it is a separate component with a rigorous, time-demanding curriculum.*

Class requirements: once a dancer auditions and is accepted into the program, they are required to take all PrePro level classes which will include ballet class six days per week, pointe or men's classes, modern, jazz, character, musical theater, floor barre/conditioning, and dance academic. Outside of their weekly classes, they will also have scheduled rehearsals for upcoming performances.

Performance requirements: PrePro students are cast in the yearly production of *The Nutcracker*, are considered for our fall/spring performances, and participate in the Academy Showcase at the end of the year.

Summer study requirements: PrePro students are required to participate in a minimum of 3-weeks at an approved summer intensive. Continuing PrePro summer classes are available for 5 weeks during the summer.

Visit fortwayneballet.org for Audition dates and additional information.



Conservatory Program AUDITION REQUIRED



The Fort Wayne Ballet Conservatory at the University of Saint Francis

is an exciting partnership between the Fort Wayne Ballet and the University of Saint Francis that offers both a 4-year and 2-year undergraduate academic program in dance. These programs will prepare students for a professional career in dance.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts and Associate of Arts in Dance feature a sound liberal arts core curriculum with a full range of dance styles that complement the essential basics of classical ballet.

Visit majors.sf.edu/danc for application and additional information.

“I am able to dance alongside professional dancers in Fort Wayne Ballet, as well as hone in on my technique with the academy dancers. The rigor of the program is just what is needed to improve and to keep on improving. All of the instructors are so passionate and genuinely want their students to succeed.” — Madison Cafaro, Conservatory Student

Alternative Division & Drop-Ins



As part of our extended mission

Fort Wayne Ballet offers alternative dance classes to our students based on their technique level and experience. Classes offered outside of classical ballet technique are:

Tap — offered for ages 7 years and up. This class helps teach students rhythms,

Jazz — offered for ballet levels III and up, or by placement.

Hip Hop — offered for ballet levels III and up, or by placement.

Modern — offered for ballet levels IV and up or by placement

Adult and Teen Open Drop-in Classes

are available for teens and adults who may not have studied ballet as a child — or stopped due to other interests or obligations. It's never too late to enjoy and learn the exquisite art of dance!

Open classes allow teens and adults to achieve the grace and discipline within a positive and encouraging environment — and at times that allow an escape from the everyday demands of life. Open classes are drop-ins, so you can stop in for class whenever your busy schedule allows — no pink tights required!

FEE: \$15 per drop-in or \$140 for a 10-class pass. Visit fortwayneballet.org for a current schedule of open classes.

Studio Locations



Fort Wayne Ballet at the Auer Center for Arts & Culture

300 E. Main Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Fort Wayne Ballet's main studios feature 5 distinct studios all equipped with sprung Marley floors for safety, ballet barres (some with lower barres for younger students), pianos for live accompaniment, and professional sound systems and security. There are dressing rooms available for boys and girls, both equipped with lockers, showers, and restrooms. Fort Wayne Ballet's boutique shop is available on location to purchase dance wear including dress code items, such as leotards, tights, belts and shoes. This location is also home to the Fort Wayne Ballet's administrative offices.

AUXILIARY LOCATIONS include dance instruction for ages 3 - 6 years and beginning ballet for ages 7 years and above:

JORGENSEN YMCA
10313 ABOITE CENTER RD
FORT WAYNE IN
260.432.8953

PARKVIEW YMCA
10001 DAWSONS CREEK BLVD
FORT WAYNE IN
260.497.9996

JACKSON R. LEHMAN FAMILY YMCA
5680 YMCA PARK DR
FORT WAYNE, IN
260.755.4949

RENAISSANCE YMCA
2323 BOWSER AV
FORT WAYNE IN
260.447.4567

Auer Academy of Fort Wayne Ballet

ANNUAL FUND

why give?

Give to the Annual Fund because you believe in our mission of helping children develop lifelong skills, the dedication of our teachers, and the impact our programs have on each child's future and this community.

where does the money go?

Your contribution to the Annual Fund is put to work immediately for classroom materials, handmade costumes, accompanists, studio maintenance and everything that makes the students' experience exceptional. The largest portion of our budget goes toward classroom facilities and sustaining quality teachers, because nothing is more important than ensuring that our students are taught by the highest quality dance educators.

our students need you!

Fort Wayne Ballet strives to achieve diversified sources of income. While grants and sponsorships provide significant income, they are often restricted to a certain projects which is why the Annual Fund is so important.

Donations to the Annual Fund are unrestricted, meaning the funds are applied immediately to operations and teaching costs.

Donate and learn more online at fortwayneballet.org

To learn about Fort Wayne Ballet's **Leave A Legacy Fund**, contact Fort Wayne Ballet at 260.484.9646

Studios & Offices:
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Alumni

Auer Academy of Fort Wayne Ballet alumni have gone on to train and dance professionally with many recognized companies and schools, including:

Alonzo King's Lines Ballet
Alvin Ailey Conservatory
American Ballet Theatre
American Academy of Dramatic Arts
American Repertory Ballet
Atlanta Ballet
Ball State University
Ballet Arizona
Ballet Austin
BalletMet
Ballet West
Ballet Theatre of Maryland
Burklyn Ballet Theatre
Boston Ballet
Butler University
Cavalia
Charlotte Ballet
Chattanooga Ballet
Chautauqua Dance Institute
Cincinnati Ballet
Cincinnati Conservatory of Ballet
Columbus Dance Theatre
Dance Kaleidoscope
Eisenhower Dance Ensemble
Fort Wayne Ballet
Houston Ballet
Hubbard Street
Indiana University
Interlochen Center for the Performing Arts
Jacob's Pillow
Joffrey Ballet
Kaatsbaan International Dance Center

Kansas City Ballet
Les Grands Ballet Canadiens
Louisville Ballet
Loyola University
Mark Morris Dance Center
Milwaukee Ballet
Nashville Ballet
National Ballet of Canada
Netherlands Dance Theatre
New York University
North Carolina Dance Theatre
Northwest Florida Ballet
Nutmeg Conservatory
Ohio Ballet
Orlando Ballet
Pacific Northwest Ballet
Paul Taylor Dance Company
Pennsylvania Ballet
Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre
Richmond Ballet
San Francisco Ballet
School of American Ballet
Southern Methodist University
St. Louis Ballet
The Rock School for Dance Education
The Rockettes
The Royal Ballet
The Yard
University of Iowa
University of Oklahoma
University of South Carolina Dance
University of Utah



FORT WAYNE BALLET STUDENT
MADDIE OPACINCH
at age 3 and age 15



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We're social. Connect with us:



EDWARD D. & IONE AUER FOUNDATION



Photography by Rob Borel and Jeffrey Crane.

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