

FALL 2018



EN POINTE



DEAR ALUMNI, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS,

I am excited for another great season and to celebrate a milestone in our forty-third season here at Ballet Excel Ohio. Our outreach program, **Reach Out And Dance®**, is celebrating **20 years** of reaching underserved children in our community. We are also actively participating in community events and collaborations with Cuyahoga Valley Art Center, our annual Gala "A Night in Neverland", the Tree Festival at the Knight Center, Wayne Center Ballet's Nutcracker, in-school performances, educational library performances and more ideas in the works.

For 20 years Reach Out And Dance® is the only dance outreach program in schools that invests in bringing serious classical ballet training to those who otherwise might not have the opportunity. Through hard work, dedication and life lessons these dancers are integrated into Ballet Excel Ohio and get to enjoy the same experiences many of you were able to cherish all the way through their high school graduation through scholarships. It is by far the largest investment of dance training for underserved children in our community. We are proud to keep dance and classical ballet training alive and thriving in Northeast Ohio. If you would like to learn more about our program or donate, please go to our website at www.balletexcelohio.org.

Our annual Akron Civic Theater performances on March 9 and 10, 2019 will feature a reprisal of Laszlo Berdo's "Peter Pan" and Tom Gold's "Symphonic NANSense" a tribute to my mother, Founding Artistic Director Nan Klinger. The inventive sets, including a pirate ship, colorful costumes and choreography will captivate audience members of all ages.

We hope you will put our shows on your calendar, bring family and friends and help us engage your schools, social networks and groups with a truly unique dance experience. For those of you who haven't received an e-blast, joined our Facebook page or viewed our website, we would welcome your email contact information to update our database and eventually go green. You can contact us by mail, phone or email to respond.

Our challenge as a youth ballet company has been to increase our individual donations through people like you, alumni, families and friends. Please know that 90% of each dollar donated goes directly to programming. This support allows us to bring classical ballet to the community regardless of the ability to pay, provide the highest level of pre-professional training and experiences to our dancers, provides opportunities to students to learn from world class choreographers and master class instructors, and offer free dance education to underserved children through ROAD. We list our supporters on our programs, Facebook, Instagram and website at www.balletexcelohio.org. Being able to continue the vision of my mother, Founding Artistic Director Nan Klinger, is important for our dancers and our community. I feel blessed to be a part of this great organization and hope you will find it in your heart to help the arts stay alive in our area. Sincerely,

Mia Klinger



DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

For the coming year we are pleased to announce that an anonymous donor – a former member of our Company – has given us a special holiday gift. **For every dollar donated between now and January 15, 2019, she will match it up to \$2500.** Her generosity means that **EVERY DOLLAR YOU DONATE WILL BE DOUBLED!**

BE THE DIFFERENCE in a child's life:
<http://www.balletexcelohio.org/index.php/support/donate>

Gifts like this don't come along very often, so I hope you can help us to get the most out of this opportunity. **No gift is too small.**

A night in

Neverland

Our “**Night in Neverland**” themed Gala, held at Lake Forest Country Club on October 13, 2018, was a remarkable success this year! A genuine and wholehearted thank you to

everyone that donated time, resources, or talent to make this spectacular event come together so beautifully!

This year’s event was well attended with 118 guests arriving in style to enjoy the evening, and the night was also financially successful garnering over \$7,600 in corporate and individual sponsorships, combined with proceeds of the silent and live auction which utilized the electronic bidding program, BIDPAL, we successfully raised a total of **\$39,000!**

Throughout the evening, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of Ballet Excel’s community outreach program, Reach Out And Dance® (ROAD®). Since its inception, ROAD® has been dedicated to educating underserved children in the art of dance. The program services students who otherwise would not have the opportunity to experience dance and positively change the trajectory of their lives. Not only does this program include specially trained dance teachers going directly into the schools

to provide free classes, the program also includes a special “scholarship” component that allows talented and passionate kiddos the opportunity to pursue more serious dance education at Nan Klinger Excellence in Dance studio. A special “paddle raise” was conducted specifically to bring in monies for this important programming.

Several of our dancers greeted guests dressed as Pirates, Captain Hook, Peter Pan, and Tinker Bell. These adorable greeters, in conjunction with fantastic decorations created by Ballet Excel parents, Theresa Arnold and Jackie Zorich, provided the perfect atmosphere for guests to feel as though they were truly flying away to Neverland for the night. And, everyone enjoyed a good laugh when our BXO president, Mr. Kevin Coughlin, gave the “Welcome Address” dressed up like Peter Pan!

The theme of “Neverland” was chosen this year for our Gala because Ballet Excel’s biggest production in 2018-2019 will be the much-loved Peter Pan ballet, choreographed by Laszlo Berdo from Charlotte Ballet. This ballet will be performed at the Akron Civic Theatre on March 9th and 10th. Please save the dates as this will be a wonderful family-friendly show!

One of the climaxes at our Gala included a lovely performance by Ballet Excel dancers Abbie Mathews, Elizabeth Coughlin, Jade Blankenship, Jonathan McCray, Lex Zorich, Sameer Mainali, Vivian Gray, and Emma Doucet. And, Thecla Harris, one of ROAD®’s founding Artistic Consultants, and Lori Klinger, the founding Artistic Director of ROAD®, were honored in appreciation of their selfless contributions to the instruction of dance.

Undoubtedly, it is because of our community’s generous support and participation in our fundraisers that we have been able to provide arts education in Northeast Ohio for so many years. The money raised by this year’s Gala will help Ballet Excel Ohio continue its mission of bringing original ballets to local schools and community venues in northeast Ohio. Education in the arts is such a critical component to the overall academic success of our young people. Ballet Excel is

proud to use our programs, such as ROAD®, as well as our other programs, Ballet Excel on Tour, Community Ticketing, and Scouting for the Arts to educate and inspire local children and their families.

The money raised through this year’s event will allow Ballet Excel Ohio to continue to be a leader in our community when it comes to youth performing arts!



In Memory of

MRS KATE LIEBERTH LYTTON

A letter written by Emma Lieberth Osborne,
in honor of her sister, Kate

My sister, Kate Lieberth Lytton, was always dancing. From the time she was a little girl dancing through the hallways at school, the grocery store, and in our house, she never stopped moving. She would twirl and jump, point her feet and throw up her arms in ways as a little sister, I didn't quite understand. Kate grew up at the Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet. She spent countless nights and weekends learning from the best teachers from around the country, but most importantly from Miss Nan. Thanks to the CVYB training she received, Kate spent her summers participating in summer study in Chautauqua, New York, Boston and Austin (to name a few). Kate continued her passion for ballet at the University of Utah, then professionally at Ballet Memphis, Oakland (California) Ballet, and Company C Contemporary Ballet in the Bay area, where she met her husband, Alec Lytton.

Upon returning to Akron four years ago, Kate was anxious to give back to the studio she loved and learned so much from. Kate and Alec quickly became part of the BXO family where they taught ballet and she took over the ROAD program to introduce the art of ballet to children in NE Ohio. Two weeks before Kate passed away, she got to watch Genevieve, her 3-year-old daughter star as the baby kangaroo in Carnival of the Animals. Thanks to Ballet Excel, my sister was able



*“she lives on in the
lives of the students
she loved to teach”*



to see her daughter on the stage at the Akron Civic Theater, the first of what would become many stages, where audiences got to witness her beauty.

Although Kate is no longer physically with us, she lives on in the lives of the students she loved to teach at Ballet Excel and her little girls. As the little sister who was much more interested in sports, I used to hate the time I spent in the studio or at the hundreds of dance performances I had to sit through over the years. But now, as an adult and Aunt to her two children, I realize the time I spent watching her on stage and passion for dance, are memories I will never forget and grateful to be able to share with my nieces.

Kate made her students better. Kate made all of us better. And we are forever grateful for the beautiful life she lived.

To the readers, thank you for the love and support we have and continue to receive.

LETTER FROM BOARD PRESIDENT, KEVIN COUGHLIN

Now in its 43rd season, Ballet Excel Ohio, formerly Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet has been delighting audiences with performances and providing exceptional ballet training to the youth of our communities.

The company is hard at work getting ready to perform **Peter Pan** choreographed by Laszlo Berdo. Also, this year, they will do a reprise of a company favorite - Symphonic **NANsense** choreographed by Tom Gold.



Our dancers, choreographers, and staff are center stage. But I want to recognize the many contributions made by our families. Your time, treasure and talents help make BXO the premier dance experience in the region for our kids, as well as a source of top notch productions year in and year out. From the annual Gala, to studio monitoring, coordinating costumes, sets and production, and everything in between our families make BXO a special organization. Thank you.

Let's fill the Akron Civic Theatre March 9 & 10 with your families and friends as we cap off the season with **Peter Pan**.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Board President. If there is anything you would like to talk about, I am more than happy to hear from you at president@balletexcelohio.org.

Kevin Coughlin

President of the Board

ROAD® TURNS 20!



This year, ROAD® (Reach out and Dance) celebrates its 20th year as the educational outreach arm of BXO. In 1998, Lori Klinger and Thecla Harris had a vision to bring the experience of dance to students who would normally not have access to this art. Using creative dance movements and rhythm, ROAD® students discover the value of teamwork, self-discipline, and increased self-esteem while learning that hard work and dedication lead to success well beyond the classroom.

Twenty years later, ROAD® has cumulatively impacted over 10,000 children in northeast Ohio! This year alone, almost 500 students from 5 schools will participate in the program. Because of the generosity of donors like you, some ROAD® students from the 10-week school programs will be chosen to receive full scholarships for pre-professional dance training at Excellence in Dance during the summer months. From these summer study students, a few who exhibit true commitment to excellence in dance are then offered full scholarships for the entire school year. These scholarships are re-evaluated each year and are often renewed continuously through the dancers' high school graduation. Often these students are accepted into BXO and become valuable company members, as well as growing into dedicated, confident, and responsible adults.

We are so grateful for each of you for keeping the vision of ROAD® vibrant for 20 years and investing in the lives of these dancers! **Happy Anniversary, ROAD®!**

Please check out the ROAD® Facebook and Instagram pages for updates through the year.



WELCOME APPRENTICES

Nadia Lanham	4th grade	Scope Academy
Darya Olefir	6th grade	Saint Patrick's
Brieahn Beckett	5th grade	Portage Path Community Learning Center
Hannah Kennel	10th grade	Tallmadge High School
Jonathon McCray	7th grade	Miller South
Madeline Pierce	5th grade	Homeschooled
Madison Teets	6th grade	Roberts Middle School
Ellie Pildner	4th grade	Miller South
Brooke Wagner	7th grade	Tallmadge Middle School
Ariana Moneskey	4th grade	Silver Lake Elementary

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 13	A Night in Neverland Gala, Lake Forest Country Club
November 24	Holiday Tree Festival, John S. Knight Center
January 5	Library Performance, Hudson Library and Historical Society
January 19	Library Performance, Kent Free Library
January 23	In-School Performance, Firestone High School (for APS)
January 26	Library Performance, Summit County Public Library (Fairlawn-Bath Branch)
January 30	In-School Performance, Dover City Schools
February 2	Library Performance, Cuyahoga Falls Library
February 16	Library Performance, Akron-Summit County Main Library
February 28	In-School Performance, Our Lady of the Elms
March 9 & 10	Civic Performances: Peter Pan and Symphonic NANsense

2018 SUMMER STUDY

Our dancers were busy this summer! The end of the school year means opportunities for our dancers to travel near and far to gain valuable dance experiences. Listed below is how Ballet Excel dancers spent their summer studies:

Lisa Aiken	EID	Sameer Mainali	EID
Lilyann Arnold	EID	Abigail Mathews	Sarasota Cuban Ballet Sarasota, FL
Rebecca Banig	EID		EID
Jade Blankenship	Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY	Wendy Moreno-Garcia	EID
	EID	Julia Pentasuglio	EID
Danielle Castle	EID	Emma Simms	Saratoga Springs Summer Dance Intensive;
Elizabeth Coughlin	Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY		Saratoga Springs, NY
	EID		EID
Emma Doucet	Saratoga Springs Summer Dance Intensive;	Maggie Stone	EID
	Saratoga Springs, NY	Clara Woods	EID
Ellie Ferry	Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY	Adalyn Zorich	EID
	EID	Lex Zorich	Chautauqua Institution Chautauqua, NY
Vivian Gray	Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY		EID
	EID		
Jenna Harris	EID		
Johnathan McCray	Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY		
	EID		

EID = Excellence In Dance

BALLET EXCEL OHIO 2018 AWARDS SUMMER DANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

KATE LIEBERTH LYTTON SCHOLARSHIP

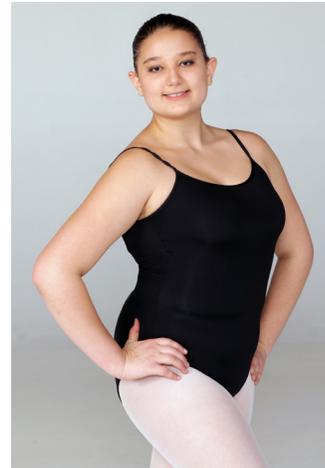
Vivian Gray

NAN KLINGER SCHOLARSHIP

Lilyann Arnold

CYNTHIA KNIGHT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Jade Blankenship	Ellie Ferry
Elizabeth Coughlin	Abigail Mathews
Emma Doucet	Alexander Zorich



Senior

Danielle Castle,
NIHF
(National Inventors
Hall of Fame)
STEM School

OUR FUNDING

Thank you to these incredible organizations that make Ballet Excel Ohio, and its outreach programs, accessible to the youth of our community.

Peg's Foundation	The Noble Foundation	Sisler McFawn Foundation	Anonymous
The Clara Faber Foundation	Akron Community Foundation	Wells Fargo Bank	The Mary & Dr. George L. Demetros Charitable Trust
Ohio Arts Council	The Maynard Family Foundation	The Muna and Basem Hismeh Foundation, Inc.	Charles E. & Mabel M. Ritchie Memorial Foundation
GAR Foundation Fund for Dance in Summit County, Akron Community Foundation	The Lloyd L. & Louise K. Smith Foundation	Welty Family Foundation	The R. C. and Katharine M. Musson Charitable Foundation
The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation		OMNOVA Solutions Foundation	



Artistic Director Mia Klinger
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balletexcelohio.org ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MIA KLINGER

FEATURE BALLET
PETER PAN
CHOREOGRAPHED BY LASZLO BERDO

March 9 & 10, 2019
AKRON CIVIC THEATRE
balletexcelohio.org

A TRIBUTE TO FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

NANsense symphonic

2018-2019
Ballet Excel Ohio Dancers

