



SUMMER 2016

# EN POINTE



## NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

Over the past three years, this fun evening has grown to be one of our largest fundraising events, with more than \$20,000 raised annually to cover costs associated with our community performances.

Your Gala Committee has been hard at work all summer ensuring that this year's event will be a lively and memorable evening filled with fun raffles, a delicious meal prepared by gourmet chefs, and a short performance by our very own BXO dancers that will surely delight all those that attend.

Most exciting, our **LIVE AUCTION** will be chock full of many fabulous bidding opportunities that you will not want to miss! Who wouldn't want to bid on a *fantastic trip to New York City?* Who doesn't want *phenomenal seats to all the best sporting events in town?* And, best of all, our wonderful Artistic Director, Miss Mia, has agreed to auction off a "Get Out of Jail Free" card that your dancer can use one time this year to miss a weekend rehearsal! This will allow a lucky BXO family the luxury of an extra day off from the hustle and bustle of weekend dance.

The live auction is not the only big event of the night. Our **SILENT AUCTION** will also include many creative and intriguing themed-baskets that will be over-flowing with awesome bottles of wine, gift certificates, vouchers for area events and activities, and other remarkable odds and ends. The evening will also be highlighted with the opportunity to win great prizes from the "*Fifth and Final*" contest, a chance to try a special key in the "*Secret Treasure Box*," and... **A RAFFLE TO WIN THE COVETED "STUDIO PARKING SPACE" FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR.**

**New this year will be the sale of the "Passé Books."** These special pass books will include coupons that dancers use throughout the year to redeem unique privileges. For example, there will be a coupon for your dancer to wear "junk clothes" (i.e. sweats, t-shirts, warm up gear) to dance class instead of donning the tradition leotard, a coupon for your dancer to lead a class or help teach a pre-school class, a coupon for your dancer to attend one upper-level class that will challenge their skills, and many other coupons that will add fun to their dance year. **AND ... HIDDEN INSIDE ONE SPECIAL "PASSÉ BOOK" WILL BE A GOLDEN TICKET ~ A \$250 GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR DANCE LESSONS AT EXCELLENCE IN DANCE.**



## BALLET EXCEL OHIO'S ANNUAL GALA NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2016**

Portage Country Club • Akron, Ohio

[www.balletexcelohio.org](http://www.balletexcelohio.org) • [gala@balletexcelohio.org](mailto:gala@balletexcelohio.org)

To add a little New York City style to this event, raffle tickets are being sold for an **opportunity to win transportation for ten to and from the event in a STRETCH LIMO!** Tickets for this exciting raffle can be purchased by visiting [balletexcelohio.org](http://balletexcelohio.org) or you can buy your tickets at the studio. Buy one ticket for \$25, or purchase two tickets for \$40. **The lucky winner will be announced on October 1st!**

**Please spread the word about this fantastic event!** Your Gala Committee is hoping for a large showing of our BXO parents that evening, and we encourage you all to invite your friends. **To show our appreciation to all BXO members who come to the event WITH NON-BXO GUESTS, you will be treated to an extra drink ticket to use during the evening.** We also hope to see all our CVYB/BXO alumni, as well. What better way to give back to the ballet company of your childhood than to attend our special Gala event!

To order tickets, visit our website: [balletexcelohio.org](http://balletexcelohio.org) or contact us at [gala@balletexcelohio.org](mailto:gala@balletexcelohio.org).

## LETTER FROM BOARD PRESIDENT, SARA BLANKENSHIP

As the summer comes to an end, our ballet season has just begun. We are very excited about our performances this year with Ballet Excel Ohio. The dancers are hard at work, learning new choreography.

Our Gala Chairs are also hard at work on our upcoming annual auction gala fundraiser. We are excited to have a new venue this year at Portage Country Club with a "New York State of Mind" theme.

Please consider donating and attending this worthwhile event. This is our main fundraiser of the year.

All funds raised by BXO through generous donations from the community go into our general operating fund to support the mission of Ballet Excel Ohio. Ballet Excel Ohio exists to prepare and inspire the dancers of tomorrow (Company), provide free tickets to children and families who might otherwise be unable to experience a ballet performance (Community Tickets), make the arts accessible by bringing it directly to schools, libraries, and local venues (BXO on Tour), provide an educational outreach program which aims to brighten the lives of children through the arts (ROAD®) and bring scouts and their families to the ballet each year (Go See It! Scouting for the Arts).

Thankfully, many members and community supporters have stepped up and contributed to the success of our company in the past. I want to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone who has contributed. Ballet Excel Ohio could not survive without each and every one of you contributing and participating in our organization while supporting and donating to the arts in our community.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Gala this coming October!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Board President. If there is anything you would like to chat about, just send me an e-mail or call. I look forward to hearing from you! (president@balletexcelohio.org 216-509-3500).

Best regards,

Sara Blankenship  
President of the Board



## WELCOME APPRENTICES

Ballet Excel Ohio welcomes its 2016 Apprentices

From left to right: Lilyann Arnold, Abigail Mathews,  
Gordy Dix

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 14	<i>New York State of Mind</i> Gala, Portage Country Club
November 26 at Noon	Holiday Tree Festival, John S. Knight Center
December 10	Nutcracker Ballet, Wooster
January 31	Dover In-School Performance
February TBD	Our Lady of the Elms In-School Performance
March 11 & 12	Civic Performances: <b>Little Mermaid</b> and <b>USO</b>
April/May TBD	ROAD End of Year Performances

## OUR FUNDING

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



# 2016 SUMMER STUDY

Our dancers have been 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 are spending their summer studies:

Joni Allen	EID
Lilyann Arnold	EID
Sophia Belfance Colford	EID
Jade Blankenship	Ribbon Mill Ballet PA, EID
Sophia Boyages	Ballet Austin, EID
Danielle Castle	EID
Marissa Common	EID
Elizabeth Coughlin	Ribbon Mill Ballet PA, EID
Gordy Dix	EID
Paige Dix	EID
Emma Doucet	Ribbon Mill Ballet PA, EID
Elaina Evans	EID
Ellie Ferry	Ribbon Mill Ballet PA, EID
Maia Ferry	Ribbon Mill Ballet PA, EID
Vivian Gray	Chautauqua Institute, EID
Jenna Harris	EID

Max Haslinger	EID
Makenna Johnson	Ribbon Mill Ballet PA, EID
Emily Kavenagh	Saratoga Summer Dance, EID
Emily Kline	Miami City Ballet, EID
Megan Linnen	EID
Carolyn Lott	Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, EID
Abigail Matthews	EID
Jocelyn Oh	EID
Audrey Oplinger	EID
Emma Oplinger	EID
Julia Pentasuglio	Ribbon Mill Ballet PA, EID
Cara Poblete	American Dance Center, EID
Christianna Poblete	Pacific Northwest Ballet, EID
Maggie Stone	Ribbon Mill Ballet PA, EID
Lex Zorich	EID

EID = Excellence In Dance

## BXO DANCERS GET EXCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITY

A group of Ballet Excel Ohio dancers spent a week training with Leslie Hensch of Ribbon Mill Ballet in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Technique class, pointe, and variations classes allowed our Company members to experience Leslie Hensch's expertise first hand. Our dancers came back home refreshed and invigorated, and ready to tackle the summer training.



# BALLET EXCEL OHIO AWARDS SUMMER DANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Through our generous donors, grants and fundraisers, Ballet Excel Ohio was able to award dance scholarships to our company dancers at the End of the Year Celebration. Congratulations to all scholarship award recipients.

## NAN KLINGER MEMORIAL AWARD

\$750 Carolyn Lott

## GAYLE NOBLE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

\$1000 Emily Kavenagh  
\$1000 Emily Kline  
\$500 Jade Blankenship  
\$500 Maia Ferry  
\$500 Vivian Gray  
\$500 Makenna Johnson  
\$500 Cara Poblete  
\$500 Christianna Poblete



## BXO PRESENTS THE NUTCRACKER AT THE WAYNE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Ballet Excel will present The Nutcracker Ballet on December 10 in Wooster, Ohio. The ballet is based on the story "The Nutcracker and the King of Mice" written by E.T.A. Hoffman. Although what is seen on the stage today is different in detail from the original story, the basic plot remains the same; The story of a young German girl who dreams of a Nutcracker Prince and a fierce battle against a Mouse King with seven heads.



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
MIA KLINGER  
[balletexcelohio.org](http://balletexcelohio.org)

[balletexcelohio.org](http://balletexcelohio.org)



## THE LITTLE Mermaid HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

MARCH 11 & 12, 2017  
AKRON CIVIC THEATRE  
CHOREOGRAPHED BY TOM GOLD



## USO RADIO SHOW - WORLD WAR II

In 1941, United Service Organizations (USO) were founded as a civilian, non-profit organization to provide assistance to men and women in the United States armed forces. During WWII, it raised monies for its programs by putting on variety shows. Famous entertainers from Bob Hope, Kate Smith and Ginger Rogers lent their names and talent to these USO shows which were produced locally overseas.

We are excited to welcome back choreographer, Francis Patrelle to share the patriotic fervor of the USO shows through it's use of song, music and dance numbers.