



OKLAHOMA  
CITY  
BALLET

ROBERT MILLS  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

2017/18

ANNUAL REPORT



OKCBALLET.ORG



## MISSION STATEMENT

Oklahoma City Ballet  
inspires its audience through  
classical and contemporary  
dance performances, a strong  
educational program, and  
community service.

OKLAHOMA CITY BALLET DANCERS  
SWAN LAKE | PHOTO BY: KATE LUBER

## LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Oklahoma City Ballet Family,

What a year it has been! Words such as renaissance, rebirth, and transformation have been used to describe the incredible changes taking place at Oklahoma City Ballet. Thanks to your support, Oklahoma City Ballet is not only thriving but growing—whether it's our evolving repertoire, our expanding Yvonne Chouteau School, or exciting new outreach efforts.

Thanks to our extremely talented Artistic Director, Robert Mills, our company is recognized as a rising star in the industry. This growing reputation allowed Oklahoma City Ballet to stage important works in 2017/18 including Jiří Kylián's *Petite Mort* and Helen Pickett's *Petal*. Robert's own choreography took center stage not only with the holiday standard *The Nutcracker*, but with the world premieres of *The Little Mermaid* and *The Means to Fly*.

The Oklahoma City Ballet Yvonne Chouteau School is Oklahoma's only American Ballet Theatre certified school and continues to provide high quality artistic training with a keen eye on dancer health and child development. More than 555 students passed through the doors of our new Susan E. Brackett Dance Center in 2017/18. This included students in our first-ever Trainee program for aspiring professional dancers.

As part of our community enrichment efforts, Oklahoma City Ballet sent certified teachers to twelve area schools to provide free ballet instruction. We also offered free classes for senior citizens and Parkinson's patients to help them improve their balance and mobility. Schools from across the state were invited to free Ballet performances at Civic Center Music Hall, bringing the art of Ballet to some 4,000 students.

Thank you for helping make all of this possible. Whether it was buying tickets, supporting our annual campaign, or donating to our community outreach programs, you are a part of Oklahoma City Ballet's transformation. Your tremendous support and generosity made an impact in 2017/18 and will for years to come. Thank you!



Jo Lynne Jones  
John Kirkpatrick Executive Director  
Oklahoma City Ballet



# STAFF

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Robert Mills

## JOHN KIRKPATRICK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jo Lynne Jones

## SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Penny Askew

## BALLET MASTERS

Penny Askew

Miki Kawamura

Ronnie Underwood

OKLAHOMA CITY BALLET DANCERS  
PETAL | PHOTO BY: KATE LUBER

## PRINCIPAL DANCERS

Jonathan Batista Courtney Connor Jones DaYoung Jung  
Miki Kawamura Alvin Tovstogray Ronnie Underwood

## SOLOISTS

Amanda Herd-Popejoy Autumn Klein Walker Martin  
Jefferson Payne Amy Potter

## CORPS DE BALLET

Zachary Artice Seth Bradley Paige Brown Daina Gingras  
Claire Glavin Daniel Hardman Sam Jones Arianna Lawson  
Dave Naquin Mayu Odaka Joe Seaton Sarah Jane Stropes  
Carrie Ruth Trumbo Rayleigh Vendt

## APPRENTICES

Mickayla Carr Randolph Fernandez Lori Hernández  
DeShawn Marshall Alexandra Schooling Aldrin Vendt

## STUDIO COMPANY

Taylor Arel, Chrisanne Ayers, Hannah Barr, Tylor Bradshaw, Layla Brent  
Claire Buehler, Isaac Buller, Molly Cook, Abigrace Diprima, Gabriella Dorman,  
Jimena Flores-Sanchez, Megan Foley, Julianna Gallant, Alejandro Gonzalez,  
Sheridan Guerin, Kirsten Kemp, Olivia MacCabe, Natalie Matsuura,  
Olivia Mitchell, Brianna Moriarty, Leah Morris, Michaela Parrish, Katie Pilone,  
Amber Robinson, Camille Robinson, Kara Troester, Loretta Williams

## COMPANY TEACHERS

Victoria Bearden Boyko Dossev  
Donn Edwards Alexa Fioroni Slaughter

## DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Whitney Cross Moore

## DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Robin Baldwin

## COMPANY MANAGER

Stephanie Aaron

## COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Christina Allen

## EVENTS & DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Matthew Wade

## DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Stephanie Pitts

## DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

Abigail Agosta

## BOX OFFICE MANAGER

Justin Seal

## SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Lynna Tallchief

## SCHOOL RECEPTIONIST

Tabitha Carr-Rhoades

## HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR

Sheila Lawrence

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

Lestari Kusumawardani

## OPERATIONS MANAGER

John Kimbrell

## COSTUME DIRECTOR

Dayna Brown

## RESIDENT LIGHTING DESIGNER

Aaron Mooney

## CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATE

Caleigh Blu Donaghe

## STAGE MANAGER

Courtney DiBello

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEACHERS

Cassandra Mills  
Macaira Pinto  
Erica Portell  
Megan Simpson  
Laura Ward  
James Williams

## COMPANY PIANISTS

Miho Fisher  
John Fry  
Tookah Sapper

# SWAN LAKE

OCTOBER 20-22, 2017



SPONSORED BY  
 CADENCE  
HOMES

WITH  OKCPHIL

# THE NUTCRACKER

PRESENTED BY DEVON ENERGY

devon 

WITH  OKCPHIL



WORLD PREMIERE

# THE LITTLE MERMAID

FEBRUARY 16-18, 2018



SPONSORED BY

 Express  
EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

 MIDFIRST  
BANK

 OKC  
OKLAHOMA CITY

APRIL 13-15, 2018

# petite mort

a triple bill



Jiří Kylián's  
**PETITE MORT**  
(Company Premiere)

Helen Pickett's  
**PETAL**  
(Oklahoma Premiere)

Robert Mills'  
**THE MEANS TO FLY**  
(World Premiere)

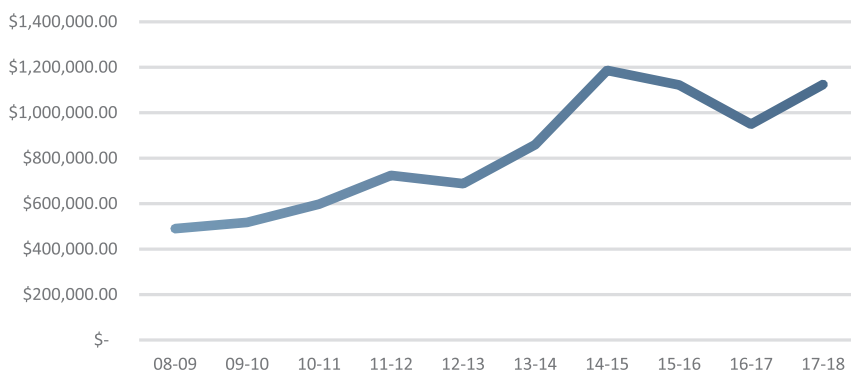


# PERFORMANCE IMPACT

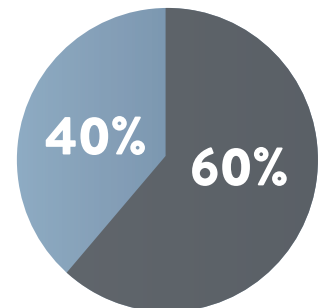


OKLAHOMA CITY BALLET DANCERS  
THE MEANS TO FLY | PHOTO BY: KATE LUBER

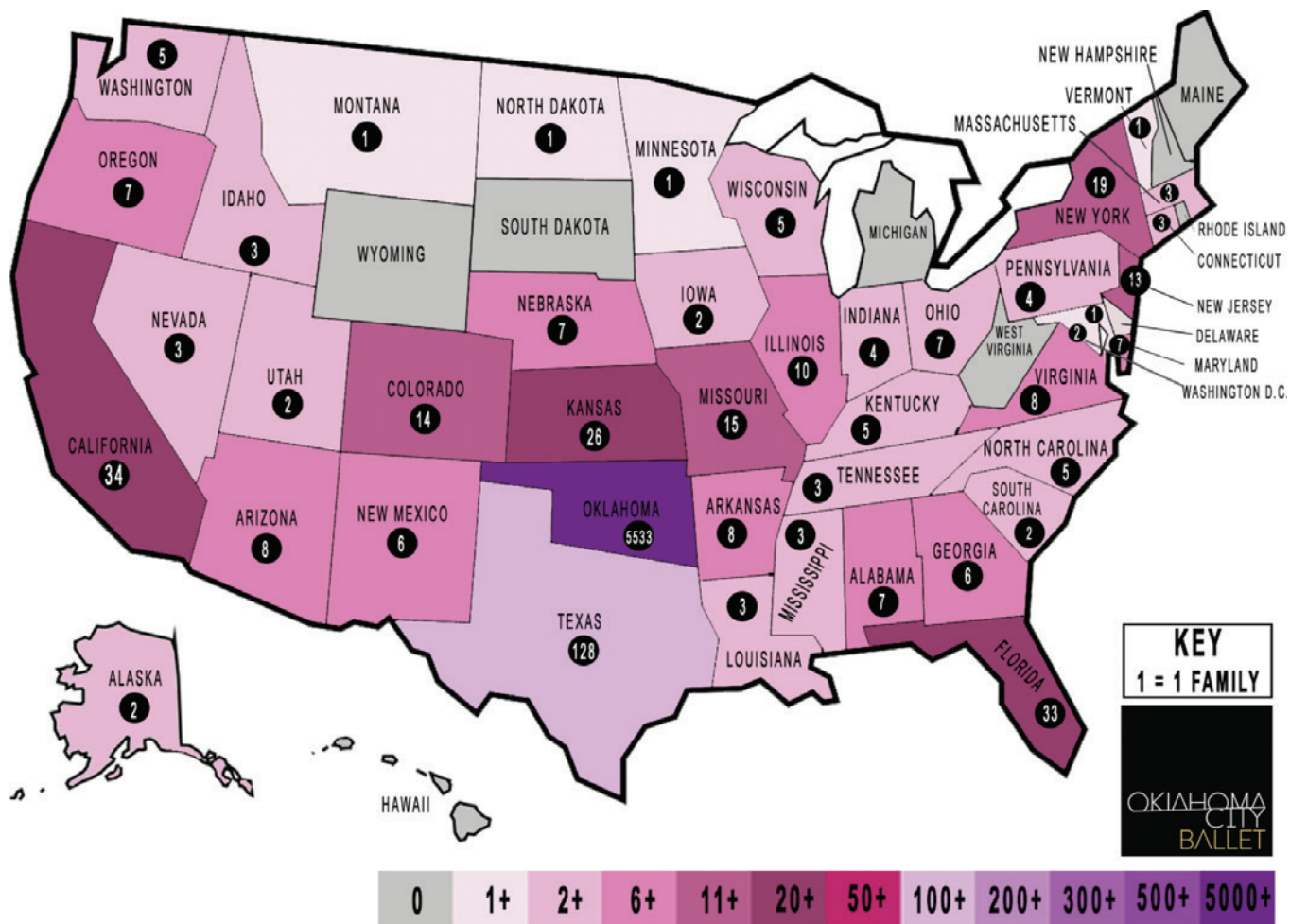
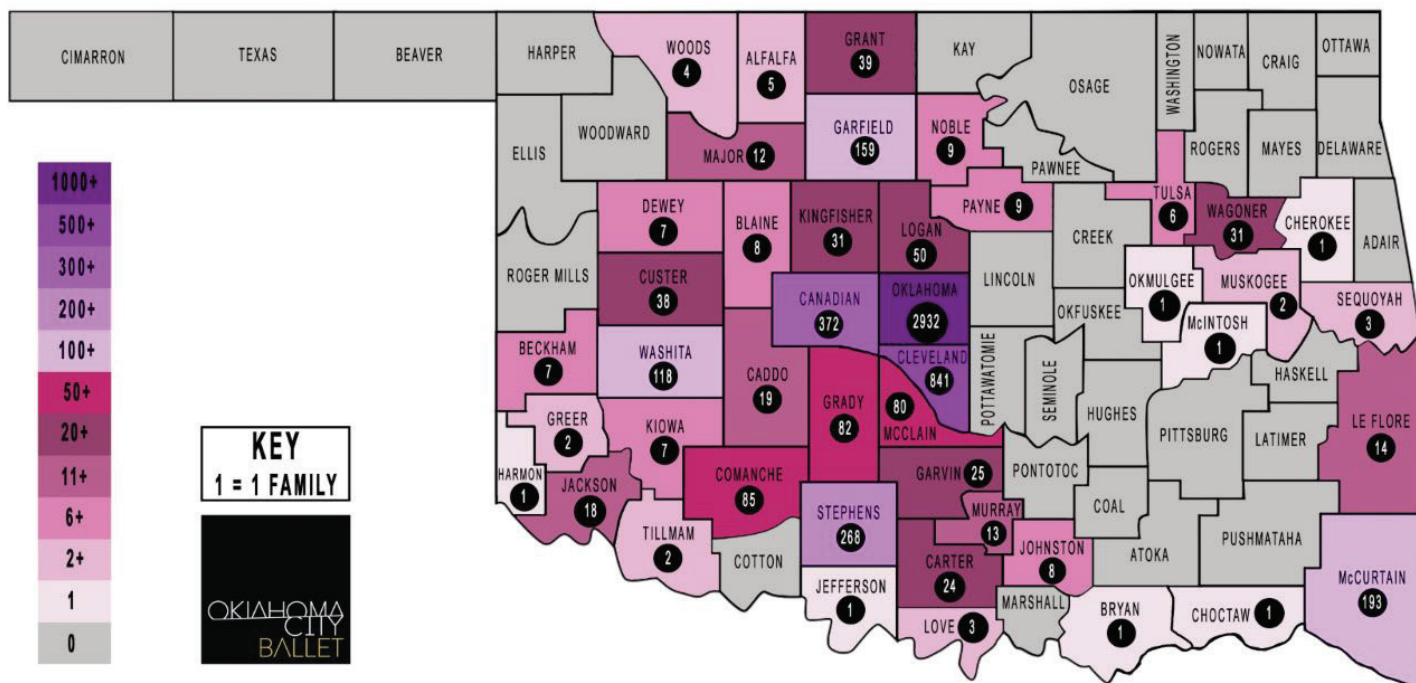
## TICKET SALES REVENUE



## INCOME



\*Not including Capital Campaign





# PERFORMANCE PHOTOS

- SWAN LAKE
- THE NUTCRACKER  
Presented by Devon Energy
- THE LITTLE  
MERMAID
- PETITE MORT,  
A TRIPLE BILL

Jiří Kylián's  
**PETITE MORT** (Company Premiere)

Helen Pickett's  
**PETAL** (Oklahoma Premiere)

Robert Mills'  
**THE MEANS TO FLY** (World Premiere)



OKLAHOMA CITY BALLET DANCERS  
SWAN LAKE | PHOTO BY: JANA CARSON



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OKLAHOMA CITY BALLET DANCERS  
SWAN LAKE | PHOTO BY: JANA CARSON



MIKI KAWAMURA & JONATHAN BATISTA, PRINCIPALS  
SWAN LAKE | PHOTO BY: JANA CARSON



OKLAHOMA CITY BALLET DANCERS  
THE NUTCRACKER | PHOTO BY: KATE LUBER



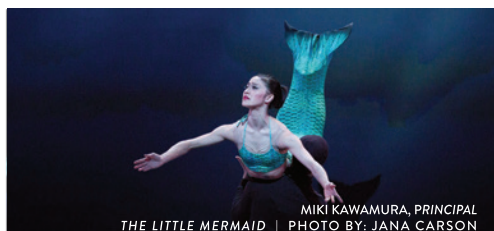
MIKI KAWAMURA & ALVIN TOVSTOGRAY, PRINCIPALS  
THE NUTCRACKER | PHOTO BY: KATE LUBER



AMANDA HERD-POPEJOY & JEFFERSON PAYNE, SOLOISTS  
THE NUTCRACKER | PHOTO BY: KATE LUBER



OKLAHOMA CITY BALLET DANCERS  
THE LITTLE MERMAID | PHOTO BY: JANA CARSON



MIKI KAWAMURA, PRINCIPAL  
THE LITTLE MERMAID | PHOTO BY: JANA CARSON



OKLAHOMA CITY BALLET DANCERS  
THE LITTLE MERMAID | PHOTO BY: JANA CARSON



OKLAHOMA CITY BALLET DANCERS  
PETAL | PHOTO BY: KATE LUBER



MIKI KAWAMURA & ALVIN TOVSTOGRAY, PRINCIPALS  
PETITE MORT | PHOTO BY: KATE LUBER



MAYU ODAKA, CORPS DE BALLET & WALKER MARTIN, SOLOIST  
THE MEANS TO FLY | PHOTO BY: KATE LUBER



THE YVONNE CHOUTEAU  
SCHOOL

## OKLAHOMA CITY BALLET

- Offered 23 different classes
- Served over 555 students
- Awarded over \$180,000 in scholarships
- Recognized as one of only five ABT Certified Schools, with 100% pass rate on ABT examinations
- Launched Oklahoma City Ballet's first ever Trainee program for aspiring professional dancers

PHOTOS BY: KATE LUBER & JANA CARSON

The Oklahoma City Ballet Yvonne Chouteau School is the official school of Oklahoma City Ballet and Oklahoma's only American Ballet Theatre® Certified School. The school offers classes for students ranging from age three to adult and from beginner to advanced in a disciplined yet nurturing environment. Sharing our facility with a professional company enriches each student's experience by allowing them to observe those dancers in classes, rehearsals, and performances, in addition to offering opportunities to perform with Oklahoma City Ballet in productions such as *The Nutcracker* presented by Devon Energy.





# OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Oklahoma City Ballet is dedicated to providing dance education and community based performances throughout central Oklahoma. Oklahoma City Ballet reaches thousands annually through our FIVE outreach programs:

- BalletReach
- Project Plîè
- ArtsReach
- BalletKids Club
- Golden Swans

## BALLETREACH

- Serves nearly 1,000 students
- Provides on-site ballet classes to 12 underserved schools in Oklahoma City and the surrounding metro

## PROJECT PLÎÈ

- Program started by American Ballet Theatre inspired by ABT Principal Misty Copeland with the purpose to increase diversity in the world of ballet
- Nearly 70 hours of on-site instruction provided in partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Oklahoma County
- Ballet shoes and costumes provided for students performing in the end of year program alongside the Yvonne Chouteau School students

## ARTSREACH

- Serves over 4,000 students across the state of Oklahoma
- Provides an eight week curriculum to teachers that covers all aspects of ballet and performance production
- ArtsReach culminates in a live performance at the Civic Center Music Hall, in the 17-18 season, students saw portions of Robert Mills' *The Means to Fly* and Helen Pickett's *Petal*

## BALLETKIDS CLUB

- Free ticket program for other youth-oriented non-profits in OKC
- Participating organizations include all four sites of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Oklahoma County, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Prairie Dance Theater, and Aspiring Attitudes

## GOLDEN SWANS

- Includes senior ballet classes as well as Dance for Parkinson's classes
- Senior ballet provides a gentle exercise to help with balance, stamina, and flexibility
- Dance for Parkinson's provides a community atmosphere for participants to work on smooth flowing movements



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## BALLET OKLAHOMA, INC AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS JULY 2017 - JUNE 2018

### Ballet Oklahoma, Inc. Statement of Activities For the Year Ended June 30, 2018

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>Revenue and Other Support</b>				
Ticket sales	\$ 1,063,981	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,063,981
Contributions	535,475	7,500	-	542,975
Grants and allocations	662,542	28,171	-	690,713
Tuition and fees	807,335	-	-	807,335
Capital campaign contributions	1,029,197	2,389,262	16,081	3,434,540
Special events, net of direct costs of \$95,191	172,798	-	-	172,798
Touring income	83,250	-	-	83,250
Program advertising	25,035	-	-	25,035
Merchandise sales	97,422	-	-	97,422
Distribution from community foundation	61,057	-	-	61,057
Interest income	3,282	-	-	3,282
Other income	41,883	-	-	41,883
Net assets released from restrictions	63,816	(63,816)	-	-
Total revenue and other support	4,647,073	2,361,117	16,081	7,024,271
<b>Expenses</b>				
Performances	2,285,741	-	-	2,285,741
Education	702,071	-	-	702,071
General and administrative	488,015	-	-	488,015
Fundraising	213,922	-	-	213,922
Total expenses	3,689,749	-	-	3,689,749
Changes in net assets from operations	957,324	2,361,117	16,081	3,334,522
Change in value of assets held by community foundation	913	-	-	913
Net changes in net assets	958,237	2,361,117	16,081	3,335,435
Net assets at beginning of year	4,806,591	924,295	-	5,730,886
Net assets at end of year	\$ 5,764,828	\$ 3,285,412	\$ 16,081	\$ 9,066,321



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



SARAH JANE STROPES, SOLOIST  
THE NUTCRACKER | PHOTO BY: JANA CARSON

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

### PRESIDENT

Sally Nichols Starling

### PRESIDENT ELECT

D. Benham Kirk

### TREASURER & CHAIR-FINANCE

Nancy Hyde

### PAST PRESIDENT

Scott Davis

### CO-CHAIR DEVELOPMENT

Sandy Cotton

### CHAIR-BOARD GOVERNANCE

Courtney Briggs-Melton

### SECRETARY

Libby Nelson

### CO-CHAIR DEVELOPMENT

LeAnn Harmon

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Michael Laird

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Jeff Blake

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sam Blackstock

Phillip Clayton

Aimee Harlow

Kevin Lafferty

Amy McDougall

The Honorable

Vicki Miles-LaGrange

Lea Morgan

Lisa Mullen

Gene Muse

Stephanie Naifeh

Cassie Niemann

Sebastian Oukassou

Salam Ramadan

Scott Reed

Suzanne Reynolds

Cindi Shelby

Melinda Soward

Sara Sweet

Brad Yocum

Nazette Zuhdi-Cleaver

## WE WANT TO CONNECT WITH YOU!

Visit [okcballet.org](http://okcballet.org)

- Learn our rich history and get to know our company
- Donate online to any of our community outreach programs
- View our upcoming productions and events

