

Over 2500 Students LIVE and IN-PERSON for the Biggest Downtown Dance Party in Winnipeg!



Sharing Dance 2017 Participants | Photo by Leif Norman

WINNIPEG, May 4, 2023. On Wednesday, May 10, 2023, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School (RWB School) will be taking the University of Winnipeg Axworthy Health & RecPlex by storm with **Sharing Dance Day**. Since its inception in 2015, Sharing Dance has been the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School's leading community engagement initiative. Sharing Dance is offered in partnership with Canada's National Ballet School (NBS), who is responsible for engaging Sharing Dance choreographers and for the development of the choreography.

Sharing Dance is founded on the belief that everyone should have access to the physical, emotional, and social benefits of dance. Throughout the year, the RWB School has delivered free multi-week programming to thousands of children across Manitoba, and this culminates in Sharing Dance Day – an annual celebration of music, movement and community with workshops and performances by a diverse array of artists. This exciting day gives over 2,500 students in kindergarten to grade six from 20 schools across Manitoba, the opportunity to celebrate their love of dance and movement in a fun, supportive, and inclusive environment.

"The students learn skills and concepts in the process of creating dances, and discover how the body works physiologically, by practicing and performing their own choreographed dances both individually and in groups. Not everyone interprets music and moves in the same way. This helps them to see that everyone is different, but no one is wrong in their individuality. Being able to understand these differences – and similarities – helps children develop richer social skills and a better acceptance of others."

- Ella Golubchik, Elementary Performing Arts and Music specialist, King Edward School and Luxton School-

For the first time since 2019, Sharing Dance Day will feature two live and in-person performances, including pieces by the RWB School Resident Choreographer, Gabriela Rehak, and a member of our Recreational Division School Faculty, Kersey Sarao and his dance team, the Gago Brothers.

The performances will be topped off with participants performing the custom-created Sharing Dance Day choreography together. We invite students to share in our excitement for this event, become inspired by the love of dance, and capture the joy of movement in a positive, welcoming environment! *"Sharing Dance Day is simply magical. A very large diverse group all come together to dance the choreography learned this year. Participants will have the opportunity to watch a show displaying different dance groups in the community. Best dance celebration!!!"*
-Johanne Gingras, RWB School Teacher Training Program Director-

This year, our host is Sarah Michaelson (a.k.a. DJ MamaCutsworth). She has been a DJ and dance & music educator since 2004, sharing her passion for music that transgresses eras and genres – from soul to salsa. Her unique style and versatility are what make her the perfect MC for Sharing Dance Day.

Marilee Schroeder, the Coordinator of Sharing Dance Day and member of the RWB School Artistic Faculty teaches ballet in the Recreational Division. *"My favourite moments have been hearing the students add ideas, shapes, and images to our routine. They really took the dance and made it their own, working up a sweat while also developing a strong sense of community and confidence. The Sharing Dance routine music this season is a huge hit! I often enter the school and hear someone singing the music, inspiring me through my day as voices echo in the hallways humming the melody."*

- Marilee Schroeder, Sharing Dance Program Coordinator & Recreational Division Artistic Faculty -

To learn more about Sharing Dance, please visit rwb.org, sharingdance.ca or call the RWB School Office at **204.957.3467**.

The RWB School gratefully acknowledges our sponsors, the Johnston Group, as well as our Community Partner, Canadian Tire Jumpstart for being a part of this invigorating dance experience. Thank you for helping make Sharing Dance Day possible!

"Sharing Dance Day is a fantastic event to bring the power of movement to the community. Johnston Group is thrilled to be a part of such an inspirational event."

-Dave Angus, President of Johnston Group-

"Through recreation and sport, kids have the opportunity to develop valuable life skills such as teamwork, confidence, and resiliency. Jumpstart is proud to support the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Sharing Dance Day, which is sure to be a fun and memorable event for everyone involved."

-Marco Di Buono, President, Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities-

Sharing Dance is made possible with the support of NBS' Lozinski Centre for Community Dance Founding Donors and Honourary Chairs Joan and Jerry Lozinski, and the Government of Canada. NBS gratefully acknowledges NBS Sharing Dance National Program Supporters Linda Dagg & Kenneth Wiener and Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities.

About Canada's National Ballet School (NBS) Sharing Dance

Sharing Dance is the flagship community initiative of Canada's National Ballet School (NBS), motivating Canadians of all ages to participate in FREE, healthy, and fun, dance activities. Developed by NBS and supported by Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School (RWB School), Sharing Dance provides several distinct streams of engagement for Canadians of all ages and abilities. Each year, a new dance routine is created and made available across Canada.

About Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School

For over 80 years, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School (RWB School) has been inspiring young artists and supporting them in the pursuit of their goals. Under the direction of School Director Stéphane Léonard, the RWB School is well-known and respected across Canada and around the world for providing excellence in dance education.. The connection to the RWB Company and the subsequent visibility of students and exposure to the eye of Artistic Director & CEO André Lewis, O.M., is among the RWB School's many strengths.

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