PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATRE
2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT
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.

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,
PRINCIPALS

Amanda Cichese
Tulsa, OK
Joined in 2009

Alexandra Diaz
Miami, FL
Joined in 2006

Amanda Koch
North Andover, MA
Joined in 2004

Ingrid Nakano
Osaka, Japan
Joined in 2010

Lach Daniel
Ukiah, CA
Joined in 2012

Cori Breton-Rafter
San Francisco, CA
Joined in 2012

SOLOISTS

Marion Decorti
Schwyz, Switzerland
Joined in 2014

Madison Nancy
San Antonio, TX
Joined in 2018

William Means
Westfield, NJ
Joined in 2012

Joelle Schmit
Lebanon, PA
Joined in 2012

Gabrielle Taylor
Milpitas, CA
Joined in 2007

Diana Nishi
Westburg, OH
Joined in 2013

Jonathan Bright
Delano, CA
Joined in 2016

CORPS DE BALLET

Alexandra Kochis
North Andover, MA
Joined in 2006

Hannah Carter
Orsett, England
Joined in 2013

Amanda Cochrane
Spokane, WA
Joined in 2009

Alejandro Diaz
Miami, FL
Joined in 2008

Yoshiaki Nakano
Osaka, Japan
Joined in 2010

Luca Sbrizzi
Udine, Italy
Joined in 2007

Corey Bourbonniere
Woonsocket, RI
Joined in 2012

Masahiro Haneji
Sapporo, Japan
Joined in 2014

William Moore
Ipswich, England
Joined in 2013

Gabrielle Thurlow
Buffalo, NY
Joined in 2007

JoAnna Schmidt
Eustis, FL
Joined in 2012

Diana Nishi
Westburg, OH
Joined in 2013

Jonathan Bright
Delano, CA
Joined in 2016

Tommie Lin Kesten
Pittsburgh, PA
Joined in 2018

Caitlyn Mendicino
Pittsburgh, PA
Joined in 2018

Joseph Parr
Wooster, OH
Joined in 2008

Jessica McCann
Los Angeles, CA
Joined in 2015

Josiah Kauffman
Belgrade, MT
Joined in 2019

Colin McCaslin
Vineland, NJ
Joined in 2018

Lucius Kirst
Los Angeles, CA
Joined in 2014

Erin Casale
Johnstown, PA
Joined in 2019

Allison Durand
Charleston, SC
Joined in 2019

Marisa Grywalski
Columbus, OH
Joined in 2014

JoAnna Schmidt
Eustis, FL
Joined in 2012

Jack Hawn
Denton, TX
Joined in 2019

Sam DerGingeras
Albuquerque, NM
Joined in 2019

Deivide Dumas
Erie, PA
Joined in 2007

Adrian Durand
Charleston, SC
Joined in 2019

William Moore
Ipswich, England
Joined in 2013

Jasmine Lin Graham
Los Angeles, CA
Joined in 2016

Lucas Kint
Los Angeles, CA
Joined in 2014

Jennifer McCauley
Vancouver, WA
Joined in 2018

Selah McCaul
Los Angeles, CA
Joined in 2018

Carly Mendenhall
Pittsburgh, PA
Joined in 2018

Joseph Pan
Wesley, CA
Joined in 2008

Alexandra Prots
Miami, FL
Joined in 2017

Grace Bookroad
Loveland, OH
Joined in 2017

Katie Sprinkle
Loveland, OH
Joined in 2017

Viktor Werfel
Woven, OH
Joined in 2018

Danielle Downey
Erie, PA
Joined in 2007

Jennifer McCauley
Vancouver, WA
Joined in 2018

Yu-Chieh Chao
Pingjiang, Taiwan
Joined in 2018

Joseph Parr
Wooster, OH
Joined in 2008

Erin Casale
Johnstown, PA
Joined in 2019

Allison Durand
Charleston, SC
Joined in 2019

Marisa Grywalski
Columbus, OH
Joined in 2014

Joseph Parr
Wooster, OH
Joined in 2008

The Company

| 5 |

COMPANY ROSTER

Photos: Kelly Perkovich (left) and Duane Rieder (above)
Just before the curtains opened for PBT’s 50th Anniversary Season opener, Giselle, Maestro Charles Barker announced the launch of an inspiring live music appeal. Paying respect to the generosity of an anonymous donor for an incredible matching gift of $3 million, donations and notes of admiration in honor of our 48 musicians flooded PBT’s mailbox. By June of 2020, over $1 million of the $7.2 million goal to fund the next five decades of live music had been raised.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Figures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Artists at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dancers</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>Apprentices</td>
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<td>Musicians</td>
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<td><strong>Videos Viewed</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PBT School Students</strong></td>
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<td><strong>YouTube Videos Viewed</strong></td>
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**PBT ON TOUR: CHAUTAUQUA INSTITUTION**  
July 13, 2019 | Chautauqua Institution  
3,196 audience members

**PBT ON TOUR: JORDEN MORRIS’ THE GREAT GATSBY**  
Sept. 28, 2019 | Northrop at the University of Minnesota  
1,918 audience members

**PBT ON TOUR: GISELLE WITH THE PBT ORCHESTRA**  
Oct. 25-27, 2019 | Benedum Center  
4,711 audience members

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

**PBT ON TOUR: BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**  
Feb. 14-23, 2020 | Benedum Center  
13,792 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

**PBT ON TOUR: PBT PRESENTS CLASSICAL ROMANCE**  
Nov. 8, 2019 | Seton Hill Performing Arts Center  
456 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 Pittsburgh-inspired 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.

In 2002, Orr premiered his Pittsburgh-inspired production of *The Nutcracker*, a lavish show attended by over 30,000 audience members each holiday season.

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.”
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.
As PBT’s artist in residence, sponsored by AE&E, Pittsburgh choreographer Staycee Pearl worked with PBT dancers to create Skin + Saltwater, a world premiere originally slated for Here + Now at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center.

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 times 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).
From Beauty and the Ballet at Phipps Conservatory (pictured) to Pittsburgh Public Schools’ Summer Dreamers Academy, PBT partnered with over 60 organizations, including libraries, arts organizations and schools, to engage families across the city in dance classes and education.

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.
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.
ALUMNI REUNION
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.
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
PROGRAM AND SERVICES
$1,213,827
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL
$1,016,646
FUNDRAISING AND SPECIAL EVENTS

CONTRIBUTED OPERATING REVENUE BY SOURCE

$1,447,871
INDIVIDUALS
$1,594,834
FOUNDATIONS
$649,537
GOVERNMENT
$577,757
CORPORATIONS
$274,563
IN-KIND

TOTAL: $4,744,562

CONTRIBUTED OPERATING REVENUE

$2,445,388
SHORT SALE
$2,056,623
PBT SCHOOL
$786,956
SPECIAL EVENTS
$454,000
ENDOWMENT TRANSFER
$339,613
OTHER

TOTAL: $10,827,142

SOURCES OF OPERATING REVENUE

$1,647,871
INDIVIDUALS
$1,594,834
FOUNDATIONS
$649,537
GOVERNMENT
$577,757
CORPORATIONS
$274,563
IN-KIND

TOTAL: $4,744,562

CONTRIBUTED REVENUE

$2,056,623
PBT SCHOOL
$454,000
ENDOWMENT TRANSFER
$339,613
OTHER

TOTAL: $2,445,388

TICKET SALES
$2,056,623

PBT SCHOOL
$786,956

SPECIAL EVENTS
$454,000

ENDOWMENT TRANSFER
$339,613

OTHER

TOTAL: $3,432,028

USE OF OPERATING FUNDS

$8,518,792
PROGRAM AND SERVICES
$4,441,310
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL
$1,016,646
FUNDRAISING AND SPECIAL EVENTS

FINANCIALS | 25
PARENTS' PARTNERS

FINANCING

Eaton Corporation
Crown Castle USA, Inc.
Federated Hermes, Inc.
Harlequin Floors
Jendoco Construction
Giant Eagle, Inc.
Bank of America
Shield
Highmark Blue Cross Blue
$25,000 and above

PARTNERS

CONTRIBUTORS

Allegheny County
The Shubert Foundation, Inc.
The Rackoff Family Fund
H.O. Peet Foundation
Charitable Giving
Endowment Fund
Mr. & Mrs. Roy G. Dorrance
Mr. Edwin H. Beachler, III
PJ Dick - Trumbull - Lindy

IN TIME

A GOLDEN POINTE

CHAIRMANS'

Barbara & Gerald Chait
Anonymous**

TRUSTEES' SOCIETY

Dona & Tom Hotopp
Marty & Dena LaMar**
Douglas Kreps & Constance
Dr. & Mrs. Freddie H. Fu

$5,000-9,999

Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Gleason, Jr.
Philip M. Bratten*
Leanne S. & Paul M. Adamo*
Juliet Lea H. Simonds

$1,500-2,499

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Tomlin
Wilfred T. & Ruth O. Rouleau** ***
Jason & Elizabeth Perry**
Jill & Ken Nolan**
Dr. Leslie A. Hoffmann

$250-500

Mr. Charles Snyder
Robert C. Frick
Kathleen Miclot

$100-250

Mr. & Mrs. Preston Shimer**
Lisa Salati & Brad Hillgartner
Mr. & Mrs. E. Kears Pollock

$50-100

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Latimer
Maureen & Mike Proia
Sara & Francis Nardelli

$10-50

Mr. & Mrs. Michael D. Poston
Bill & Mary Kauderer
Dr. & Mrs. David J. Applegate

Cookies

Agustin & Jennifer Medici
Dane’ Marshall* **
Marian & Steve Mosites Family**
Ramsey & Mike Lyons**

$5

Ms. Jacquelyn Cavanaugh
Christopher Budzynski
Ms. Sheryl E. Brady*
Sarah & James Bohnhoff

SOLOISTS'

Ms. Irene J. Dinning
Laura DeGeer
Kent & Merle Culey
Rosemary K. Coffey
Dr. Julie & Mr. Josue Orellana

$10

Dr. Ralph T. Shuey & Rebecca
Angela Rhodes
Ms. Donna M. Kaczynski**
Ms. Donna J. Nedelk* **
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Zubritzky*
Your support has kept us creating, connecting and inspiring through an unprecedented season. Thanks to you, we will be ready when the curtain rises.