

**Fwd: Ballet Idaho September Newsletter- The Dancers Return, Sneak Peek of Live Auction, and Fall Happenings**

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# Ballet Idaho news & updates

September 2022 | Fall Issue



Artist featured in header photo is Kaelyn Lefferts, photo by Quinn Warton.

## Welcome Back, Dancers!

The start of September is always an exciting time at the Ballet Idaho building. With the air turning cooler (okay, maybe not this year) and the leaves changing, we know it brings the buzz of something magical our way- the return of the DANCERS! After a quiet summer with the administrative staff working steadily, we are quickly reminded why we do the work we do. The sleepy halls are suddenly brought to life with the sound of piano accompaniment in the studios. Boxes and boxes of pointe shoes begin to arrive. Dancers mingle and stretch in the upstairs lobby. Young students return to class with their mini buns and tutus. The season begins and we are off!

This season, Ballet Idaho welcomes two new company artists and three new apprentices. Meet our new company dancers below...



**Elizabeth (Lizzie) Kanning-** Company Artist

Lizzie is originally from Seattle, Washington and

## Live Auction Sneak Peek

The talk of the town lately is Ballet Idaho's 50th Anniversary Ball that takes place next month, on October 22, at the gorgeous Chateau des Fleurs. Don't worry, tickets are **still available** for this lavish event! Do you have a hard time waiting? Then enjoy this sneak peek of some of our Live Auction items available at this can't-miss event.

### Richard MacDonald Statue-Clarity

In the ballet and theater world, and in the art world, the name Richard MacDonald immediately makes eyes widen. A California-based sculptor, he is known for his exquisite bronze works, often focusing on dancers, athletes, and performers. Using the progressively rare method of real subjects for his work, he methodically captures every muscle movement and fiber, emotion, and athletic power of the subject for his creations. Ballet Idaho is humbled to have received one of his statues as a donation in honor of Principal Dancer Elizabeth Barreto. Cast in bronze and affixed to a marble base, *Clarity* is a feast for the eyes, a precise and yet ethereal athlete in her prime. Ballet Idaho is even

trained primarily at Pacific Northwest Ballet School and the second company of Oregon Ballet Theater. She has danced professionally with Ballet Austin and Ballet Tucson and is glad to be headed back north to dance with Ballet Idaho. She has had the wonderful opportunity to perform works choreographed by George Balanchine, Christopher Wheeldon, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Jennifer Archibald and many others. Outside of ballet, Lizzie loves to ride her bike and explore nature!



### Ian Rotheroe- Company Artist

Ian was born in New York City and

received most of his training from Manhattan Youth Ballet, where he spent 7 years training and performing in a variety of balletic and general dance styles. In the summer of 2020, he attended (virtually) the Pacific Northwest Ballet (PNB) Summer Intensive. At the conclusion of the intensive, he was invited by Artistic Director Peter Boal to join the Professional Division at PNB, where he received the final 2 years of his training and graduated this past June. During his time at PNB, he received the opportunity to perform in works by George Balanchine, Kent Stowell, and PNB company dancers. In the little spare time he has outside of dancing, he enjoys doing anything baseball-related, spending quality time with friends and family, and balancing his studies as a part-time student with Fordham University. He is very much looking forward to the season getting underway and beginning his career as a professional dancer with Ballet Idaho!

## Mozart in Motion Goes on Sale

On September 2, single tickets for *Mozart in Motion* will go on sale. What is *Mozart in Motion* all about, you ask? Artistic Director Garrett Anderson calls it "a study in musical mastery" and acknowledges that embodying the music of a genius can be a daunting task. But, what better time to take on this challenge than our 50th Anniversary year?

In George Balanchine's *Divertimento No. 15*, the choreography reflects the gorgeously ordered and technically shimmering movement of Mozart's music. Balanchine displays his mastery and refined expression in pattern and musicality. This is perhaps one of his most 'classical' works, and yet, the tradition on display remains as fresh and vibrant as ever.

In *Kiss*, choreographer Stephanie Martinez celebrates some of Mozart's most beloved compositions, the first and second movements of *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, K. 525, and intersperses musical interludes from composer Darryl Hoffman. Martinez leans into character, and playfully explores the power of human physicality through a series of solo, duet, and ensemble dances.

Lar Lubovitch's *Concerto 622* is named after the famous Clarinet Concerto in A major, K. 622. Capturing Mozart's wit, brilliance, humor, and emotional depth in the same stroke, this dance is a musical celebration and life-affirming experience.

more delighted to announce the auction of *Clarity* at our 50th Anniversary Ball.



## Masters on the Dance Floor- A Golf Lover's Dream

If you are even a minor golf fan, you won't want to miss out on this golf-themed live auction item that includes the signed 2022 PGA Master's Flag with the following signatures;

- Jack Nicklaus
- Tiger Woods
- Dustin Johnson
- Jordan Speith
- Tom Watson
- Gary Player
- Raymond Floyd
- Ben Crenshaw
- Fred Couples
- Adam Scott
- Nick Faldo
- Vijay Singh
- Bernard Langer
- Mark O'Meara
- Hideki Matsuyama



Tiger Woods, photo by Getty Images

## Party with the Stahlbaums

We all look forward to the delightful annual tradition of watching Ballet Idaho's *The Nutcracker*...but have you ever wanted a behind-the-scenes tour of this marvelous confectionary show? At our Anniversary Ball this year, this opportunity can be yours! 25 lucky couples will have the chance to sign up for an exclusive event on December 14th, a non-performance night, at the Morrison Center. Enjoy cocktails and appetizers before heading into the dark theater with Ballet Idaho's Artistic Director, Associate Artistic Director, and Production Manager where they will take you on stage to witness all the mechanics and creativity of making *The Nutcracker* happen.

So, from someone who cleans her house to Mozart and thinks his music makes everything sparkle, you do not want to miss this gorgeous show combining Mozart's brilliance and the beauty of dance. Truly.

You can get your tickets [here](#).



## Academy News and Updates

BIA's Fall Semester begins September 12th, so hurry up and register! We have classes for all ages, from Pre-Ballet up through Pre-Professional, and a range of Adult Ballet classes, including a basic introductory course for the novice beginner. Don't let your ballet dreams slip by! Call Sada Popick Ogburn 208-343-0556 or [email](#) for a free trial.

## Academy Happenings

BIA Youth Company, directed by Stephanie Orza, will start off the year with a short performance at Art in the Park on Sunday, September 11th at 3:40 pm at the Gene Harris Bandshell.

We look forward to seeing you there and thank you for supporting the next generation of Ballet Idaho dancers!

Nutcracker photo above right by Otto Kessinger, Artists featured are Jaison McClendon and Madeline Bay.

## Ballet Idaho History Continues- Garrett Anderson comes to town...



Last month in the Ballet Idaho history section, we saw the end of a beautiful decade under beloved Artistic Director, Peter Anastos. This month, we talk to current Artistic Director, Garrett Anderson about his arrival to Ballet Idaho in 2018, the city of Boise, and the future.

Garrett Anderson began his training in Walnut Creek, California, and then went on to study at San Francisco Ballet School and Pacific Northwest Ballet's professional division. He joined San Francisco Ballet as a corps member in 2001 and was promoted to soloist in 2005. From then on, he enjoyed a lustrous dance career, dancing for companies such as the Royal Ballet of Flanders, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and Trey McIntyre Project. Garrett then became Chair of the Dance Department at New Mexico School for the Arts.

While visiting Boise for a dear friend's wedding, he heard about the opportunity at Ballet Idaho for the position of Artistic Director. Read on for a Q & A with Garrett Anderson.

**CM:** What were your initial thoughts on being an Artistic Director? Was this a long-time dream?

**GA:** No, I actually never thought I'd stay in the dance world after performing. When I approached retirement from the stage, I had plans for several different tracks, I had dabbled in real estate, considered a career in psychology, or going to grad school for a design program. The fact is, the dance world pulled me back and I am so grateful for it.

**CM:** You've lived in some big cities- did you ever see yourself in a smaller town like Boise?

**GA:** While I love the energy of big cities I've lived in like Chicago or San Francisco, I have always wanted to live in a smaller city where the sense of community is stronger. I have been in love with Boise since Courtney and I first visited in 2008. We strolled the downtown farmer's market, swam in the river, climbed the hill at Camel's Back Park, and ate croquetas on the basque block...I was smitten...but with all the fun activities and beautiful surroundings aside, it is the people that really make it home. Boise has some really kind, generous, and wonderful people.

CM: We are celebrating 50 years of Ballet Idaho this year. What changes do you see in Ballet Idaho over the next 50 years?

GA: That is a great question. It is hard to cast out that far, but even in the next 5 years, I hope to see Ballet Idaho gain a stronger presence in the Mountain West, and then steadily build a national reputation from there. I don't see it becoming a significantly larger company. I do see the standards improving; I want to be able to provide a lot more opportunities for these incredible artists to share their talent and passion on stage. Looking at our business model, we need to find ways to get a lot more mileage out of the incredible shows we produce. This company has developed a distinct voice, but not enough people know how great they are. I want to change that. Part of this is growing our academy and aligning our training to the ideals and values of the professional company. Another way to increase our impact is outreach here in the Treasure Valley and more performances outside of the Boise area. Of course, these things happen when a team comes together around shared goals. We have a great team in place and it is an honor to contribute what I can to the vision for the future of Ballet Idaho.

CM: What challenges do you face as Artistic Director and what do you love about it?

GA: Working in the performing arts is not for the faint of heart...and yet, I am so grateful to be able to continue to do what I love and share it with others. 50 years is a long time for a ballet company to exist. When I think about how far this company has come, I am inspired by what is possible from here. It is really all about honoring the traditions we are anchored in while seeing who we are and what we do continue to evolve. This requires being able to see beyond the current constraints while operating happily within them. It's a fascinating challenge.

Do you have any memories or memorabilia from the early days of our company? We would love to hear the stories! Please share with us by emailing Cassie Mrozinski at [cmrozinski@balletidaho.org](mailto:cmrozinski@balletidaho.org).

Garrett Anderson headshot photographed by Matthew Wordell.

## Season Subscriptions Still Available

Has the summer gotten away from you? Don't worry, you can still get season tickets for all of our incredible shows this season! Click [here](#) to purchase.

### Shop Til' You Drop

Did you know that you can support Ballet Idaho every time you shop? Whether it be online or local, you can support us with your spree! We are partnered with **AmazonSmile** and **Fred Meyer Community Rewards** to receive a portion of proceeds from qualifying purchases.

Click the logos below to get started, and support Ballet Idaho every time you shop!



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