



# ANNUAL REPORT

## *2022-2023*

**Dear Cincinnati Ballet Supporters,**

As we celebrate the accomplishments of the 2022-2023 Season, we are reminded of the incredible stability of the organization. Cincinnati Ballet continues to be the region's cornerstone ballet company with world-class artistry, a thriving Academy, and financial sustainability. The 2022-2023 Season was a momentous year for Cincinnati Ballet with thousands and thousands of patrons sharing our incredible mainstage productions, resulting in history-making revenue. Cincinnati Ballet delighted audiences with provocative repertoire, family classics, and creative collaborations, while the Otto M. Budig Academy continued to provide enriching educational experiences and diverse community partnerships. These accomplishments would not have been possible without your continued generosity and commitment to Cincinnati Ballet.

As we reflect on the past season, there are many milestones we must highlight and celebrate. 66,528 dance lovers attended our performances, with an overall ticket revenue of \$3,376,037, breaking all previous season ticket revenues in the Company's history. Our annual operating budget continued an unparalleled upward trajectory of \$13.1M, as we were overjoyed to experience a post-pandemic renewed demand for our professional productions, as well as our education and community engagement programming.

We began the 2022-2023 Season with *The Kaplan New Works Series*, our annual series of contemporary ballet. While *New Works* is synonymous with groundbreaking dance and this production was no exception. Audiences enjoyed three world premieres from Cincinnati Ballet company dancers, along with a dynamic world premiere from choreographer Heather Britt and a stunning piece from British choreographer Cathy Marston. The fall continued with a tour-de-force double bill of Nicolo Fonte's *Carmina Burana* and Alejandro Cerrudo's *Extremely Close* at Music Hall. Our dancers were joined by the incredible voices of the May Festival Chorus, Celebrating it's 150th Anniversary Season, and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

Sugar plum fairies danced into Music Hall for our annual production of the family favorite, *The Nutcracker*. With fourteen performances, the production saw nearly 30,000 ticketed patrons and grossed nearly \$1.75 million, shattering the Company's *Nutcracker* earnings record.

In February, our dancers went down the Rabbit Hole at Music Hall with a spectacular staging of choreographer Septime Webre's *ALICE (in wonderland)*. Audiences were treated to dazzling sets and costumes during the colorful, whimsical production, which delighted nearly 14,000 patrons and grossed more than \$733,000.

In April we headed to the Aronoff Center, where the lobby was transformed into a magical forest for our *Family Series: Beauty and the Beast*, with nearly 9,000 people in attendance for the hour-long, narrated ballet performed by talented members of Cincinnati Ballet Second Company – CB2 dancers, alongside Otto M. Budig Academy students.

In June, Cincinnati Ballet went big and bold with our *Bold Moves Festival*, two weeks of dance at the Aronoff Center with two programs of incredible contemporary works and immersive experiences. The repertoire featured works of Jennifer Archibald, *SIT*; Val Caniparoli, *Ibsen's House*; William Forsythe, *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*; Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, *Written and Forgotten*; Garrett Smith, *Façades*; and guest artist, Flamenco sensation Irene Rodriguez. In addition to the incredible dance on stage, we were so pleased to create partnership events

with the Cincinnati Hispanic Chamber of Commerce that included a sold-out community demonstration class with Irene Rodriguez in the Sheakley Premier Studio at the Cincinnati Ballet Margaret and Michael Valentine Center for Dance and Salsa on the Square at Fountain Square, as well as hosting Pride Night during the Festival in celebration and commemoration of LGBTQ+ pride month.

This past year was also a milestone for the Otto M. Budig Academy, as we fully welcomed students back to class post-pandemic and explored the capacity of our new Valentine Center for Dance. The Academy continued its trajectory of growth with 704 students in the Academy's youth divisions and 1,079 students in Adult Dance + Fitness division. The Academy also expanded the Professional Training Division, to 30 students. The Professional Training Division is an elite-level program for students preparing for professional careers. The program was so successful, several students were invited to join Cincinnati Ballet's Second Company – CB2, thus creating a self-sustaining pipeline of talent for the company. The Academy's Summer offerings also outpaced expectations, serving 666 students, an increase of 234 over the previous year. With a gross revenue of \$2,638,300, the Academy continues to be an economic and artistic pillar of Cincinnati Ballet.

Our commitment to bringing the love of dance to all did not stop and extended into the community during the 2022-2023 Season. Our Education and Community Engagement programs continued their commitment to providing free dance education to thousands of children through CincyDance! with in-school residences, followed by classes and lifetime scholarships for six talented children. Meantime, our CB Moves adaptive dance classes in partnership with Cincinnati Children's continued to expand. In addition to classes for children with unique abilities, the program now includes classes for persons with Parkinson's.

This past season was marked by tremendous strides in our organizational growth. In years to come, we will reflect on this season as one in which our focus on building the next generation of dancers and dance lovers was prioritized and nurtured; one in which our mainstage attendance and revenue reflected the importance of our Company to the community; and one in which we invigorated our commitment to making dance accessible to all. Our future is bright as one of the most prestigious ballet companies not only in the country, but the world.

Thank you for joining us during this pivotal season.

Sincerely,

  
SCOTT ALTMAN

  
JOEL STONE



SCOTT ALTMAN  
President + CEO



JOEL STONE  
Chair Board of Trustees

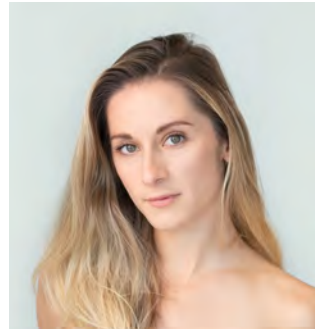


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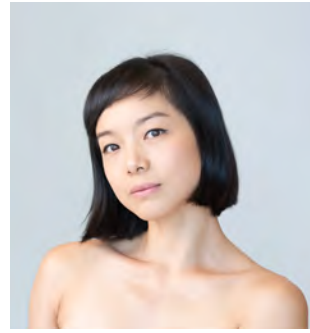




## PRINCIPALS



**MELISSA GELFIN DE-POLI**  
PENNSYLVANIA | 2014



**SIRUI LIU**  
CHINA | 2011



**RAFAEL QUENEDIT**  
CUBA | 2021

## FIRST SOLOISTS



**MINORI SAKITA**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. | 2019

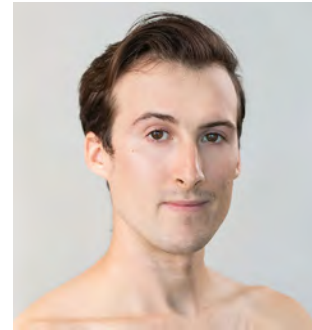


**MAIZYALET VELÁZQUEZ**  
PUERTO RICO | 2007

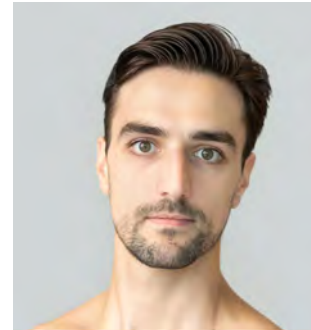
## SOLOISTS



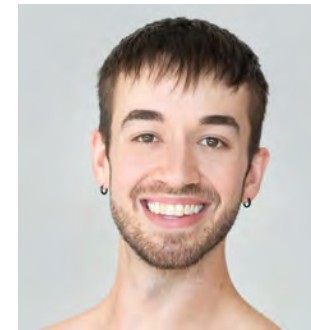
**KATHERINE OCHOA**  
CUBA | 2022



**CHANDLER PROCTOR**  
NORTH CAROLINA | 2021

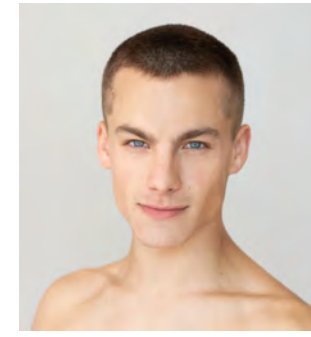


**MARCUS ROMEO**  
PENNSYLVANIA | 2017

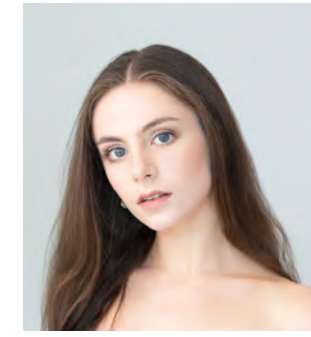


**JOSHUA STAYTON**  
OHIO | 2019

## CORPS DE BALLET



**DANIEL BALDWIN**  
SOUTH CAROLINA | 2017



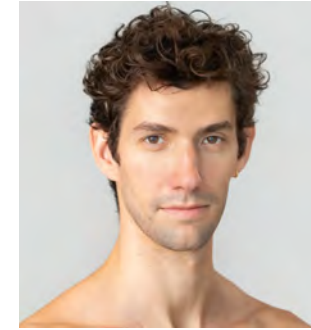
**NIKITA BORIS**  
NEW JERSEY | 2020



**TAYLOR CARRASCO**  
NEW MEXICO | 2015



**GABRIELLE COLLINS**  
CONNECTICUT | 2020



**LUCA DE-POLI**  
FLORIDA | 2014



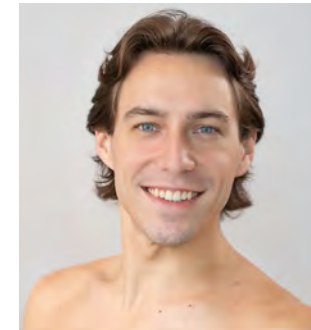
**MATTHEW GRIFFIN**  
FLORIDA | 2017



**SAMANTHA GRIFFIN**  
NORTH CAROLINA | 2015



**CHRISTINA  
LAFORGIA MORSE**  
SOUTH CAROLINA | 2014



**MICHAEL MENGDEN**  
TEXAS | 2016



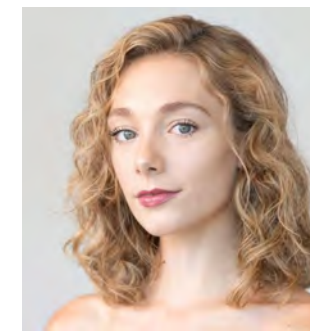
**CAROLINE PERRY**  
CALIFORNIA | 2022



**JACE PAULY**  
WASHINGTON | 2020



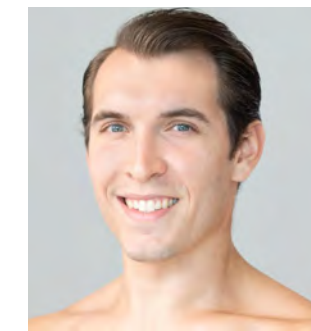
**SIMON PLANT**  
AUSTRALIA | 2022



**SAMANTHA RIESTER**  
INDIANA | 2015



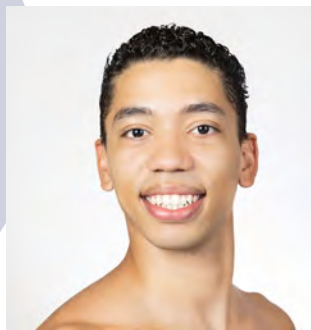
**BELLA URETA**  
WASHINGTON | 2017



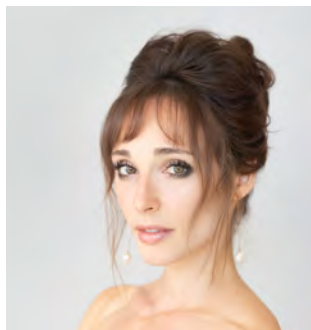
**DANIEL WAGNER**  
CALIFORNIA | 2020



NEW DANCERS



**LLONNIS  
DEL TORO CINTRA**  
CUBA | 2022



**CATHERINE LASAK**  
ILLINOIS | 2018



**JHAELIN MCQUAY**  
CALIFORNIA | 2019



**LENAI WILKERSON**  
WASHINGTON D.C. | 2022



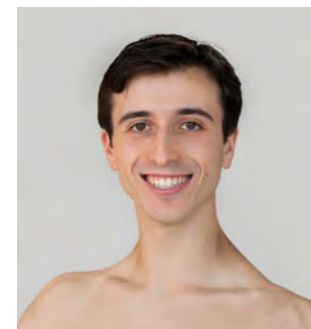
**NICOLAS BIERWAGEN**  
WASHINGTON | 2021



**NIKOLAS BUTTON**  
SOCHI | 2022



**ANDERSON DA SILVA**  
FLORIDA | 2021



**SAM EPSTEIN**  
NEW YORK | 2021



**HAILEY FLANAGAN**  
GEORGIA | 2021



**JULIA GUNDZIK**  
OHIO | 2021



**RAMSAY MILLER**  
OHIO | 2020



**SIMONE MUHAMMAD**  
MISSOURI | 2022



**SCOTT REED**  
GEORGIA | 2019



**ANTHONY RHEE-REYNOSO**  
CALIFORNIA | 2020



**MIA STEEDLE**  
MASSACHUSETTS | 2022



**SALOMÉ TREGRE**  
OHIO | 2021



Jhaelin McQuay | PHOTOGRAPHY: Hiromi Platt





Cristian Puig, Irene Rodriguez, PHOTOGRAPHY: Hironi Platt

THE  
KAPLAN  
NEW WORKS  
SERIES

CARMINA BURANA  
& EXTREMELY CLOSE

THE  
NUTCRACKER

ALICE (in wonderland)

FAMILY SERIES  
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

BOLD MOVES  
FESTIVAL

2,337  
Attendees

4,748  
Attendees

29,785  
Attendees

13,872  
Attendees

8,984  
Attendees

4,861  
Attendees

TICKETS IN ATTENDANCE



# THE KAPLAN NEW WORKS SERIES

SEPTEMBER 8-18, 2022

ARONOFF CENTER FOR THE ARTS

JARSON-KAPLAN THEATER

*Fresh Voices in Dance.  
Be the first to experience these visionary  
NEW WORKS.*



Minori Sakita | PHOTOGRAPHY: Aaron M. Conway

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**The Kaplan Foundation**

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DANIEL BALDWIN, TAYLOR CARRASCO, AND MELISSA GELFIN DE-POLI  
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Clever Crazes for Kids

SUPPORTING SPONSORS

John and Jen Stein

**MI MANCHI**

Choreography by Melissa Gelfin De-Poli

**IN GOOD COMPANY**

Choreography by Heather Britt

**5 ½ CLICHES**

Choreography by Taylor Carrasco

**MOVING, STILL**

Choreography by Cathy Marston

**LIFEFORCE**

Choreography by Daniel Baldwin



Matthew Griffin, Jace Pauly, Rafael Quenedi | PHOTOGRAPHY: Hironi Platt



# CARMINA BURANA

& EXTREMELY  
CLOSE

NOVEMBER 4-6, 2022

MUSIC HALL

FOUR PERFORMANCES ONLY!

*The Ballet, Symphony, and  
May Festival Chorus together  
for one incredible production.*

FEATURING  
MAY FESTIVAL CHORUS  
**MAY**  
FESTIVAL 180



Maizyalet Velázquez | PHOTOGRAPHY: Aaron M. Conway

PRODUCTION SPONSOR



CHOREOGRAPHER SPONSOR

Jennifer Conklin and  
the late Robert Conklin

**EXTREMELY CLOSE**

Choreography by Alejandro Cerrudo

**CARMINA BURANA**

Choreography by Nicolo Fonte



Sirui Liu, Katherine Ochoa, Maizyalet Velázquez | PHOTOGRAPHY: Hironi Platt



# THE NUTCRACKER

DECEMBER 15-24, 2022

MUSIC HALL



Daniel Baldwin | PHOTOGRAPHY: Aaron M. Conway

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**PNC**

WALTZ OF THE FLOWERS SCENE SPONSOR

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## THE NUTCRACKER

Choreography by Victoria Morgan



Cincinnati Ballet Dancers | PHOTOGRAPHY: Hiromi Platt



# ALICE

(in wonderland)

FEBRUARY 10-19, 2023

MUSIC HALL

Samantha Riesen / PHOTOGRAPHY: Aaron M. Conway

PRESENTING SPONSOR

Dinsmôre

LEGAL COUNSEL

PRODUCTION SPONSOR

Loretta Motz Cook  
and David Cook

**ALICE (in wonderland)**

Choreography by Septime Webre



Bella Ureta, Rafael Quenedit / PHOTOGRAPHY: Hironi Platt



FAMILY SERIES

# BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

APRIL 13-16, 2023

ARONOFF CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Hailey Flanagan | PHOTOGRAPHY: Aaron M. Conway

PRODUCTION SPONSOR



CINCINNATI BALLET SECOND COMPANY – CB2 SPONSORS

Trish and Rick Bryan

SENSORY FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE PARTNER

Josephine Schell Russell Charitable Trust

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT



## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Choreography by Pamela Robinson-Harris, Principal Rehearsal  
Director at Ballet West, and Peggy Dolkas



Cincinnati Ballet Dancers | PHOTOGRAPHY: Hironi Platt





# BOLD MOVES FESTIVAL

**JUNE 9-18, 2023**  
ARONOFF CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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Jeffrey & Jody Lazarow and  
Janie & Peter Schwartz  
Family Fund\*  
Alice Schneider

KATZ TELLER

\*Funds held at Greater Cincinnati Foundation

## PROGRAM 1

## SIT

Choreography and Costume Design  
by Jennifer Archibald

## A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

Choreography and Performed by Irene Rodríguez

## IN THE MIDDLE, SOMEWHAT ELEVATED

Choreography, Stage, Lighting, and Costume  
Design by William Forsythe

## PROGRAM 2

## WRITTEN &amp; FORGOTTEN

Choreography by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa

## IBSEN'S HOUSE

Choreography by Val Caniparoli

## FAÇADES

Choreography by Garrett Smith





2022-2023 ACADEMY TOTALS

2,449	\$2,638,300	\$1,160,337	\$277,170
STUDENTS SERVED	GROSS REVENUE	NET REVENUE	SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAMS

704  
TOTAL YOUTH

1,079  
TOTAL ADULTS

SUMMER PROGRAMS

7  
UNIQUE SUMMER PROGRAMS

9  
WEEKS OF INTENSIVE SUMMER TRAINING

114  
COURSES OFFERED

2,150  
HOURS OF INSTRUCTION

5,157  
CLASSES CONDUCTED

666  
STUDENTS SERVED

63  
CITIES REPRESENTED

14  
CITY NATIONAL AUDITION TOUR

96  
FIRST CLASS FREE PARTICIPANTS

1,779  
AUDITIONING STUDENTS

12  
ACADEMY + EDUCATION PERFORMANCES

40  
STATES REPRESENTED BY THE STUDENT BODY

3  
CINCINNATI BALLET PRODUCTIONS  
FEATURING ACADEMY AND PTD STUDENTS

82  
SUMMER STUDENTS AUDITIONED  
FOR YEAR ROUND PROGRAMS

ITEMS OF NOTE

- Cincinnati Ballet welcomed new Artistic Director Jodie Gates whose appointment included artistic leadership of Cincinnati Ballet’s Otto M. Budig Academy.
- Cincinnati Ballet engaged internationally renowned arts educator Margaret Tracey as a consultant to support review of the Academy’s vision, program design, structural sustainability and syllabus as well as provide ongoing professional development and support to the Academy’s faculty.
- The Academy launched its first Master Class Series featuring guest artists Gonzalo Garcia, Tiit Helimets, Margaret Tracey, Sarah Van Patten, and Keelan Whitmore.
- Performance opportunities for students included the Academy’s Winter Showcase, Community Division Showcase and Spring Production as well as opportunities to perform in Cincinnati Ballet’s mainstage productions including *The Nutcracker*, *ALICE (in wonderland)*, and *Beauty and the Beast*.
- The Academy launched two new social media channels in 2023 – an Academy Instagram and Facebook account.
- Our 2023 summer guest faculty included Lauren Anderson, Beth Bartholomew, Daniel Durrett (an Academy alum), Roderick George, Zack Grubbs, Chandra Moss-Thorne, Alyssa Myers, McCree O’Kelley, Fidel Orrillo Puga, Jared Redick, Margaret Tracey, Brienne Wiltsie and Sarah Wroth.



## CINCYDANCE!

288

CINCYDANCE!  
RESIDENCY CLASSES

1,237

CINCYDANCE! STUDENTS

52

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED  
IN CINCYDANCE!  
AUDITIONS

23

CINCYDANCE!  
SCHOLARS

40

CINCYDANCE! FOUNDATIONS  
PARTICIPANTS

## CB MOVES

120

CB MOVES FOR  
PARKINSON'S CLASSES

41

CB MOVES YOUTH  
STUDENTS SERVED

38

CB MOVES YOUTH  
VOLUNTEERS

## DANCE DISCOVERY

15

CINCINNATI PUBLIC  
LIBRARY BRANCHES30  
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING DIVISION DANCERS

## TRAINEES

Ciarán Barlow, Camille Boggs, Cathleen Breslin, Amber Harper, Madelyn Harpole, Dietrich Klawonn, Trevor PinterParsons, Sierra Severt, Claire Sturgeon, Salomé Tregre, Lauren Vogel, Avery Ward, Anneliese Welsh

## PTDS

Fiona Allen, Hannah Blair, Ava Bradford, Anna Doggett, Carmen Doll, Brianne Falanga, Charlotte Gularson, Natalie Higle, Anna Kinghorn, Elizabeth Jacobson, Helen Jardon, Caroline Love, Fiona Murphy, Annika Olsen, Taylor Petrowski, Jenna Renfield, Elizabeth Swisher

## ITEMS OF NOTE

- Salomé Tregre was promoted halfway through the season to Cincinnati Ballet's Second Company.
- Graduating dancers have gone on to secure company, second company and apprentice positions at Cincinnati Ballet, American Midwest Ballet, Ballet Tucson, Colorado Ballet, Indianapolis Ballet and New Orleans Ballet.
- In addition to performing with Cincinnati Ballet's professional Company, dancers had opportunities to perform their own repertoire including Balanchine's *Raymonda Variations*, *A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* and original works by company artists including Taylor Carrasco, Melissa Gelfin De-Poli, Ihaiah Miller and David Morse.





Four schools served with on-site Community Performance Series performance of Aesop's Fables by dancers from the Otto M. Budig Professional Training Division.

Thousands of school-age children served through Student Matinees for *The Nutcracker* and *ALICE (in wonderland)*, a Sensory-Friendly Performance for *Family Series: Beauty and the Beast*, community performances by CB2 and PTDs, and Dance Discovery classes at Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library branches for its Summer Reading Program.



## STUDENT MATINEE ATTENDANCE

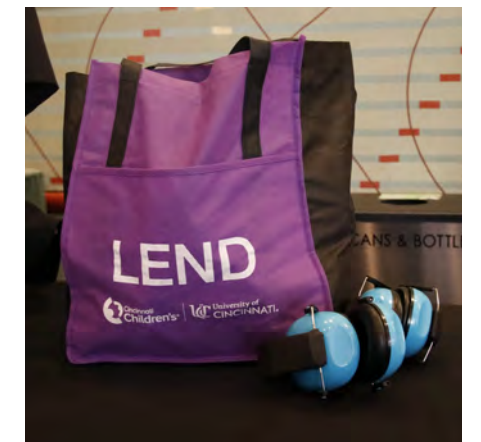
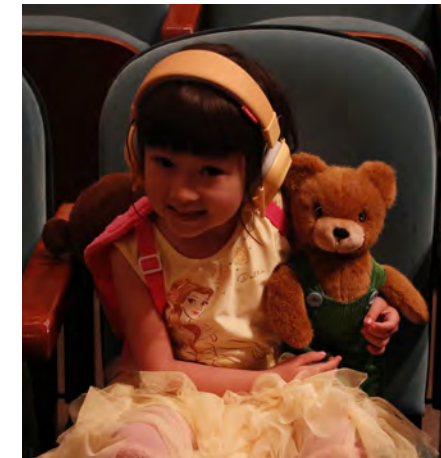
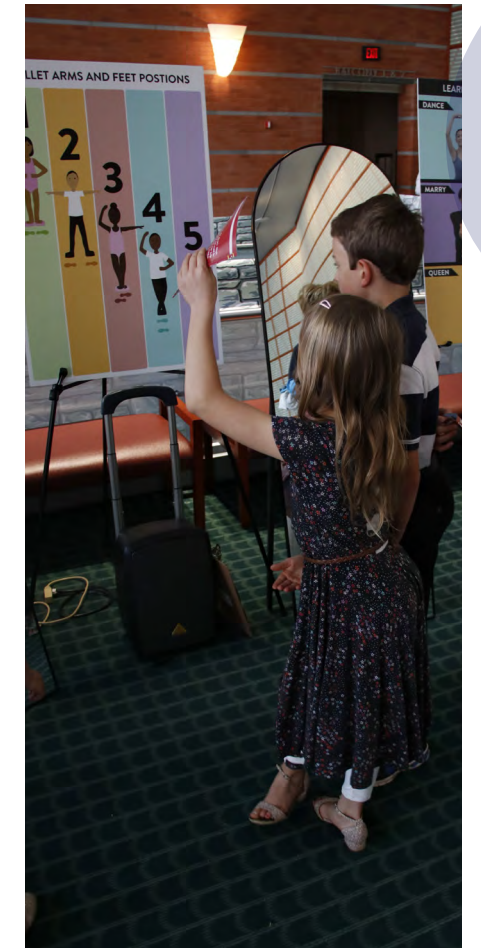
**1,624**  
ATTENDEES AT  
*THE NUTCRACKER*  
STUDENT MATINEE



**1,218**  
ATTENDEES AT  
*ALICE (in wonderland)*  
STUDENT MATINEE



**977**  
ATTENDEES AT  
FAMILY SERIES:  
*BEAUTY AND THE BEAST*  
SENSORY-FRIENDLY  
STUDENT MATINEE





# Thank You

to our generous Sponsors of the 2022

## THE NUTCRACKER LUNCHEON Land of Sweets

### Sugar Plum Sponsors



Lauren Hannan Shafer

### Snowflake Sponsors

Sarah Frank Fogarty and Timothy Fogarty

Sally and Javier Hernandez

The Oyler Family



### Dancing Teddy Bear Sponsors

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The Jarnigo Family

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Kereiakes Family

The Mark & Stacey  
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Lindsey R. Gutierrez

Mandy Rassi

The Relthford Family

Rhonda & Larry A. Sheakley

The Thomas Family

Waterson Garner

Whitcomb Family Friends

Angela White &  
Amahle White-Dragon

\$100K+

Raised

4

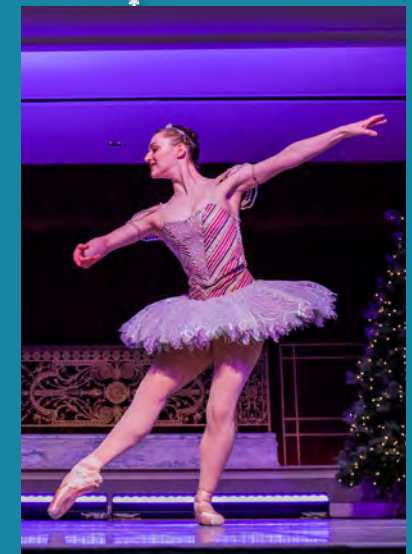
Performances from our  
Cincinnati Ballet Second  
Company - CB2 and Professional  
Training Division - PTDs

600+

Guests of Cincinnati  
Ballet's Closest  
Family & Friends

8

Interactive  
Activities



EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY: Paige Pederzani and Mikki Schaffner



# CLUB B IN WONDERLAND

## Thank you to our Sponsors!

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Faith Whittaker  
Wow Window Boxes

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trendprescient art + interior design  
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### HOSTS

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Donald Beck +  
Lawrence E. Eynon, MD  
Jennifer Bolton  
Jackie Bryson  
Paula I. Comisar  
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Jennifer + Vito Damiano  
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David Martin  
Steve + Emily Morgan  
Alexandra H. & Cole Ollinger  
Scott + Kristen Oyler  
Lisa Riccardi

Rhonda + Larry A. Sheakley  
Rob + Kendra Thornton  
The Todd Group @ Stifel  
Heather + Andrew Vecellio  
Ronna + Dr. James Willis  
Brenden + Jaclyn Zenni  
Michelle Ziegler  
Tamela Zimmerman  
Betsey Zinn

571

People attended  
Club B

4

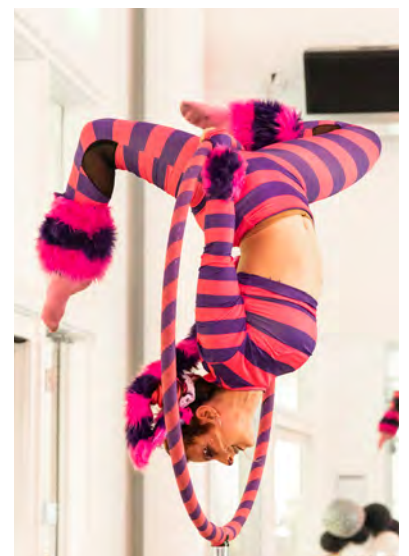
Performances  
throughout the evening

\$154,425

Amount raised  
from Club B

60+

Sponsors and Hosts  
Supported Club B



EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY: Angie Lipscomb and Paige Federanti



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Cincinnati Ballet Dancers | PHOTOGRAPHY: Hironi Pitt



\$100,000+			
			
			
\$50,000-\$99,999			
			
\$15,000-\$49,999			
			
			
\$5,000-\$14,999			
			
			
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\$50,000-\$99,999			
			
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Thank you to the donors whose gifts we received during the 2022-2023 Season. The above donor pages represent the information available at the time of print. If you find that your are listed incorrectly or we did not recognize you appropriately, we apologize and want to include you. Please contact our Donor Relations Manager, Payton Field, at pfield@cballet.org or 513.562.1136.



**\$13.1M**  
OPERATING INCOME

**\$13.0M**  
TOTAL ORGANIZATIONAL  
EXPENSES

**\$15.0M**  
ENDOWMENT MARKET VALUE  
AS OF JULY 31, 2022

FOR EVERY DOLLAR THE  
ORGANIZATION RECEIVED:

**73%**  
SPENT ON  
ARTISTIC PROGRAMING

**22%**  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
COSTS

**5%**  
FUNDRAISING  
EXPENSES

## 2022-2023 SEASON FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

For the sixteenth consecutive season, Cincinnati Ballet ended the fiscal year with an operating surplus thanks to the generosity of the Greater Cincinnati Community. Fiscal responsibility and careful stewardship of the support we receive are of the utmost importance to Cincinnati Ballet.

Cincinnati Ballet's operating income for the 2022-2023 Season was \$13.1M, and total operating expenses \$13.0M. For every dollar the organization received, 73% were spent on artistic initiatives, 22% on administrative costs, and 5% supported fundraising. Cincinnati Ballet strives to present the highest level of artistic excellence while maintaining world-class administrative teams.

Cincinnati Ballet continues to grow an endowment to provide organizational stability. As of July 31, 2023, the endowment market value was \$15.0M, an increase of \$0.3M from the prior year. As Cincinnati Ballet looks toward the future, we embrace a strategic perspective that includes artistically vibrant productions and continued sustainable growth of the endowment.

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† In Memoriam

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**Bartender**

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**Assistant Stage Manager**

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**Assistant Stage Manager**

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Kelly Jo Rodrigo MS, LAT, ATC\*  
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Luca De-Poli, Matthew Griffin, Jhaelin McQuay, Marjaret Velazquez | PHOTOGRAPHY: Hironi Platt



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