



Barbara Pontecorvo, Artistic Director

# Fall Repertory 2020

Prologue from  
The Sleeping Beauty

Miellifluous Movement

COVidiom

Overture

Shostakovich Dances

October 17-18, 2020

Live Streamed from

Stuart Sebastian Performance Space

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AND many thanks to all who generously bid on and purchased desserts at the  
Awesome Dessert Auction Picnic in September!

Thank you also to Burt and Alice Saidel for their generous legacy gift in support of  
Gem City Ballet.

Gem City Ballet relies on donations from corporations and patrons like you for over  
half of its operating budget. Gem City Ballet is recognized as a 501(c)(3) not-for-  
profit corporation and all donations are tax-deductible. For more information, call  
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## Gem City Ballet

(Incorporated as Ballet de Jeunesse, Inc.)

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# From the Director



Dear Friends,

Welcome to Gem City Ballet's first live streaming performance! This is, like all of 2020, sad and exciting at the same time. But we are so happy to be dancing again, to beautiful music, in lovely costumes and with challenging, interesting choreography.

We begin our performance with the *Prologue from The Sleeping Beauty*. All of Fairy variations are traditional choreography and one thing I love about this part of *Sleeping Beauty* is that something from

each Fairy variation shows up later in one of Aurora's variations. She uses the gifts that the Fairies give her.

*Mellifluous Movement* is hands down the most intricate and well thought out senior ballet a GCB member has ever choreographed. Its structure is so developed and the musicality is so innate, the choreography so much fun to dance, it really is a perfect little ballet in under 10 minutes. Bravo, Molly McDonald.

COVidiom has been re worked to reflect what we are all going through during this unprecedented year. I know you won't be able to pick up on all of the small changes Adam Hundt and I have made, but the ballet is now completely compliant with 2020 health guidelines.

*Overture* is just fun. I hope you enjoy.

And finally, Jonathan Tabbert's lively and lovely *Shostakovich Dances*. From its opening waltz to the final scherzo, Mr. Tabbert has pushed our dancers to reflect Shostakovich's tricky rhythms and quirky melodies. I love Shostakovich's music and I love what Mr. Tabbert has done with it.

You will notice that we will be giving out flowers to the dancers as the performance moves along. Because we had to severely limit the amount of audience present, we wanted to give our dancer's relatives a way to still be physically connected to the dancers. The bouquets presented on stage will bring smiles to our dancers' faces when they know someone is thinking of them.

I hope you enjoy! I hope you stay safe. And I hope that we will be able to see all of you in person in February!

*Barbara*

**Many Thanks** to Phil Detweiler, Charity Patrina and Teresa Minneman for their untiring help in making this performance possible!

# About Gem City Ballet

Gem City Ballet was formed on January 8, 1992. There were eight women and one man present at that first rehearsal. GCB has produced over 25 professional dancers since that time and is busy producing more. Dancers are admitted by audition only, and auditions are open to all serious dance students in the Miami Valley area.

GCB was formed for three main purposes: (1) to educate young dancers in the joys and rigors of ballet performance, (2) to make quality ballet performances available to a wider audience and (3) to provide both new and experienced choreographers an opportunity to create new works.

Gem City Ballet is a non-profit and completely volunteer company and requires outside financial help to continue its excellent work. You can help by donating funds that will be used for commissioning new and existing choreography and costumes.

Gem City Ballet is recognized as a 501(c)(3) corporation and all donations are tax-deductible. For more information, call 937-550-9245 or visit [www.gemcityballet.org](http://www.gemcityballet.org).

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## Company Members

Christiana Allen	Lucy Arnold	Natalie Baldwin
Adrianna Brownfield	Abbie Burns	Annie Burns
Josie Buten	Caron Cleveland	Carly Darnell
Lian Detweiler	Ryese Diercks	Ava Evans
Hannah Geelhood	Amelia Johnson	Isabella Konya
Hannah McGuffey	Samantha Minneman	Hollie Montgomery
Elizabeth Nassmacher	Mira Seppi	Madelyn Stankas
Zoe Sweere		Ashley Zimmer

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### **Gem City Ballet - 2020-21 Season**

December 13, 2020

Holiday Concert with Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra

February 12-14, 2021

Winter Repertory

April 16-18, 2021

Spring Repertory

Follow Gem City Ballet on Facebook or at [gemcityballet.org](http://gemcityballet.org) for updated and ticket information.

# Program

## Prologue from The Sleeping Beauty

*GCB premiere - October 19, 2007*

*Choreography. . . . Marius Petitpa*

*Music. . . . P.I. Tchaikovsky*

*Costumes. . . . Barbara Pontecorvo*

*Saturday:*

*Beauty Fairy: Hannah McGuffey*

*Energy Fairy: Ashley Zimmer*

*Grace Fairy: Lian Detweiler*

*Songbird Fairy: Christiana Allen*

*Precision Fairy: Abbie Burns*

*Lilac Fairy: Annie Burns*

*Attendants:*

Naomi Baldwin, Josie Buten, Caron Cleveland, Madelyn Stankas

*Sunday:*

*Beauty Fairy: Ava Evans*

*Energy Fairy: Amelia Johnson*

*Grace Fairy: Samantha Minneman*

*Songbird Fairy: Zoe Sweere*

*Precision Fairy: Ryese Diercks*

*Lilac Fairy: Carly Darnell*

*Attendants:*

Andrianna Brownfield, Hannah Geelhood, Hollie Montgomery, Mira Seppi

## Mellifluous Movement

*Premiere - May 8, 2010*

*Choreography. . . . Molly McDonald*

*Music. . . . Detektivbyrån and Imogen Heap*

*Costumes. . . . Barbara Pontecorvo*

*Saturday:*

Christiana Allen, Naomi Baldwin, Abbie Burns, Annie Burns, Lian Detweiler,  
Hannah McGuffey, Madelyn Stankas, Ashley Zimmer

*Sunday:*

Lucy Arnold, Carly Darnell, Ryese Diercks, Ava Evans, Hannah Geelhood,  
Samantha Minneman, Hollie Montgomery, Elizabeth Nassmacher

# COVidiom

*Premiere (as 'idiom') - April 20, 2012*

*Choreography. . . . . Adam Hundt*

*Music. . . . . Arvo Part*

*Costumes. . . . . Barbara Pontecorvo*

*Saturday:*

Abbie Burns, Annie Burns, Lian Detweiler. Zoe Sweere

*Sunday:*

Carly Darnell, Ava Evans, Amelia Johnson, Samantha Minneman

## *Intermission*

# Overture

*Premiere - October 2, 2010*

*Choreography. . . . . Barbara Pontecorvo*

*Music. . . . . Gioachino Rossini*

*Costumes. . . . . Barbara Pontecorvo*

*Saturday:*

Lian Detweiler - Ashley Zimmer - Christiana Allen

Abbie Burns, Hannah McGuffey

Naomi Baldwin, Josie Buten, Caron Cleveland, Madelyn Stankas

*Sunday:*

Lucy Arnold - Amelia Johnson - Ava Evans

Ryese Diercks, Elizabeth Nassmacher

Andrianna Brownfield, Hannah Geelhood, Hollie Montgomery, Mira Seppi

# Shostakovich Dances

Premiere - February 13, 2013

Choreography. . . . . Jonathan Tabbert

Music. . . . . Dimitri Shostkovich

Costumes. . . . . Barbara Pontecorvo

Saturday:

Zoe Sweere

Christiana Allen, Annie Burns, Ashley Zimmer

Naomi Baldwin, Abbie Burns, Lian Detweiler,

Hannah McGuffey, Madelyn Stankas

Sunday:

Carly Darnell

Ryese Diercks, Ava Evans, Samantha Minneman

Amelia Johnson, Isabella Konya, Hollie Montgomery,

Elizabeth Nassmacher, Mira Seppi

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## Choreographers

**Adam Hundt** (*COVidiom*), a former GCB member born in Dayton, Ohio, is a teacher, director, choreographer and producer based in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Mr. Hundt most recently produced the the West-End production of *Grease* for Royal Caribbean. He has also produced and directed multiple production shows as well as the DreamWorks Character Program. Mr. Hundt has been a member of BalletMet Columbus, Ballet Pacifica, American Repertory Ballet, Hubbard Street 2, BalletX and as a guest with Dominic Walsh Dance Theater and Infinite Movement. Before concluding his performance career he performed for Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's *Freedom of the Seas*, also serving as Dance Captain. He has studied with the San Francisco Ballet, BalletMet, Indiana University, and Barbara Pontecorvo in his hometown of Dayton. In addition to teaching for the Lou Conte Dance studio, Princeton Ballet School and BalletMet, he performed and taught for the International Contemporary Dance Festival in Poland and Lithuania. Mr. Hundt has choreographed multiple works for BalletMet, Ballet Pacifica, DanceWorks Chicago, and in 2006 was a fellowship recipient from the Greater Columbus Arts Council.

**Molly McDonald** (*Mellifluous Movement*) is a former member of Gem City Ballet. *Mellifluous Movement*, Ms. McDonald's first of two ballets created for GCB, was created as a part of GCB's Senior Choreography Project in 2010, and was the first such work to be accepted into the company's standard repertory.

Ms. McDonald now holds a BA in English with a minor in Dance from Wake Forest University, and a MA in Arts Administration from Columbia University. Throughout her studies, Ms. McDonald interned with numerous dance organizations including Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Dayton Performing Arts Alliance, Boston Ballet School, The George Balanchine Trust, the New York Choreographic Institute at New York City Ballet, and The Joyce Theater. Ms. McDonald currently resides in New York City and works as the Operations Director for Gaynor Minden, an international pointe shoe and dancewear brand. In her free time, Ms. McDonald stays in touch with the choreographic process by supporting former Cunningham dancer Ellen Cornfield in the management of her modern dance company.

**Barbara Pontecorvo** (*Overture*) is originally from New Orleans, LA and studied there with Lelia Haller, a former Paris Opera Ballet dancer, and Mike Herrington. She joined Houston Ballet when she was 17, rose quickly through the ranks and attained Principal Dancer status when she was 21. She subsequently danced as a Principal Dancer with Chicago Ballet, Ballet Puertorequeno, Boston Repertory Ballet and Dayton Ballet. Barbara has choreographed many ballets and staged both full length classical ballets and with the permission of the Balanchine Trust, four Balanchine ballets. Her main focus is Pontecorvo Ballet Studios and her directorship of Gem City Ballet. Barbara has been married to David Shough for 34 years and lives in Carlisle, OH with two Great Danes, Don Q and Kitri.

**Jonathan Tabbert** (*Shostakovich Dances*) began his dance training at the Dayton Ballet School and then received a scholarship to study at The Harid Conservatory, where he was awarded a number of dance honors. In 1999 Jonathan completed his training at the School of the Hartford Ballet with supplemental training from the Houston Ballet Academy and American Ballet Theatre.

Jonathan had an illustrious performance career as a principal dancer with the Charleston Ballet Theatre as well as being a guest artist for Ballet Spartanburg, North Carolina State Ballet and the Greenville Ballet. After twelve years of being a valued staff member of the Charleston Ballet School he founded and directed their youth company. He also held the title of company teacher and guest choreographer. His choreography became a staple in the repertoire as well as receiving a performance grant from the Harkness Foundation for his ballet *Jubilee*. Other credits include Guest Teacher and/or Choreographer for the Gem City Ballet, Victoria Ballet Theatre, Burklyn Ballet Theatre and The Charleston County School of the Arts. During his time as resident choreographer for Palmetto City Ballet he has created numerous original repertory works and new classics including *Little Match Girl*, *Creation*, *French Twist*, *Thumbelina*, *The Snow Queen* and *Cinderella*. Jonathan is also currently the Co-Founder/Director of the Palmetto City Ballet School and Palmetto City Youth Ballet.























