

Anniversary

# **OUR MISSION**

To be Pittsburgh's source and ambassador for extraordinary ballet experiences that give life to the classical tradition, nurture new ideas and, above all, inspire.

# **OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY**

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre is committed to increasing equity, access and opportunity in the art of ballet. We believe that bringing together people with diverse perspectives, histories and life experiences will make ballet richer, stronger and more innovative resulting in vibrant experiences for all.



Harris N. Ferris **Executive Director** 



Terrence S. Orr **Artistic Director** 



Dawn N. Fleischner Chair, Board of Trustees

Dear Friends of PBT,

What a 50th Anniversary Season it has been! We want to express our gratitude to you for supporting us through a year unlike any other in our history.

First, we extend our deepest thanks to Terrence S. Orr, who retired in June after 23 years as artistic director. His vision, and deep love for the art form, brought tremendous growth to PBT. We will be forever grateful for his legacy to PBT and the City of Pittsburgh.

Following an extensive national search, Terrence has passed the torch to American Ballet Theatre (ABT) alumna Susan Jaffe, an accomplished choreographer and former dean of dance for North Carolina School of the Arts. We couldn't be prouder to welcome her as PBT's seventh artistic director.

In many ways, our 50th anniversary is a tale of two seasons, straddling life before and during COVID-19.

It began with a bang with three productions at the Benedum Center and events reuniting PBT alumni from across the country. In March, we were days away from opening Here + Now at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center, weeks from a 50th anniversary gala and a month from performing at the Joyce Theater in New York City. The pandemic changed all of that in an instant.

Our entire team rose to the challenge. PBT School classes went virtual for all divisions. Thousands of community members participated in online education and accessibility programs. We danced in living rooms and backyards. Our company dancers choreographed digital premieres from home. The screen became our studio and our stage.

Our 50th Anniversary Season didn't close with the finale we had planned. But, the pages ahead are a testament to what PBT has stood for over 50 years: inspiration, resilience and a family of artists, supporters and staff who prove ballet's power to resonate far beyond the theater walls.

Thank you for everything you've done to ensure our success – not only at the brightest of times, but during the times that our community needs our art form the most.

With appreciation,

Terence S. On Down D. Fleisch

Cover photos (front and back): Artist: Amanda Cochrane | Photos: Duane Rieder



Orsett, England Joined in 2013



Spokane, WA Joined in 2009



Alejandro Diaz Miami, FL Joined in 2008



Alexandra Kochis North Andover, MA Joined in 2006



Yoshiaki Nakano Osaka, Japan Joined in 2010 Udine, Italy Joined in 2007





Woonsocket, RI Joined in 2012





Columbus, OH Joined in 2014



Masahiro Haneji Sapporo, Japan Joined in 2014



William Moore Ipswich, England Joined in 2013



JoAnna Schmidt Eustis, FL Joined in 2012



Gabrielle Thurlow Buffalo, NY Joined in 2007



Diana Yohe Willoughby, OH Joined in 2013



Jonathan Breight Pittsburgh, PA Joined in 2018



Christian García Campos Puebla, Mexico Joined in 2018



Erin Casale Johnstown, PA Joined in 2019



Yu-Chieh Chao Pingtung, Taiwan Joined in 2018



Sam DerGregorian Albuquerque, NM Joined in 2019



Danielle Downey Erie, PA Joined in 2007



Allison Durand Charleston, SC Joined in 2019



Jack Hawn Detroit, MI Joined in 2019



Josiah Kauffman Belgrade, MT Joined in 2019



Lucius Kirst Los Angeles, CA Joined in 2014





Jessica McCann Los Angeles, CA Joined in 2015





Caitlyn Mendicino Pittsburgh, PA Joined in 2018



Joseph Parr Wooster, OH Joined in 2008



Amanda Potts Marshall, TX Joined in 2016



Tommie Lin Kesten

Pittsburgh, PA Joined in 2018

Langley, WA Joined in 2019



Kurtis Sprowls Orrville, OH Joined in 2015



Lebanon, CT Joined in 2011









# THE PBT ORCHESTRA

MUSIC DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR - Charles Barker

### VIOLIN 1

Charles Stegeman,
concert master
Rachel Stegeman,
associate concert master
Larry Yagello
Joshua Huang
Jennifer Madge
Mary Beth Schotting
Rochelle Agnew

#### VIOLIN 2

Dawn Posey, principal Juan Jaramillo Anne Jackovic Eleanor Cameron Maureen Conlon-Gutierrez Tobias Chisnall

## **VIOLA**

Jennifer Gerhard, principal Louise Farbman John McCarthy Justin J. Johnson

#### **CELLO**

Elisa Kohanski, *principal*Paula Tuttle
Joseph Bishkoff
Paul Critser

#### **BASS**

Jeffrey Mangone, Sr., *principal* Andrew Kohn Robert Skavronski

#### FLUTE/PICCOLO

Beverly Crawford, *principal* Barbara O'Brien Thomas Godfrey

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#### CLARINET

Mary Beth Malek, *principal* Alix Reinhardt

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# FRENCH HORN

David Lintz, *principal* Matthew Litterini Marie Claude Driscoll Scott Bohannon

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## **TROMBONE**

Glenn Wayland

#### **TUBA**

Phillip Van Ouse, principal

#### **TIMPANI**

Jack Dilanni, principal

#### **PERCUSSION**

Albert Wrublesky, *principal* Jan Fung

#### **HARP**

Nuiko Wadden, principal

#### **PIANO**

Yoland Collin

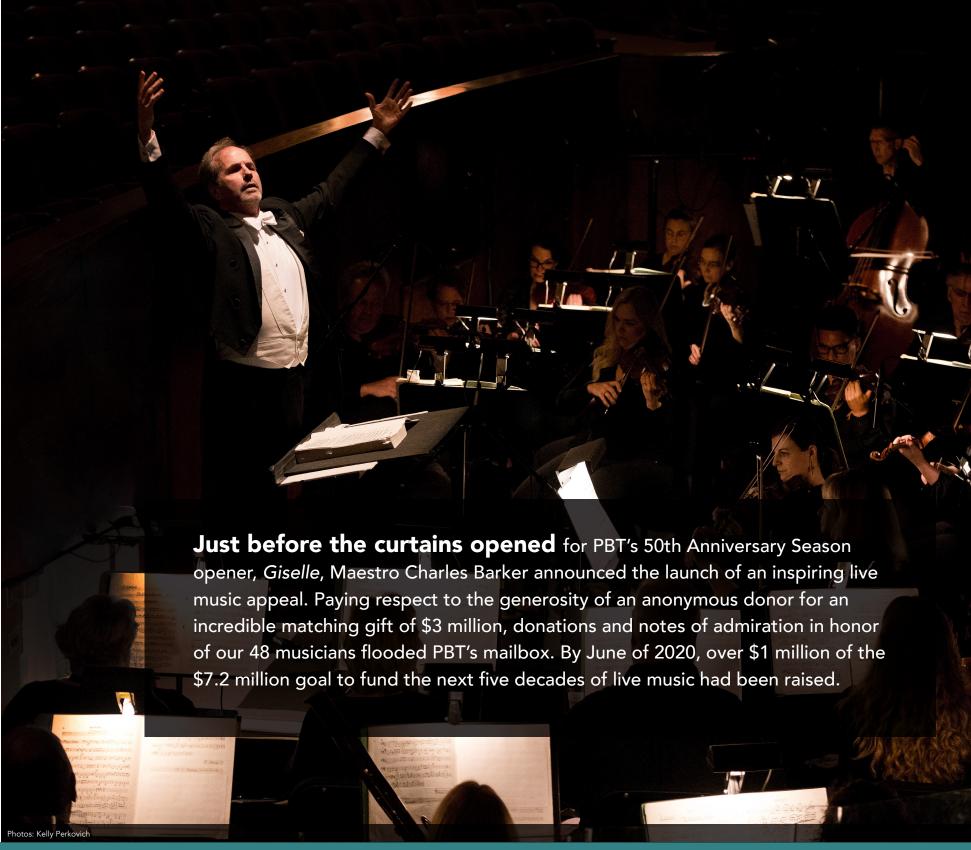
# **ORCHESTRA MANAGER**

Frank Ostrowski

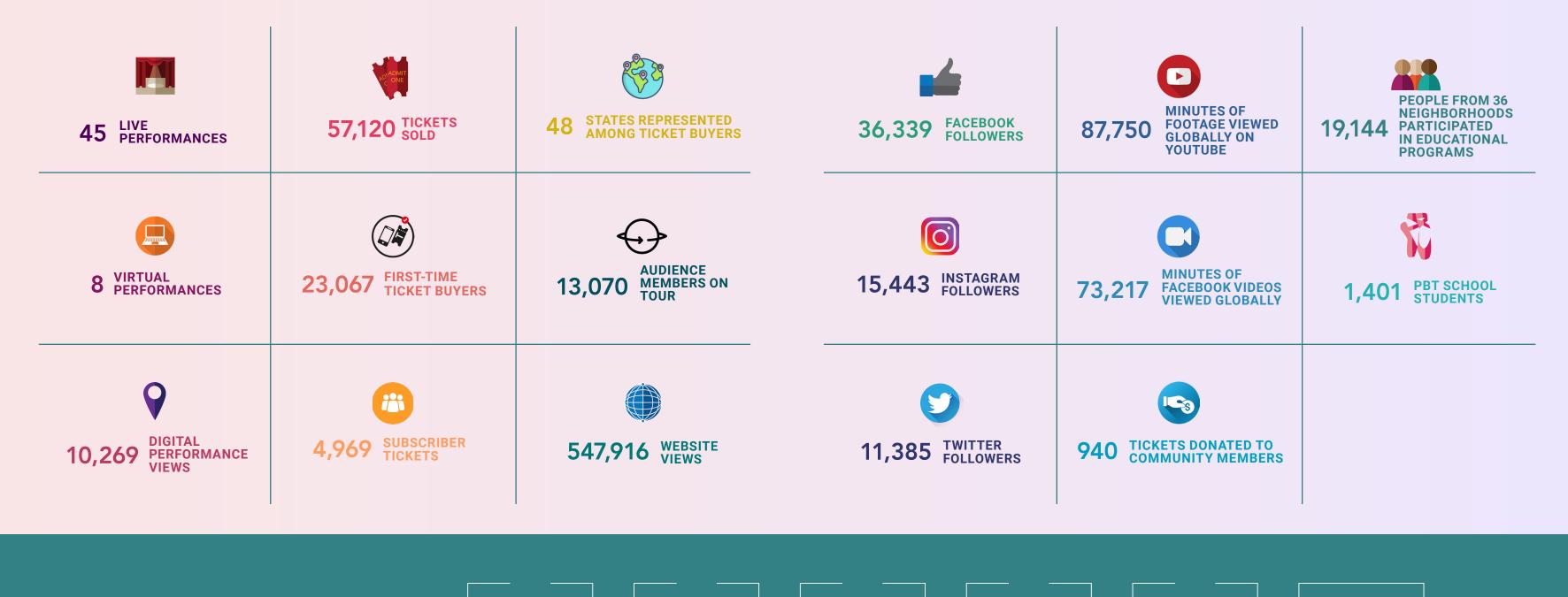
### **OFFICIAL PIANO OF PBT**

Yamaha





6 | PBT ORCHESTRA ROSTER PBT ORCHESTRA | 7



116 62 30 artistic production costume artists make their home at apprentices musicians dancers staff staff staff Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre members members members

8 | SEASON IN REVIEW SEASON IN REVIEW 9



## PBT ON TOUR: CHAUTAUQUA INSTITUTION

July 13, 2019 | Chautauqua Institution 3,196 audience members

## PBT ON TOUR: BALLET UNDER THE STARS

Aug. 16, 2019 | Hartwood Acres 7,500 audience members





## PBT ON TOUR: JORDEN MORRIS' THE GREAT GATSBY

Sept. 28, 2019 | Northrop at the University of Minnesota 1,918 audience members

# **GISELLE WITH THE PBT ORCHESTRA**

Oct. 25-27, 2019 | Benedum Center 4,711 audience members



# PBT ON TOUR: PBT PRESENTS CLASSICAL ROMANCE

Nov. 8, 2019 | Seton Hill Performing Arts Center 456 audience members

## THE NUTCRACKER

Dec. 6-29, 2019 | Benedum Center 33,047 audience members





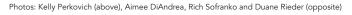
## **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**

Feb. 14-23, 2020 | Benedum Center 13,792 audience members

# **SHOWS CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19**

Here & Now at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center Balanchine & Tchaikovsky at the Benedum Center PBT at the Joyce Theatre







# PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORIES: A Tribute to Terrence S. Orr

Artistic Director Terrence S. Orr retired in June after leading Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre for nearly half of its 50-year history. Following his career as a principal dancer for San Francisco Ballet and American Ballet Theatre (ABT), Orr served as ABT's ballet master for 21 years and joined PBT in 1997. Here are just a few highlights from his immense artistic legacy.









In 2002, Orr premiered his Pittsburghinspired production of *The Nutcracker*, a lavish show attended by over 30,000 audience members each holiday season. Orr enriched PBT's repertory with more than 20 commissions and dozens of PBT premieres. In addition to world-renowned works by Jerome Robbins, Jiří Kylián and William Forsythe, Orr introduced story ballets, ranging from Jean-Christophe Maillot's contemporary *Romeo et Juliette* to a new production of the romantic masterpiece *Giselle*.

Under Orr's leadership, increasing ticket sales and school enrollment laid the foundation for the growth of PBT's Strip District campus. PBT cut the ribbon on the Byham Center for Dance in 2016, expanding class offerings and opportunities for dancers at every level.

# **INTRODUCING SUSAN JAFFE**

In April 2019, PBT announced the appointment of Susan Jaffe as the organization's seventh artistic director and second female director in the company's history.







# What drew you to Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and this position?

"PBT has enjoyed a very good reputation in the dance world for having a wonderful mixture of classic and contemporary work. I am so happy to follow in Terry's footsteps! In this position, the budgets are bigger and the stakes are higher, and I get to work with the dancers more than I did when I was a dean."

# How would you describe your leadership philosophy?

"I strive for excellence in the quality of dance that I oversee and stage. When I was a principal dancer, I liked to work deeply and thoroughly so that the quality of my own performances were the absolute best they could be. I developed my instrument so that it could be the purest vessel for the story or choreography to flow through. This now translates in me as a coach and mentor of dancers. I love to help dancers experience how they can reach new heights in their technical, stylistic, musical and dramatic abilities."

# What is your vision for the company's future?

"I aim to program an array of versatile and exciting repertory that appeals to the younger as well as mature audience members. This will happen through a variety of styles of classics and newer repertory. I also am interested in unusual locations at times of the year when the weather permits. I'd love to bring dance to people that wouldn't normally be exposed to it. I would also like to tour more often and increase the size of the company as we continue to increase our endowment."

12 | ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP | 13



# PBT'S COMMITMENT TO IDEA

PBT created its Equity Project Transformation Team in 2017 to advance inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility (IDEA) in the art of ballet and throughout the PBT organization. PBT's 2020-2022 IDEA strategic plan lays out concrete goals to achieve cultural change and community engagement, highlighting the following areas of growth:

**Artistic representation.** PBT is committed to increasing diversity on stage through both company and choreographic representation.

**2019-2020 highlight:** PBT added two new works by Black choreographers to its repertoire: *The Quiet Dance* by Kyle Abraham and *SKIN + saltwater* by Staycee Pearl.

**Education.** PBT is committed to ongoing anti-racism training for all PBT team members.

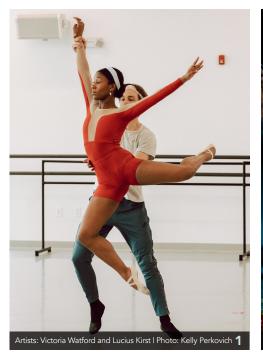
**2019-2020 highlight:** 100% of PBT employees, board members and PBT School students completed at least one IDEA training, and over 150 participated in six spring/summer discussions on anti-racism readings and resources.

**Policy.** PBT is committed to enhancing anti-racist policies in the workplace, including recruitment, hiring and retention practices and supplier diversity requirements.

**2019-2020 highlight:** PBT hired a manager of human resources, who will lead a Transformation Team sub-committee responsible for policy overhaul.

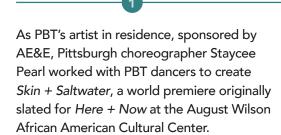
14 | PBT'S COMMITMENT TO IDEA PBT'S COMMITMENT TO IDEA | 15

# 44 PERFORMANCES | 240 AVERAGE REHEARSAL HOURS PER PRODUCTION | 5 NEW WORKS | 700 PAIRS OF POINTE SHOES









Principal dancer Luca Sbrizzi took the final bow of his 12-year career with PBT following the 8 p.m. Oct. 26 performance of *Giselle*, a "one-of-a-kind emotional journey" Sbrizzi wanted to experience one more time before retiring.

In June, PBT premiered three digital works choreographed by nine company dancers during the social distancing of COVID-19: *Hope* presented by MSA, *strange timez* presented by Gateway Health and *IN* presented by Advance Auto Parts.







Dance Magazine named Corps de Ballet dancer Tommie Lin Kesten (pictured) one of its "25 to Watch" in 2020, applauding the PBT School alumna's talent for joining "joie de vivre with mature movement choices." Kesten was one of three dancers promoted to a soloist position for the 2020-2021 Season.

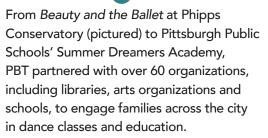
Six-year PBT dancer Lucius Kirst also was promoted to soloist for the 2020-2021 Season. Kirst took the spotlight this season as The Beast/The Prince in *Beauty and The Beast* (pictured) among other featured roles.

PBT School alumna Jessica McCann also takes on the rank of soloist for the 2020-2021 Season. In addition to choreographing for the company, McCann has shined in featured roles, including the Peasant Pas de Deux of *Giselle* (pictured).

16 | ARTISTIC ARTISTIC | 17

# 19,144 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS | 194 TOTAL PROGRAMS | 46 SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS AT STUDENT MATINEES | 58 CLASSROOMS WITH CREATIVE MOVEMENT RESIDENCIES











2

More than 2,400 people participated in accessibility programs, including PBT's sensory-friendly production of *Beauty and The Beast* (pictured), Adaptive Dance classes for youth and Dance for Parkinson's for adults.

Following its annual audition (pictured),
PBT awarded five new Community Youth
Scholarships for the 2019-2020 school year.
A total of 27 students received support from
the program, which funds ongoing PBT School
tuition for young talents with financial need.

More than 2,000 students took PBT creative movement and ballet classes at partner sites, including Hope Academy (pictured) and six Boys and Girls Clubs. Students were able to continue dancing during the pandemic thanks to Zoom classes offered with community partners.

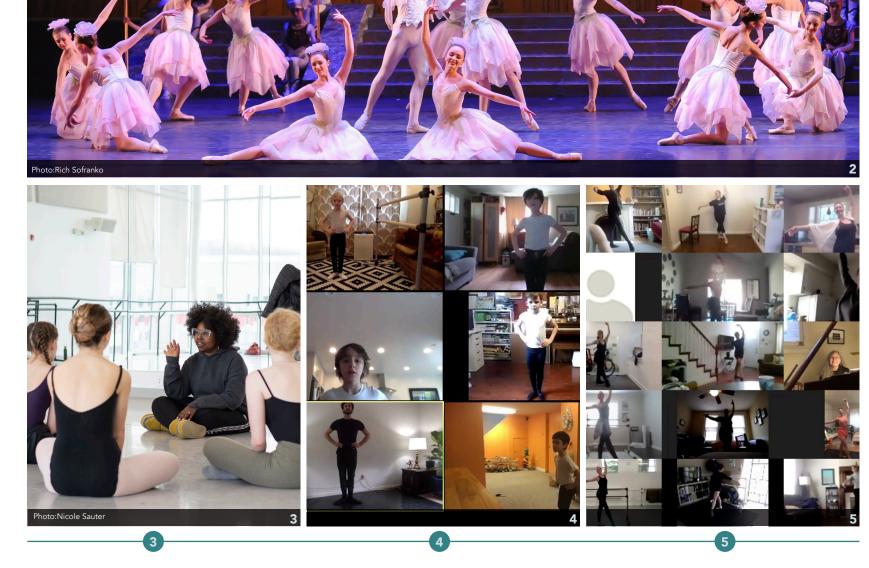
18 | EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | 19

# 1,401 TOTAL STUDENTS | 274 OUT-OF-STATE STUDENTS | 25 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS | \$531,306 AWARDED IN SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID



The 2019 Intensive Summer Program welcomed 207 students from 34 states and two countries for a five-week training experience that culminated in a Student Choreography Showcase and four final performances.

During the 2019-2020 Season, PBT School students performed 251 roles in PBT productions of *The Nutcracker* and *Beauty and The Beast* (pictured). "I soak up every bit of wisdom I can from the dancers and the experience," said Level 8 student Luke Mosher.



In addition to choreographing for the company, PBT's 2019-2020 Artist in Residence Staycee Pearl instructed a series of master classes for Pre-professional students and created a new work on a group of Graduate students.

PBT School went digital in mid-March due to COVID-19. By the end of June, faculty members had instructed 600 Zoom classes for students across all four training divisions and led a virtual Company Experience workshop for 76 pre-professionals.

In honor of PBT's 50th anniversary, Janet Popeleski, PBT School principal and former PBT principal dancer, hosted an alumni ballet class in May for 90 current and former students spanning 30 school years. Participants from 29 states and four countries danced and reminisced via Zoom.

20 | PBT SCHOOL PBT SCHOOL | 21















Oct. 25-27, 2019

PBT welcomed alumni dancers and faculty for a memorable reunion weekend during the first production of the 50th Anniversary Season. Highlights included a brunch hosted by PBT Costumier Janet Groom Campbell and a party at PBT's Liberty Avenue studios.

# LOTI & LEON FALK JR. BUILDING DEDICATION

Friday, Nov. 15, 2019

In a transformational moment, the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Foundation, founded by Loti Falk in 1968, gifted PBT the Liberty Avenue studios in a dedication ceremony attended by the Falk family. The foundation's gift ensures that not only will PBT remain at home in the Strip District for years to come, but that Loti and Leon will be part of that story in perpetuity.









# PBT EN POINTE (a virtual event)

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Patrons across the world gathered virtually to revisit PBT's storied half-century of history, watch world-premiere choreography and meet incoming Artistic Director Susan Jaffe. The event, chaired by Greta and Art Rooney II and Audrey and Don Heberle, and presented by the Pittsburgh Steelers and PNC, welcomed over 2,000 guests and raised over \$300,000 in donations to PBT's Keep Us Dancing campaign.



22 | 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS | 23













## A GOLDEN POINTE IN TIME

Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019

The 2019 A Golden Pointe in Time committee set a new standard of achievement for PBT's annual gala, hosting a record-breaking crowd of 550 guests and exceeding event and scholarship appeal goals by over \$100,000. Joe Klimchak emceed the night's live auction, contributing to the record-breaking \$705,090 raised by the community for children's scholarships and artistic initiatives.



# USE OF OPERATING FUNDS

\$8,518,792

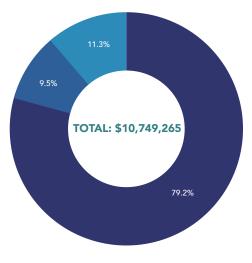
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

\$1,213,827

MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL

\$1,016,646

FUNDRAISING AND SPECIAL EVENTS



# SOURCES OF OPERATING REVENUE

\$4,744,562

CONTRIBUTED REVENUE

\$2,445,388

TICKET SALES

\$2,056,623

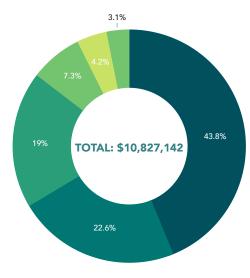
PBT SCHOOL

\$786,956 SPECIAL EVENTS

\$454,000

DOWMENT TRANSFE

\$339,613 OTHER



# CONTRIBUTED OPERATING REVENUE BY SOURCE

\$1,647,871

INDIVIDUALS

\$1,594,834

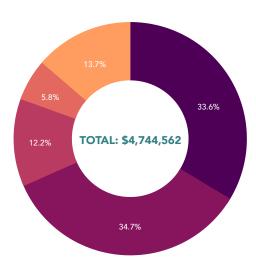
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**\$649,537**GOVERNMENT

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24 | **50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS** FINANCIALS | 25

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Susan Jannetta

Janet A Kaiser

Marie Milie Jones

Tom & Suzanne Kendio

Charles & Nancy King

**David Kozloff & Mark Meaders** 

Barb & Joe Kruse in honor of

Ms. Peggy C. Knott

Ms. Marilyn Koch\*

Dave & Donna Yohe

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Mona & Bob Riordan

Mr & Mrs Jay F Romano

Bob & Laura Rookstool<sup>3</sup>

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Heather Rowda\*

Mike & Eadie Ferretti\*

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Kimberly & Curtis Fleming

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Dr Susan Hunt

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Lisa Lakkis

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Ted & Mary Lou Magee

Ida McConnell & Baard

Chris & Laurie Mellon

Darlene & David Motley

Todd & M'Lisa Oravitz'

Robert McKeown<sup>3</sup>

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Roslyn Neiman

Ed & Katy Perrin\*

Dr. Felicia Snead

Ms. Susan Stone

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Jim & Judy Squires

Rachel & Lowell Swarts\*\*

Dr R Curtis Waligura

Markus & Donna Webe

Helge & Frika Wehmeier

Dr. R. Curtis Waligura

Markus & Donna Webe

Helge & Erika Wehmeier

Melissa Walters

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\$500-999

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Roxana Barad

Patricia Blenko

Ms. Kelly Boyer

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Lisa Valli-Steliote

Cristen Stephansky\* \*\*







\* Platinum

\*\* Live Music Donor

\*\*\* In Kind

Randy Reynolds

Ms. Jacquelyn Cavanaugh

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**Artistic Director** 

Terrence S. Orr (1997-2020) Susan Jaffe (2020-Present)

**Artistic Administrator** Robert Vickrey

Music Administrator and Company Pianist

Yoland Collin

Répétiteurs Steven Annegarn Marianna Tcherkassky

**EXECUTIVE STAFF** 

**Executive Director** 

Harris N. Ferris

Assistant to the **Executive Director** Katie Potts

**FINANCE & OPERATIONS** 

**Director of Operations** and Finance Jay Romano

**Human Resources Manager** Lauren Carlini

**Finance Manager** Shelly Swartz

**Receptionist/Office Manager** Missy Graf

**Information Systems Manager** Joel LaFleur

**Building Maintenance** Ray Lantzy

**MARKETING** 

Director of Marketing and Communications

Tanaz Walendziewicz **Director of Creative Services** 

Kelly Perkovich **Media Relations and Content** 

Marketing Manager Katie Drozynski

**Marketing Strategist** Aimee DiAndrea

**Manager of Patron Services and** Ticketing

**Audrey Fennell Assistant Patron Services Manager** Lvdia Grimenstein

**Special Projects Editor** 

Meghan Swartz **Group Sales Manager** 

Jamie Adams **External Affairs Analyst** 

Christine Wingenfeld Merchandising Manager

Kristen Urban

**Patron Services Representatives Douglass Bell** Linda Cunko

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Christy Bean Rowing **Associate Director** of Development

Aziza El Feil **Foundation Relations and Grant** 

Manager Kelly Englert

Manager of Individual Giving Elizabeth Mick

**Corporate and Government Relations Manager** Erin Starzynski

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**Director of Education and Community Engagement** Kathryn L. Gigler

**Manager of Community Programs** 

Kerra Alexander

**Manager of Audience Programs** and Archives

Lisa Auel Manager of Accessibility and **Program Development** 

Lindsey Kaine **Teaching Artists** Marcella Dav Jamie Murphy **Accompanist** David O'Brien

**PRODUCTION** 

**Director of Production** Curtis Scott Dunn

**Production Stage Manager** Alicia Reece

**Assistant Production** Manager/Rentals Manager Jerard Craven

**Head Carpenter** Zachary Dwyer

**Assistant Carpenter** Ronald Cully

**Properties Master** Brad O'Connell

**Master Electrician** Kelli Gaertner

**Assistant Electrician** Christopher T. Barker

**Costume Supervisor** Kathleen Sullivan

COSTUME

Costumier Janet Marie Groom

**Costume Assistant** 

Joanna Becker First Hand and Stitcher

Kristin McClain

**Stitchers** Deborah Becker, Kaylee Hansberry Kathleen Sullivan

Make-up Artist and Hair Dresser Jackie Hamilton

SCHOOL ARTISTIC/FACULTY

**Co-Directors** Marjorie Grundvig Dennis Marshall

**Principal** 

Janet Popeleski

**Student Division Principal** Eun Young Ahn

**Full-Time Ballet** 

Christopher Budzynski Christine Schwaner

**Children's Division Coordinator** Kaila Lewis

Julia Adams, Kristy Boyle, Reneé Burkett, Jonathan Breight Elizabeth Calvert, Ann Corrado. Marcella Day, Elise Gillum, Madeline Gradle, Meghan Greenwood, Lea Havas, Erin Halloran, Juliana Hougland, Aaron Ingley, Cynthia Jennings, Tiffany Kenst, Maureen Lucas, Katie Miller, Jamie Murphy, Tamar Rachelle, Lynn Rescigno, Toma Smith, Kurtis Sprowls, Alexandra Tiso, Gino Vaccaro, Aleksandr Zankin and Sarah Zielinski

SCHOOL ARTISTIC/MUSICIANS

**Company Pianist** Yoland Collin

**Full-Time Pianists** Ellen Gozion, Kuan-Yi Lu, Juliet Winovich

Jack Hawn, Andrew Hook, Hyoseul Kim, Daniel McTiernan, David O'Brien, Maya Petrovich, Laura Reynolds, Sophie Shao, Vivian Shao and Lisa Wimer

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE/ **OPERATIONS** 

**Director of Operations** Aaron Rinsema

**Manager of Dance and Fitness Programs** 

Kristy Boyle

**Manager of School Communications** and Student Resources

Lindsey Gainey

Manager of School Marketing and PR

Nicole Sauter

**Registrar and Finance Manager** 

Mark Van Camp

**Administrative Support** 

Aviana Adams, Lydia Grimenstein, Wyatt Johnson, Heidi Murr and Megan Nasche

Security

Barnetta Whitman

**Housing Director** Katie Oomkes

**Byham House Residence Assistant** Sarah Bender

**Byham House Chef** Kristen Palmer

**Byham House Support Staff** 

Darby Baublitz, Kevin Donaldson, Rebecca Firstbrook, Melissa Heid and Amy Rinsema

**Consulting Psychiatrist** Antoine Douaihy, MD

**MEDICAL TEAM UPMC Sports Medicine** 

**Orthopedic Surgeon** Freddie H.K. Fu. MD

**Foot and Ankle Surgeon** MaCalus Hogan, MD

**Primary Care Sports Medicine Physician** Kellev A. Anderson, DO

**Athletic Trainer** 

Brittany Wilcosky, MS, LAT, ATC

**Physical Therapist** 

Erica Coffey, PT, MS, SCS Catherine C. Hagan Vargo, PT, DPT, OCS. SCS

**Sports Dietitian** Jeffrey Lucchino, RDN, CSSD

SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL TEAM **Podiatrist** 

Lisa Watters, D.P.M.

**VOLUNTEERS Office Volunteers** 

Alan Shadgett, Joan Vondra **Docents** Robert Fulton, Susan Mucha,

Jim Roberts and Alan Shadgett

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**VICE CHAIR** 









**TREASURER** 

**SECRETARY** 





















Jeanne Gleason



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Hal Waldman TRUSTEE EMERITUS

Loti Falk Gaffney, deceased

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