Encore performance
A Celebration of
Dance & Music

Hanna Theatre
Playhouse Square
January 27, 2017
7:00pm

CLEVELAND BALLET
Hello Cleveland Ballet Family and Friends,

I am excited to welcome you to Cleveland Ballet’s second season.

When I joined the board of Cleveland School of Dance five years ago, we often talked about the great city of Cleveland and its artistic riches, yet it lacked a resident classical ballet company. We know that many of the great cities have one, and we believed in order to move Cleveland forward, it was critical to establish a classical ballet company.

We began to carefully plan every step. First, we moved the school to a larger, more centrally located facility. We held auditions to create the semi-professional Cleveland Ballet Youth Company. Next, an artistic collaboration with The Cleveland Institute of Music’s talented pianist Ralitsa Georgieva-Smith led to envision music and dance. Sharing the stage to highlight how intertwined the two art forms often are. Finally, we began to travel the country to build a professional ballet company that Cleveland could be proud of.

Under the artistic direction of Artistic Director Gladisa Guadalupe, Cleveland Ballet’s first season was critically praised with the unbelievable success of Ramón Oller’s world premiere work of Coppélia.

With “A Celebration of Dance & Music,” we begin our second season with world-class musicians and one of the best tenors of our time, Mikhail Urusov performing Amore perduto and Granada. We are also pleased to welcome dancer and choreographer Ramón Thielen.

At Cleveland Ballet, we remain dedicated to enriching the community by providing world class ballet training for all ages. This season we expanded our outreach programs from Warrensville Heights and Bedford Schools to include Maple Heights, the Burtwood School, and the Grier School in Pennsylvania as well as our strategic partnership with Andrews Osborne Academy.

Thank you for supporting our new ballet company. We are very proud to be a part of Cleveland’s renaissance.

I invite you to enjoy this evening’s “A Celebration of Dance & Music.”

Yours,
Dr. Michael Krasnyansky
President of the Board and Executive Director, Cleveland Ballet
Good evening and welcome to Cleveland Ballet’s second season.

Our previous season was one of much work, great progress, and most importantly, extraordinary artistic growth. We concluded our humble beginnings with one of the most popular story ballets, Coppelia. Ramón Oller’s choreography and vision brought our full houses to their feet with enthusiastic standing ovations following each performance.

It is with great pride that we bring to you an Encore performance of our season’s first program, ‘A Celebration of Dance and Music’. This is a beautiful program of classical and romantic music; from lush to elegant to passionate, tonight’s music will motivate, transport, and enchant.

Tonight’s performance showcases the students of our prestigious ballet school and our future artists. Elegant and romantic duets, as well as a dance featuring the entire company, complete the performance. Our extraordinary musicians share the stage with the dancers, reminding us that the musician’s movements can be as lyrical as our dancers.

I am also pleased to welcome Mikhail Urusov to Cleveland Ballet’s family. Hailed as ‘the most talented Russian tenor’, and I’m sure you will agree that Mikhail’s world-class talent adds to the evening in ways words cannot fully describe. He will perform two of the most romantic arias in the musical cannon. Bringing to our stage for the first time are two promising young singers, Polina Kornyushenko and Nicholas Oita. Their youth, fresh and sweet voices will bring smiles to you the audience.

As a guest artist, Ramón Thielen graciously choreographed a world premier piece for our repertoire. This vigorous dance was inspired by the timeless and essential element to life, love. Set to the most passionate scores of tango music, Ramón has created duets portraying the essence of love at all stages.

Music, singing and dancing together on stage, promises to be one classic, elegant and passionate performance. Just let yourself enjoy every moment of tonight’s performance.

Thank you to our audience for your commitment and loyalty and sharing our mission to bring quality ballet performances to you.

Enjoy the performance,
Gladisa Guadalupe
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-Aubrey Lynch

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Dance & Music

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Gladisa Guadalupe

Executive Director
Michael Krasnyansky, PhD

Ballet Master
Cynthia Graham

Artistic Associate
Meghan Haas

Music Artistic Advisor
Alexandra Preucil

Tenor
Mikhail Urusov

Lighting Designer
Trad A. Burns

Choreographers
Ramón Thielen
Gladisa Guadalupe

Stage Manager
Jennifer Lehane

Company
Madison Campbell, Elena Cvetkovich
Rainer Diaz, Anna Dobbins
Theresa Holland, Victor Jarvis
Elizabeth Pantuso, Rebeca Ramirez
Carson Sandiford-Hoxie, Lüna Sayag
Jenna Steiner, Lauren Stenroos
Madeline Taylor, Christiana Youngquist

The Musicians
Ralitsa Georgieva-Smith, Piano - Music Coordinator
Paul Aguilar, Violin
Kyle Anderson, Cello
Masha Andreini, Violin
Daniel Blumhard, Cello
Paolo Dara, Violin
Isabelle Durrenberger, Violin
Eva Kennedy, Violin
Marianne Martinoli, Violin
Hanna Moses, Cello
Kiarra Saito-Beckman, Violin
Andrew Stock, Violin

Company Photographer
Jonathan Koslen

Video & Production
Creative House Studios

Costume Designer
Victoria Mearini

Major funding provided by:

Constance Rebar
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<tr>
<th><strong>Today’s Students, Tomorrow’s Artists</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Composer</strong></td>
<td>George Frideric Handel</td>
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<td><strong>Musicians</strong></td>
<td>Kyle Anderson, Marianne Martinoli</td>
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<td><strong>Choreographers</strong></td>
<td>Gladisa Guadalupe, Meghan Haas</td>
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<td><strong>Dancers</strong></td>
<td>Jayla Beckett, Paige Capel, Sarah Clarke, Kennedy Copeland, Lauren Davis, Anna Donsky, Devyn Erding, Hadley Fuller, Aspen Hanzak, Lulu Herman, Caroline Holland, Paige Lender, Isabel Mearini, Emma Nelson, Adian O’Brien, Veda Palomo, Enese Pigniczky, Sophie Popovich, Nicole Preucil, Alex Skalla, Dima Smith, Makaela Sussman, Rachael Sussman, Hannah Toth, Christina Troyer</td>
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<td><strong>Choreographers</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Choreographers</strong></td>
<td>Gladisa Guadalupe</td>
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<td><strong>Dancers</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Musicians</strong></td>
<td>Ralista Georgieva Smith</td>
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<td><strong>Tenor</strong></td>
<td>Mikhael Urusov</td>
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<td><strong>Choreographer</strong></td>
<td>Gladisa Guadalupe</td>
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<td><strong>Dancers</strong></td>
<td>Madison Campbell, Anna Dobbs</td>
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Video taping and photography are prohibited.
**The Cycle of My Love**

“I believe that self-love is the most important type of love. Once you find it, it is only then when you are ready to start the cycle again and be able to love once more.”

– Ramón Thielen

**Composers** Angel Villodo, Carlos Gardel, Gerardo Matos  
**Musicians** Ralista Georgieva Smith, Marianne Martinoli  
**Choreographer** Ramón Thielen

**Passionate Love**

*Fresh, exciting, and passionate… the type of love that we hope will last forever…*

**Dancers** Lüna Sayag, Victor Jarvis

**Dysfunctional Love**

*A strong mature and caring love, when, for one of the two, the passion has died.*

**Dancers** Lauren Stenroos, Carson Sandiford-Hoxie

**Finding Self-love**

*The journey of emotional healing, self-confidence, self-love and, finally, transcendence, after one’s heart has been broken.*

**Dancers** Rainer Diaz, Theresa Holland

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**Amore Perduto**

**Composer** Tomaso Giovanni Albinoni  
**Tenor** Mikhael Urusov  
**Choreographer** Gladisa Guadalupe  
**Dancers** Lüna Sayag, Victor Jarvis

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**Piano Trio in C minor Op. 1, No. 3 Finale. Prestissimo**

**Composer** Ludwig van Beethoven  
**Musicians** Ralista, Kyle, and Marianne  
**Choreographer** Gladisa Guadalupe  
**Dancers** Rainer Diaz, Victor Jarvis, Carson Sandiford-Hoxie

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**Octet for strings in E-flat major, Op. 20 Allegro moderato ma con fuoco**

**Composer** Felix Mendelssohn  
**Musicians** Andrew Stock, Isabelle Durrenberger, Paolo Dara, Eva Kennedy, Paul Aguilar, Daniel Blumhard, Kiarra Saito-Beckman, Hanna Moses  
**Choreographer** Gladisa Guadalupe  
**Dancers** Madison Campbell, Elena Cvetkovich, Rainer Diaz, Anna Dobbins, Theresa Holland, Victor Jarvis, Elizabeth Pantuso, Carson Sandiford-Hoxie, Lüna Sayag, Jenna Steiner, Lauren Stenroos, Rebeca Ramirez, Madeline Taylor, Christiana Youngquist
Madison Campbell
Madison began her ballet training in Des Moines, Iowa with Melissa and Emery Uyehara and spent her summers at the Pacific Northwest Ballet School, San Francisco Ballet School, The School of American Ballet, The School of Pennsylvania Ballet, and The School of Nashville Ballet among others. She trained at Miami City Ballet School training under Lourdes Lopez, Carter Alexander, and Geta Constantinescu. At the School of Pennsylvania Ballet, on full scholarship, under the direction of William Degregory and later Arantxa Ochoa, she performed George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker, A Midsummer Night’s Dream (on tour at the Kennedy Center), Christopher Wheeldon’s Swan Lake, and Balanchine’s Serenade with the Pennsylvania Ballet. Madison was a trainee with the Nashville Ballet. She is excited to join Cleveland Ballet.

Anna Dobbins
Anna began her training at Belliston Academy of Ballet, under the direction of Jeannine Belliston, in Littleton, Colorado. She spent summers training with Houston Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Boston Ballet, and Miami City Ballet. While at Point Park University, Anna performed in works by Peter Merz, Ernest Tolentino, Emery LeCrone and in Nicholas Petrov’s Romeo and Juliet. She spent her summer dancing with Convergence Ballet in Phoenix, Arizona under the direction of Jennifer Cafarella. Anna is excited to join Cleveland Ballet. She received her BFA in dance from Point Park University.

Elena Cvetkovich
Elena is pleased to return to Cleveland Ballet for a second season. She performed the role of the Coppélia Doll in Coppélia. She began her ballet and modern dance training at Ballet Western Reserve with additional study at Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, the San Francisco Conservatory, Lines Ballet, and the Ailey School. She also studied with the Paul Taylor Company, American Ballet Theater School in New York, and attendance on full scholarship to the Point Park International Summer Dance program. Elena attended Mercyhurst University and is completing her degree at Youngstown State University.

Rainer Diaz
Rainer is originally from Camagüey City, Cuba and began his training at the age of nine. He was accepted into the National Ballet School of Havana, where he was awarded a gold medal during the International Cuban Competition. After graduating from the school with the highest scores, he became a member of the Cuban National Ballet Company performing ballets; Romeo and Juliet, The Nutcracker, and Swan Lake. In 2008 he joined Camgüey Ballet Company also in Cuba where he became the company’s principal male dancer. In 2013 he joined Ballet of Mazatlan, Mexico where he danced: Giselle, Don Quixote, Alice in Wonderland, and The Nutcracker. He has worked with international choreographers Vladimir Vasiliev, Carlos Acosta, Rolando Sarabia, Fernando Alonso, Alberto Mendez among others.
Victor joins Cleveland Ballet for a second season after dancing the Best Man in Coppélia. He began his ballet training at age 7, with the School of the Grand Rapids Ballet Company. After attending the 2008/09 summer courses at The School of American Ballet, where he studied for five years under faculty such as Suki Schorer, Susan Pilarre, Jock Soto, Kay Mazzo, Peter Martins, and Sean Lavery. He has attended summer courses at the School of American Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and Boston Ballet all on full merit scholarship. Victor has also begun to pursue his passion as a teacher, selected by S.A.B. faculty to participate in the student teaching program, regularly teaching Intermediate Men’s Class.

Elizabeth Pantuso is a native of Norton, Ohio, and studied ballet and modern dance throughout her youth in the Akron area and performed with the youth company, Manchester Dance Ensemble. She continued her training at Butler University in Indianapolis where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Dance with a concentration in arts administration. At Butler she had the privilege of studying under such prestigious faculty members as Marek Cholewa, Rosanna Ruffo, Derek Reid, Cynthia Pratt and Norman Walker. Her performing roles included Snow Queen and Flower Soloist in The Nutcracker, Fairy Candid in Sleeping Beauty as well as leading roles in numerous original contemporary works by faculty of the University. Elizabeth went on to dance professionally with the Louisville Ballet after which she transitioned into the role of Development Associate, putting her degree to good use by fundraising for the Company. Elizabeth returned to Ohio in 2009 and currently serves as the Community Relationships Coordinator for Playhouse Square’s Community Engagement & Education Department — working daily with schools and other groups to introduce and develop young people’s exposure to the performing arts.

Carson Sandiford-Hoxie is a guest artist from The Joffrey Ballet Concert Group in New York. He started ballet at the age of 13 at Monona Academy of Dance in Madison, Wisconsin. At 16 he attended The Nutmeg Conservatory for Performing Arts, Ballet located in Torrington, Connecticut. He graduated from Nutmeg 2 years later. After attending the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre in New York, he studied at The Sarasota Cuban Ballet School located in Sarasota, Florida. Carson has performed internationally and in the United States.
Lüna Sayag

Lüna joins Cleveland Ballet for a second season after dancing the role of the Maid of Honor in Coppélia. Born in Nice, France, Lüna moved to Paris at 14 to begin her ballet training at the Institut Janine Stanlawa and trained privately with Nathalie Buy. She moved to New York City to study at the Joffrey Ballet School under Era and Andre Jouravlev, Marina Bogdanova, Gaiane Akopian, Francesca Corkle and Nicole Duffy. There she performed principal roles in The Nutcracker and A Midsummer Night’s Dream and contemporary works set by Josie Walsh, Earl Mosley and Andrea Weber. She danced with the Joffrey Ballet Concert Group under the direction of Davis Robertson in George Balanchine’s Valse Fantaisie, excerpts from Raymonda, as well as in new contemporary works by Dwight Rhoden and Gabrielle Lamb.

Lauren Stenroos

Lauren returns to Cleveland Ballet after dancing the lead role of Swanilda in Cleveland Ballet’s Coppélia and in Past Present Future. She began her training with the Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet under Nan and Mia Klinger and performed in original ballets by Tom Gold, Francis Patrelle, James Sewell, Michael Vernon, Bill Hastings, John Selya, and Tom Evert. She has attended summer programs on scholarship at Chautauqua Institute, Richmond Ballet, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, and Cleveland San Jose Ballet. She has danced professionally with Lake Erie Ballet, Nashville Ballet, Dayton Ballet, Ballet Montana, Texture Contemporary Ballet, and James Sewell Ballet. Lauren has danced in works by George Balanchine, Gerald Arpino, Septime Webre, Paul Vasterling, Jon Rodriguez, Stuart Sebastian, James Sewell, Chris Hannon, Amy Seiwert, Gina Patterson, and Lesley Bories-Scalise. She received her B.A. in Dance with a minor in Music Composition from Mercyhurst.

Madeline Taylor

Madeline is happy to continue with Cleveland Ballet. Last season she danced the role of the Spanish Doll in Coppélia and in Past Present Future. A Cleveland native, she has trained at the School of the Cleveland Ballet since she was five. She also attended summer programs at Pacific Northwest Ballet School, San Francisco Ballet School, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet and Alonzo King LINES Ballet School. Madeline has performed at Playhouse Square with the School of the Cleveland Ballet and has been in The Nutcracker with Ballet San Jose and Cincinnati Ballet.

Jenna Steiner

Originally from Greenwich, Connecticut, Jenna began studying dance locally and then continued her training at the Ballet School of Stamford under Michael Vernon. She recently completed the Joffrey Ballet School trainee program under artistic director Era Jouravlev. She also studied with Andre Jouravlev, Marina Bogdonova, Gaiane Akopian, Stacy Caddell, Francesca Corkle, and Nicole Duffy at Joffrey Ballet School. While there, she perform Snow Queen and Arabian in “The Nutcracker,” a staged version of Gerald Arpino’s “Viva Vivaldi,” and many other original works set by Brian McSween, Earl Mosley, and Stacy Caddell. Jenna is excited to be a part of Cleveland Ballet’s 2016/2017 Season.

Christiana Youngquist

Christiana began her training at Ballet Tech of Ohio and spent her summers dancing with Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, and The School of Nashville Ballet. At the Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy, she received the opportunity to frequently perform with their company. She has danced with Nashville Ballet as a trainee. She is delighted to join the Cleveland Ballet for the 2016/2017 season.
Ms. Guadalupe trained with Ballet de San Juan and is an alumnna of the School of American Ballet, the official training academy of the New York City Ballet. While there she studied under the celebrated George Balanchine. Her professional dance career included dancing works choreographed by legendary choreographers George Balanchine, Dennis Nahat, Ian Horvath, Margot Sappington, Ana Garcia, John Butler, Choo San Goh and Louis Falco.

Ms. Guadalupe’s career as a Principal Dancer included work with Ballet De San Juan (Puerto Rico), Ballet Nuevo Mundo de Caracas (Caracas, Venezuela), The Cleveland – San Jose Ballet (San Jose, California and Cleveland, Ohio) and The Cleveland Ballet (Cleveland, Ohio).

Since retiring from the stage, Ms. Guadalupe served as Director and Principle Teacher at the School of Cleveland Ballet. There she was credited for maintaining the school’s high quality of training and artistic standards. Concurrently, she acted as an Artistic and Company Teacher for Cleveland San Jose Ballet Company. Ms. Guadalupe has been recognized by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts as a Distinguished Teacher in the Arts and for Promotion of Excellence in the Arts.

In July of 2015 Ms. Guadalupe was invited by Peter Martins, chairman of faculty at School of American Ballet, and artistic director of New York City Ballet, to serve on the Alumni Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion. Her success is attributed to her extensive arts experience and received a BS degree in psychology from the Cleveland State University.

Ms. Guadalupe was a founder of Cleveland School of Dance which is now known as School of Cleveland Ballet which recently celebrated its 16th year anniversary. She is leading the group of former professional dancers and great teachers to build the best training of classical ballet in Ohio. She is credited with building a great and solid partnership with Alexandra Preucil, violinist from The Cleveland Orchestra, to form Cleveland Ballet orchestra. Ms. Guadalupes is responsible for establishing a professional resident ballet company in Cleveland which was founded in 2015.

Michael Krasnyansky, Ph.D.,
Executive Director and President, Board of Directors

Michael Krasnyansky is a serial entrepreneur with domestic and international experience in operations, business development, global marketing and capital funding for a wide range of enterprises including Fortune 500 companies. Currently, he serves as president and chief executive officer of MK Global Enterprises, LLC, a global business development consulting firm. He began his career as an environmental chemist in the former Soviet Union, after completing his B.S. and M.S. in Physics and Ph.d in Environmental Science in Moscow. After moving to the U.S. in 1989, he worked his way through the ranks for American Testing Company, starting as a bench chemist, then laboratory director, and on to president and CEO of the company. He has focused on providing corporate turn-around strategies and financial expertise to companies worldwide through mentoring teams, as well as strategic planning, especially for entities involved in mergers and acquisitions. His extensive background in product development and innovations encompasses a broad range of industries including environmental, computers, medical devices, health and beauty, oil and gas companies. He has authored more than 20 articles, patents and books, and is fluent in English, Russian, and Ukrainian.

MK joined the board of Cleveland School of Dance in 2011 with the goal to bring the school to the next level, and established a professional resident ballet company in our city. He, his board, and artistic staff planned every step to reach these goals. Now School of Cleveland Ballet (formerly Cleveland School of Dance) has 2 State of the Art facilities (5,000Sq. Foot each) with 7 dance studios. We have 7 successful outreach programs. And the most important Cleveland Ballet was Reborn in 2015.

Gladisa Guadalupe, Artistic Director

Ms. Guadalupe trained with Ballet de San Juan and is an alumnna of the School of American Ballet, the official training academy of the New York City Ballet. While there she studied under the celebrated George Balanchine. Her professional dance career included dancing works choreographed by legendary choreographers George Ballanchine, Dennis Nahat, Ian Horvath, Margot Sappington, Ana Garcia, John Butler, Choo San Goh and Louis Falco.

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Mr. Burns returns to Cleveland Ballet after lighting our spring production, Coppélia. His career includes designing lights for theatre, dance, amusement parks, as well as architectural and retail spaces.

Mr. Burns has designed lights for world premieres of works by such notable choreographers as Trey McIntyre, Val Caniparoli, Donald Byrd, Donald McKayle, Jodie Gates, Gina Patterson, Amy Sewert, Ma Cong, Viktor Kabaniaev, Luca Veggetti, and Sarah Slipper. His dance lighting has also been seen at New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, National Ballet of Canada, Atlanta Ballet, Houston Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, Hubbard Street, Kansas City Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Louisville Ballet, Spectrum Dance, BalletMet, Ballet British Columbia, Verb Ballets, Inlet Dance Theatre, Ballet Hawaii, DesMoines Ballet, Dayton Ballet and Lafayette Ballet Theatre.

Adam Ditzel, Assistant Lighting Designer

Cynthia Graham Ballet Master

Cynthia began studying dance at age four and at age 12 she was awarded a scholarship to study in New York City with the American Ballet Theater School. She spent her next five summers studying there and with the School of American Ballet, the school of the New York City Ballet, and the Joffrey Ballet. She also studied with the Royal Academy of Dance in Houston, winning top honors within their programs.

Cynthia became a professional dancer with Houston Ballet at age 15. The following year she auditioned for the Cleveland Ballet and was chosen as a member of the inaugural company. She quickly rose to become a principle dancer in virtually every ballet in the repertory. Dennis Nahat, Artistic Director of Cleveland Ballet, choreographed many roles for Cynthia including Maria in The Nutcracker and Odette/Odile in Swan Lake.

Throughout her dance career she has been a guest instructor at schools throughout Ohio, Texas, Pennsylvania, and New York. She has toured with the Ballet Nuevo Mundo de Caracas company in Venezuela and Spain. She has also staged several of Mr. Nahat’s ballets on other companies including Atlanta Ballet and Ballet Nuevo Mundo de Caracas, Venezuela.

In 1993, Cynthia retired from the stage to take up a second career as Chief Financial Officer for the Cleveland advertising agency, Sampson/Carnegie, Co., Inc. In addition to serving as Cleveland Ballet’s Ballet Mistress, she is also the President of Creative House Studios, a media production company in Cleveland with the largest permanent green screen studio sound stage in Ohio.

Meghan Haas Artistic Associate

Meghan Haas trained at the School of Cleveland Ballet with Nicole Sowinska, Daniel Job, Dennis Nahat and Gladisa Guadalupe. She joined Cleveland Ballet at age 17 and danced in Giselle, Swan Lake, The Nutcracker among other productions. She then joined Feld Ballet in New York City where she performed Eliot Feld’s original works. She returned to Ohio to attend Hiram College while teaching dance and performing with Tom Evert and Verb Ballet. She currently sits on the faculty of the School of Cleveland Ballet. This is her second season with Cleveland Ballet.

Jennifer Lehane Stage Manager

Jennifer works as a stage manager for productions and corporate events in the Cleveland area and around the country. Currently, she works for Groundworks Dance Theatre, Dancing Wheels, Neos Dance Theatre, Ballet Theatre of Ohio, Ballet Excel, the Heinz Poll Dance Festival, and The School of Dance at Akron University. She has had the great fortune to work with such artists as: Bob Mackie, Dennis Nahat, Donald McKayle, Rudi VanDanzig, and Diane McIntyre. Jennifer started her stage management career with the Cleveland San Jose Ballet where she supervised rehearsals and performances for numerous productions, including CSJB’s national tour of Blue Suede Shoes. She is proud to return to work for the new Cleveland Ballet.
Victoria Mearini  Costume Designer

Victoria Mearini danced professionally for over 20 years prior to establishing her career as a costume designer. She danced with a number of companies and retired from Cleveland San Jose Ballet in 2001. She attended Kent State University for Costume Design, and her portfolio brought her to Paris, where she worked as an assistant to Renato Bianchi, costume designer at La Comedie Française. Mearini has also designed costumes for Groundworks Dance Theatre and for Hindsight with songs by Chrissie Hynde and the Pretenders by choreographer Lynne Taylor-Corbett (Footloose, Bewitched, Swing) among others.

In 2012, Mearini designed Mozart; A Little Night Music choreographed by Gladisa Guadalupe for the Cleveland Ballet Youth Company. In 2014, she placed second in the Cleveland Museum of Art’s Fashion Competition Made Surreal with her design “Weeping Tree” which included hand-sewn corsetry, handmade jewelry and sculpture.

Most recently, Mearini designed costumes for Cleveland Ballet’s Past Present Future. She currently attends the Cleveland Institute of Art through a Gund Family scholarship and is pursuing a degree in Jewelry and Metals.

Ramón Thielen  Choreographer

Ramón Thielen was born in Barquisimeto, Venezuela and began his ballet studies at Casa de la Cultura Julio Garmendia with Nery Johnson. Later he joined the Gustavo Franklin Ballet School in Caracas. In 1987 he joined the Ballet Metropolitano de Caracas and later the Ballet Nuevo Mundo de Caracas, directed by Zhandra Rodriguez, where he was promoted to Principal Dancer in 1990. In 1991 Thielen joined the San Jose Cleveland Ballet where, for seven years, he performed many principal roles in the classical and contemporary repertoire. He joined The Dance Theater of Harlem in 1998 and was promoted to Principal Dancer in 1999. He was the first Hispanic male Principal Dancer at the institution in its then 36-year history. In 2005 he participated in the gala ‘Gigantes de la Danza’ in Mexico and in the ‘Diaghilev Festival’ in Russia Directed by Natalia Makarova. He participated in the super gala ‘Maris Liepa’ in Moscow in 2006 with dancers from The Bolshoi Ballet, Kirov Ballet (Mariinsky) and La Scala de Milan. He has toured many countries and has more than 18 years of experience as a national and international dance teacher. He is the artistic director and founder of the New York International Ballet Trainee Program and the creative director of undertheraimbo.org based in New York.

Mikhail Urusov  Tenor

Mikhail Urusov is a graduate of the Moscow State Conservatory. From 1996 till 2009 he performed at the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre singing leading roles in Carmen, La Traviata, Ernani, Madama Butterfly, Tosca and La Bohème among others. He made his debut at the Bolshoi Theatre in 2001 in the world premiere of the first edition of Prokofiev’s The Gambler. Urusov performed as a guest soloist at the Chelyabinsk Opera and Ballet Theatre and the Krasnoyarsk and Rostov Opera and Ballet Theatres. He toured with the Theater of Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko in South Korea in 1997) and the U.S. in 2002. In 2006 he made his debut at Milan’s La Scala in Shostakovich’s opera The Players. Urusov recently appeared in Cavalleria Rusticana with Opera Circle Cleveland, Queen of Spades at Lowell House Opera and in the American premier of The Cossack Beyond The Danube at Boston’s Commonwealth Theatre. He has performed all over the world, touring extensively in Russia, Europe, East Asia, the United States and Israel and has taught Master Classes at Harvard University.
Alexandra Preucil has been a member of the violin section of the Cleveland Orchestra since 2008 and also served the orchestra as Assistant Concertmaster. Ms. Preucil graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Music with a bachelor’s degree in music and a minor in dance. While in school, she held the position of Assistant Concertmaster with the Akron Symphony Orchestra and the Canton Symphony Orchestra and was a member of the Svanito Quartet. Ms. Preucil was selected to be in the Cleveland Institute of Music’s Young Artist Program during which time she was concertmaster of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra.

Ms. Preucil has appeared as soloist and chamber musician with ensembles around the world. She has performed at festivals including The Mainly Mozart Festival, The Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, The Festival der Zukunft, The Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival, Music From Angel Fire, and the Aspen Music Festival.

In addition to performing as a member of the Orchestra, Ms. Preucil is a member of the Canterbury Quartet. She is active in teaching and community education programs and serves as Music Artistic Advisor to the Cleveland Ballet.

Nicholas and Polina are students at the school of Olga Music Studio in partnership with the School of Cleveland Ballet under the instruction of Olga Druzhinina.
Ralitsa Georgieva-Smith, Collaborative Piano faculty at the Cleveland Institute of Music since 2007. She received her B.M and M.M. in Piano performance from the State Conservatory of Music- Sofia, Bulgaria, a second M.M. in Piano performance from University of South Florida where she studied with Dr. Svetozar Ivanov, and P.S. in Collaborative piano from the Cleveland Institute of Music under Anita Pontremoli.

She is founder and artistic director of Music for Our Children, a concert series to benefit UNICEF- Children’s Disaster and Emergency Relief Organization. Established in Cleveland in 2014, the concert series fulfills one of Ralitsa’s personal beliefs to help support children in need all across the globe. The series has been growing successfully for the past few years, raising over $6,000 over the course of four concerts. Guest artists have featured Cleveland Orchestra members, Cleveland Institute of Music faculty, The Cleveland Ballet, and the Westhuizen piano duo.

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- Paul Aguilar, Violin
- Kyle Anderson, Cello
- Masha Andreini, Violin
- Daniel Blumhard, Cello
- Paolo Dara, Violin
- Isabelle Durrenberger, Violin
- Eva Kennedy, Violin
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Anna Dobbins is a 2016 graduate of Point Park University with BFA in dance, she will start her career with Cleveland Ballet which relaunched last year. Anna said “I’m really excited to be part of the journey of this company and grow into the vision that they have for it.” - Pointe Magazine
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