

19
20

SEASON



Annual Report

OUR HOME IS THE PRAIRIES, THE WORLD IS OUR STAGE.

— 80 YEARS —



(COVER) Principal Dancers Dmitri Dvossoskiets and Sophia Lee with RMVB Company Dancers. Photo by David Cooper
Liam Saito. Photo by David Cooper

A MESSAGE

From the Board Chair

We approached our 80th Anniversary season with enthusiasm and high expectations, staging the Canadian premiere of the spectacular *La Bayadère*, our annual *Nutcracker*, *Moulin Rouge® – The Ballet* and a special anniversary year presentation titled 80 Years – A Retrospective. Renowned prima ballerina Evelyn Hart returned in *Four Old Legs*. An extensive touring season was on the books, and the Company was part of the Canadian contingent performing at the Festival Internacional Cervantino, one of the North America's largest cultural festivals. Our season was stirring excitement at home and afar.

Sadly, early in the season we received the news of the passing of Miss Kathleen Richardson on September 14th. Recognizing her unending support for the RWB, our season was dedicated to her memory. Kathleen Richardson served on the Board of the RWB, including as President and then as Honorary President, for 62 of the RWB's 80 years. It was her commitment and drive that led to the construction of the RWB home on Graham Avenue.

During *Nutcracker* we proudly hosted members of the Grey Cup Champion Winnipeg Blue Bombers Football Team in special walk on roles, bringing with them the gleaming Grey Cup to the delight of all in attendance.

In March, as the COVID pandemic took hold, our season was cut short and remaining tours and our final mainstage performance of the season were cancelled. As the RWB grappled with the emerging threat to public safety both professional and recreational divisions suspended in-studio classes and the pressure was on to get our international students home before travel bans were enforced.

The RWB entered a new unexpected phase that proved to be an enormous challenge. Like every other performing arts organization across the country, we suffered dramatic drops in revenue with enormous impacts. But we weathered the storm. Our leadership team rose to the challenge and are to be commended for their efforts. Using federal programs to full advantage, the RWB was able to employ more people than initially forecast. This has been a difficult time for

all, but through the efforts of everyone we kept our head above water financially, a commendable feat when so many performing arts organizations are struggling to survive.

Since the Province issued the State of Emergency, the safety of dancers, students, parents, staff and patrons has been the highest priority for RWB. Operations were reimagined for a world of social distancing with our residence temporarily shuttered and classes at the school moved online. Dancers, unable to rehearse together, collaborated to create online video offerings, one of which featured a new interpretation of a scene from the cancelled 80 Years – A Retrospective. The dancers gave us a moving performance attesting to their commitment to their art and reminding us of the excellence we enjoy with every performance. Additionally, the wardrobe department stepped up to create personal protective masks with more than a thousand donated to Winnipeg families in need.

The RWB sincerely thanks our subscribers, families, donors, patrons, corporate and government partners and sponsors. Their generosity and support allow us to inspire and entertain year after year. Thanks too to the volunteers, including the Volunteer Committee members who operate Things Supporting the RWB, and contribute so substantially to the RWB, as well as to our loyal alumni, for whom we established an honour roll as part of our anniversary celebrations.

The 2019-20 season was the first full year under our renewed strategic plan which affirms the RWB as "The heart of dance in Canada and the world," and our commitment to "teach, create and perform, enriching lives through the power of exceptional dance." With pride I can confidently say that the RWB has lived up to this standard throughout the 2019-20 season.

The RWB Board and leadership are committed to ensuring we survive the pandemic and proudly continue into our 81st season and beyond. The extent of the season is still uncertain, but I am confident we will have good news in the months ahead.



Don Leitch
Chair, RWB Board of Directors

COMPANY SEASON

Highlights

The 80th anniversary season at Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet began with Ballet in the Park, featuring excerpts from Septime Webre's *The Wizard of Oz*. The three-show event enjoyed excellent weather throughout and was remarkably well-attended as a result.

At the Annual General Meeting in September, Artistic Director André Lewis and Board Chair Don Leitch dedicated the 80th season to the memory of Kathleen Richardson, a longtime member of the Board of Directors and an incredible proponent of the arts in Winnipeg.

The season of mainstage shows in Winnipeg opened with *La Bayadère*, a brand-new co-production between Queensland Ballet, West Australian Ballet, and Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Choreographer Greg Horsman incorporated classical Indian movement and style for the temple dancers (bayadères), giving this production the feel of a more realistic India. The usage of a ramp added an extra element of difficulty to the choreography which, combined with iconic scenes and a traditional story, helped make this one of the most memorable performances of the season.

In November, the effervescent Evelyn Hart returned to the RWB Founder's Studio for a series of special performances of James Kudelka's *Four Old Legs*. The duet with Zhenya Cerneacov beautifully blended telltale choreography and an eclectic soundtrack into a moving tale of young love battered by the ravages of time and familiarity. With each show, Hart displayed the flourish and feeling which helped her earn her place among all-time great Canadian ballerinas, without which the 80th anniversary would have felt incomplete.

The season continued in December with the twentieth anniversary performance of the RWB's *Nutcracker*. Audiences were enamored with the sights and sounds of the holiday season as Clara and her Nutcracker Prince fended off the Mouse King once more. Of particular note, this year's *Nutcracker* featured walk-on roles from Rachel and Lauran Mielke of Hillberg & Berk, members of Winnipeg's own Crash Test Dummies, players for the Manitoba Moose, and members of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers Grey Cup-winning team who brought the trophy with them onstage to uproarious applause from the audience.

In February, the company lit up the stage with *Moulin Rouge® – The Ballet*. The performance marked the first Winnipeg appearance of the ballet in more than five years. The classic tale took audiences to turn-of-the-century Paris, where two lovers tempt fate as they seek love and destiny at the infamous cabaret – *The Moulin Rouge®*. Featuring magnificent performances from everyone involved, the show once again won audiences over with its bright colours and high-kicking choreography.

In March, the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19 arrived in Manitoba and the threat it posed put an abrupt stop to business as usual. The Royal Winnipeg Ballet acted immediately, based on recommendations from the World Health Organization, Health Canada, the Government of Manitoba, and the Centres for Disease Control & Prevention. By the end of the month, all in-person classes were suspended and moved online, the On The Edge Tour of Manitoba as part of MB150 was cancelled, and the United States Oz Tour was cancelled. Soon after, the company announced the cancellation of 80 Years – A Retrospective, bringing an end to the 2019-20 performance season.



Our work did not stop there, however, as RWB leadership continued building capacity and identifying new partnerships to continue operating during the worldwide pandemic. The wardrobe department began creating custom-designed masks for staff, to help limit the spread of COVID-19. This led the RWB to reach out to The Winnipeg Boldness Project to help get its newly made masks into the hands of Winnipeggers in need. More than one thousand masks were donated to shelters and families as a result of this collaboration.

The company dancers took the lead on several video projects during the months of the shutdown, including creating a special performance of *Angels in the Architecture*, a

segment originally planned for 80 Years – A Retrospective, for fans and supporters to enjoy. The dancers also reached out to The Bros. Landreth, to create a video performance featuring a blend of choreographed and improvised dance moves. Both videos were uploaded to YouTube and made available to everyone.

By the end of the season, preparations had begun to resume in-studio learning safely. Already, steps have been taken to return to the stage in a way that will be familiar to dancers and patrons. In doing so, the RWB has firmly established itself as a leader in the post-COVID-19 world, and will continue along the path back to regular mainstage performances.

COMPANY

Touring & Dancers



Elizabeth Lamont



Yue Shi



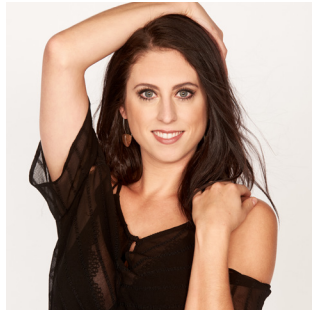
Katie Bonnell



Stephan Azulay



Katie Simpson



Sarah Davey

Touring

Our partnership with the National Arts Centre (NAC) was again a key contributor to our touring efforts. During the 2019-20 season, the RWB performed *Nutcracker* and *Moulin Rouge® - The Ballet* at the NAC in two nearly sold-out shows. In October, the RWB was invited to Festival Internacional Cervantino, one of the North America's largest cultural festivals, in Guanajuato, Mexico. The only Canadian ballet company at the festival, the RWB performed *Going Home Star - Truth and Reconciliation* to rave reviews. In March, the *Wizard of Oz* Tour planned for East Lansing, MI, Lincoln, NE, and Sioux Falls, ND, was cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus.

Dancer Promotions

For our 80th season, we are pleased to promote Elizabeth Lamont and Yue Shi from Second Soloists to Soloists, Katie Bonnell and Stephan Azulay from Corps de Ballet to Second Soloist, and Katie Simpson from Apprentice to Corps De Ballet.

Dancer Farewells

This year, long-time Principal Dancer Dmitri Dovgoselets (see sidebar) and beloved Second Soloist Sarah Davey chose to retire from dance at the end of the 2019-20 season. Although their season was cut short by the arrival of COVID-19 to the province, both dancers had long, valued careers with the RWB. We bid a fond farewell to two excellent dancers and thank them for gracing our stage.

AU REVOIR, DMITRI

This season, the RWB bids farewell to one of our longstanding company members, Dmitri Dovgoselets. Dmitri joined the RWB in 1999 at the behest of former RWB Artistic Director Dr. Arnold Spohr. Since then, Dmitri has matured into the leading man at the RWB, having performed in nearly every performance from RWB Company during his twenty years. Dmitri's accolades and contributions are unmatched in this century and the RWB wishes him all the best in his next chapter.





RWB Company Dancers. Photo by David Cooper

SCHOOL

Professional Division



Mandate

To nurture and develop highly trained and versatile classical ballet dancers and dance teachers for the RWB Company and School, and professional companies and schools around the world.

Highlights

In January the RWB School Professional Division announced a new partnership between our grade 6-8 students and St. John Brebeuf School (SJB). The RWB School's comprehensive search for a new middle years academic partner, which began in 2014, spanned a five-year period and included extensive consultation with students and their families, focus groups, and a closed request for proposals. SJB's esteemed reputation, strong academic results, commitment to collaboration, and profound respect and appreciation for the arts made them the best choice for this coveted partnership opportunity. This change marks the first time that RWB has reevaluated its academic partnerships since 2007, when a new partnership between the RWB School and the University of Winnipeg Collegiate (UWC) for senior years students in grades 9-12 was first announced.

2019-20 saw a restructuring of a long-standing tradition, when Concert Hour Ballet was split into two different touring opportunities. The Level 6 & 7's went on the traditional tour for 5 days in Winnipeg, performing at two schools per day with a final community performance in Winkler, MB. The second week of Concert Hour Ballet was moved to March 2020 and featured the RWB Aspirants in a brand new tour called *On the Edge*. It was designated a Manitoba 150 partnership project and was scheduled in 8 different locations throughout the province and included multiple performances some days along with Sharing Dance Workshops. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 the tour was cancelled the day before they were scheduled to embark.

This year marked the 30th anniversary of the School's First Steps Choreography Competition, which was held in the RWB Founders' Studio showcasing the work of 12 student choreographers. Five professionals from the Winnipeg arts community volunteered to sit on the jury; School graduate, performer and choreographer Brenda Gorlick; RWB Company soloist Alanna McAdie; School graduate, former RWB Company dancer and CIM, Eric Nipp; RWB

Principal Conductor Julian Pellicano; and School alumna, choreographer and performer Catherine Wreford.

Since 2018, the Prix de Lausanne has invited its Partner Schools, including the RWB School, to send two of their best students to Lausanne to create a one-of-a-kind collaboration with a guest choreographer. BAP students Emma Curtis and Myles Mackesy took part in the last edition of the Choreographic Project this year with choreographer Mauro Bigonzetti, and performed his piece, *Andante Ballabile*, on February 8 in Lausanne along with 24 other students from Partner Schools around the world.

BAP graduates and Aspirants Bryce Taylor (2017) and Cameron Fraser-Monroe (2018) successfully applied to the Canada Summer Jobs program to put together a group of dancers to present small “pop-up” style performances around the downtown area during the month of June 2019. Their group, RWB Summer Dance Collective, performed their original work, *Lucid Water*, featuring BAP graduates Erin Atkinson (2016), Clare Fleming (2017), and Michel Lavoie (2018).

Artistic Faculty & Guest Teachers

2010 School graduate and Métis choreographer Jera Wolfe was in Winnipeg from February 13-24 to stage his work, *Solace*, on the Aspirants for their end-of year performances of On the Edge that were scheduled for early June.

School Director Stéphane Léonard was invited to sit as a jury member for the Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) regionals in Orizaba, Mexico, from October 28 to November 3, where he offered scholarships to several promising students for Summer Session 2020. Mr. Léonard was also scheduled to attend the finals in New York City in April, however, due to the COVID-19 crisis, he was unable to travel to the competition.

Signature Performances & Events

Scholarship

Presentation Evening

November 14, 2019,
RWB Founders' Studio

Concert Hour Ballet

November 18 – 23, 2019,
with 16 performances in
Winnipeg, 1 in Winkler, MB

First Steps

Choreography Competition

February 13 – 15, 2020,
RWB Founders' Studio
30th Anniversary

On The Edge Tour (Cancelled)

March 16, 2020,
Landmark Elementary
(Private School
Performance)

March 16, 2020,
Beausejour, Presented by
Tarantism Dance Company
(Public)

March 17, 2020,
Portage la Prairie,
Presented by Prairie Fusion
Arts & Entertainment
(Private for Schools)

March 18, 2020,
Killarney, Presented by
Killarney Turtle Mountain
Arts Council (Private
School Performance)

March 19, 2020,
Dauphin, Presented by
Dauphin Arts Council
(Private School
Performance)

March 21, 2020,
Flin Flon, Presented by
Flin Flon Arts Council
(Public Performance)

March 22, 2020,
Thompson, Presented by
City of Thompson
(Public Performance)

March 24, 2020,
The Pas, Presented
by Kelsey School
Division (Private School
Performance)

March 25, 2020,
The Pas, Presented by
The Pas Art Council,
(Public Performance)

Spotlight

May 22 – 23, 2020,
Royal Manitoba Theatre
Centre (Cancelled)

On The Edge

Edge June 10 – 12, 2020,
RWB Founders' Studio
(Cancelled)

Graduation Performance & Convocation

June 12, 2020, Online

SCHOOL

Recreational Division

Signature Performances & Events

Steppin' Out

March 7 – 8, 2020,
RWB Founders' Studio

Festival Preview

March 14 - 15, 2020 ,
RWB Founders' Studio
(No Audience)

Dance Spectrum

June 7, 2020,
Centennial Concert Hall
(Cancelled)

Mandate

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

Highlights

The Recreational Division celebrated our 80th anniversary by welcoming back RD Alumni Alexandra Frohligher and Connor Coughlin to deliver master classes to our students. Alexandra taught choreography from the musical *West Side Story*, and Connor taught traditional Luigi repertoire.

In July, excerpts from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* were performed at Ballet in the Park. The performance generated plenty of positive feedback from attendees and was regarded as a highlight.

During a 10-week period in the fall, Matthew Arnett taught Tap for Musical Theatre, Claire Marshall taught Choreography Composition and Magdalena McGregor taught Flamenco.

In November, students from the Junior 2 Intensive Training Program participated in the Dance Manitoba Showcase at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The dancers performed *Unity*, choreographed by Claire Marshall.

In December, the RWB School held its first ADAPT (Associated Dance Arts for Professional Teachers) exam session since 2010. 19 Students had the opportunity to participate in Jazz examinations with examiner Barb Jackman.

Before COVID-19 led to school closures in March, 94 students participated in Cecchetti Ballet examinations with examiners Margaret Dalwood and Jane Wooding.

Artistic Faculty & Guest Teachers

Rachael McLaren, dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and RD alumni, was the guest teacher for this year's Dance Intensive, along with RWB Company Dancers Alanna McAdie and Yayoi Ban.

The RWB School welcomed Matthew Armet and Erika Delponte to the Recreational Division artistic faculty.

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

Special thanks and gratitude to departing School artistic faculty member Sara Goodman.



Top and Bottom: RWB School Recreational Division Students. Photo by David Cooper

SCHOOL

Graduates, Awards & Highlights

Professional Division

Ballet Academic Program Graduates

Julianne Chartier,
Ste. Anne, MB
Quintin Cianci,
Kirkland, QC
Emma Duncan,
Highlands Ranch,
Colorado, USA
Julianna Generoux,
Okotoks, AB
Logan Savard,
Comox, BC
(Graduate with Distinction)
Gillian Smith,
Kirkland, WA, USA

Teacher Training Program Graduates

Hinano Ishikawa,
Hokkaido, Japan
Magdalena McGregor,
Winnipeg, MB

Teacher Training Program Certificates of Study

Nana Akazawa,
Nomi-shi, Ishikawa, Japan
Asaka Mizumori,
Fukuoka, Japan

Scholarships

The School awarded \$174,015 in scholarships for the 2019-20 School year in support of 35 students.

Doreen Macdonald Scholarship (awarded at First Steps 2019)

Alexander Castro, Level 6,
Olympia, WA

Millicent Rockwell Donnelly Bursary

Adrian Ramirez, Level 2,
Selkirk, MB

Paddy Stone Scholarship (awarded at First Steps 2019)

Lauren Voros, Level 6,
Kelowna, BC

Shelley Shapiro Blum Scholarship

Lauren Voros, Level 6,
Kelowna, BC

Victor Duret Memorial Fund

Connor Grant-Canseco,
Level 6, Winnipeg, MB

RWB School Professional Division Scholarships

Sophie DeGraff (YAGP)
Maple Grove, MN
Chester Gould (YAGP)
Vancouver, BC
Takeru Hatsushika (YAGP)
Tokyo, Japan
Natazia Head (YAGP)
Oregon City, OR

Sakura Iwamoto
(Japan Grand Prix)
Hokkaido, Japan
Olivia Jalandoni
(Surrey Festival of Dance)
Richmond, BC
Corben Simpson (ADC/IBC)
Hillsborough, NC
Tsukino Tanaka (YAGP)
Osaka, Japan
Isabella Watkins
(Surrey Festival of Dance)
Richmond, BC

Leon & Lorraine Rubin Scholarship

Ben Despina, Level 3,
Winnipeg, MB

David Peregrine Memorial Scholarship

Adrian Ramirez, Level 2,
Selkirk, MB

University Women's Club Performing Arts Bursary

Gabriel Belley, Level 3,
Winnipeg, MB

Daimler-Chrysler Scholarship

Cleghden Butler, Level 6,
Ottawa, ON

Rene Highway Scholarship

Aidan Vaudreuil, Level 4,
Lower Sackville, NS

Jane McEvoy O'Donnell Scholarship

Marley Patterson, Level 4,
Courtenay, BC

Dr. Alice Cheatley Scholarship

Julianna Generoux, Level 7,
Okotoks, AB

Kally Kennedy Scholarship

Hinano Ishikawa, TTP Year 3,
Hokkaido, Japan

Nijinski Dance Scholarship

Niki Powell, Level 4,
Winnipeg, MB

Odette & Odile Scholarship

Taisi Tollasepp, Level 5,
Toronto, ON

Juanita Y. Alexander Scholarship for Artistic Excellence

Tess Pepetone, Level 5,
Waterdown, ON

IG Wealth Management Professional Division Scholarships

Gracie Whyte (BC)
Campbell Iuliani (AB)
Caitlyn Fast (MB)
Logan Shaw (ON)
Alexandra Guerra (QC)
Maeve Brown (NS)
Naiya Istvanffy (NB)
Tihan Stapleton (PE)
Emily Pike (NL)



Photo: David Phelps/PhotoArt

**IG Wealth Management
Financial Confidence
Scholarships**

Quintin Ciani, Level 7,
Kirkland, QC

Logan Shaw, Level 3,
Orleans, ON

Marley Patterson, Level 4,
Courtenay, BC

**Craig Music &
Entertainment
Scholarship**

Myles Mackesy, Level 6,
Toronto, ON

**ESSO Kids Award of
Excellence Scholarship**

William Hrivnak, Level 6,
Bowmanville, ON

RWB Endowment Award

Karen Hagiwara, Level 4,
Kanagawa, Japan

Takeru Hatsushika, Level 7,
Tokyo, Japan

**Rose & Berel Sholom
Memorial Scholarship**

Evelyn Little, Level 2,
Winnipeg, MB

Olivia Koppanyi, Level 3,
Winnipeg, MB

**Julia Arkos
Memorial Award**

Julia Hockey, Level 6,
Victoria, BC

ANR Pipeline Scholarship

Timothy Gaulke, Level 5,
Elkhorn, WI

**Canadian Pacific
Scholarship**

Olivia Kowalchuk, Level 6,
Penhold, AB

RWB Alumni Scholarship

Emma Curtis, Level 6,
Brampton, ON

Akira Thornton, Level 5,
Ottawa, ON

Quintin Ciani, Level 7,
Kirkland, QC

Corson Kolyanko, Level 6,
Brooklin, ON

Josh Sinclair, Level 4,
Winnipeg, MB

Founders Scholarship

Myles Mackesy, Level 6,
Stoney Creek, ON

RBC Award

Emma Curtis, Level 6,
Brampton, ON

Gwendolyn Pritchett,
Level 2, Charlottetown, PE

Isabella Watkins, Level 1,
Richmond, BC

Rafe Perry, Level 4,
Comox, BC

Jin Spence, Level 4,
Toronto, ON

**Douglas & Elizabeth
MacEwan Scholarship**

Nathaniel Ritter-Magot,
Level 5, Regina, SK;

Brooke Thomas, Aspirant,
Abbotsford, BC

Evelyn Hart Scholarship

Tayte Brown; Level 6,
Vancouver, BC

Arnold Spohr Scholarship

Taisi Tollasepp, Level 5,
Toronto, ON

Felix Jinga, Level 5,
Windsor, ON

Prince Edward Award

Gillian Smith, Level 7,
Kirkland, WA

Logan Savard, Level 7,
Comox, BC

**Financial
Assistance**

*The School provided
\$74,899 in financial
assistance to new students
towards Summer Session
2019, benefiting 46 students
and \$180,285 to new and
returning students towards
the 2019-20 Regular
Session, benefiting 44
students.*

**First Steps
Award Winners**

1st Place

Logan Savard, Level 7,
Comox, BC
Convex

2nd Place

William Hrivnak, Level 7,
Bowmanville, ON
4 Min 48 Secs

3rd Place

Lauren Voros, Level 6,
Kelowna, BC
Solus

Honourable Mentions

Julia Hockey, Level 6,
Victoria, BC
4 Quarters of Her
Priscilla Gubiotti, Level 6,
Abbotsford, BC
Be OK

RWB School Award

William Hrivnak, Level 7,
Bowmanville, ON
4 Min 48 Sec

**The Paddy Stone 2020
Scholarship**

Myles Mackesy, Level 6,
Stoney Creek, ON
Lost in Doubt

**The Jacqueline Weber
Award**

Emma Duncan, Level 7,
Highlands Ranch,
Colorado, USA
Static

**The Doreen Macdonald
2020 Scholarship**

William Hrivnak, Level 7,
Bowmanville, ON
4 Min 48 Sec

**The People's Choice
Award**

William Hrivnak, Level 7,
Bowmanville, ON
4 Min 48 Sec

**Alumni & Career
Highlights**

2010 BAP Graduate and
ASP alumnus Jera Wolfe
was commissioned by the
National Ballet School to
choreograph and set a new
work, *Arise*, on students of
the National Ballet School
that was further adapted
into the 2020 Sharing
Dance choreography.
Mr. Wolfe also won a
2019 Dora Mavor Moove
Award for Outstanding
Choreography for *Trax* with
Red Sky Performance.

The Annual Winnipeg Arts
Council Awards presented
the RBC On the Rise Award,
to 2011 BAP graduate,
ASP alumnus, and artistic
faculty member Philippe
Larouche in recognition of
his choreography.

1976 School graduate
and former RWB Principal
Dancer, Evelyn Hart, was
nominated for a 2019 Dora
Mavor Moore Award for

Outstanding Performance as an Individual in James Kudelka's *Four Old Legs*.

1984 School graduate, former RWB Company Soloist, and choreographer Mark Godden was appointed to the Order of Canada.

2019 BAP graduate Bridget Lee accepted an apprenticeship with Ballet Stuttgart for the 2019-20 season. Ms. Lee has since been promoted to the Corps de ballet.

2016 BAP graduate Monika Haczkiwicz accepted a contract with the National Ballet of Canada for the 2019-20 season.

2018 BAP graduates and ASP alumni Michel Lavoie and Bryce Taylor accepted contracts with the RWB Company for the 2019-20 season, as Corps de ballet and Apprentice, respectively. ASP alumni Jenna Burns and Amanda Solheim also accepted contracts with the RWB Company for the 2019-20 season.

2010 BAP graduate Taylor Drury accepted a contract with Gärtner Platz Theater in Munich, Germany, for their 2019-20 season.

2018 BAP graduate, Aspirant and Métis performer and choreographer, Cameron Fraser-Monroe, was awarded a Residency with the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, for the

creation of *Minowin* with Dancers of Damelahamid. Mr. Fraser-Monroe performed fellow BAP graduate Jera Wolfe's piece, *Trace*, for Red Sky Performance at the Festival Saint-Sauveur in Québec. He performed *Trace* at the Doris Duke Theatre at Jacob's Pillow in Becket, Massachusetts, as well as a hoop dance during a week of activities designated as The Land On Which We Dance, in honour of the Indigenous peoples of the Mohican, Nipmuc, Pocumtuc, and Agawam tribes.

Mr. Fraser-Monroe and Red Sky Productions took part in the Honouring of Truth and Reconciliation event at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, QC. Red Sky Productions led the procession of the ceremonial cloth bearing the names of over 2,800 children who did not make it home from residential schools. Mr. Fraser-Monroe performed *Minowin* with the Dancers of Damelahamid in St. John's, Newfoundland at the Newfoundland Festival of New Dance and again at Guanajuato, Mexico's Cervantino Festival in the Teatro Principale. Since then, Mr. Fraser-Monroe completed his studies in the RWB School Aspirant Program and has accepted a contract with the Atlantic

Ballet Theatre of Canada for their 2020-21 season.

Freya Björg Olafson, BAP alumna (1997-2001), intermedia artist, performer and Assistant Professor at York University School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design, premiered her new work, *MÆ-Motion Aftereffect*, at the Prairie Theatre Exchange Mainstage Theatre in Winnipeg.

2008 Ballet Academic Program graduate and former RWB Company second soloist Tristan Dobrowney accepted a contract with the RWB Company for the 2019-20 season as a soloist.

Recreational Division

The School reached over 2,310 people with quality dance instruction and community programming.

147 students participated in Adult Summer Dance.

93 students participated in Dance Intensive.

1140 students participated in Regular Session.

107 students participated in Satellite.

37 students participated in Quantum.

11 students participated in ExplorAbility.

775 students participated in Sharing Dance.

Financial Assistance

The School provided \$4,169 in support of students through the RD Opportunity Fund and 301 Sharing Dance scholarships for a total of \$7,181.

Achievement Awards

Junior Achievement Award

Violet Bell, Junior Ballet, Jazz & Hip Hop Dance Ensembles

Senior Achievement Award

Esme Frank, Advanced 1 Intensive Training Program

Jean McKenzie Scholarship

Sarah Froese, Junior 2 Intensive Training Program

Teaching Assistant Award

Gabriella Janus, Intermediate Intensive Training Program, Senior Jazz, Tap & Musical Theatre Dance Ensembles

OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In March the COVID-19 virus began making its presence felt across North America, leading to widespread closures of schools and businesses while governments at all levels grappled with the threat it posed to the population. As a result, the RWB moved quickly to ensure the safety of its students, staff and patrons in an effort with the rest of the world to flatten the curve of COVID-19. On March

20th, the RWB announced the cancellation of 80 Years – A Retrospective, effectively bringing an early end to the season of mainstage shows for 2019-20, however, work would continue behind the scenes for months in hopes that the RWB would soon be able to return to the stage. This timeline documents the major events that were undertaken as a result of the COVID-19 virus.

MARCH 12	The first case of COVID-19 in Manitoba is confirmed.
MARCH 14	The RWB School Recreational Division suspended all in-studio classes and programs.
MARCH 16	The RWB Company suspended all classes and rehearsals.
MARCH 19	The RWB School Professional Division suspended all in-studio classes and programs.
MARCH 20	<p>The Province of Manitoba declares a province-wide state of emergency, schools are closed, and public gatherings are limited to no more than 10 people. Anyone arriving into the province is required to self-isolate for 14 days.</p> <p>The RWB announces the cancellation of 80 Years – A Retrospective, the Aspirant's Manitoba On The Edge Tour, the Company's United States Oz Tour, and the RWB's 80th Anniversary Ballet Ball – <i>Pretty in Pink</i>.</p> <p>The RWB postpones the Home Coming event to October 23-25, 2020.</p>
MARCH 23	<p>Non-essential staff are transitioned to work from home.</p> <p>Video classes begin to be made available online for RWB School students.</p>
APRIL 03	The RWB School announces the cancellation of On The Edge and Spotlight.
APRIL 03 - 05	The RWB's 80 th Anniversary Ballet Ball fundraiser moves online and raises \$132,805.
APRIL 06	RWB School launches a comprehensive refund strategy for students in both divisions.
APRIL 13	RWB School students resume live classes using online streaming platforms.
MAY 14	The RWB company dancers release a video performance of <i>Angels in the Architecture</i> , the same week 80 Years – A Retrospective was scheduled to premiere.
JUNE 06	The RWB company dancers release a video performance set to an original live recording of a song by The Bros. Landreth.
JUNE	The RWB building reopens for staff thanks to new safety protocols. Preparations undertaken to allow for a return to studio-based learning at the RWB School in July.

COMMUNITY

Engagement & Highlights

Sharing Dance

Beginning in January, the Sharing Dance program toured schools within Winnipeg to teach Jera Wolfe's *Arise*, the choreography associated with Sharing Dance Day 2020, the Canada-wide celebration of movement and expression presented by Canada's National Ballet School and the RWB School. The RWB also hosted free, open classes for the choreography in February. Despite challenges pertaining to COVID-19, the event went ahead as a digital broadcast which took place on May 29, 2020.

ExplorAbility

In January 2020, Jacqui Ladwig, a Teacher Training Program graduate and School artistic faculty member, wrote the first of three articles on her work teaching the RWB School ExplorAbility program. Published in *The International Journal of Social, Political and Community Agendas in the Arts*, the article titled "I Felt So Proud of Myself": The Experiences of Young Adults with Intellectual Disabilities and their Respite Workers in a Nine-Month Dance Program explored the connection between movement and improved psychological health and feelings of social inclusion, in addition to improved physical health for persons with physical and/or cognitive disability. The article reaffirmed the benefits of the RWB's ExplorAbility program and cemented the support for it.

The Mask Project

In the weeks following the arrival of COVID-19 in Manitoba, the RWB found an entirely new way for its talented staff to do good in the world. In what has been dubbed The Mask Project, the RWB's wardrobe department spent nearly two months creating more than 1800 masks, the majority of which were donated to The Winnipeg Boldness Project and intended for families in need. The Mask Project is exemplary of the RWB's desire to give back to the community, a key part of our identity since the days of Gwyneth Lloyd and Betty Farrally.

Quantum

This year, Quantum program students learned the steps to *Arise*, all-original choreography created by Jera Wolfe for Canada's National Ballet School and Sharing Dance Day 2020. Funded by donations to the Children's Heritage Fund and delivered by the RWB School Recreational Division in partnership with Winnipeg School Division and other professional arts organizations, Quantum students were still able to participate in a final performance.

Satellite

In a typical year, the RWB School artistic faculty travels to rural Manitoba communities and conducts weekly classes in ballet, creative movement and jazz. This year, however, as a result of COVID-19's arrival in Manitoba, the only recital was in St. Malo. Despite the cancellation of the other recitals, the RWB wishes to thank all participants and encourages everyone to stay tuned for future announcements regarding the continuation of the Satellite classes.

Manitoba Dance Day

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet and Dance Manitoba came together to create another fun afternoon of dance for all ages. Created as part of Culture Days and hosted in the RWB studios on September 29th Manitoba Dance Day helped raise awareness, participation and engagement in arts and culture activities and events in our community.

On The Edge Tour

As a designated Manitoba 150 partner, this year marked the creation of the RWB School's very first On The Edge Tour. The tour would have visited communities across Manitoba, performing eleven shows in schools and community centres and sharing the art of dance with Manitobans. The CBC interviewed Cameron Fraser-Monroe about his choreography featured on the tour, but the interview did not make it to air as the provincial shutdown over COVID-19 obviated the tour going forward.

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SPONSORSHIP Highlights



The Corporate donors and sponsors of the RWB have continued to show their generosity and support through our successes and challenges in our 80th season.



Hillberg & Berk and Shippam & Associates were welcomed as new RWB Official Partners. Dancers wore earrings from Hillberg & Berk's Sparkle Ball collection while on tour in Mexico and on the stage in *Nutcracker*. These earrings, and their exquisite colours, highlighted the brilliant details found in each of the women's costumes.



Once again, The Asper Foundation, along with The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, generously supported live music for this season's production of *Moulin Rouge® - The Ballet*. We are proud to work closely together with our fellow arts organizations in our city.



In mid-March, as the pandemic landed in Manitoba, the RWB made the difficult decision to cancel the Ballet Ball. In following weeks and months, the RWB cancelled or postponed its final performances and tours of the season. Despite these disappointing cancellations, sponsors remained steadfast in their support and the RWB would like to extend a special thank you to those sponsors who stood by their commitment to the RWB.



Manitoba Hydro confirmed their commitment as Presenting Sponsor for the On The Edge Tour, the newly developed Aspirant showcase which was just days away from beginning their travels to rural Manitoba communities.



TD Bank Group (Presenting Sponsor) and Hillberg & Berk (Event Sponsor) shifted with us as we took our Ballet Ball auction online with great success. The Fairmont Winnipeg, with just two weeks away from our gala event, graciously held room for us to rebook our Ballet Ball to a later date with no penalty.



Our biggest disappointment was the cancellation of our 80th season finale and Alumni Homecoming Weekend that was to take place in early May. BMO (Presenting Sponsor) and Terracon Development Ltd. (Performance Sponsor) both gave the RWB a bow of support.



The generosity of our donors and sponsors enabled the Royal Winnipeg Ballet to end fiscally strong in our anniversary 80th anniversary season, amidst the many cancelled programs and performances due to COVID-19. We look forward to our 81st season and our artists are excited to once again bring audiences together to share the power and beauty of dance on our Winnipeg stages.

Thank you to all our Corporate supporters! We look forward to working with you once again in the upcoming season.



Elizabeth Lamont; photo by Isabelle Ly — Bloomex Canada: RWB Official Florist

ROYAL WINNIPEG BALLET

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Named for the founders of the RWB, Gweneth Lloyd and Betty Hey Farrally, The Lloyd and Farrally Society recognizes those donors whose planned and future gifts will help keep the vision of the RWB alive for the future.

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Every year we rely on our Patron's Circle, Friends of the RWB, and Friends of the RWB School donors to provide pivotal funds that allow us to continue the traditional of world class dance for which the RWB is so renowned.

\$7,500+

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RWB'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Ballet Ball

This year, in the spirit of social distancing and caring for our community, the dinner and performance portion of this event were unfortunately cancelled. However, we brought our Ballet Ball auction online and raised **\$132,805!** The RWB gratefully acknowledges the organizations and individuals who generously donated, contributed their ticket costs back to the RWB and provided prizes.



Alana McAuley: Photo by David Cooper



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James Cohen, Jim Eldridge, Jane Emslie,
Ashleigh Everett, John F. Fraser, Susan Glass,
CM, Jean Giguere, CM, Chair Emeritus,
Richard Kroft, Don Leitch, The Hon Otto Lang,
OC, Peter J. Macdonald, Marilyn Marshall,
Ruth Matas, Jennifer Moncrieff, Stuart Murray,
Art Pearson, Kevin Regan, Arni Thorsteinson,
Terrence Wright, QC



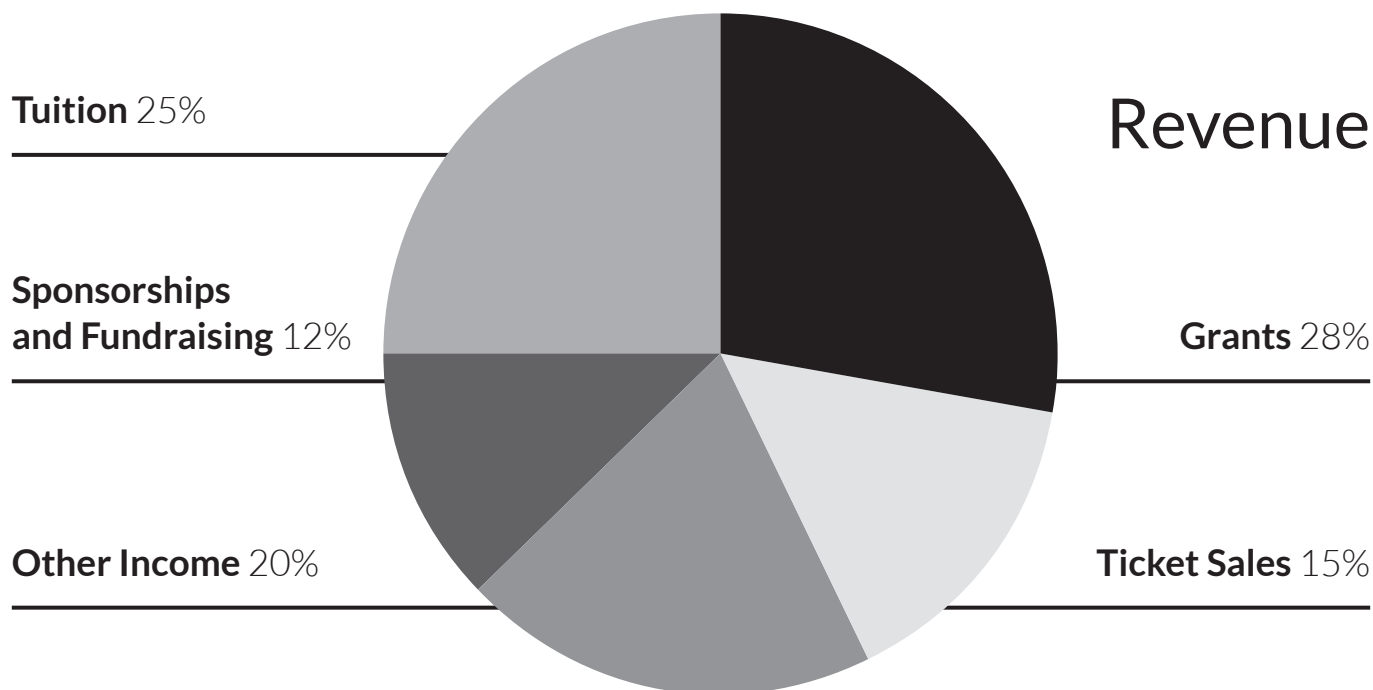
Principal Dancer, Dmitri Dewasnets: Photo by David Cooper

Financial Statements

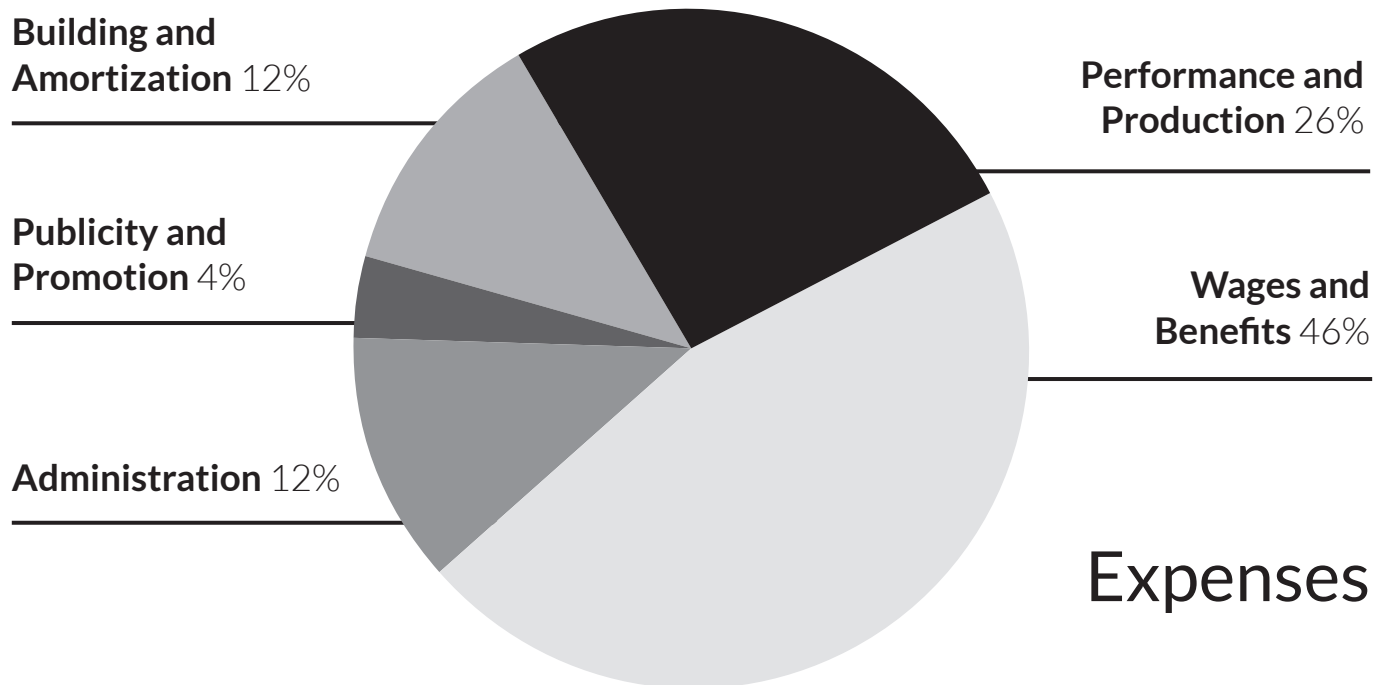
	Operating Fund	Building Fund	Scholarship Fund	Capital Fund	June 30, 2020 Total	June 30, 2019 Total
Assets						
Current Assets						
Cash	2,125,365				2,125,365	1,034,793
Receivables	236,038				236,038	52,678
Prepaid expenses and other assets	13,610				13,610	16,544
Due from Operating Fund		29,820	248,195	5,118		
	2,375,013	29,820	248,195	5,118	2,375,013	1,104,015
New Creations						652,601
Capital assets	31,310	6,829,218			6,860,528	7,153,679
	2,406,323	6,859,038	248,195	5,118	9,235,541	8,910,295
Liabilities and Fund Balances						
Current Liabilities						
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	659,177				659,177	782,545
Deferred revenue	2,992,379				2,992,379	2,298,630
Credit facility		1,076,256			1,076,256	1,148,006
Due to Restricted Funds	283,133					
	3,934,689	1,076,256			4,727,812	4,229,181
Fund Balances						
Restricted		5,782,782	248,195	5,118	6,036,095	6,284,904
Unrestricted	(1,528,366)				(1,528,366)	(1,603,790)
	(1,528,366)	5,782,782	248,195	5,118	4,507,729	4,681,114
	2,406,323	6,859,038	248,195	5,118	9,235,541	8,910,295
Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances for the Year Ended						
Revenues	11,139,765		281,351	5,969	11,427,085	12,086,320
Expenses	11,064,341	297,752	203,717		11,565,810	12,403,357
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenses	75,424	(297,752)	77,634	5,969	(138,725)	(317,037)
Contribution to The Winnipeg Foundation			(28,019)	(6,641)	(34,660)	(48,312)
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	(1,603,790)	6,080,534	198,580	5,790	4,681,114	5,046,463
Fund Balances - End of Year	(1,528,366)	5,782,782	248,195	5,118	4,507,729	4,681,114

Revenue and Expenses

Revenue



Performance and Production 26%



Expenses



Stephan Aulay; Photo by David Cooper

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet remains committed to safely delivering world-class dance at home and around the world. We will continue to teach, create and perform, enriching lives through the power of exceptional dance, just as we have for eight decades. From all of us at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, thank you for your continued interest and unwavering support as we look toward the future.



