



CANADA'S ROYAL
WINNIPEG BALLET

ANDRÉ LEWIS
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CEO



ANNUAL REPORT
2017/2018



OUR MISSION

To enrich the human experience by teaching, creating and performing outstanding dance.

OUR VISION

To be a leader in dance and make a positive difference to a broad and diverse public.

The RWB will be renowned as a company that teaches, creates and performs outstanding dance.

The RWB will be embraced in Winnipeg and beyond. We will be seen as ambassadors for dance, for our city, our province and our country.

The RWB will be a dynamic member of the world dance community. Our work will reflect passion, exuberance, honesty, excellence and integrity. We will take our place among the premiere dance companies of the world.



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

In the 2017-18 season we continued the journey of the past several years. Just two years ago, our Annual General Meeting marked a watershed moment for the organization as we were emerging from a period of significant financial challenges. I am very pleased to report that the RWB has now posted its second consecutive year of positive financial results.

This significant turn-around is a testament to the commitment of a dedicated and focused management team and an organization that is committed to building a solid foundation based on sound business practices, while never losing sight of our commitment to great art.

This year we added new management talent to the executive team which continues to improve with experience, and expertise, in both artistic and administrative leadership. Taralee Turner joined the organization as COO, bringing over a decade of senior management experience in both the business and non-profit sectors. This spring, Tara Birtwhistle was appointed Associate Artistic Director –drawing on her storied career as a Principal Dancer, Ballet Master, and Company ambassador to take on this vital role within our artistic leadership team.

The RWB School continues to grow and expand its reach as it develops young artists for careers in dance. This success has been made possible in no small part to the leadership of RWB School Director Arlene Minkhorst, who led the School for more than 20 years. This spring Ms. Minkhorst announced her departure from the RWB to pursue an international opportunity. She will be missed.

It is a deeply held belief that we are an integral part of the community that supports us, and we in turn support our community. In keeping with this commitment, on June 20, 2018, the RWB joined over one hundred organizations in signing the City of Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord.

We believe that engaging with our community is just as important as the artistry of our performances; we continually look for opportunities to share our art form in Winnipeg and beyond. Further, the commitment to taking the art of dance into schools continued.

We do this work during a time that core public funding for the arts in Manitoba and elsewhere has not even kept pace with the rate of inflation. We are also confronted with reduced funding from long standing partnerships. This presents challenges, but they are challenges that we are determined to overcome.

As we look ahead to our 80th anniversary in 2020 – a significant milestone for any organization - we do so with optimism and confidence. In the coming year we will present a new collaboration with *The Wizard of Oz* and will tour Canada both east and west. We are very proud to be one of Canada's premiere arts organizations and to create art that is a source of pride in Canada and around the world.

The RWB sincerely thanks our government partners, funders, sponsors, corporate partners, donors, subscribers and patrons, whose generosity and support allow us to exist and continue to grow year after year. You continue to inspire the RWB in our commitment to teach, create, and perform outstanding dance.



Don Leitch,
Chair, RWB Board of Directors

COMPANY SEASON

Our 78th season brought us plenty to be proud of.

In July we continued the long-standing tradition of Ballet in the Park with three nights of dance under the prairie sky at the Lyric Theatre in Assiniboine Park. The RWB Company performed Lila York's *Celts*, the RWB School Professional Division students danced a pas de trois of *The Fairy Doll*, while the Recreational Division students treated the audience to a *Grease* medley.

In the fall, we opened our season of storytelling with Twyla Tharp's *The Princess & the Goblin*. Adapted from the fairytale by Victorian novelist George MacDonald, the critically-acclaimed story ballet is a dazzling romp through a fantastical world where goblins reign and courageous children battle for good over evil.

In honour of Canada's 150th, we proudly presented *Our Story* in November in our very own Founders' Studio. *Our Story* was a special celebration of Canadian choreographers – each of whom have played a part in RWB's repertoire through our nearly 80-year history. Included was Mark Godden's *Miroirs*, *Belong* by Norbert Vesak, Jacques Lemay's *Le Jazz Hot*, Shawn Hounsell's *LED*, Brian Macdonald's *Pas D'Action*, and a brand-new piece by esteemed choreographer Peter Quanz.

Our Story reunited members of the RWB community. While in the studio preparing for the show, we had a visit from two RWB alumni: Annette Av Paul, ballet dancer and wife of the late Brian Macdonald, and Laura Graham, RWB Company dancer for a decade. Laura brought her experience with Jacques Lemay's *Le Jazz Hot* to the studio while Annette shared her knowledge of Brian Macdonald's *Pas D'Action* with RWB Company dancers. It was an absolute privilege to present this show.

Audiences were once again swept away with the story of Clara and the Nutcracker Prince while experiencing the magic of the Sugar Plum Fairy, Filbert, reindeer, and polar bear cubs as they were brought to life in the holiday favourite: *Nutcracker*. We were proud to include a talented cast of walk-on roles including: TSN reporter Sara Orlesky, Nahanni Fontaine, New Democratic Party MLA, the Juno-award winning David Landreth of The Bros. Landreth, Winnipeg Jets hockey players Dmitry Kulikov and Adam Lowry, CJNU FM host Chris Reid, Lennard Taylor, local fashion designer, and RWB Chair Emeritus Jean Giguère and Dennis Giguère.

The century-old tale of *Anastasia* was brought to life by Ballet Jörgen in February for one night only. With choreography by Bengt Jörgen set to music by Ivan Barbotin, *Anastasia* took the audience through the ballrooms of St. Petersburg, to the Russian Revolution, to captivity, and beyond.

Early March brought the return of one of the RWB's most revered classical ballets: *The Sleeping Beauty*. Audiences of all ages relived the magic of their favourite childhood fairytale, journeying alongside a cast of familiar storybook characters including Princess Aurora, Prince Désiré, the Lilac Fairy, and Puss in Boots.

Our season of mainstage productions closed with a crowd-pleasing mixed repertoire programme featuring unforgettable classics: Mauricio Wainrot's *Carmina Burana* and George Balanchine's *Serenade*, along with the world premiere of RWB School alumnus and former Company dancer Philippe Larouche's *For Bye and About*, a captivating piece drawing on the fervor of the RWB's identity. We were pleased to welcome both Mauricio Wainrot and Joysanne Sidimus, an authorized répétiteur from the Balanchine Trust, into our studios to work with the Company dancers prior to opening week.

TOURING

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet saw a reduction in touring this past season as we worked to restructure and stabilize the organization. Our partnership with the National Arts Centre remained a key component in our touring strategy and the RWB was presented twice in the season with *Dracula* and *Nutcracker*.

Between December 6-10, 2017, the RWB Company held seven performances of *Nutcracker* with the National Arts Centre Orchestra. A total of 12,902 tickets were sold along with a very modest number of complimentary tickets (177) across the entire run. The total attendance hit a staggering 98.9% house capacity.

The RWB returned between April 12 to 14, 2018, for three performances of *Dracula* accompanied by the National Arts Centre Orchestra. Across all shows, a total 5,389 tickets were sold with 217 complimentary tickets. The total attendance was an RWB record 99.18% house capacity, a near complete sellout.

The RWB maximized the opportunities it had and clearly demonstrated that when the company tours, people want to see us perform! The success of the shows has directly led to offers to return to the National Arts Centre for three years: *Vespers* in November 2018; *Nutcracker* in 2019; and *The Wizard of Oz* in 2020.

DANCER PROMOTIONS, WELCOMES & FAREWELLS

This year, we welcomed Stephan Azulay and Peter Lancksweerd to the corps. We had the pleasure of announcing the promotions of Chenxin Liu from second soloist to soloist, Saeka Shirai, Yue Shi, and Ryan Vetter from corps de ballet to second soloist, and Liam Saito from apprentice to corps de ballet. These promotions will take effect in the 2018-19 season.

A fond farewell goes to corps de ballet dancers: Yoshiko Kamikusa, Manami Tsubai, Stephan Possin, Jesse Petrie, and apprentice Victoria Jenkins. We thank you for gracing our stage and wish you the very best in your future.



Chenxin Liu
Soloist



Saeka Shirai
Second Soloist



Yue Shi
Second Soloist



Ryan Vetter
Second Soloist



Liam Saito
Corps de Ballet



Stephan Azulay
Corps de Ballet



Peter Lancksweerd
Corps de Ballet



Yoshiko Kamikusa
Corps de Ballet



Manami Tsubai
Corps de Ballet



Stephan Possin
Corps de Ballet



Jesse Petrie
Corps de Ballet



Victoria Jenkins
Apprentice

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

Our mandate is to provide the RWB Company and professional companies around the world with highly trained and versatile classical ballet dancers and dance teachers.

Students come to the Professional Division from across Canada and around the world. In 2017, our annual Audition Tour kicked off in October with auditions for the Ballet Academic, Aspirant, and Teacher Training Programs. Auditions took place across Canada, with one stop in Minneapolis, Minnesota. RWB School Artistic Faculty conducted Question and Answer sessions and held master classes in most centres.

Performance experience is a critical part of any dancer's training. In November, Concert Hour Ballet took senior students from the Ballet Academic Program across the prairies to share the power of dance with other school-aged children in schools and community spaces. The annual First Steps Choreography Competition is a highly anticipated opportunity to see the creativity of the student choreographers. This year, 11 student choreographers premiered new works and were awarded prizes by an esteemed jury of Winnipeg arts professionals, such as Krista Jackson, Philippe Larouche, Peter Quanz, Lindsay Nelko and Vanessa Léonard. In May, Spotlight took over the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre Mainstage as students of the Ballet Academic Program performed the full length comedic ballet, *Coppelia*. The season wrapped up with *On the Edge* in the RWB Founders' Studio in June. Dancers in the Aspirant Program performed the world premieres of *Solace* by Jera Wolfe, *Supe* by Yosuke Mino and *Day Two Three* by Philippe-Alexandre Jacques alongside other classical and contemporary works in an intimate nearly sold out performance.

Ballet Academic Program students Bridget Lee and Michel Lavoie were in Lausanne, Switzerland in late January to participate in the Prix de Lausanne Partner Schools

Choreographic Project. Fifty-one students from around the world came to the Beaulieu Theatre to learn a new piece of choreography, *Pulse*, by renowned choreographer Goyo Montero. School Director Arlene Minkhorst and School artistic faculty member Alexander Gamayunov attended the competition as well and awarded scholarships to talented candidates for Summer Session 2018.

Congratulations to Johanne Gingras on her 20th anniversary as Director of the Teacher Training Program. Gingras came to Winnipeg in 1987 to join the School's Recreational Division as an artistic faculty member. Before long, she was sharing her knowledge and experience with the Professional Division as well and, in 1998, she took over the direction of the Teacher Training Program.

We are pleased to report that of the 11 Ballet Academic Program students who graduated in June 2017, 73%, have found meaningful employment in their field while others are pursuing further dance training exclusively. All students who graduated from the Teacher Training Program and the Aspirant Program are working professionally. We are extremely proud of these talented artists and everything they have achieved in their careers thus far.

ARTISTIC FACULTY & GUEST TEACHERS

The RWB School welcomed Vladimir Stadnik and Vanessa Léonard to the artistic faculty this year. Mr. Stadnik worked with the senior level men and Ms Léonard worked with the senior ladies.

This year's guest teachers include: Professional Division founder, David Moroni, C.M., O.M., D. Litt (h.c.); RWB Company dancers Katie Bonnell, Yayoi Ban, Liam Caines, Alanna McAdie and Jaimi Deleau; and visiting artists John Reid, Adonis Daukaev, and Jera Wolfe.

The RWB School acknowledges and thanks departing School Artistic Faculty member Philippe-Alexandre Jacques.

RECREATIONAL DIVISION

Our mandate is to make a meaningful contribution in communities across Manitoba by providing quality dance instruction in a range of disciplines to dancers of all ages, levels and interests.

The hard work and dedication of the students in our Recreational Program was on full display in a series of performances throughout the spring. In March, the School presented *Steppin' Out* in the RWB Founders' Studio. The program featured dancers from our Adult Program who graced the stage in front of family and friends for three performances in this tailor-made recital. In April, we played host to Festival Preview. Students in our Intensive Training Program and Dance Ensembles shared the work they have been preparing for the Manitoba Provincial Dance Festival and other festivals and competitions with their family. The Recreational Division performance season concluded with *Dance Spectrum* at the Manitoba Centennial Concert Hall in June. Over the course of three shows performed to proud parents and friends, dancers in our Pre-School and Children & Teens programs took their place at centre stage for our much beloved year-end recital series.

Recreational Division students performed as backup dancers for the *Mini Pops Kids Live* show in February at the Burton Cummings Theatre.

In March, Broadway's longest running musical, *A Chorus Line*, was presented by the WSO and featured the stars of Rainbow Stage and dancers from our Senior Jazz and Musical Theatre Dance Ensembles.

Recreational Division and Teacher Training Program (TTP) students took part in Cecchetti Examinations in April, with guest examiners Margaret Dalwood and Joyce Shietze. Congratulations to all 116 students on their successful results, including TTP graduate Emilia Radawetz who achieved her Associate Qualifications through Cecchetti Canada.

School Artistic Faculty Eugene Baffoe was once again commissioned by Canada's

National Ballet School to participate in an exciting artistic collaboration to create the *Sharing Dance 2018* choreography. Mr. Baffoe shared the routine with Canadians of all ages and abilities throughout the year, including representing the RWB School for the fourth time in Nunavut.

The 38th annual Manitoba Provincial Dance Festival took place in April and May and the Senior Jazz Dance Ensemble received the Open Adjudicators Choice Award for their piece *Move On*, choreographed by RWB Artistic Faculty Darilyn Burdeniuk.

Students also participated in the following competitions: *Move Dance Competition*, *5678 Showtime*, *Canadian National Dance Championships*, and received *Highest Scoring Open Routine* at *Move Dance Competition*.

ARTISTIC FACULTY & GUEST TEACHERS

Kira Hofmann, artistic faculty, School graduate and former dancer with Stuttgart Ballet was a guest instructor in August for *Dance Intensive*, along with Josh Assor, New York based award-winning choreographer and performer.

Christine Richardson, Fellow and Examiner with the Cecchetti Society of Canada, was also in Winnipeg for a guest teaching engagement in October to work with the School's artistic faculty and Intensive Training Program students.

RWB Company members guest taught in the RWB School throughout the year and we are grateful to them for their dedication to dance education: Katie Bonnell, Yayoi Ban, Liam Caines, Alanna McAdie and Jaimi Deleau.

The RWB School welcomed Chelsea Humble, Leanne Kondziela, and Philippe Larouche to the Recreational Division teaching staff.

Special thanks and gratitude to departing School Artistic Faculty members Lisa Brooks, Philippe-Alexandre Jacques, and Keri-lee Smith.



RWB SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL DIVISION STUDENT TANIA ANGELOVSKI AND RWB COMPANY DANCER LIAM SAITO, PHOTO BY STANISLAV BELYAEVSKY

2007 BAP graduate Brett Taylor was a guest choreographer with Citie Ballet in Edmonton, Alberta. His piece, Gate 3, premiered during Citie Ballet's performances of Intersect, from February 23-25.

Peter Quanz, 1999 BAP graduate, choreographer and Artistic Director of Q Dance, premiered a new work entitled *straight against the light I cross* as part of the RWB Company's performances of Our Story, a mixed-repertoire programme, on November 16, 17 and 19 in the RWB Founders' Studio.

School alumni, choreographer, and filmmaker Danielle Sturk is currently the Artist in Residence

for the School of Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers, where she is "creating a full evening of dance integrating camera." Ms Sturk is also the National Artistic Director for Indigenous Day Live.

RECREATIONAL DIVISION

The School reached over 1,700 people with quality dance programming.

Approximately 830 people participated in Sharing Dance for a total of 2,530.

215 participated in Adult Summer Dance

83 students participated in Dance Intensive

1,225 students participated in Regular Session programming

148 students participated in Satellite programming

46 students participated in ExplorAbility programming

Approximately 830 people participated in Sharing Dance

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The School provided \$5,340 in support of students through the RD Opportunity Fund.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Junior Achievement Award

Katherine Wang (Level 3 Ballet, Level 2 Jazz)

Senior Achievement Award

Delaney Giesbrecht (Junior 2 Intensive Training Program, Jazz, Tap, Musical Theatre and Hip Hop Dance Ensembles)

Jean McKenzie Scholarship

Zenya Veryha (Intermediate Intensive Training Program, Jazz Dance Ensemble)

Teaching Assistant Award

Annemiek Mallory (Musical Theatre and Tap Dance Ensemble)



TOP: RWVB BALLET BALL - THE EMERALD CITY GUESTS, PHOTO BY: BONNIE HOLMES BOTTOM: BARRE AFTER HOURS, PHOTO BY: DANIEL CRUMP

BALLET BALL

On April 28, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet invited guests to dine with RWB Company dancers in The Emerald City at the RWB's 2018 Ballet Ball.

Held at Fairmont Winnipeg, the sold-out crowd was treated to an exquisite *Wizard of Oz*-inspired dinner served with Ruby Slipper cocktails. The IJL Emerald City Luxury Draw saw two lucky guests go home with a stunning emerald gem or two tickets to anywhere WestJet flies. A rollicking live auction featured prizes like artwork by multimedia artist Ewa Tarsia, a year-long Dream Car lease from Birchwood Automotive, and a Churchill Summer Experience package for two.

CBC's Sean Kavanagh emceed the night, guiding Ballet Ball guests through an unforgettable evening of performances by RWB School Recreational and Professional Division students as well as two performances by the RWB Company dancers: excerpts from Mauricio Wainrot's *Carmina Burana* and Septime Webre's *The Wizard of Oz*, which will have its Canadian premiere in May 2019.

BARRE AFTER HOURS

The RWB's third annual Barre After Hours took place on September 9 at the RWB building. The theme, "Crashing The Royals", was a crashing success with 300 guests who mingled with friends and RWB dancers alike to live musical performances by Skene Music, Ron Paley, and singer/songwriter: Faouzia. Capital K Distillery was on hand with Tall Grass Vodka samples, along with champagne tasting courtesy of Philippe Durand Wines. Chef Wayne, RWB School's Residence chef, delighted guests' palates with mouth-watering appetizers such as whitefish caviar on a rice cracker with pickled cucumber, vodka espresso dark chocolate mousse in a chocolate cup, and tequila-infused watermelon with lime salt and mint syrup.

The night also featured thematic craft cocktails and performances by RWB School Aspirant dancers, a duo of contortionists, and live painting by local artist Scenereo.

THE AMAZING RACE

On Wednesday, May 9, the RWB had the absolute pleasure of hosting *The Amazing Race Canada*. Contestants came to our studios to put on ballet attire and learn choreography from *Swan Lake*. Artistic Director and CEO André Lewis judged the participants based on their performance. From there, contestants continued the challenge in other familiar Winnipeg destinations, such as Toad Hall Toys in the Exchange District. The Winnipeg *Amazing Race Canada* episode aired on Tuesday, August 14.

WESTJET CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

The RWB kicked off the Christmas season a bit early this year, as the Company transformed the arrivals terminal at Winnipeg's James Armstrong Richardson International Airport with an impromptu performance of *Nutcracker*. The performance was part of WestJet Airlines' 12 Flights of Christmas, this year's edition of WestJet's Christmas Miracle.

The performance began on a stage, but quickly moved to take over the arrivals area, as Clara and her *Nutcracker*, aided by toy soldiers, staged an epic battle against scurrying mice armed with cannons and carrots. The twenty-minute performance concluded with the dance of the snowflakes who were joined on stage by frolicking polar bears, Drosselmeier, Clara, and her *Nutcracker Prince*.

Following the performance, WestJet's "Blue Santa" showed up atop a luggage carousel for a special delivery of presents earmarked for each of the jet's passengers, including stuffed polar bears, gift cards, tickets to the ballet, and, of course, their luggage.

NOTABLE MOMENTS

THINGS ANNIVERSARY

The Women's Committee had cause to celebrate this past November; Things, their specialty boutique, turned 50. Things was established by the Women's Committee in 1967 and offers both donated and consigned items including many beautiful vintage and contemporary collectibles, china, crystal, jewelry, furniture and linens. Entirely volunteer-run, it is the longest running continuous fundraiser for the arts in Canada. All proceeds from Things got to the Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED

We proudly announced the appointment of Tara Birtwhistle to Associate Artistic Director of the RWB, effective July 1, 2018. In this new role, Birtwhistle works closely with André Lewis to manage the artistic operations of our company. A graduate of the RWB School Professional Division, Birtwhistle danced with the Company for 20 years, the last 12 as Principal Dancer. In 2011 she retired from dancing to take on the role of Ballet Master with the RWB. During her career as a dancer she performed roles in new works and revivals across the RWB repertoire. Most notably, she collaborated with choreographer Mark Godden to create the role of Lucy in RWB's *Dracula*, performing the role for audiences across North America and internationally.



Tara Birtwhistle
Associate Artistic Director



Arlene Minkhorst
School Director

FAREWELL TO SCHOOL DIRECTOR ARLENE MINKHORST

In June 2018, Arlene Minkhorst announced her decision to leave her decades-long career at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School to pursue an international opportunity.

Minkhorst first joined the RWB School faculty in 1979, and was appointed Director of the RWB School in 2004, succeeding founding Director David Moroni C.M., O.M., D.Litt, (h.c.). She made significant contributions to the organization during her tenure with the RWB. She forged new partnerships with the Louis Riel School Division and the University of Winnipeg Collegiate, strengthening the integrated academics and ballet training in the Professional Division. As a dedicated and respected pedagogue in classical ballet training, Minkhorst developed relationships with dance organizations across Canada and internationally such as the Prix de Lausanne where the RWB is an official partner school. She also ushered in a ground-breaking partnership with Canada's National Ballet School for Sharing Dance, a national community engagement strategy encouraging Canadians of all ages and abilities to engage artistically, and reap the physical, social, emotional and cultural benefits that dance provides.

SIGNING INDIGENOUS ACCORD

On June 20, 2018, the RWB joined over one hundred organizations in signing the City of Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord. The RWB is signing in response to the City's call for partners in their Journey to Reconciliation, an endeavor in accordance with the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. The RWB will publish our Accord goals on our website on an annual basis for three years.



FILBERT WITH SANTA FOR WESTJET'S 12 FLIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS

SPONSORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Support from our sponsors is integral to the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's ability to teach, create, and perform outstanding dance. We are grateful to the many sponsors who included in their initiatives the shared goal of keeping arts, culture, business, and tourism thriving in Winnipeg.

Our mainstage productions and exclusive events throughout the year provided unique opportunities for sponsors to engage clients and provide employee incentives. RWB Company dancers were eager to connect with our supporters at receptions, working rehearsals, Q & A sessions and the annual RWB Ballet Ball – The Emerald City. Sincere gratitude goes out to our Winnipeg mainstage, Ballet in the Park and Ballet Ball Presenting Supporters: Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries, BMO Bank of Montreal, Richardson Foundation, Great-West Life, and TD Bank Group.

We continue to develop relationships with existing vendors through in-kind support and commitment to partnership. We appreciate Arnold Brothers for our long, ongoing relationship with trucking services provided locally and on tour across North America. We enjoy the beauty that Bloomex has brought to our décor at many events and provisions made to welcome artistic guests as they travel to Winnipeg. Lifemark Nature Parkway extended support to the RWB to ensure that physiotherapy services were provided not only for our athletes locally, but also on tour.

We are grateful for Investors Group's commitment to our RWB School's success. Each student's journey begins with an audition. Investors Group took the lead as the Presenting Sponsor of the Audition Tour and provided the Investors Group Provincial Scholarships for students to attend the RWB Summer Session. Many of the students who attend the Summer Session continue in the RWB Professional Division, in a full-time capacity, as they pursue their passion for dance.

These are just a few of the highlights from this year's partners who have supported us. We look forward to continuing to build relationships and extend our full gratitude to all our corporate partners.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CANADA SUMMER GAMES

The RWB was proud to be part of the Canada Summer Games celebrations. On July 28, 2017 RWB Company dancers Yosuke Mino and Alanna McAdie performed alongside Juno-winning The Bros. Landreth during the Canada Summer Games (CSG) Opening Ceremonies. On August 2 at the CSG Festival at The Forks, Yosuke Mino danced improvisationally with contemporary throat singer Tanya Tagaq. On August 7 at the CSG Festival at The Forks, RWB Company Dancers performed the energetic, pulse-pounding *Celts* to festival attendees.

The RWB School was the exclusive tray bearer for the CSG. This unique opportunity was enjoyed by approximately 30 student dancers from both the Professional and Recreational Divisions.

SUMMERTIDE

On August 23, 2017, Tara Birtwhistle led a Company rehearsal for the RWB's season opener: Twyla Tharp's *The Princess & the Goblin* under the canopy at the Forks. Following the rehearsal, RWB School Recreational Division Principal Nicole Kepp taught Summertide participants dance moves under the canopy.

NUTCRACKER IN THE COMMUNITY

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet was thrilled to bring *Nutcracker* into the community. Throughout the holiday season, the RWB visited the Children's Museum, the Winnipeg Art Gallery's holiday party, the Children's Hospital, and the Santa Clause Parade.

MANITOBA DANCE DAY

On October 1, the RWB opened our doors in celebration of Manitoba Dance Day. Together with Dance Manitoba and Rainbow Stage, we offered a free, fun-filled afternoon of instruction and choreography as part of Culture Days 2017.



SHARING DANCE DAY 2018. PHOTO BY: LEIF NORMAN

SHARING DANCE

Sharing Dance is the RWB School's leading community engagement initiative. Created by Canada's National Ballet School in partnership with the RWB School and Physical and Health Education Canada, Sharing Dance offers free dance programs for all Canadians to get healthy, active, and artistically engaged. Regionally, we have had a lot of success in reaching youth from underserved neighbourhoods. We delivered 16 weeks of programming in 19 classrooms across six schools, and supported 10 schools in delivering the program in house. In addition to running our own free weekly classes, we also had an opportunity to pilot after-school Sharing Dance programming with Sistema Winnipeg and organizations like Folklorama, Options Pathways and Transitions, and SPIKE also participated.



Just shy of 830 participants joined us at Sharing Dance Day 2018 in Winnipeg at the Axworthy Health and RecPlex at the University of Winnipeg on June 1. This represents an increase of 130 over the previous year and triple the number of participating adults with special needs. This year's choreography tackled the theme environmental stewardship; leading up to the big event, Recreational Dance Ensemble students performed the routine for hundreds of people at Fort Whyte Alive's Earth Day celebrations in April. Students also performed the Sharing Dance routine at Nuit Blanche in September.

EXPLORABILITY

The ExplorAbility for Adults program is designed specifically for adults of varying needs. Participants had the opportunity to be part of our Sharing Dance program again,

learning a modified version of the routine and performing as a part of Sharing Dance Day in Winnipeg in June.

ExplorAbility for Parkinson's launched in 2017 and the RWB School attended the Victory Summit with over 300 delegates to promote the program. Instructor Jacqui Ladwig was featured at the conference.

We worked with the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management's Dr. Cheryl Glazebrook and Jacqui Ladwig, M.Sc., Ph.D. (student) on a research study exploring the physical and psychosocial experience of people with special needs who participate in the program. The study concluded that there is evidence that the program is feasible and enjoyable for participants. It's also associated with improvements in physical, psychological, and social health.

SEASON SPONSORS & DONOR LISTINGS

We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$157 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country.



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada

Nous remercions le Conseil des arts du Canada de son soutien. L'an dernier, le Conseil a investi 157 millions de dollars pour mettre de l'art dans la vie des Canadiennes et des Canadiens de tout le pays.



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The Axworthy Health & RecPlex
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Official Providers



Donations to the RWB made during the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

FUNDERS

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The Asper Foundation

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Estate of Dr. Robert T. Ross,
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*Indicates an RWB Staff Member

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•Passed Away



TOP: DMITRI DOVGOSELETS AND CHENXIN LIU IN *BELONG*, BOTTOM: RWB COMPANY IN *STRAIGHT AGAINST THE LIGHT I CROSS*, PHOTO BY SIMEON RUSNAK



TOP: DMITRI DOVGOSELETS, SAEKA SHIRAI AND RWB SCHOOL RECREATIONAL DIVISION STUDENTS IN TWYLA THARP'S *THE PRINCESS & THE GOBLIN*, PHOTO BY SIMEON RUSNAK
BOTTOM: RWB SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL DIVISION STUDENTS IN *COPPELIA*, PHOTO BY KRISTEN SAWATZKY

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Dmitri Dovgoselets

Soloists

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Yosuke Mino, Josh Reynolds

Second Soloists

Sarah Davey, Elizabeth Lamont,
Chenxin Liu, Liam Caines

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Yoshiko Kamikusa, Jesse Petrie,
Saeka Shirai, Manami Tsubai
Stephan Azulay, Tyler Carver,
Peter Lancksweerd, Stephan Possin,
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Apprentices

Victoria Jenkins, Liam Saito

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Artistic Director & CEO: André Lewis
Senior Ballet Master: Johnny W. Chang
Ballet Masters: Tara Birtwhistle, Caroline
Gruber, Vanessa Lawson, Jaime Vargas
Assistant to the Artistic Staff: Judy Arnason

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Facilities Manager: Marc Dela Torre
Maintenance Assistant: John Kaminski
Maintenance/Housekeeping: Francis Pahlinga
Housekeeping: Bernadette Antoine,
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Production Stage Manager: Ingrid Kottke
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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as of

	OPERATING FUND	BUILDING FUND	SCHOLARSHIP FUND	CAPITAL FUND	June 30, 2018 TOTAL	June 30, 2017 TOTAL
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Cash	1,503,230				1,503,230	695,794
Receivables	203,433				203,433	222,691
Prepaid expenses and other assets	277,160				277,160	56,199
	1,983,823				1,983,823	974,684
Inter-fund balances						
Capital assets	(498,451)	310,497	179,831	8,123	7,419,375	7,748,530
	97,316	7,322,059				
	1,582,688	7,632,556	179,831	8,123	9,403,198	8,723,214
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES						
Current Liabilities						
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	964,826				964,826	546,675
Deferred revenue	2,172,152				2,172,152	1,725,034
Credit facility		1,219,757			1,219,757	1,291,507
	3,136,978	1,219,757			4,356,735	3,563,216
FUND BALANCES						
Restricted		6,412,799	179,831	8,123	6,600,753	6,917,770
Unrestricted	(1,554,290)				(1,554,290)	(1,757,772)
	1,582,688	7,632,556	179,831	8,123	9,403,198	8,723,214

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES for the year ended

	OPERATING FUND	BUILDING FUND	SCHOLARSHIP FUND	CAPITAL FUND	June 30, 2018 TOTAL	June 30, 2017 TOTAL
REVENUES						
	11,344,745		226,044	42,645	11,613,434	11,995,959
EXPENSES						
	11,141,263	338,888	165,254		11,645,405	12,196,396
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES BEFORE THE FOLLOWING GAIN ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS	203,482	(338,888)	60,790	42,645	(31,971)	(200,437)
						1,578
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	203,482	(338,888)	60,790	42,645	(31,971)	(198,859)
Contribution to The Winnipeg Foundation			(47,042)	(34,522)	(81,564)	(30,771)
	203,482	(338,888)	13,748	8,123	(113,535)	(229,630)
FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING OF YEAR	(1,757,772)	6,751,687	166,083		5,159,998	5,389,628
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	(1,554,290)	6,412,799	179,831	8,123	5,046,463	5,159,998



