Tchaikovsky
ENCHANTED

fort wayne ballet

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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Today is the day to inspire, delight and amaze.

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

Contact Amanda Kinneman
AVP Relationship Manager
260-461-6229
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Thank you, Mr. Tchaikovsky

Pyotr (Peter) Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) was a man well ahead of his time. His musical prowess as a composer earned him fame early in his short life and a legacy that will last forever in the hearts of arts lovers, advertisers, cinematographers, and the youthful spirits of every generation to come. His achievements are remarkable and his gifts are what we must (and do) enthusiastically appreciate.

Certainly, there are many books, recordings, and online sources of Tchaikovsky’s works — his operas, ballets, and instrumental masterpieces — but truly, the live performance is the most rewarding way to experience his music magic. Tchaikovsky is widely praised as the most popular Russian composer in history, particularly for his sumptuous and familiar musical scores for the ballets The Sleeping Beauty, The Nutcracker, and Swan Lake — enduring classics with intriguing plots and enriching entertainment.

And that brings us to this enchanting performance. Each of these story ballets challenges its dancers and rewards its audiences visually against the audio backdrop of Tchaikovsky’s lush, story-telling music. COVID-19 has usurped our plans to present a full-length story ballet with Fort Wayne Philharmonic, but we are taking this perfect opportunity to spotlight these three essential ballets and Tchaikovsky’s artistic brilliance. Thank you, Mr. Tchaikovsky — and thank YOU, our audience, for joining us!

Our Spring Season is in full kinetic motion with several upcoming performances to enjoy (safely, of course). Mark your calendar for The Adventures of Peter Rabbit on April 24, performed at the University of Saint Francis North Auditorium ... and our always popular Progressions, featuring our own dancers’ choreography in May. Also in May we start a new initiative: the Fort Wayne Ballet Firefly Tour, whereby our dancers tour the Northeast Indiana region to dance among the fireflies during the warm evenings to come — a full list of dates and locations to be announced soon. Please check our website (fortwayneballet.org) and social media channels for details.

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 are continuing to empower others to recognize the importance of the arts for everyone. Thank you for joining us on this journey!

Karen Gibbons-Brown
Artistic Director
fortwayneballet.org

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE SPONSORS:
Spend your summer evenings relaxing with Fort Wayne Ballet’s professional company of dancers, great music, favorite beverages, and the twinkling lights of stars and fireflies . . . These performances are FREE and open to the public — celebrate Summer with us!

**Kehoe Park, Bluffton**
Tuesday, May 18, 2021    7:00PM

**Glover Pavilion, Warsaw**
Thursday, May 20, 2021    7:00PM

**DeKalb Outdoor Theatre, Auburn**
Friday, May 21, 2021     7:30pm

*More locations and dates to be announced* — watch for details on Facebook, Instagram, and our website!

fort wayne ballet

KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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Peter Illyich Tchaikovsky is arguably the most widely known composer of ballets. His compositions are woven with emotion, turbulence and tension which reflect his life experiences, anxieties and feelings. In his own words, “A composer uses his music to express his own feelings, joys, sufferings; in short, like a lyric poet he pours out, so to speak, his own soul.” Indeed, Tchaikovsky infused his very self into his work, leaving us with a legacy of music that reads like a book of his life and struggles.

Born in 1840 in Votkinsk, Russia, Peter grew up intending to become a lawyer, to please his parents. As a child, he was introspective and sensitive, often frustrating those around him. Young Peter realized this, which led to more anxiety. He was desperate to suit his family whom he loved very much, especially his mother. When she died of cholera, fourteen-year-old Peter was devastated. He turned to music to release his feelings.

Tchaikovsky enrolled in the newly formed St. Petersburg Conservatory in 1862. His first serious effort in composition was a waltz to honor his beloved mother’s memory. By age 37, he had composed three operas, three symphonies, and among other pieces, his first of three ballets: Swan Lake. In 1868, his First Symphony premiered. It already possessed the hallmark of Tchaikovsky’s musical style, formal Classical construction coupled with Romantic expression.

Madam Nadezha von Meck, a wealthy widow, patronized Tchaikovsky, allowing him to travel extensively. During his travels he hungrily drew from other cultures to add flavor to his music. All three of his ballets (Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, and The Nutcracker) incorporate cultural music and dances from the many countries that Tchaikovsky visited.

Peter Tchaikovsky died in 1893 at the age of 53. He composed eleven operas, three ballets, six symphonies, four orchestral suites, more than thirteen concerti and numerous other orchestrations. He was the first full-time, formally trained professional composer in Russian history.
FORT WAYNE BALLET’S ORIGINAL

Tchaikovsky

ENCHANTE

Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Staged by Karen Gibbons-Brown
Nurzhan Kulybaev

Choreographed after or by:
The Nutcracker after Marius Petipa and by Karen Gibbons-Brown
Swan Lake after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov
The Sleeping Beauty after Marius Petipa

Rehearsers Nurzhan Kulybaev, Tracy Tritz

Costume Designer Nan Possemato

Production Managers Christina Brinker
Luke Holliger

Lighting Director Miriam Morgan

Set Design & Execution for The Sleeping Beauty Adam Fletcher

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FORT WAYNE BALLET’S ORIGINAL

TCHAIKOVSKY ENCHANTED

The Nutcracker

Dew Drop  Amanda Eve Carrick

Flower Demi-Soloists  Babette Hunter, Carmie Schiano Nelson

Flowers  Alexis Aria, Alexandra Chumney, Tatum Farlow,
         Jessica Humphrey, Cailin Kluttz, Lindsay Navarre,
         Maddie Opacinch, Leah Wolfe

Sugar Plum Fairy  Amber Bailey¹, Saki Morimoto²
Sugar Plum Cavalier  David Claypoole², Brandon Penn¹

Swan Lake

Pas de Trois  Yu-Chieh Chao¹, Tatum Farlow¹, Ashleigh Sewell¹
              Alexandra Chumney², Zion Harris², Lindsay Navarre²

Four Swans  Katie Brown, Alexandra Chumney¹,
            Jessica Humphrey², Babette Hunter²,
            Lindsay Navarre¹, Carmie Schiano Nelson¹,
            Leah Wolfe²

Black Swan Pas de Deux  Odile, the Black Swan  Saki Morimoto
                        Prince Siegfried  Thomas Caleb Roberts

PERFORMANCE KEY:
1  Friday, March 26, 7 PM and Saturday, March 27, 2 PM
2  Saturday, March 27, 7 PM and Sunday, March 28, 2 PM
FORT WAYNE BALLET’S ORIGINAL

Tchaikovsky

ENCHANCED

The Sleeping Beauty

Cantlebutte  Yu-Chieh Chao¹, Zion Harris²

Nursemaid  Samantha Berry

King Florestan  Brandon Penn
Queen Florestan  Raleigh Sparrow

Court Ladies  Alexis Aria, Avalou Burns, Grace Sauls

Court Men  Tekhylon Armour, David Claypoole², Thomas Caleb Roberts¹, Allen Sizemore

Jewels  Amanda Eve Carrick, Saki Morimoto, Lindsay Navarre, Carmie Schiano Nelson

Puss-N-Boots and the White Cat  Zion Harris¹, Yu-Chieh Chao²

Blue Birds  Jordan Stevens
Princess Florimunda  Abby Zinsser
Prince Florimund  Talbot Rue

Red Riding Hood  Jessica Humphrey
The Big Bad Wolf  Graeham Toomey

Aurora  Amber Bailey
Prince Desire  David Claypoole¹, Thomas Caleb Roberts²

Lilac Fairy  Rachel Aron

— FIN —

PERFORMANCE KEY:
1  Friday, March 26, 7 PM and Saturday, March 27, 2 PM
2  Saturday, March 27, 7 PM and Sunday, March 28, 2 PM
Production Credits

Master Technician: Luke Holliger
Stage Manager: Luke Holliger
Lighting Designer & Director: Miriam Morgan
Light Board Operator: Miriam Morgan
Fly Master: Ryan Myers

Costume Designer: Nan Possemato
Costume Shop Supervisor: Nan Possemato
Costume Shop Volunteers: Anna Hess, Caraline Schuppe, Jordan Stevens

Backstage Crew: Olivia Ley, Jim Sizemore, Julie Sizemore, Payton Wilson, IATSE Local 146

Special Thanks: Adam Fletcher, Fort Wayne Civic Theatre

ArtsTix Community Box Office: Reuben Albaugh, Box Office Manager

Fort Wayne Ballet gratefully acknowledges the invaluable contributions of every volunteer who has given so freely of his or her time to make this production possible.

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* Masks and safety protocols required.
OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS are an essential part of our ability to fulfill our mission and commitment to the community. This year has proved challenging but we are determined to move forward and most importantly continue to provide traditions, experiences and programming that are essential to our community.

Familiar favorites such as Fort Wayne’s original production of *The Nutcracker*, our spring Main Stage story ballet, and our new Family Series, as well as a variety of new offerings that we hope will become traditions as well. OUR GOAL is to garner collective community support through the KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE initiative with a target of $30,000. Our suggested amount of support is $1,000 and we hope to have a long list of supporters that we can acknowledge at all of our remaining performance experiences throughout the 2020 - 2021 season.

PLEASE CONSIDER joining these community-dedicated companies supporting Fort Wayne Ballet’s Keeping Traditions Alive initiative. Together, we can maintain a vital part of Fort Wayne’s wonderful, unique traditions. Thank you!

Fort Wayne Ballet’s Original “The Nutcracker”

“Light Rain” by Gerald Arpino

“A Midsummer Night’s Dream” children’s tea party
An Endowment Fund creates an insulating layer for the financial state of any non-profit organization. Income can be used to offset operational costs as well as special needs, such as new dance flooring or theatre rental. Your gift to the Endowment Fund is not just a gift of today, but an indefinite gift which grows over time. It is a cultural inheritance for the community of tomorrow. If you would like to make a contribution, contact Fort Wayne Ballet at 260.484.9646.

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The following people have provided a deferred gift to Fort Wayne Ballet through an estate plan or other type of financial planning instrument. We gratefully acknowledge their kindness, forethought & lifelong commitment to our organization. If you would like to include Fort Wayne Ballet in your estate planning, contact us at 260.484.9646.

Richard Baker
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Fort Wayne Ballet gratefully acknowledges the following individual donors who contributed to the annual fund campaign within the past 12 months. If you would like to contribute with a tax-deductible gift, please call us at 260.484.9646.

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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, Swanilda 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 fully accredited ABT® National Training curriculum instructor.

Her other full time job is spending time with her husband, Jim, and children Watson, Madison, Hannah, Zachary, Raleigh and a sundry of dogs.
FORT WAYNE BALLET
MEET THE DANCERS

Click a dancer's image to learn more at fortwayneballet.org/dancers

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BOTTOM, L TO R: ARIANNA FLEISCHMAN, ROSEMARY AARONS, ABBY STORER, GRACE MCCUTCHEON
PRE-PROFESSIONAL 2
Left to Right:
Payton Wilson
Olivia Myers
Allison Banks
Isabel Carrillo
Gigi McDowell
Allen Sizemore

PRE-PROFESSIONAL 1
Back: TK Armour;
Front:
Stella Falconer
Alexis Andrews
Isabel Hollis
Not pictured:
Fiona Tippmann

YOUTH COMPANY (left to right)
Back Row: Lily Berning, Sophie Reynolds, Tabitha Wolf, Kate Hargens, Leo Walker, Yevva Ireland, Faith Button, Sophia Francke, Ella Wolf; Middle Row: Harper Kurzen, Ana Pelance, Natalia Yorgova, Ella Emrick, Olivia Johnson, Trinity Kelsaw, Alexa Bremer, Ana Carrillo; Front Row: Bianca Parra, Katherine Potter, Leah Thomas, Danny Button, Ellis Baron, Isabel Hoffer, Hannah Kozak; Not pictured: Grace Gephart, Rocco O’Reilly
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