



Ballet Theatre  
of Maryland

Artistic Director Nicole Kelsch

# MOMENTUM

## A MIXED BILL





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# THE BALLET THEATRE OF MARYLAND

## 2024 - 2025

**Maryland's only professional ballet company and fully  
comprehensive professional training academy.  
Dance: More powerful than words.**

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024-2025**

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### **BALLET THEATRE OF MARYLAND STAFF**

**Artistic Director:** Nicole Kelsch

**Artistic Director Emeritus:** Dianna Cuatto

**Founding Artistic Director:** Edward Stewart, 1943-2002

**Ballet Master:** Alexander Collen

**Ballet Mistresses:** Emily Carey, Lindsey Bell

**Finance Manager:** Alexander Collen

**Office Manager:** Jenna Fritts

**Digital Content and Marketing Coordinator:** Lauren Martinez

**Community Engagement Coordinator:** Brenna Mazzara

**Copywriter:** Cindy Case

**Conservatory Principal:** Emily Carey

**Photographers:** Nick Eckert, Jan Exler, David Herron, Joanne Marie Photography,  
John Maloney, Lauren Martinez, Clara Molina

**Videographers:** Lauren Martinez, Ted Atsinger

**Technical Coordinator:** Aaron Bauer

**Technical Assistant:** Elizabeth Esposito

**Lighting Designer:** Stacie Johnson-Leske

**Wardrobe Coordinators:** Karissa Kralik and Clara Molina

**Wardrobe Department:** Amanda Cobb, Sarah Hoffman, Karissa Kralik, Clara Molina

**Costume Seamstress and Designer:** Karen Kralik

**Costume Volunteer:** Laurie Molina

This performance is made possible in part through grants from the Maryland State Arts Council and the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County. Ballet Theatre of Maryland is a resident company of Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts. To receive more info about our educational school programs throughout the state, contact our office at 410-224-5644 or visit our website's community engagement page.

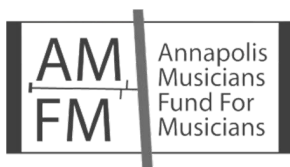
**Mission:** As Maryland's only fully professional ballet company, it is our mission to provide Maryland with a resident professional ballet company and training academy that serves the aesthetic needs of Maryland through expressive movement.

MARYLAND HALL FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS  
801 Chase Street  
Annapolis, MD, 21401

MERRITT ANNEX  
1981 Moreland Parkway,  
Bldg 4A Bay 4-5  
Annapolis, MD, 21401

For questions or concerns regarding accessibility, please  
contact our office at 410-224-5644.

## Thank you to our season sponsors





# Other ways to support the Ballet Theatre of Maryland

## Planned Giving

Designate a percentage of your charitable planned giving to BTM

## Sapphire Society

Make a recurring monthly donation

## Thea Pinskey Memorial Scholarship Fund

Help students to continue their ballet training

## Robert Sutton Memorial Scholarship Fund

Help students to continue their ballet training

## Gloria's Angels Fund

Support the costuming of productions

## Adopt a Dancer

Help fund shoes and performance expenses



Scan the QR code to learn more!



# PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY

## GIGI'S PLAYHOUSE

BTM is a proud partner of Gigi's Playhouse Annapolis, our local Down Syndrome Achievement Center. BTM offers weekly adult ballet classes and monthly creative movement classes for children at the Playhouse. Since 2022, BTM has grown their dance class offerings at Gigi's, brought live, professional performances to the Playhouse, and welcomed students into the Conservatory's first ever adaptive dance program.



## BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

BTM offers ballet classes at the Boys and Girls Club and Club on the Go for students from Robinwood, Admiral Oaks, Bywater, and Bay Ridge clubs. Not only do participants have the opportunity to learn ballet basics, they are also invited to attend the company's performances at Maryland Hall, marking many students' very first ballet and live production experience.

## CASEY CARES

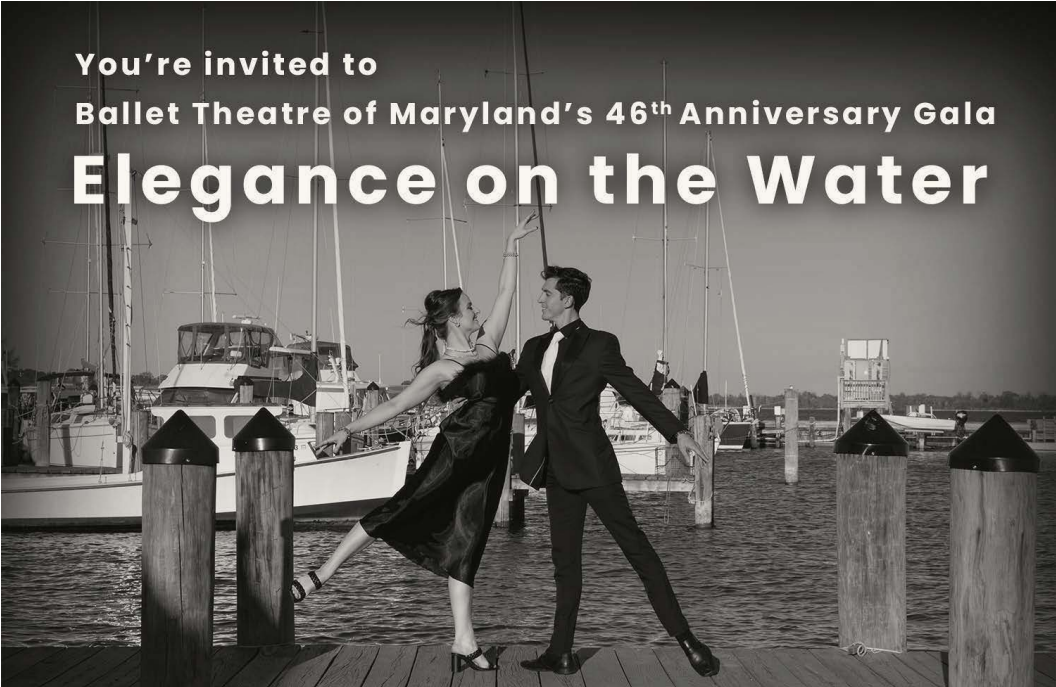
After many years of partnering with Casey Cares to provide uplifting performances for critically ill children and their families at numerous ballets, BTM has since added workshop opportunities for Casey Cares families. Many of the children are unable to participate in organized activities due to their illness, and BTM aims to share the joy of dance with them on stage and in their studios.



## More Partners

Anne Arundel County Public Library - Big Brothers Big Sisters - Anne Arundel County Public Schools - Annapolis Yacht Club - Quiet Waters Park - Ginger Cove - Brightview Senior Living - PrettyGirl Academy - Fenwick Foundation - Arts Intergration - AACPA Apex - Chrysalis House - The Fenwick Foundation - The Gordon Center - Inner West Street Association - Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts - Sunrise Senior Living - Tickets for Kids - NSA Annapolis - Seeds 4 Success

**You're invited to**  
**Ballet Theatre of Maryland's 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala**  
**Elegance on the Water**



**Black and White Gala**  
**03.30.25**  
**4:30-6:30**  
**Annapolis Maritime Museum**

Mark your calendars for an unforgettable evening! The upcoming production of *Swan Lake* inspires this year's Gala. The event will also reveal more exclusive details about BTM's new production of *The Nutcracker* coming in 2025 and will leave attendees inspired and excited for the future of BTM!

What to expect:  
Small plate and a silent auction  
One night-only special performance featuring BTM dancers  
Interactive event  
\*\*\*and a special sneak peek into the 2025/2026 Season!

To purchase tickets and to learn about  
sponsorship opportunities, visit  
[www.balletmaryland.org/elegance-on-the-water](http://www.balletmaryland.org/elegance-on-the-water)



**Jaw pain**  
**Clicking noise**  
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**Severe clenching**  
**Neck pain**  
**Ringling in the ears**

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# A New Chapter Begins!

2024-2025 Season

## Unity & Resilience: Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month

music by Latin American composers and tango dancers

Saturday, September 21

## Halloween Spooktacular!

Sunday, October 27

family friendly at Riva Trace Baptist Church in Davidonsville

## Broadway Legends

Sunday, February 2

## An Earth Day Tribute

Sunday, April 6

featuring Apex Arts Vocal Ensemble and Arundel Vocal Arts Society

## Let's Play Ball!

Saturday, June 7

featuring Young Artist Concerto Competition Winners

All concerts except Halloween Spooktacular will take place at Maryland Hall, 801 Chase St., Annapolis.  
Saturday concerts begin at 7:30pm. Sunday concerts begin at 3pm.



ROTARY CLUB OF ANNAPOLIS

Virginia  
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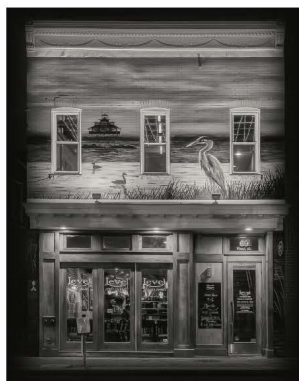
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# Pointe of View

The BTM Blog

## Did you know that BTM has a blog?

Every two weeks, company soloist Cindy Case gives a look into what BTM is up to! Previous blog posts have included rehearsal updates, features on our activities in the community, and deep dives into the ballets we're performing. Enjoy a brief excerpt from a past blog post and visit us at [BalletMaryland.org/blog](http://BalletMaryland.org/blog)!

### The Dancer's Journey: Becoming a Professional Dancer

The path to becoming a professional varies greatly from one dancer to another, but it involves natural talent as well as years of coordinated effort and study. Some dancers, such as company principal Victoria Siracusa, make the transition from student to professional by entering a trainee program associated with a professional company. Others, like company apprentice Lauren Anderson, balance their desire for an academic degree and a professional career by going to college for dance. No matter what path a dancer takes, their desired destination is the same. It's up to the individual dancer and their parents to decide the best way to get there. Here's what Victoria has to say:

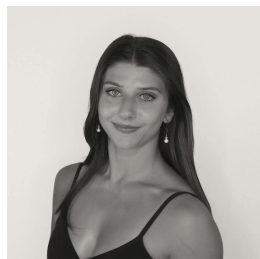


Photo by Clara Molina

"From a very young age, I knew I wanted to be a ballet dancer. My journey leading up to my professional years at BTM has not been the easiest, but the highs and lows have played a significant role in shaping my passion for ballet and the person I am today. I started dancing at the age of 3, and I bounced between recital schools before joining a ballet training school around the age of 9. I was pushed past my limits and constantly ridiculed, and it was not a healthy environment for someone my age. It wasn't until I was in high school that I broke free from this influence and I realized that there was so much more beyond these destructive ideas. I joined the Hartt School Community Division and trained under Samantha Dunster and Susannah Marchese.



Photo by John Welch

"After I graduated high school I auditioned at various places and was thrilled to receive a full trainee scholarship to Charlottesville Ballet in Virginia, marking my first company experience. I am grateful for my experiences there, but at 18, I felt something was missing in my dancing and I was eager for new challenges somewhere else. I moved to Sarasota to train with The Margaret Barbieri Conservatory in Sarasota during the summer of 2016. After I arrived, I was informed that the director did not want me to be part of the Conservatory because I didn't look like the other dancers in the Conservatory or the company. This news crushed my dreams. I found myself in a difficult situation—having moved to Sarasota and now without a job lined up, I wasn't sure what to do next."

Although Victoria faced a big challenge, that's not the end of her story! To read what happened next and subscribe, visit our Pointe of View blog!  
[www.balletmaryland.org/blog](http://www.balletmaryland.org/blog)



With its impressive corps de ballet of swans and rousing court dances, Swan Lake is a must-see for any ballet lover.

# *Swan Lake*



**April 25-26 at Maryland Hall**  
**[www.BalletMaryland.org](http://www.BalletMaryland.org)**

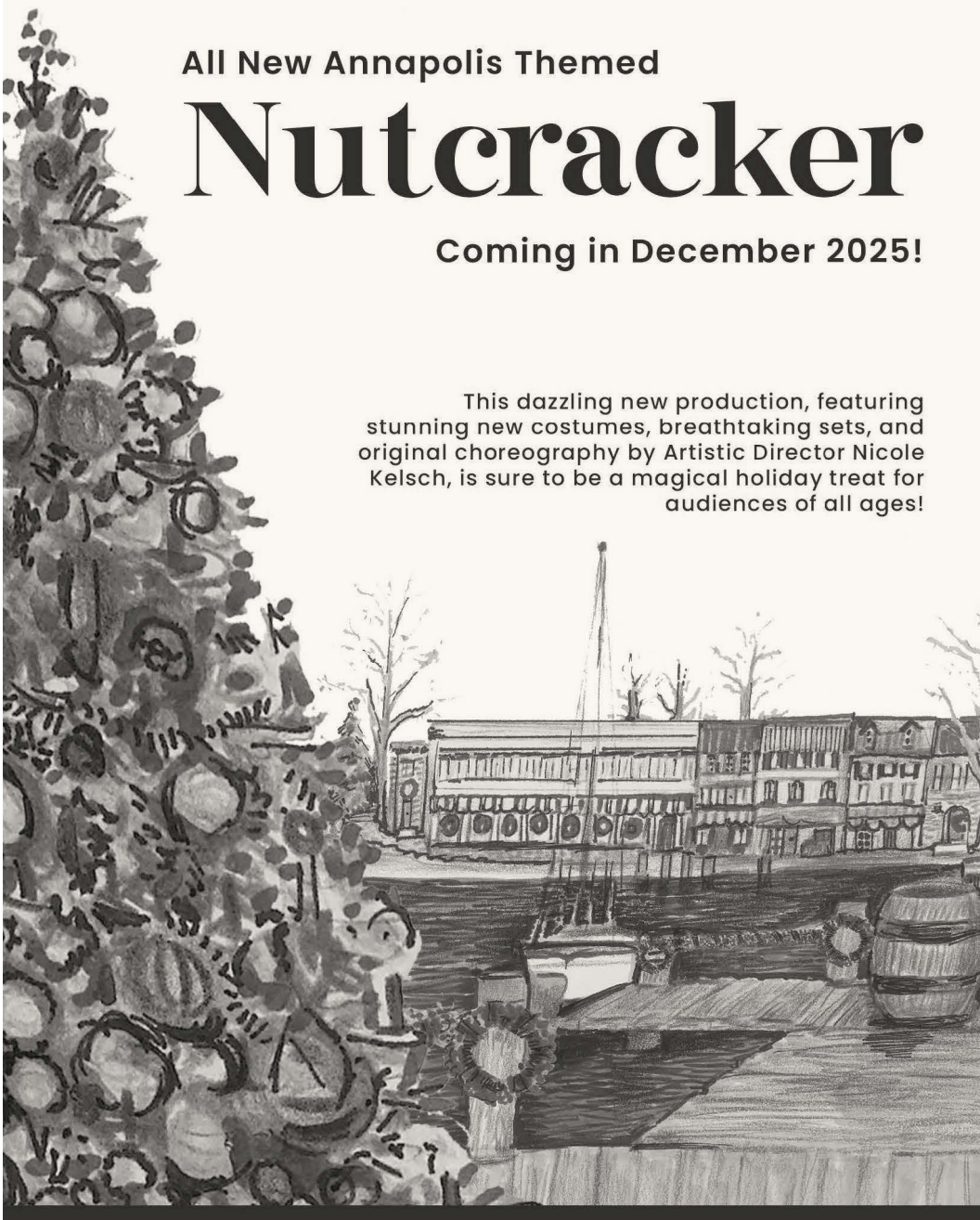


All New Annapolis Themed

# Nutcracker

Coming in December 2025!

This dazzling new production, featuring stunning new costumes, breathtaking sets, and original choreography by Artistic Director Nicole Kelsch, is sure to be a magical holiday treat for audiences of all ages!



Visit our website to learn more!  
[www.BalletMaryland.org](http://www.BalletMaryland.org)





# MOMENTUM

## A MIXED BILL

Friday, Feb 21st at 7:30pm and Saturday, Feb 22nd at 7pm at Maryland Hall

### *Smiles of a Summer Night*

**Choreography:** Lindsey Bell

**Music:** Frederick Delius, Helena Munktell, Frank Bridge, Camille Saint-Saens, Edvard Grieg

Based on the 1955 Swedish film of the same name.

Frederik, a successful lawyer, recently married the young, reluctant Anne. His son, Henrik, is tormented by his love for his youthful step-mother, who secretly loves him in return. Frederik seeks solace from his loveless marriage with his former lover, the actress Desiree. Complicating matters, Desiree is currently having an affair with Count Carl-Magnus. On a weekend in the country, Desiree hatches a plan with the Count's wife to do a little romantic rearranging. The ladies are aided and abetted by Petra and Frid, the raucous maid and butler duo, to ensure that everyone ends up with the one they love.

(In order of appearance)

Anne Egerman, Frederik's Wife

Petra, the Maid

Henrik Egerman, Frederik's Son

Frederik Egerman, the Lawyer

Countess Charlotte Malcolm

Count Carl-Magnus Malcolm

Frid, the Butler

Desiree Armfeldt, the Actress

Mimi Hardin

Victoria Siracusa

Allen Sizemore

Alexander Collen

Madison Sweeney

Diego Sosa

Isaac Martinez

Cindy Case

### *Elizabeth*

**Choreography:** Roman Mykyta

**Music:** Concerto Gregoriano by Ottorino Respighi

On September 14, 1975, Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821) became the first person born in the United States to be canonized as a Saint in the Catholic Church. This ballet was created to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of her Sainthood. A prominent historical figure, she has been inducted into both the Maryland and the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Born on the Eve of the American Revolution, Elizabeth Ann Seton established the US Chapter of the Sisters of Charity in Emmitsburg, Maryland and their legacy has been far-reaching throughout the country and internationally. Mother Seton's many passions included a love of dancing, which gives the creation of this ballet an added significance.

A Saint's presence offers healing to those whom they encounter. This one-act ballet depicts Mother Seton tending to a young woman, Fanny Cornforth, who has been betrayed and heartbroken. Mother Seton offers her own story as a self-sufficient young woman, who fell deeply in love, only to devastatingly lose her husband to tuberculosis leaving her a widow at age 29 with five children. Despite a difficult road ahead of her, filled with many challenges and the further loss of loved ones to illness, she was upheld by her faith, projecting a spirit of peace and radiant joy that lifted those who experienced her.

Stylistically this choreography was inspired by the artistic legacy of the Rossetti family, especially Dante Gabriel Rossetti and his painting *Found*. While there were women who encountered Mother Seton, as depicted in this ballet, the real Fanny Cornforth was an art model who did not meet her; nonetheless, in paying homage to both the historical and artistic legacies, I preserved the name of the model while depicting the shared experiences of other women.

### **Cast**

Elizabeth Ann Seton  
Fanny Cornforth  
William Magee Seton  
Anna Maria Seton  
Sisters of Charity/Angel

### **Friday/Saturday**

Cindy Case/Lindsey Bell  
Rowan Treece/Sarah Hoffman  
Aaron Bauer  
Karissa Kralik/Brenna Mazzara  
Jenna Fritts/Anne May Gutcher  
Hannah Hanson  
Alyssa Hyman  
Sarah Jung  
Erin Jenkins  
Julia Waldin  
Ryan Massey  
Isaac Martinez  
Allen Sizemore  
Alexander Collen  
Diego Sosa  
Anne May Gutcher/Jenna Fritts  
Isaac Martinez  
Lauren Martinez  
Roman Mykyta  
Allen Sizemore  
Karen Fleming  
Cassandra Hope  
Alexander Collen  
Christina Williams  
Alexander Collen

Mills Girls

Seducers

Country Drover  
Filippo Filicchi  
Mary Filicchi  
Antonio Filicchi  
Amabilia Filicchi  
William Seton  
Richard Seton  
Catherine Seton  
Rebecca Seton  
Samuel Provoost  
Mary Fitch  
Matthew O'Brien

### **Baltimore 1812**

Isabella Aletrakis, Danielle Daniel, Ellie Goods, Mia Koshansky, Emery Newton, Kyley Paules, Julia Pellot, Amber Sanders, Eliza Sell, Laura Snodgrass, Rachael Spicer, Madison Sweeney, Alyssa Tyson, Victoria Walpole-McWilliams, Abigail Wells, Michael West Jr., Christina Williams

### **New York City Society**

Ellie Goods, Mia Koshansky, Ryan Massey, Kyley Paules, Eliza Sell, Rachael Spicer/Madison Sweeney, Victoria Walpole-McWilliams, Michael West Jr., Christina Williams

### **New York City, 1781**

Addie Back, Destiny Billot, Ellie Goods, Mimi Hardin, Mia Koshansky, Ryan Massey, Alyssa Nichols, Marjorie O'Hearne, Kyley Paules, Eliza Sell, Rachael Spicer, Madison Sweeney, Victoria Walpole-McWilliams, Catherine Welch, Michael West Jr.

### **Livorno, Italy**

Addie Back, Destiny Billot, Alexander Collen, Mimi Hardin, Alyssa Nichols, Marjorie O'Hearne, Catherine Welch

### **St. Joseph's School Girls**

Isabella Aletrakis, Danielle Daniel, Emery Newton, Julia Pellot, Amber Sanders, Laura Snodgrass, Alyssa Tyson, Abigail Wells

## INTERMISSION

### *The Yachts*

**Choreography:** Karen Fleming

**Music:** Piano Trio No. 1 in B Major, Op. 8: Scherzo: Allegro molto and Finale: Allegro by Johannes Brahms

**Costume Design and Construction:** Karen Fleming, Sarah Hoffman, Emma Lane, and Clara Molina

Inspired by William Carlos Williams's 1938 poem "The Yachts," this piece uses the imagery of a sailing race to explore the often ignored realities that lie behind presentations of beauty and grandeur.

"...The yachts // move, jockeying for a start, the signal is set and they / are off...It is a sea of faces about them in agony, in despair / until the horror of the race dawns staggering the mind..." - "The Yachts," William Carlos Williams

Destiny Billot, Amanda Cobb, Jenna Fritts, Sarah Hoffman, Madeline Jones, Emma Lane, Ryan Massey, Brenna Mazzara, Victoria Walpole McWilliams, Clara Molina, Allen Sizemore, Julia Walden, Catherine Welch, Christina Williams

### *Sombras del Amanecer*

**Choreography:** Isaac Martinez

**Music:** Carl Friedrich Abel, Mayte, Leonardo Catricala, and Antonio Vivaldi.

A tapestry of music and dance inspired by warm soft shadows and the brilliance of new beginnings.

Sarah Hoffman, Erin Jenkins, Sarah Jung, Emma Lane, Ryan Massey, Lauren Martinez, Victoria Siracusa, Allen Sizemore, Diego Sosa, Rachael Spicer, Rowan Treece, Michael West Jr.

### *Leave the World Behind*

**Choreography:** Ashley Taylor

**Music:** "Life Wonders" and "Nostalgic Piano" by Rafael Krux; "Pavane pour une infante défunte" by Maurice Ravel; "Schwanengesang, D. 957: IV. Ständchen (Serenade)" by Franz Schubert

A wistful glimpse of how we carry nostalgic fragments of beauty from past places, relationships, and seasons through our changing days.

#### **Friday, Feb 21st**

Lindsey Bell  
Cindy Case  
Alexander Collen  
Ellie Goods  
Anne Gutcher  
Hannah Hanson  
Cassandra Hope  
Majorie O'Hearne  
Isaac Martinez  
Eliza Sell

#### **Saturday, Feb 22nd**

Caroline Anderson  
Lauren Anderson  
Aaron Bauer  
Madeline Jones  
Sarah Jung  
Mia Koshansky  
Karissa Kralik  
Emma Lane  
Brenna Mazzara  
Michael West Jr.

## ***Concerto Lilla***

**Choreography:** Emily Carey

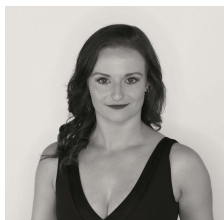
**Music:** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Costumes were generously made and donated by Laurie Molina

"We don't heal in isolation, but in community"- S. Kelley Harrell

Caroline Anderson, Lauren Anderson, Lindsey Bell, Destiny Billot, Amanda Cobb, Alexander Collen, Karen Fleming, Alyssa Hyman, Erin Jenkins, Isaac Martinez, Lauren Martinez, Clara Molina, Victoria Siracusa, Allen Sizemore, Julia Walden, Christina Williams

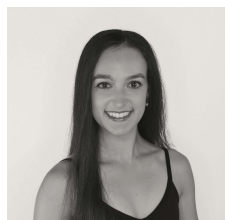
## **CHOREOGRAPHERS**



Lindsey Bell



Emily Carey



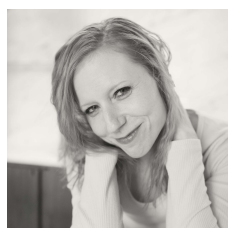
Karen Fleming



Isaac Martinez



Roman Mykyta



Ashley Taylor

To read choreographer biographies, visit  
[www.balletmaryland.org/momentum-choreographers](http://www.balletmaryland.org/momentum-choreographers)





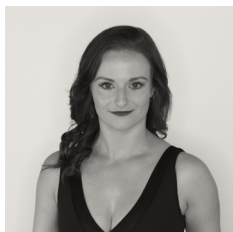
## **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Nicole Kelsch

To view director and leadership biographies visit  
[www.balletmaryland.org/leadership](http://www.balletmaryland.org/leadership)

## **COMPANY**

### **Principals**



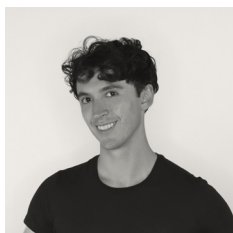
Lindsey Bell



Alexander Collen



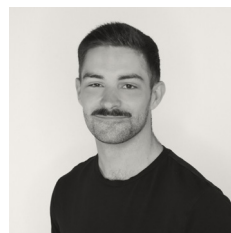
Karissa Kralik



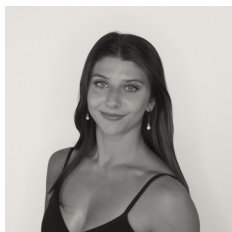
Isaac Martinez



Lauren Martinez



Ryan Massey



Victoria Siracusa



Diego Sosa

## Soloists



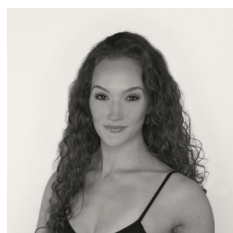
Aaron Bauer



Cindy Case



Anne May Gutcher



Sarah Jung



Allen Sizemore



Michael West Jr.

## Demi-Soloists



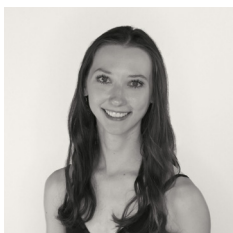
Caroline Anderson



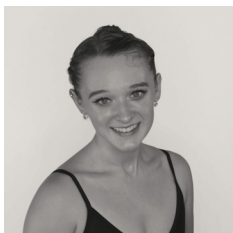
Amanda Cobb



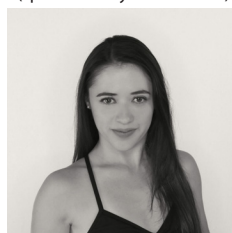
Jenna Fritts  
(sponsored by Herbert Yee)



Hannah Hanson



Mimi Hardin



Cassandra Hope



Erin Jenkins



Brenna Mazzara



Clara Molina  
(sponsored by Anthony Roberts)



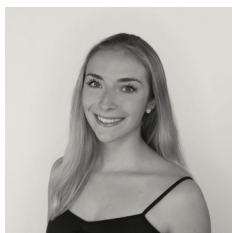
Marjorie O'Hearne



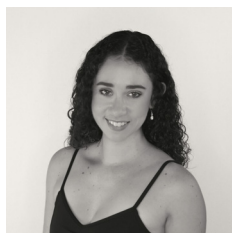
Madison Sweeney



Rowan Treece  
(sponsored by  
William Seale)



Julia Walden  
(sponsored by Donald Namm)



Catherine Welch

## Corps de Ballet



Destiny Billot



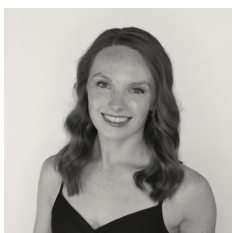
Karen Fleming



Sarah Hoffman



Alyssa Hyman



Madeline Jones



Mia Koshansky



Emma Lane



Eliza Sell



Rachael Spicer



Victoria  
Walpole-McWilliams

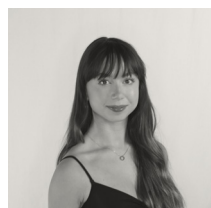


Christina Williams

## Apprentices



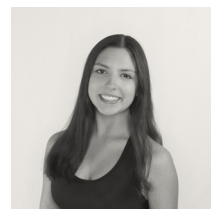
Lauren Anderson



Elinor Fucile



Ellie Goods  
(sponsored by Tyler Ewing)



Rachel Visosky



To learn more about the dancers and read their biographies, visit [www.balletmaryland.org/dancers](http://www.balletmaryland.org/dancers) or scan the QR code.



# Trainees



**Back Five:** Isabella Aletrakis, Ellie Wein, Danielle Daniel, Kyley Paules, Laura Snodgrass

**Middle Four:** Emery Newton, Julia Pellot, Addie Back, Amber Sanders

**Front Three:** Abigail Wells, Alyssa Nichols, Alyssa Tyson

To find out more about our trainee program, visit our website at <https://www.balletmaryland.org/trainee-program> or scan the QR code



# BTM Ballet Theatre of Maryland

Conservatory of Dance

**The BTM Conservatory of Dance** is the official school of the Ballet Theatre of Maryland offering classes for ages 3 - adult in Annapolis and Grasonville. We proudly offer classes in many forms of dance and stand out as the only fully comprehensive program for young dancers in Maryland. We offer the best possible quality instruction by professionally trained and educated teachers in ballet, tap, jazz, modern, creative movement, and adaptive dance. Students are also offered opportunities to perform with the Ballet Theatre of Maryland professional company in productions such as The Nutcracker.

For more information, call  
**410-224-5644** or visit  
**[www.BalletMaryland.org](http://www.BalletMaryland.org)**



# La TRAVIATA

*A tragic tale of passion*

March 14 | 7:30 PM

March 16 | 3:00 PM



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## EXPERIENCE OUR MASTERWORKS CONCERTS

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### MASTERWORKS IV

*Serenade*  
with Noah  
Bendix-Balgley,  
violin

Feb 28-Mar 1  
at Maryland Hall  
Mar 2 at Music Center  
at Strathmore



### MASTERWORKS V

*Field*  
World Première  
Co-commission  
by Roydon Tse with  
Dali Quartet

Apr 4-5  
at Maryland Hall

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By becoming a part of the BTM Legacy Society, you can share BTM's vision for the future and ensure that we continue to provide Maryland with a professional dance company.

Thank you.



"Exposure to the arts in our society today is critically important, not only for the present, but for future generations. Without the contributions the arts in general and ballet in particular make to our society, our social values will suffer and our children will miss the inspiring

gifts to their souls that this dance form provides. As custodians of our social growth and development, we cannot turn our backs on any established art form. The arts are after all the linchpin of our societal values. We must provide the financial underpinning for the ballet so that future generations can experience the spiritual and intellectual gifts it offers. This provides us the mandate to secure the ballet's enduring financial future."

- Dr. Albert Del Negro and Patrisha Creevy, former BTM Board members and current Legacy Society Donors



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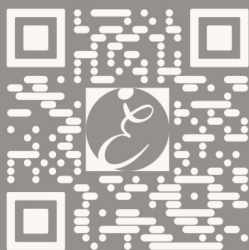
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