

FOR SOME, LIFE IS TO BE LIVED AS AN

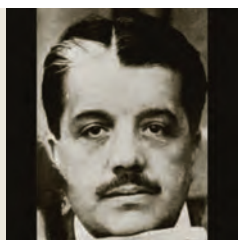
Impresario



fort wayne
ballet

KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

DIAGHILEV
SOCIETY



Sergei Diaghilev (1872–1929)

Russian promoter and catalyst for innovation in the arts who revitalized ballet by integrating the ideals of other art forms — music, design, and drama — with those of dance.

Diaghilev (*dee ah guh lef*) showcased his own musical compositions before writing about art with a dazzling, innovative, unconventional perspective. He surrounded himself with influentials involved in cultural output. Thus in 1899, Diaghilev launched the magazine *Mir Iskusstva* (“World of Art”).

He became involved with the Maryinsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg, Russia, managing editorial projects for the imperial venue as well as overseeing performances, quickly earning a reputation as a connoisseur of great artistic works. He took a Russian portraiture exhibit to Paris in 1907. There, he also assembled concerts featuring composers from his homeland and kept company with a circle of artists including Leon Balst, designer Alexandre Benois, choreographer Mikhail Fokine, fashion icon Coco Chanel, and artist Pablo Picasso.

In 1909, Diaghilev founded the **Ballets Russes**, a dance company that changed the face of the performance world forever. Russes, with initial dance stars like Vaslav Nijinsky, Anna Pavlova and Ida Rubenstein, ran for two decades, satiating audiences’ hunger for new material. His artistic vision to blend the arts became international, tour Europe, South America, and the United States. Ballets Russes became known for movements not confined to classical dance, defying the convention that female dancers should always be delicate and giving male dancers more of a spotlight. Diaghilev supervised each production, integrating the story with music and design, ultimately creating a new standard.

BECOME WHO YOU ARE MEANT TO BE:
A catalyst for creativity



JEFF CRANE

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INSPIRED IN PART BY THE CREATIVE GENIUS OF SERGEI DIAGHILEV,

Fort Wayne Ballet is forging new pathways to expand the artistry of dance in the Midwest and beyond. Our connectivity to community and culture has rewarded us with achievements that continue to gain recognition and applause from the dance industry for our acclaimed leadership, ingenuity, and integrity for art for the benefit of all.

In our 60-plus years, Fort Wayne Ballet has built an academy, a company, and a reputation for unwavering quality based on our investment in our dancers and our commitment to connect locally and globally. Our instructors and dancers come from many countries, sharing their passion for dance as a tool that enriches lives of every age.

DANCE IS A STORY WITHOUT WORDS. But as Diaghilev envisioned dance as an opportunity to fuse multiple arts within a singular presentation, we recognize our role as a creative catalyst for all artistic expression. Each of our programs (classroom or staged) is a blend of sensory experiences — literally, a dance of sight and sound, emotion and empathy, connection and communication.

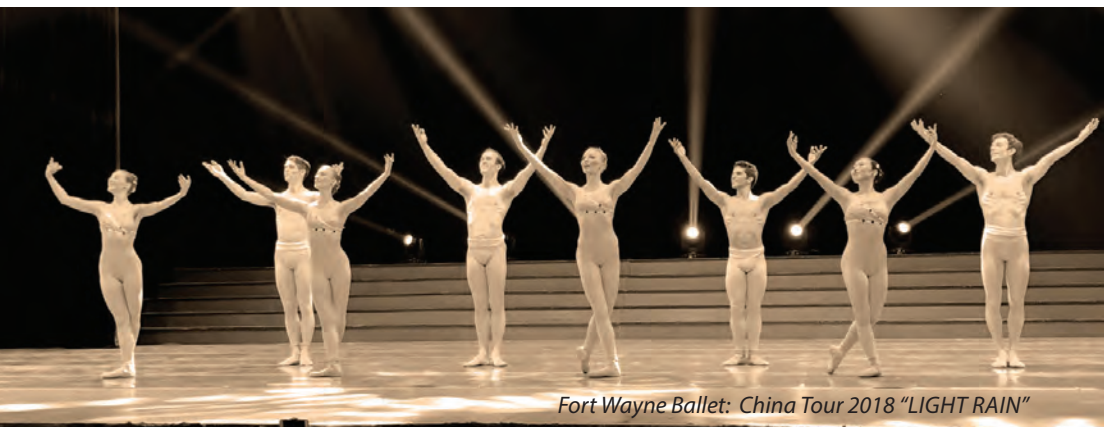


WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER. Fort Wayne Ballet's Diaghilev

Society is an exclusive opportunity to be that catalyst for creativity — a chance to nurture what connects us in human nature: art. Perhaps, Diaghilev said it best:

***"Of all the wonders that the world had to offer,
only art promised immortality."***

Please join us in perpetuating the works and wisdoms of Fort Wayne Ballet as we invite the world to dance as Diaghilev imagined — a fusion of movement, music, design, and delight!



Fort Wayne Ballet: China Tour 2018 "LIGHT RAIN"

(Performed with permission from The Gerald Arpino Foundation.)



BEING A PART OF THE DIAGHILEV SOCIETY IS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE

*Interest in not only being a significant supporter of the Ballet,
but becoming a more intimate champion . . .*

Members of FORT WAYNE BALLET DIAGHILEV SOCIETY are a privileged group.
With membership comes a host of rewards:

- Special branded Society and level recognition at Fort Wayne Ballet, in the playbill and at special functions
- Invitations to all VIP events with guest dancers, Master teachers and Répétiteurs
- "Upcoming Season" Cocktail Party with Artistic Director Karen Gibbons-Brown and a chance to meet the season's Company of dancers
- Special seating with Fort Wayne Ballet dancers at your table for seated events and dinners
- Private invitations to select studio rehearsals, choreographer workshops, and master teacher sessions
- Backstage tours and access for select special performances and rehearsals
- "Champagne and Strawberries" receptions before opening night of each of Fort Wayne Ballet's Main Stage performances

DIAGHILEV SOCIETY LEVELS:

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|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Benefactors Circle | \$1,500. to \$2,499. |
| • Choreographer Circle | \$2,500. to \$4,999. |
| • Artistic Director Circle | \$5,000. to \$9,999. |
| • Impresario Circle | \$10,000. and above |

Your membership gift of any amount can be made through our secure online service at fortwayneballet.org/donate ... or by mail or in person:

FORT WAYNE BALLET
300 E MAIN STREET
FORT WAYNE IN 46802

Your legacy as a Fort Wayne Ballet impresario begins today! Thank you.



Edward Stierle's "LACRYMOSA"



*Pre-professional Level students,
Auer Academy of Fort Wayne Ballet,
Karen Gibbons-Brown, Instructor*

*Of all the wonders that
the world had to offer,
only art promised
immortality.*

— Sergei Diaghilev

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