

DAVIS-WALDORF
PERFORMING ARTS SERIES | **DW/PAS**
23RD SEASON



AMERICAN MIDWEST BALLET

Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023 | 7:30 p.m.

Te Ata Memorial Auditorium

Welcome to the Te Ata Memorial Auditorium on the campus of the University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma. We are proud to host the 23rd season of the Davis-Waldorf Performing Arts Series, a project of the USAO Foundation. This is the most ambitious season in the history of our series.

Thanks to grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts National Dance Project, and Oklahoma Arts Council, we have expanded our educational mission. While every visiting artist provides a workshop, masterclass, or outreach performance, this season opened with a campus residency with PUSH Physical Theatre. The entire month of October has been devoted to workshops with students, mentoring, and production development of "HYDE." Additionally, PUSHers have been the inspiration for the USAO Theatre Arts Program "shadow show" "JEKYLL," where students will exhibit what they have learned about corporeal mime, physical storytelling, and methods of devising physical theatre. This extraordinary experience includes student designers, technicians, and production staff. A student-led "behind the scenes" documentary of this teaching and learning experience will be released in 2024.

This season also includes the return of The World-Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra, the comedy-meets-bluegrass sensation The Cleverlys, and the debut performance of the American Midwest Ballet Company in our series. We have created a new partnership with the Chisholm Trail Arts Council and exchanged FLEX tickets, so all subscribers can reserve a seat for their Live Concert Series. We are excited to continue to grow, reflect and support the growth of Chickasha's arts community and our local economy. Chickasha is moving Onward and the arts will continue to be a place where you can find community, inspiration, and awe.

Thanks for being here with us. We hope you make some great memories this season!

Katie Davis, MFA
Professor of Theatre Arts



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This project was supported in part by the Oklahoma Arts Council,
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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Davis-Waldorf Performing Arts Series is to encourage attendance at high-quality performing arts events as an aspect of a liberal arts education for our students, to provide an affordable cultural and entertainment resource for our college family and our community, and to lead in local arts education by presenting relevant and culturally diverse programming that broadens the aesthetic of our audiences.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Katie Davis, *MFA DWPAS Executive Director*

Dr. Christy Clift

Susan Gearhart

Amy Goddard

Emily Godwin, *M.Ed.*

Amber Heilman

Jeff Taylor, *MFA*

Lewis Knisley

Kasey Sams

Rylee Trent, *Student Representative*

HONORS CREW

Jack Almeida
Avery Crawford
Mabel Cremers
Abigail Dansereau
Gary Daugherty
Tylan Hamilton
Aly Jones
Abbee Mann
Alexys Thompson
Rylee Trent

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Jeff Rutherford, *Technical Director for the School of Visual and Performing Arts*

Sami Barker, *Box Office Manager for the DWPAS*

Special thanks to the students enrolled in the Lighting Craft and Stage Management classes!



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AMERICAN MIDWEST *Ballet*

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ABOUT AMERICAN MIDWEST BALLET

American Midwest Ballet is your resident professional dance company, bringing work beyond words to audiences in Nebraska, Iowa, and beyond. Performing at home and on tour, our mission is to inspire people through dance programs of the highest quality: breathtaking performances, enriching education, and uplifting community engagement.

American Midwest Ballet's talented professional dancers hail from around the nation. The company plays a key role in the cultural vitality of the region, inspiring people through our expressive performing artists, acclaimed choreographers, skilled teachers, and stunning productions.

AMERICAN MIDWEST BALLET COSTUME DESIGNER

Deborah Overturff has designed and created costumes for such notable ballets as *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *Coppélia*, *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Cleopatra*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *The Nutcracker*.

For many years she had the privilege of working directly with Tatiana Bechenova, former ballerina of the Original Ballet Russe Col. de Basil. Deborah has created costumes for the Heartland Ballet, Dubuque City Youth Ballet, Montgomery Ballet, and American Midwest Ballet. She received the Willoughby Award for her costumes in *The Nutcracker*.

In addition, Deborah has worked as part of the wardrobe staff at Hancher Auditorium in Iowa City on the national tours of *Cats*, *Les Misérables*, Joffrey Ballet's *The Nutcracker*, and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.



AMERICAN MIDWEST *Ballet*

ARTISTIC STAFF

Erika Overturff, Artistic Director & CEO
Erin Alarcón, Ballet Master

ARTISTS

Erin Alarcón, Marsalis AnderSon-Clausell, Nora Carr, Elena Carter,
Ryan Christopher, Claire Goodwillie, Alexandra Hoffman, Jack Kadzis, Casey Kelley,
Leah Kressin, Erica Lohman, Richard Marks, Kelanie Murphy, Kogan Murphy, Erika Overturff,
Katerina Schweitzer, Amaris Sharratt, Anna Swenson, Wyatt Weeces, Whitney Woods

Apprentices: Kelsey Corder, Sophie Graham, Eliza Harden, Megan Lynch

Trainee: Noah Kargman

Costume Designer Deborah Overturff

Costumer Wendy Linville

Costume Assistants Elena Carter, Wyatt Weeces

Development Director Sarah Maloney

Operations Director Shanna Zordell

Marketing Director Jim Williams

Production & Marketing Manager Wesley A. Houston

Community Engagement Manager Hannah Clark

Rehearsal Coach Angela Rodriguez

Rehearsal Assistants Claire Goodwillie, Kelanie Murphy,
Shelley Strong

School Director Susan Chowning

American Midwest Ballet Presents

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*University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma • Te Ata Memorial Auditorium
Davis Waldorf Performing Arts Series • November 30, 2023*

Costume Design Deborah Overturff

Lighting Design Carol Wisner, Bill Van Deest

Filmmaker Lance Glenn

Resident Stage Manager Wesley A. Houston

Technical Manager Hannah Clark

Wardrobe Deborah Overturff, Wendy Linville,
Shanna Zordell, Wyatt Weeces, Elena Carter,
Michael Clark, Mona Schlautman

Davis Waldorf Performing Arts Series

Honors Crew Jack Almeida, Avery Crawford,
Mabel Cremers, Abigail Dansereau,
Gary Daughtry, Ty Hamilton, Aly Jones,
Abbee Mann, Alexys Thompson, Rylee Trent

Special thanks to Lighting Craft Class: THTR 1503 and
Stage Management Class: THTR 3413

THE ENCHANTED GARDEN

From "The Nutcracker"

Choreography Erika Overturff

Music Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Dew Drop Fairy Alexandra Hoffman

Thistle Richard Marks

Iris Claire Goodwillie

Wild Rose Leah Kressin

Fuchsia Eliza Harden

Lily Amaris Sharratt

Dahlia Anna Swenson

Zinnia Elena Carter

French Marigold Erica Lohman

Bluebell Sophie Graham

Dragonflies Kelsey Corder, Megan Lynch, Whitney Woods

Frogs Marsalis AnderSon-Clausell, Ryan Christopher,
Noah Kargman

Butterflies Erin Alarcón, Nora Carr, Kelanie Murphy, Kogan Murphy

FRAGILE CREATURES

2023 Premiere

This work hauntingly explores the mysterious world of memory.

Choreography Erin Alarcón
Music Agnes Obel

Smoke and Mirrors..... Marsalis AnderSon-Clausell, Nora Carr, Elena Carter,
Alexandra Hoffman, Jack Kadzis, Casey Kelley,
Leah Kressin, Richard Marks, Kelanie Murphy,
Kogan Murphy, Katerina Schweitzer, Amaris Sharratt,
Wyatt Weeces, Whitney Woods

Riverside Ensemble

Familiar Marsalis AnderSon-Clausell, Elena Carter,
Alexandra Hoffman, Jack Kadzis, Casey Kelley,
Richard Marks, Kogan Murphy, Amaris Sharratt,
Wyatt Weeces, Whitney Woods

Philharmonics Nora Carr, Elena Carter, Alexandra Hoffman, Leah Kressin,
Kelanie Murphy, Kogan Murphy, Katerina Schweitzer,
Amaris Sharratt, Whitney Woods

It's Happening..... Nora Carr, Jack Kadzis, Kelanie Murphy

Avenue..... Ensemble

Intermission (20 minutes)

LOVE GAMES

The choreographer, an alumna of Chicago's renowned River North Dance Company, says this sultry work depicts "the flirty tug-of-war we play when we are falling for someone."

Choreography Monique Haley
Music Babatunde Olatunji

Erin Alarcón, Marsalis AnderSon-Clausell, Claire Goodwillie, Alexandra Hoffman,
Casey Kelley, Erica Lohman, Richard Marks, Anna Swenson, Wyatt Weeces

GO WEST!

Inspired by the spirit and stories of the American West

Choreography Erika Overturff
Music Various

- Hoedown Erin Alarcón, Marsalis AnderSon-Clausell, Nora Carr,
Elena Carter, Ryan Christopher, Kelsey Corder,
Claire Goodwillie, Sophie Graham, Eliza Harden,
Alexandra Hoffman, Jack Kadzis, Noah Kargman,
Casey Kelley, Leah Kressin, Erica Lohman, Megan Lynch,
Richard Marks, Kelanie Murphy, Kogan Murphy,
Katerina Schweitzer, Amaris Sharratt, Anna Swenson,
Wyatt Weeces, Whitney Woods
- Tumbling Tumbleweeds..... Casey Kelley *with* Nora Carr, Elena Carter, Kelsey Corder,
Sophie Graham, Eliza Harden, Leah Kressin, Erica Lohman,
Megan Lynch, Kogan Murphy, Amaris Sharratt,
Anna Swenson, Whitney Woods
- Ghost Riders in the Sky..... Jack Kadzis
- Don't Fence Me In Casey Kelley, Richard Marks, Erika Overturff, Wyatt Weeces
- Jingle Jangle Jingle Erin Alarcón, Ryan Christopher, Katerina Schweitzer
- Cattle Call Marsalis AnderSon-Clausell *with* Nora Carr, Jack Kadzis,
Noah Kargman, Amaris Sharratt, Whitney Woods
- Maria Claire Goodwillie, Richard Marks
- Cool Clear Water Erin Alarcón, Ryan Christopher, Jack Kadzis, Erika Overturff
- Rawhide Marsalis AnderSon-Clausell, Casey Kelley, Richard Marks,
Wyatt Weeces
- Home on the Range..... Kelanie Murphy, Kogan Murphy, Anna Swenson *with*
Eliza Harden, Erica Lohman, Megan Lynch, Erika Overturff
- Streets of Laredo Wyatt Weeces *with* Ryan Christopher, Kelsey Corder,
Claire Goodwillie, Sophie Graham, Eliza Harden,
Noah Kargman, Leah Kressin, Erica Lohman, Megan Lynch,
Richard Marks
- That's How the Yodel was Born..... Alexandra Hoffman *with* Nora Carr, Elena Carter,
Kelanie Murphy, Kogan Murphy, Katerina Schweitzer,
Amaris Sharratt
- Cowboy Jubilee Erin Alarcón, Marsalis AnderSon-Clausell, Claire Goodwillie,
Jack Kadzis, Casey Kelley, Erika Overturff, Wyatt Weeces,
Whitney Woods
- Hoedown Ensemble

AMERICAN MIDWEST BALLET ARTISTIC STAFF

Erika Overturff, *Artistic Director & CEO*



Erika Overturff is the founder of American Midwest Ballet, the region's professional ballet company. Under her leadership as artistic director and CEO, American Midwest Ballet enriches the area through an exciting array of professional dance performances and a strong commitment to cultural education and community engagement.

Erika began her training in Iowa at the Academy of Ballet, studying at summer programs including North Carolina School of the Arts, American Ballet Theatre, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, and the Kirov Academy. Following early high school graduation as valedictorian, Erika earned her B.F.A. in ballet performance and teaching from the University of Utah, which she attended on a full scholarship. She graduated cum laude in just three years and was chosen outstanding senior by the ballet department faculty.

Erika went on to dance with Montgomery Ballet, Alabama Ballet, Omaha Theater Ballet, and American Midwest Ballet. She has performed principal and soloist roles in a wide range of classical and contemporary repertoire. Audiences have enjoyed Erika's performances in roles such as Eileen in *Swing, Swing, Swing!*, Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Lucy in *Dracula*, Snow Queen and Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, Queen of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland*, Myrtha in *Giselle*, the Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz*, and roles in Ann Reinking's *In the Style of Bob Fosse* and Harrison McEldowney's *Call It Off*. Erika has also been a faculty member and guest teacher for schools around the United States.

As a choreographer, Erika has received critical praise for her work. She served as répétitrice for Montgomery Ballet and resident choreographer for Omaha Theater Ballet. She has worked on several collaborations with Opera Omaha, created an all-new production of *Peter and the Wolf* with the Omaha Symphony, and regularly creates new works for American Midwest Ballet. As part of the company's ongoing collaboration with Joslyn Art Museum, Erika has choreographed original ballets inspired by museum artwork or exhibitions, including *Connemara*, *Cleopatra*, *Go West!*, *Appalachian Song*, and *The Bee's Knees*.

Other featured works include *Tropico*, *Party Animals*, *The Diner*, *Ella*, *Sweet and Low-Down*, and *Rhapsody in Blue*. Erika also created American Midwest Ballet's lively and entertaining version of the holiday favorite *The Nutcracker*, which has premiered to enthusiastic audiences both at home and on tour. For her vision and achievements, Erika was named a recipient of the Midlands Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Awards, honoring area entrepreneurs, executives, and professionals.

GUEST CHOREOGRAPHER



Monique Haley (*Love Games*) is an Assistant Professor of Dance and African American and African Studies at Western Michigan University. Her research centers on African cultural values, ethos, and the importance of cultivating ritual in contemporary jazz dance pedagogy. She was the first African-American woman to join Chicago's renowned River North Dance Company and was a River North member for nine seasons. She also has been a member of Bermuda Dance Company and the Eleone Dance Theater of Philadelphia.

Erin Alarcón, Ballet Master

Artist Sponsor: OrthoNebraska



Erin Alarcón began her dance training with Christine Taylor at North Jersey School of Dance Arts in Hackettstown, NJ where she was also a member of New Jersey Civic Youth Ballet under the direction of Luba Gulyaeva. Erin went on to graduate magna cum laude with a B.A. in dance performance from Mercyhurst University Dance Department under the direction of Tauna Hunter. During her time there she performed both principal and soloist roles, as well as choreographed several works for the dance department.

In addition to her classes and performances, Erin spent two years teaching the open ballet classes at Mercyhurst University. During the summers she studied with Eglevsky Ballet and Joffrey Ballet. She has been coached by many wonderful artists including Laura Alonso, Bruce Marks, Vivi Flindt, and Bill Evans. Erin had the opportunity to study dance abroad with Valerie Valentine of the Dutch National Ballet, where she worked directly with Ms. Valentine, as well as Maurice Causey, then Ballet Master for Netherlands Dance Theater.

Erin danced professionally with SoMar Dance Works and Ballet Concert, and has appeared as a guest artist with Iowa Dance Theater performing the title role of *Cinderella*. With American Midwest Ballet, she has performed the principal roles in *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Alice in Wonderland*, for which she won the Omaha Entertainment Award for Best Featured Dancer. In Erika Overturff's *The Nutcracker*, Erin has danced the roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy, Dew Drop Fairy and Snow Queen. Erin has choreographed several works for American Midwest Ballet, including the full-length ballet *The Wizard of Oz*. Erin served as Operations Manager for the company for seven years and has taught master classes and workshops throughout the Midwest. Erin is a founding company member; this is her second season as Ballet Master for the company.



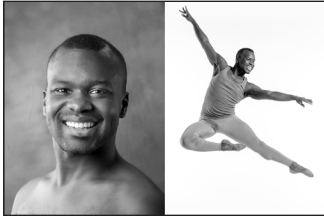
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**AMERICAN MIDWEST BALLET
SUMMER INTENSIVE 2024**

June 10-28, 2024 - Visit amballet.org/si for information

ARTISTS

Marsalis AnderSon-Clausell



Hometown: Roswell, Georgia

Training & Experience: Ballet Pensacola, two seasons as a soloist and three seasons as a principal dancer; trained in classical ballet at Metropolitan Ballet Theater under the tutelage of prima ballerina Maniya Barredo for 10 seasons and trained in classical and contemporary dance with Atlanta Ballet; summer intensives at Orlando Ballet with Oliver Munoz, Nashville Ballet; national choreography including South Eastern Regional Ballet

Association [SERBA] American and Canadian with Robert Barnett and the late John Magnus

Featured Repertory: Thistle & Arabian in *The Nutcracker*; Wizard in *The Wizard of Oz*; Prince in *Snow White*; Pas de Trois in *Paquita*; Jafar in *Aladdin*. Guesting: Mobile Ballet, *Peter Pan*

Additional Highlights: An identical twin – member of the Twins Day Festival; second season with American Midwest Ballet

Nora Carr



Hometown: Burnt Hills, New York

Training & Experience: B.F.A. in dance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music; Akjun Ballet Theatre; Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet; Northeast Ballet Artist; summer programs at American Ballet Theater, Miami City Ballet, Saratoga Summer Dance Intensive, CPYB; scholarship recipient at New York Summer School of the Arts

Featured Repertory: Gift of Wisdom in *The Wizard of Oz*; French and Porcelain Doll in *The Nutcracker*; roles in *Swan Lake*, *French Songs*, *Group Therapy*, *Appalachian Song*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Additional Highlight: eighth season with American Midwest Ballet

Elena Carter



Hometown: Seattle, Washington

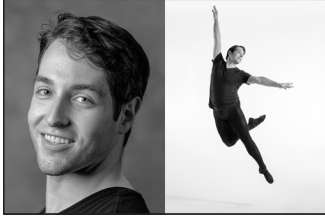
Training & Experience: B.F.A. in dance and B.A. in mathematics from the University of Arizona; Pacific Northwest Ballet School; summer programs at Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Perry Mansfield, Ballet Austin, Los Angeles Ballet, Ballet Chicago, and Pacific Northwest Ballet

Featured Repertory: roles in *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Nutcracker*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Death and the Maiden*, *In the Style of*

Bob Fosse, and *Appalachian Song*

Additional Highlights: selected to train with Pacific Northwest Ballet at the age of eight on full scholarship through a public outreach program; seventh season with American Midwest Ballet

Ryan Christopher



Hometown: Golden, Colorado

Training & Experience: Professional dancer with Ballet Ariel and Boulder Ballet; guest artist throughout the United States; International Youth Ballet School and Performing Arts Conservatory of Texas summer program

Featured Repertory: soloist in *Paquita*; pas de trois in *Swan Lake*; pas de six in *Giselle*; pas de deux in *French Songs*; Snow King and Cavalier in *The Nutcracker*; Wizard in *The Wizard of Oz*; featured

roles in *On My Mother's Side* and *Go West!*

Additional Highlights: former baseball and football athlete; professional costume and prop designer; eleventh season with American Midwest Ballet

Claire Goodwillie



Hometown: Omaha, Nebraska

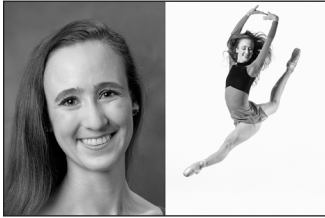
Training & Experience: Omaha Theater Ballet School; summer programs at Pacific Northwest Ballet and Ballet Austin; apprentice with Omaha Theater Ballet

Featured Repertory: Gift of Courage in *The Wizard of Oz*; title role in *Cleopatra*, Rat Queen and Dew Drop Fairy in *The Nutcracker*; Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; featured roles in *Sadako*, *Party Animals*, *Giselle*, *The Diner*, and *Go West!*; Edgar L. Page's *A Slow Drag*

Additional Highlights: company rehearsal assistant; fourteenth season with American Midwest Ballet; founding company member

Alexandra Hoffmann

Artist Sponsors: John Ritland, Greta Vaught, & Mia Ritland



Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio

Training & Experience: Ana Lobe of Cleveland San Jose Ballet; summer programs at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Nashville Ballet, and Louisville Ballet; trainee with Louisville Ballet

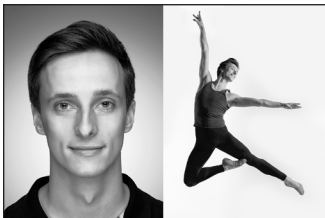
Featured Repertory: Snow Queen and Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*; Gift of Wisdom and Emerald Queen in *The Wizard of Oz*; Maiden in *Death and the Maiden*; Fee in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Little Swan in *Swan Lake*; roles in *Group Therapy*,

Cleopatra, *Go West!*, *Bournonville Divertissements*, and *Transcription*

Additional Highlight: ninth season with American Midwest Ballet

Jack Kadzis

Artist Sponsors: Amy Haddad & Steve Martin



Hometown: Boston, Massachusetts

Training & Experience: Trained with the Boston Ballet School; apprentice with Sarasota Ballet; dancer with Milwaukee Ballet II; summer programs at Pacific Northwest Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Houston Ballet, Boston Ballet

Featured Repertory: Cavalier in *The Nutcracker*; Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz*; Autumn Leaves male soloist in Frank Chaves' *Eva*; roles in Michael Pink's *The Nutcracker*,

Coppélia and *Beauty and the Beast*, Sir Frederick Ashton's *Illuminations* and *The Dream*, George Balanchine's *Theme and Variations* and *Diamonds*, Jerome Robbins' *The Concert*

Additional Highlight: second season with American Midwest Ballet

Casey Kelley



Hometown: Omaha, Nebraska

Training & Experience: Ballet Nebraska II; American Midwest Ballet Junior Company; American Midwest Ballet School; Omaha Academy of Ballet; summer programs with Ballet West and American Midwest Ballet; guest artist with Omaha Dance Project and One For All Musical Theater

Featured Repertory: Tin Woodman in *The Wizard of Oz*; Battle Nutcracker and Santa Claus in *The Nutcracker*; Frank

Chaves' *Eva*

Additional Highlight: second season with American Midwest Ballet

Leah Kressin



Hometown: Carlsbad, California

Training & Experience: Bachelor of Arts in dance from California State University Long Beach; San Elijo Dance and Music Academy on merit scholarship, City Ballet of San Diego, San Diego Ballet Collective; master classes with Gelsey Kirkland, David Howard, Susan Jaffe, Abbie Seifel, Desmond Richardson, Lawrence Rosenberg, Ivan Vargas; summer programs with American Ballet Theatre, Escuela Internacional de Flamenco Manolete

Featured Repertory: Roles in *The Nutcracker*, *The Bee's Knees*, and *Swing, Swing, Swing!*

Additional Highlight: third season with American Midwest Ballet

Erica Lohman



Hometown: Indianapolis, Indiana

Training & Experience: B.F.A. in Dance Performance and Choreography from the University of Missouri-Kansas City (*summa cum laude*, with honors); performed with De La Dance Company, Kansas City Ballet, Wylliams Henry Contemporary Dance Company, and Albany Berkshire Ballet

Featured Repertory: roles in *The Nutcracker*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and Frank Chaves' *Eva*

Additional Highlight: second season with American Midwest Ballet

Richard Marks



Hometown: Waukee, Iowa

Training & Experience: Milwaukee Ballet II; Westside Dance Academy; The Pointe Academy

Featured Repertory: Thistle and Snow King in *The Nutcracker*; Lion in *The Wizard of Oz*; Frank Chaves' *Habaneras*, *the Music of Cuba* and *Eva*; Rustic in Bruce Wells' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Dark Angel in George Balanchine's *Serenade*; Vicor in Michael Pink's *Dracula*

Additional Highlight: fifth season with American Midwest Ballet

Kelanie Murphy

Artist Sponsors: Polina & Bob Schlott



Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

Training & Experience: B.F.A. in dance performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City; Madison Ballet, Minnesota Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Wyllyams/Henry Contemporary Dance Company, Judith Svalander School of Ballet; summer programs at Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Kansas City Ballet

Gift of Heart in *The Wizard of Oz*; Dew Drop Fairy in *The Nutcracker*; roles in *French Songs* and *Habaneras, the Music of Cuba*; Ann Reinking and Dylis Croman's staging of Bob Fosse's *Trumpet Solo* from 'Sing, Sing, Sing'

Additional Highlight: company rehearsal assistant; sixth season with American Midwest Ballet

Kogan Murphy

Artist Sponsor: Dick & DeAnna Miller Charitable Trust



Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

Training & Experience: Joffrey Ballet trainee; Ballet Theatre of Indiana, Judith Svalander School of Ballet; Joffrey Ballet summer program

Featured Repertory: Glinda in *The Wizard of Oz*; lead in *Rhapsody in Blue*; Arabian Princess, Spanish and French in *The Nutcracker*; Little Swan in *Swan Lake*; roles in *Giselle*, *Appalachian Song*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Additional Highlights: Miss Illinois talent scholarship and Miss Douglas County; teacher for AMB's Discover Dance scholarship program; ninth season with American Midwest Ballet

Katerina Schweitzer



Hometown: Vero Beach, Florida

Training & Experience: apprentice with Gelsey Kirkland Ballet; Space Coast Ballet Academy; Kirova Ballet Academy of Miami; private training by Heidi Khursandi; Gelsey Kirkland Ballet Academy graduate; summer programs at American Ballet Theatre, Joffrey Ballet, Ballet Vero Beach, Kirova Ballet Academy of Miami, and Gelsey Kirkland Academy

Featured Repertory: Clara, the Sugar Plum Fairy, and Spanish in *The Nutcracker*; roles in *Death and the Maiden*, *Group Therapy*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Appalachian Song*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Habaneras, the Music of Cuba*; Ray Mercer's *Ghost Light*

Additional Highlight: seventh season with American Midwest Ballet

Amaris Sharratt



Hometown: Tucson, Arizona

Training & Experience: Ballet Arts; summer programs at Pacific Northwest Ballet, Houston Ballet, and Ballet Tucson on full scholarship; performed with Milwaukee Ballet II, Houston Ballet, Nevada Ballet Theater, Ballet Tucson, Earthen Vessels, and Hopestone Dance Company

Featured Repertory: Poppy Queen and Gift of Courage in *The Wizard of Oz*; lead in *French Songs*; Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Arabian and Chinese soloist in *The Nutcracker*; roles in *Giselle*, *Paquita*, *Cleopatra*, *Go West!*, *Swan Lake*, and *Ella*; Sandra Organ Solis' *Pearl*

Additional Highlights: performed in Edinburgh, Scotland as a scholarship recipient at Burklyn Ballet Theater; tenth season with American Midwest Ballet

Anna Swenson



Hometown: Spokane, Washington

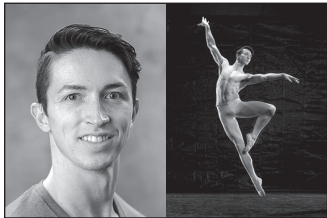
Training & Experience: Ballet Arts Academy; trainee program at school of Alberta Ballet; summer programs at Walnut Hill School for the Arts, Joffrey Ballet's Jazz and Contemporary program, and School of Alberta Ballet

Featured Repertory: Glinda and Emerald Queen in *The Wizard of Oz*; Snow Queen and Arabian Princess in *The Nutcracker*; Big Swan in *Swan Lake*; featured roles in *Blackbird*, *Appalachian*

Song, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Seneca Montgomery's *Order in the Chaos*

Additional Highlight: eleventh season with American Midwest Ballet

Wyatt Weeces



Hometown: Wichita, Kansas

Training & Experience: B.F.A in ballet performance from Friends University; Rogers Ballet; summer programs at Next Generation Ballet and Oklahoma City Ballet

Featured Repertory: Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Nutcracker Prince, Russian, and Arabian in *The Nutcracker*; roles in *The Wizard of Oz*, *Death and the Maiden*, *Appalachian Song*, *Bricolage*, and *Habaneras, the Music of Cuba*.

Additional Highlight: sixth season with American Midwest Ballet

Whitney Woods



Hometown: Westlake Village, California

Training & Experience: Joffrey Ballet trainee; guest artist at Pacific Festival Ballet; California Dance Theatre; summer programs at Joffrey Ballet, American Ballet Theatre New York, Houston Ballet, and Kirov Academy of Ballet

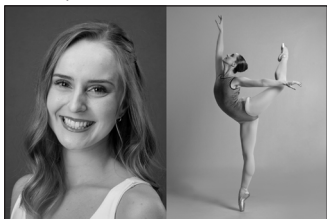
Featured Repertory: Poppy Queen in *The Wizard of Oz*; Porcelain Doll and Spanish in *The Nutcracker*; Little Swan in *Swan Lake*; roles in *Connemara*, *In the Style of Bob Fosse*, *One in Three*,

Transcription, *Ella*, *The Diner*, *Go West!*, *Appalachian Song*, and *Giselle*

Additional Highlights: performed several world premieres in Joffrey Ballet's *Winning Works*; tenth season with American Midwest Ballet

Apprentices

Kelsey Corder



Hometown: Alma, Arkansas

Training & Experience: Louisville Ballet Studio Company; Western Arkansas Ballet

Summer Programs: Burklyn Ballet Theater, Kansas City Ballet, Texas Ballet Theater

Additional Highlights: performed in George Balanchine's *Serenade* with Louisville Ballet; attended and performed in multiple Regional Dance America Southwest festivals

Sophie Graham



Hometown: New Canaan, Connecticut

Training & Experience: Milwaukee Ballet II; Joffrey Ballet Chicago trainee; New England Academy of Dance

Summer Programs: ART of workshop in Zurich, Switzerland; Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell; Miami City Ballet; Boston Ballet; American Ballet Theatre; Sarasota Ballet

Additional Highlights: roles in Michael Pink's *The Nutcracker*, *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Swan Lake*, and *Beauty and the Beast*,

and a premiere in Milwaukee Ballet's Genesis show along with roles in George Balanchine's *Sylvia* and *Who Cares*

Eliza Harden



Hometown: Louisville, Kentucky

Training & Experience: B.F.A. in ballet performance from the University of Oklahoma School of Dance (*summa cum laude*); Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory; DuPont Manual Youth Performing Arts School; Village Dance Theatre

Summer Programs: Cincinnati Ballet, Oklahoma City Ballet, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Nutmeg Conservatory, BalletMet

Additional Highlights: performed at the Mexico City International Dance Festival; voted "Outstanding Senior" by dance professors

Megan Lynch



Hometown: Winona, Minnesota

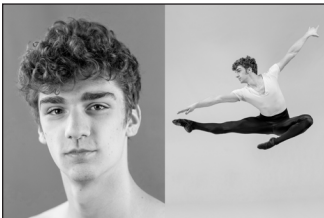
Training & Experience: B.F.A. in ballet and B.A. in history from the University of Utah; Ballet Blake, Rochester, Minnesota; Minnesota Conservatory for the Arts

Summer Programs: Kansas City Ballet School, Joffrey Ballet, International Summer Program (Inchon, Korea), Ballet Austin, Joffrey Ballet School

Additional Highlights: received the Outstanding Senior Award from the University of Utah School of Dance; performed in Inchon, Korea, under the direction of Oleg Vinogradov in *Paquita*

Trainee

Noah Kargman



Hometown: Roanoke, Virginia

Training & Experience: Roanoke Ballet Theatre; Loudoun Ballet Performing Arts Company; Burton Center for Performing Arts

Summer Programs: Roanoke Ballet Theatre, Charlotte Ballet

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