



CLEVELAND BALLET

Point to
Pointe

2024-2025

A season of impact, collaboration, and artistic excellence



With gratitude

When we stepped into leadership roles at Cleveland Ballet in January 2024 we knew we wanted to forge a ballet company driven toward artistic excellence that recognized and sought the important role it must play in the cultural landscape of Cleveland.

Looking back on the past year and a half, we are deeply grateful for the many partners who have enabled us to realize our ambitious goals in such a relatively short time!

The 2024 – 2025 season has been a tremendous success. We are proud of the team that worked tirelessly since the beginning of September to learn and perform in three mainstage productions – *Dracula*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Romeo & Juliet* - as well as other performances throughout the region.

Behind the scenes, we recognize the extraordinary contributions of each of the administrators and staff members that – collectively – made the productions possible. We are grateful to our stalwart Board of Directors for their guidance and support. And we are beyond grateful to the hundreds of patrons, donors, and organizations throughout Northeast Ohio for their robust support, without which none of this would have been possible.

This season was a year in which Cleveland Ballet rose to a new level of artistic excellence. We performed to more people in more locations throughout Northeast Ohio than we ever had before. What you will see in the pages that follow is just how much Cleveland Ballet accomplished this year. ***And the best part is...we're just getting started!***



Timour Bourtasenkov
Artistic Director

Larry Goodman, PhD
President and CEO



Get to know Cleveland's world-class ballet company

Behind every performance there is a remarkable team of artists, leaders, and staff with a shared passion to bring the best of ballet to the stage.

Company Artists

Cleveland Ballet is home to 28 resident company artists that have made Cleveland their home. Representing 10 different countries, dancers come from as far as Japan and Russia, or as near as here in Cleveland. They contribute to the vibrant cultural fabric of our region and bring exceptional artistry to the stage.

Board of Directors

Our 18 Board Members reflect leadership from corporate, professional services, and non-profit sectors throughout Northeast Ohio's communities. Representing Cuyahoga, Summit, and Portage counties, they provide vital governance and guidance.

Staff

A small but mighty team of 15 staff members work tirelessly to make productions possible. From production planning and operations to patron services and fundraising, this dedicated group brings each season to life and moves the company forward.

Academy of Cleveland Ballet

More than 85 budding ballet dancers - young and old alike - attend weekly training from faculty comprised of current and former professional dancers from Cleveland Ballet.

Special scholarships are provided for students and company trainees to fulfill dreams for young dancers who otherwise may not have the resources to train with professional dancers.

Trainees

Seven talented trainees devote themselves full-time to the demanding work of perfecting their technique and artistry as they prepare for a professional career, working and performing alongside the company.





Cleveland Ballet transports audiences and creates memorable experiences

Cleveland Ballet is rooted in its mission to ensure that world-class ballet is accessible and relevant to audiences of all ages and backgrounds. As such, Cleveland Ballet creates dance and community impact programs of the highest levels of excellence.

Main Stage

As a proud resident company of **Playhouse Square**, Cleveland Ballet’s Main Stage season included three productions - each with a sold-out performance for a total of 19 presentations in the heart of downtown Cleveland.

ChoreoLab

Created and managed by the dancers of Cleveland Ballet, *ChoreoLab* features choreography by and for the artists with all proceeds benefiting them. Attendance at the 2025 *ChoreoLab* more than doubled with standing-room-only attendance at the Patrons Circle after party where all ticket holders were invited.

Record Attendance

The 2024-2025 season marked the highest attendance figures in Cleveland Ballet’s 10-year history. A total of 26,566 patrons attended Playhouse Square’s Main Stage program, exceeding last season by 2,500 tickets which also was a record-breaking year. When you add community engagements and impact programming in the community, **Cleveland Ballet performed to more than 35,000 patrons throughout Northeast Ohio.**

Northeast Ohio

During the 2024-2025 season, **Cleveland Ballet performed 35 times throughout Northeast Ohio.** In addition to its Main Stage programs, Cleveland Ballet performed with a number of arts organizations, and as part of Playhouse Square productions.

Patron Experience

Cleveland Ballet delivers on its promise to transport audiences through memorable moments on stage and off. Patrons enjoy photo opps with dancers, face jewels for children, artist talks, and after parties.





Cleveland Ballet makes ballet accessible to all

By making ballet accessible, we can create a more vibrant and diverse dance community, expand opportunities for individuals, and encourage a more authentic reflection of the world.

Pay What You Can

Cleveland Ballet is delivering on its core values of inclusivity and accessibility through its *Pay What You Can* program. World-class ballet should be barrier-free, especially for children and seniors who may not have the resources or ability to attend a performance. Nearly 4,000 patrons - area schools representing all grades, home schoolers, and older adults - attended the reduced-price performances at Playhouse Square.

Behind the Curtain

Patron surveys repeatedly show that artist talks are the best way to enhance ballet experiences. So Cleveland Ballet launched what is quickly becoming a popular offering, *Behind the Curtain*, with free pre-performance insights from the artistic staff.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Cleveland Ballet strives to reflect a rich cultural diversity by attracting, retaining, and cultivating the most talented dancers and staff from diverse and varied backgrounds, representing 12 countries on 3 continents. The company recognizes its responsibility in developing a community that stands for equality and inclusion, and takes intentional steps to fulfill this responsibility.

- Dancers and staff envisioned their future in a culture and inclusivity building workshop this fall
- Dancers, staff representatives, and board members work together on the DEI taskforce
- Staff and dancers marched in Cleveland PRIDE for the first time

LEAP

LEAP (Learn, Experience, Appreciate, Perform) was launched in 2024 to make ballet accessible and understandable to all. It integrates a range of dynamic engagement and learning tools to spark a passion and appreciation of the arts . Classroom activities, dance workshops, and live performances are just a few ways that audiences are exposed to a world of unlimited potential.





Cleveland Ballet forms collaborations to ensure classical dance in the region

Building new audiences for ballet helps ensure its future in Northeast Ohio. Cleveland Ballet engages with the community to not only broaden its reach and promote a cultural understanding, but to enhance the artistic experience equally for dancers and audiences.

Community Impact

The leadership team of Larry Goodman, President & CEO, and Timour Bourtasenkov, Artistic Director, is marked by a spirit of collaboration and partnership with the areas' rich artistic community. This season alone, collaborations include:

- Puerto Rican Parade
- Dance Showcase
- Kent State School of Fashion
- Little Nut at Stan Hywet
- Cleveland Museum of Art
- Akron Art Museum
- Cleveland POPS
- MUSiC All Stars
- Lily Pulitzer
- Harbourtown Fine Arts Center
- Lakeside Chautauqua

**UH
Drusinsky
Sports
Medicine
Institute**

The UH Drusinsky Sports Medicine Institute and Cleveland Ballet have forged a partnership to ensure the **ballet athletes** receive comprehensive sports medicine care from the same medical team as Cleveland Browns and other athletes.

**Dracula
Wants
Your
Blood
Drive**

The American Red Cross and Cleveland Ballet partnered for a special blood drive in Playhouse Square as part of the ballet's presentation of *Dracula*. The blood drive's goal was exceeded by 5 pints, which helped replenish the shelves after the devastation and loss of blood collection caused by Hurricane Helene.

Commitment to Youth

Cleveland Ballet has a long-standing partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs to introduce students to ballet to cultivate an appreciation of the art.

Students from Boys and Girls Clubs throughout Northeastern Ohio experience exclusive behind the scenes rehearsals at the ballet's studios prior to attending the productions at Playhouse Square. Each year hundreds of Girl Scouts attend performances and earn special "Arts & Culture" badges.





Fifth Position

Cleveland Ballet thanks its loyal supporters

Cleveland Ballet focuses on creating and sustaining traditions and nurturing the appreciation of one of the most dramatic, elegant, and powerful art forms. Donors to Cleveland Ballet help keep our company alive in the community and help our dancers continue to do what they love the most: perform.

A BIG Thank You

To our community partners and donors - **thank you.** Bringing world-class ballet to audiences of all ages, nurturing young artists, and building a vibrant cultural presence in Northeast Ohio would not be possible without you.

Challenge Match

In December, Cleveland Ballet was presented with a challenge from our **Board Chair.** He pledged to match every dollar raised up to \$100,000 before year's end. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity and enthusiasm of our community of individual donors, not only was the goal met — it was surpassed.

Symphony of Support

This season marked an exciting first - performing Dracula alongside a live orchestra through a new partnership with **Cleveland Pops.** The experience was transformative both for our dancers and our audiences. We are deeply grateful to our Symphony of Support donors, whose generosity raised more than \$30,000 to make this milestone possible.

Patrons Circle

Cleveland Ballet's Patrons Circle has secured enthusiastic support and interest from a new generation of ballet supporters in just one year. This dynamic group contributes their expertise, resources, and energy in supporting Cleveland Ballet.

Join Us

Every leap, every performance, every new connection all begins with you. As we look ahead to an even more ambitious season, we invite you to stay connected, stay inspired, and continue to **stand with us in shaping the future of Cleveland's Ballet.**



A stylized illustration of two purple ballet slippers, one slightly behind the other, positioned on the left side of the image. The slippers are rendered in a flat, geometric style with sharp edges.

See you at **the Ballet**

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