

AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE



2017

ANNUAL REPORT

# BOARD OF GOVERNING TRUSTEES

As of December 31, 2017

Lucia Chase and Oliver Smith, *Founders*  
Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis (1929-1994), *Honorary Chairman Emerita*

## OFFICERS

Andrew F. Barth, *Chairman*  
David H. Koch, Sharon Patrick, Martin Sosnoff, *Vice Chairmen*  
Brian J. Heidtke, *President*  
Nancy Havens-Hasty, *Treasurer*  
Melissa A. Smith, *Secretary*

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Andrew F. Barth, *Chairman*  
Brian J. Heidtke, *President*  
David H. Koch, *Vice Chair*  
Sharon Patrick, *Vice Chair*  
Stewart R. Smith, *Chair, Audit Committee*  
Melissa A. Smith, *Co-Chair, Development Committee; Chair, Strategic Planning Committee*  
Beth Chartoff Spector, *Co-Chair, Development Committee*  
Sarah Arison, *Chair, Education Committee*  
Valentino D. Carlotti, *Co-Chair, Finance Committee*  
Nancy Havens-Hasty, *Co-Chair, Finance Committee*  
Martin Sosnoff, *Co-Chair, Investment Committee*  
Douglas C. Wurth, *Co-Chair, Investment Committee*  
Reynold Levy, *Chair, Nominating Committee*  
Lisa Smith Cashin, *Member-at-Large*

## TRUSTEES

Linda Allard	Sonia Florian	Paula Mahoney	Jenna Segal*
Kara Medoff Barnett	Pamela Ford*	Nancy McCormick	Charles Segars
Francesca Macartney Beale	William J. Gillespie	Bill McIntosh	Sutton Stracke
Hamish Bowles	Sheila Grant	Kevin McKenzie	Jean Volpe
Audre D. Carlin	Henry P. Johnson*	Ruth Newman	John L. Warden, Esq.
Amy R. Churgin	Wendy Evans Joseph	Howard S. Paley	Mark E. Watson III*
Susan Feinstein	Christian Keesee	Anka K. Palitz	Joseph A. Wilson
Christina Fish	Theresa Khawly	Karen C. Phillips*	
	Donald Kramer	Matthew Rubel	

## CHAIRMEN EMERITI

Donald M. Kendall  
Melville Straus  
Charles H. Dyson  
Stephen J. Friedman  
Peter T. Joseph

Hamilton E. James  
Lewis S. Ranieri  
Edward A. Fox  
Donald Kramer

## HONORARY TRUSTEES

Mildred C. Brinn  
Ricki Gail Conway  
Alexander C. Ewing  
Deborah, Lady MacMillan  
Robin Chemers Neustein

Mrs. Byam K. Stevens, Jr.  
Anne M. Tatlock  
Blaine Trump  
Nancy Zeckendorf

**THE MISSION** of American Ballet Theatre is to create, to present, to preserve, and to extend the great repertoire of classical dancing, through exciting performances and educational programming of the highest quality, presented to the widest possible audience.

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Sarah Lane and Daniil Simkin  
in *Giselle*. Photo: Erin Baiano.

**ABT**

AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

\*Joined in 2017

## LETTER

### From the Chairman of the Board, President of the Board, Artistic Director & Executive Director

In 2017, American Ballet Theatre affirmed our commitment to excellence, innovation, and inclusion. And then we raised our ambitions and our expectations.

Our mission calls us to *extend* the canon of great classical dancing. In 2017, we produced a healthy **slate of new work**, including *Whipped Cream*, ABT's brand new full-length ballet with original choreography and design. *Whipped Cream* premiered at the Segerstrom Center in Costa Mesa in March and at the Metropolitan Opera House in May, receiving critical acclaim and capturing the imaginations of audience members of all ages. The choreography by Alexei Ratmansky, the sets and costumes by Mark Ryden, and the music by Richard Strauss, combined for a "candyland triumph" (*New York Times*) that provides ABT with new touring opportunities worldwide.

In addition, ABT presented three **world premieres** in October 2017 at the David H. Koch Theater. One of these works, *Counterpoint for Philip Johnson* by choreographer Benjamin Millepied, surprised and delighted audience members at intermission, animating the Grand Promenade level of the Koch Theater and its famous tiered balconies. The dancers, members of ABT Studio Company and the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis (JKO) School, relished the opportunity to perform during the Company's fall season.

Among other **touring destinations**, the Company traveled to the Middle East, bringing *Giselle* to Muscat, Oman. As is our tradition for over 77 years, American Ballet Theatre travels the nation and the globe, transporting a Company of 130 dancers, staff and crew along with several tractor trailer trucks or shipping containers of scenery, costumes and equipment.

In an annual tradition, we introduced families to the magic of the performing arts, filling the Metropolitan

Opera House with more than 3,500 children and parents for *ABTKids*, and nearly 4,000 public school students and teachers for the Young People's Ballet Workshop. Our programs and residencies in schools and with Boys and Girls Clubs nationwide reached thousands more, **igniting imaginations**.

Our **training pipeline** is robust and thriving. Ten members of ABT Studio Company were promoted to Apprentice, and seven JKO students were promoted to Studio Company in 2017. ABT Summer Intensives attracted 1,350 students from 38 countries. Efforts to promote diversity and inclusivity have yielded encouraging results: 30% of our summer intensive students and 40% of JKO School students in 2017 are from traditionally underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds, up from 25% and 29%, respectively, in 2016.

We focused on **building infrastructure** to support rapid innovation and audience development worldwide. Our facilities at 890 Broadway received a much-needed upgrade in 2017 with the renovation of the ABT Lounge. The transformation was supported by an anonymous donor and *Architectural Digest*, and our new community gathering space was featured in a beautiful spread in the magazine.

Our **digital infrastructure** is the next area of marked improvement for the Company, as work began in 2017 for a new website that will serve ABT's present and future audiences worldwide. ABT Trustee Karen Phillips and Infor were the catalysts behind this new and essential portal.

Our **financial foundations** have been strengthened by a record year in contributed income, with two extraordinary galas, honoring ABT's former Chairman Hamilton E. James in May and ABT Trustee Valentino D. Carlotti in October. The Spring Gala celebrated



Andrew F. Barth, Kevin McKenzie,  
Kara Medoff Barnett,  
and Brian J. Heidtke.  
Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.

the premiere of *Whipped Cream* and announced a significant fundraising effort – The Ratmansky Project – which allows ABT to produce world premieres each year by our remarkable Artist in Residence Alexei Ratmansky. And the Fall Gala celebrated *Project Plié*, our industry-leading initiative to promote racial and ethnic diversity in classical ballet. In addition to record-breaking galas, box office revenues were substantial, due to increased ticket sales and improved dynamic pricing. Almost 4,500 more tickets were sold in 2017 than in 2016 for performances during ABT's spring season at the Metropolitan Opera House.

The **talent both on stage and off** has never been stronger. In 2017, three dancers were promoted to the rank of Principal: Sarah Lane, Christine Shevchenko, and Devon Teuscher; and Calvin Royal III was promoted to Soloist. With five new trustees joining our ranks in 2017 and a newly created Chief Administrative Officer position overseeing human resources and legal functions, the ABT Family is led by mission-driven, committed, effective staff and volunteers. We aspire to

be the best place to work in the performing arts, and we are consistently pursuing professional development and community-building opportunities for our hard-working team.

We are privileged to be part of this vibrant and dynamic community and to steward America's National Ballet Company®.

Onward!

**Andrew F. Barth**  
Chairman of the Board

**Brian J. Heidtke**  
President of the Board

**Kevin McKenzie**  
Artistic Director

**Kara Medoff Barnett**  
Executive Director



## KEVIN MCKENZIE

*Celebrating 25 Years*

AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Photo: Gregory Heisler.

## 2017 marks the 25th Anniversary of Kevin McKenzie's artistic leadership of American Ballet Theatre.

For a quarter century, Kevin has led ABT with exacting standards, ample laughter, and deep kindness. As ballerina Gillian Murphy says: "His positive energy has drawn and developed an ABT community that is vibrant and dynamic." We are honored to support and propel his artistic vision.

Below is a selection of milestones from his extraordinary career.

### SEPTEMBER 1967

Entered Washington School of Ballet (alongside his sister Maureen)

### 1974

Joined the Joffrey Ballet

### MARCH 1979

Joined American Ballet Theatre as a Soloist

### DECEMBER 1979

Promoted to Principal Dancer with ABT

### 1990

Co-founded Kaatsbaan International Dance Center in Tivoli, New York with Gregory Cary, Bentley Roton and Martine van Hamel

### OCTOBER 1992

Named Artistic Director of American Ballet Theatre

### 1993

Received an honorary degree of Doctor of Arts from Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont

### DECEMBER 1993

Choreographed *The Nutcracker*

### MAY 1993

Staged revival of David Blair's *Swan Lake*

### JUNE 1995

Staged *Don Quixote* with Susan Jones

### MAY 1998:

Staged *Giselle*

### 1999

Won *Dance Magazine* Award, presented to him by Martine van Hamel

### MARCH 2000:

Choreographed *Swan Lake*

### MAY 2004

Conceived and directed full-length *Raymonda* with Anna-Martine Holmes

### JUNE 2007

Staged *The Sleeping Beauty* with Gelsey Kirkland and Michael Chernov

### JANUARY 2009

Appointed Alexei Ratmansky as Artist in Residence with American Ballet Theatre

### OCTOBER 2014

Staged *Raymonda Divertissements* with Irina Kolpakova

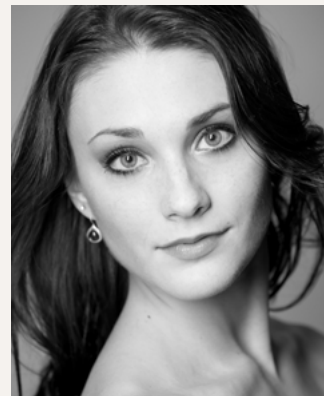
### OCTOBER 18, 2017

Celebration of 25th Anniversary as Artistic Director with American Ballet Theatre

## COMPANY PROMOTIONS

In 2017, ABT promoted the following dancers in the Company

### PROMOTED TO PRINCIPAL



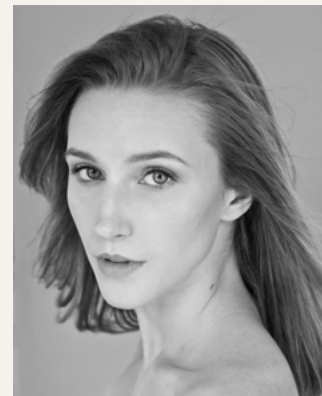
Sarah Lane

*Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.*



Christine Shevchenko

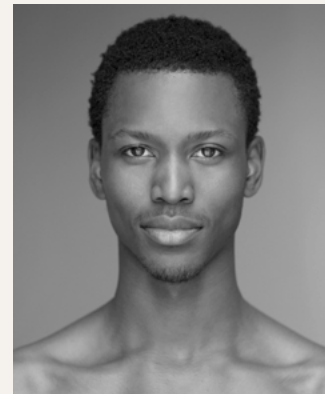
*Photo: Alex DiMattia.*



Devon Teuscher

*Photo: Renata Pavam.*

### PROMOTED TO SOLOIST



Calvin Royal III

*Photo: Jade Young.*

### PROMOTED TO CORPS

Nastia Alexandrova  
Aran Bell  
Carlos Gonzalez  
Kiely Groenewegen  
Anabel Katsnelson  
Xuelan Lu

### IN 2017, ABT WELCOMED THE FOLLOWING DANCERS TO THE COMPANY

Sierra Armstrong  
Zimmi Coker  
Luigi Crispino

Andrii Ishchuk  
João Menegussi  
Virginia Lensi

*As of December 31, 2017.*

## COMPANY ROSTER

### PRINCIPALS

Stella Abrera  
Roberto Bolle  
Isabella Boylston  
Jeffrey Cirio  
Misty Copeland  
Herman Cornejo  
David Hallberg  
Sarah Lane  
Alban Lendorf  
Gillian Murphy  
Hee Seo  
Christine Shevchenko  
Daniil Simkin  
Cory Stearns  
Devon Teuscher  
James Whiteside

### SOLOISTS

Skylar Brandt  
Thomas Forster  
Joseph Gorak  
Alexandre Hammoudi  
Blaine Hoven  
Luciana Paris

Calvin Royal III  
Arron Scott  
Cassandra Trenary  
Roman Zhurbin

### CORPS DE BALLET

Alexei Agoudine  
Joo Won Ahn  
Mai Aihara  
Nastia Alexandrova  
Alexandra Basmagy  
Hanna Bass  
Aran Bell  
Gisele Bethea  
Gemma Bond  
Lauren Bonfiglio  
Kathryn Boren  
Gray Davis  
Claire Davison  
Brittany Degrofft  
Zhong-jing Fang  
Scout Forsythe  
Patrick Frenette  
April Giangeruso  
Carlos Gonzalez

Breanne Granlund  
Kiely Groenewegen  
Melanie Hamrick  
Sung Woo Han  
Courtlyn Hanson  
Connor Holloway  
Catherine Hurlin  
Anabel Katsnelson  
Jonathan Klein  
Erica Lall  
Courtney Lavine  
Carolyn Lippert  
Isadora Loyola  
Xuelan Lu  
Duncan Lyle  
Tyler Maloney  
Hannah Marshall  
Betsy McBride  
Cameron McCune  
Elina Miettinen  
Kaho Ogawa  
Garegin Pogossian  
Lauren Post  
Kelley Potter  
Wan Yue Qiao

Luis Ribagorda  
Rachel Richardson  
Jose Sebastian  
Gabe Stone Shayer  
Courtney Shealy  
Sean Stewart  
Kento Sumitani  
Nathan Vendt  
Paulina Waski  
Marshall Whiteley  
Katherine Williams  
Stephanie Williams  
Remy Young  
Jin Zhang  
Zhiyao zhang

### APPRENTICES

Sierra Armstrong  
Zimmi Coker  
Luigi Crispino  
Andrii Ishchuk  
João Menegussi  
Virginia Lensi

*As of December 31, 2017.*



Christine Shevchenko in Giselle.  
*Photo: Erin Baiano.*

# ABT ORCHESTRA

## CONDUCTORS

Ormsby Wilkins,  
*Music Director*  
Charles Barker,  
*Principal Conductor*  
David LaMarche,  
*Conductor and Music Administrator*



David LaMarche, Ormsby Wilkins, and Charles Barker. Photo: Charles Barker.

## FIRST VIOLINS

Benjamin Bowman,  
*Concertmaster*  
Robin Bushman  
Jane Chung  
Lillit Gampel  
Joanna Jenner  
Ragga Petursdottir  
Dorothy Strahl  
Sander Strenger  
Carol Zeavin  
Robin Zeh

## SECOND VIOLINS

Martha Caplin, *Principal*  
Lora Baylis  
Ann Gillette  
Michael Gillette  
Elizabeth Kleinman  
Lucy Morganstern  
Richard Rood  
Deborah Wong

## VIOLAS

Shmuel Katz, *Principal*  
Nardo Poy  
Olivia Koppell  
Sarah Adams  
Daniel Farina  
Ronald Carbone

## LIBRARIAN

David Carp

## CELLOS

Jonathan Spitz, *Principal*  
Scott Ballantyne  
Maurren Hynes  
Sarah Seiver  
Ellen Westermann  
Mariko Wyrick

## DOUBLE-BASS

Lewis Paer, *Principal*  
Bradley Aikman  
Charles Urbont  
Jack Wenger

## FLUTES

Judith Mendenhall, *Principal*  
Diva Goodfriend-Koven,  
*Piccolo*  
Karen Purpura

## OBOES

Matthew Dine, *Principal*  
Roni Gal-Ed, *English Horn*  
Ellen Willner

## CLARINETS

Jon Manasse, *Principal*  
Shari Hoffman  
David Gould, *Bass Clarinet*

## BASSOONS

Marc Goldberg, *Principal*  
Cynde Lverson

## ORCHESTRA MANAGER

Mathew Dine

## HORNS

Russ Rizner  
Randal Ulmer

## TRUMPETS

Carl Albach, *Principal*  
Kenneth DeCarlo  
Rich Clymer  
John Sheppard

## TROMBONES

Clifford Hynes, *Principal*  
Tom Hutchinson

## TUBA

Morris Kainuma, *Principal*

## HARP

Barbara Allen, *Principal*

## PERCUSSION

Fred Eckler, *Principal*  
Andrew Bowman  
Daniel Haskins  
David Wilson

## TIMPANI

Lou Barranti, *Principal*

## PIANO/KEYBOARD

Barbara Bilach

As of December 31, 2017.



Isabella Boylston in *Swan Lake*.  
Photo: Gene Schiavone.

Daniil Simkin in Whipped Cream.  
Photo: Gene Schiavone.

# PERFORMANCES

## AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE IN 2017

5

world premieres  
created

8

different full-length  
ballets performed

16

different one-act  
ballets in mixed  
repertory programs

105

performances in the U.S  
and around the world

275 K

audience members  
reached globally



# 2017 WORLD PREMIERES

## WHIPPED CREAM

“...a bewitching success...”

“...devastatingly tasteful and lavishly detailed..”

— Laura Bleiberg, *Los Angeles Times*

“Ratmansky... exemplifying a distinctive classical style that ranks beside the best anywhere”

— Alastair Macaulay, *The New York Times*

**Choreography by:**  
Alexei Ratmansky

**Music by:**  
Richard Strauss

**Scenic and Costume Design by:**  
Mark Ryden

*Whipped Cream* is a brand new full-length ballet, choreographed by ABT’s Artist in Residence, Alexei Ratmansky.

The New York Premiere of *Whipped Cream* was the highlight of ABT’s 2017 Spring Season with 12 performances at the Metropolitan Opera House, following its world premiere in March 2017 at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, California.

Leadership support for *Whipped Cream* was provided by the Blavatnik Family Foundation, Hamilton E. James, and Lloyd E. Rigler – Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation.



Stella Abrera in *Whipped Cream*.  
Photo: Gene Schiavone.



Christine Shevchenko and Calvin Royal III  
Photo: Marty Sohl.

## SONGS OF BUKOVINA

**Choreography by:**  
Alexei Ratmansky

**Music by:**  
Leonid Desyatnikov

*Songs of Bukovina* is part of *The Ratmansky Project*. Please see Page 41 for more details.



Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.

## I FEEL THE EARTH MOVE

**Choreography by:**  
Benjamin Millepied

**Music by:**  
Philip Glass



Photo: Marty Sohl.

## THE GIFT

**Choreography by:**  
Jessica Lang

**Music by:**  
Arcangelo Corelli



Photo: Erin Baiano.

## COUNTERPOINT BY PHILLIP JOHNSON

**Choreography by:**  
Benjamin Millepied

**Music by:** Phillip Johnson



## 2017 PERFORMANCES AT A GLANCE

**JAN 25–29**

**The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**  
Washington, D.C.  
7 performances of *Swan Lake*

**MAR 15–19**

**Segerstrom Center for the Arts**  
Costa Mesa, CA  
7 performances of *Whipped Cream*

**APR 6–8**

**Royal Opera House**  
Muscat, Oman  
3 performances of *Giselle*

**MAY 14–  
JULY 17**

**The Metropolitan Opera House**  
New York, NY  
63 performances:  
8 performances of *Don Quixote*  
12 performances of *Whipped Cream*  
8 performances of *Giselle*  
4 performances of *The Golden Cockerel*  
8 performances of *Le Corsaire*  
8 performances of *Swan Lake*  
8 performances of *Onegin*  
7 performances of *Tchaikovsky Spectacular*

**OCT 18–29**

**David H. Koch Theater**  
New York, NY  
13 performances of mixed-repertory programs

**DEC 7–17**

**Segerstrom Center for the Arts**  
Costa Mesa, CA  
15 performances of *The Nutcracker*

## SPRING SEASON

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE | NEW YORK, NY



Skylar Brandt, Jeffrey Cirio and Catherine Hurlin.  
Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.

### DON QUIXOTE

**Choreography after:**  
Marius Petipa and Alexander Gorsky

**Music by:**  
Ludwig Minkus

*ABT's production of Don Quixote is generously supported through an endowed gift from Anka K. Palitz, in memory of Clarence Y. Palitz, Jr.*



Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.

### WHIPPED CREAM

*New York Premiere*  
**Choreography by:** Alexei Ratmansky

**Music by:**  
Richard Strauss

**Scenic and Costume Design by:**  
Mark Ryden

*Leadership support for Whipped Cream has been provided by the Blavatnik Family Foundation, Hamilton E. James, and Lloyd E. Rigler - Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation.*



Sarah Lane and Daniil Simkin.  
Photo: Erin Baiano.

### GISELLE

**Choreography after:**  
Jean Corelli, Jules Perrot and Marius Petipa

**Music by:**  
Adolphe Adam

*ABT's performances of Giselle are generously supported through an endowed gift from Sharon Patrick.*

SPRING SEASON  
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE | NEW YORK, NY



Stella Abrera.  
Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.

THE GOLDEN  
COCKEREL

**Choreography by:** Alexei Ratmansky  
(Inspired by Mikhail Fokine's original production)

**Music by:** Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

The Golden Cockerel is part of The Ratmansky Project. Please see Page 41 for more details.



Christine Shevchenko.  
Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.

LE CORSAIRE

**Choreography after:** Marius Petipa and Konstantin Sergeyev

**Music by:** Adolphe Adam, Césaire Pugni, Léo Delibes, Riccardo Drigo, and Prince Oldenbourg

ABT's performances of Le Corsaire are generously underwritten through an endowed gift from Irene and Fred Shen.



Photo: Gene Schiavone.

SWAN LAKE

**Choreography by:** Kevin McKenzie  
After Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov

**Music by:** Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

This Swan Lake production has been generously underwritten by R. Chemers Neustein.

SPRING SEASON  
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE | NEW YORK, NY



Hee Seo and David Hallberg.  
Photo: Gene Schiavone.

ONEGIN

**Choreography by:** John Cranko

**Music by:** Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

ABT's performances of Onegin are generously supported through an endowed gift from Ruth and Harold Newman.



Cassandra Trenary and Cory Stearns in After Effect.  
Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.

TCHAIKOVSKY  
SPECTACULAR

**SOUVENIR D'UN LIEU CHER** Company Premiere  
**Choreography by:** Alexei Ratmansky  
**Music by:** Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

**MOZARTIANA** and **TCHAIKOVSKY PAS DE DEUX**  
**Choreography by:** George Balanchine  
**Music by:** Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

**AFTEREFFECT**  
**Choreography by:** Marcelo Gomes  
**Music by:** Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

**THE NUTCRACKER PAS DE DEUX**  
**Choreography by:** Alexei Ratmansky  
**Music by:** Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

**AURORA'S WEDDING** from  
**THE SLEEPING BEAUTY**  
**Choreography by:** Alexei Ratmansky  
**Music by:** Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

AfterEffect has been generously supported through an endowed gift from The Toni and Martin Sonsnoff New Works Fund. ABT gratefully acknowledges Lead Sponsor of The Sleeping Beauty, David H. Koch. Additional leadership support is generously provided by the Lloyd E. Rigler - Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation. David H. Koch is the Lead Underwriter of American Ballet Theatre's The Nutcracker. Mozartiana and Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux © The George Balanchine Trust.

## FALL SEASON

DAVID H. KOCH THEATER | NEW YORK, NY



Scene from Her Notes.  
Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.

### THE GIFT

*World Premiere*

**Choreography by:**  
Jessica Lang

**Music by:**  
Arcangelo Corelli

### SONGS OF BUKOVINA

*World Premiere*

**Choreography by:**  
Alexei Ratmansky

**Music by:** Leonid Desyatnikov

*Songs of Bukovina is part of The Ratmansky Project. Please see Page 41 for more details.*

### THIRTEEN DIVERSIONS

**Choreography by:**  
Christopher Wheeldon

**Music by:**  
Benjamin Britten

### HER NOTES

**Choreography by:**  
Jessica Lang

**Music by:**  
Fanny Medelssohn Hensel

### SYMPHONIC VARIATIONS

**Choreography by:**  
Frederick Ashton

**Music by:**  
César Franck

### OTHER DANCES

**Choreography by:**  
Jerome Robbins

**Music by:**  
Frédéric Chopin

## FALL SEASON

DAVID H. KOCH THEATER | NEW YORK, NY



Scene from Serenade after Plato's Symposium.  
Photo: Marty Sohl.

### SERENADE AFTER PLATO'S SYMPOSIUM

**Choreography by:**  
Alexei Ratmansky

**Music by:** Leonard Bernstein

*Serenade After Plato's Symposium is part of The Ratmansky Project. Please see Page 41 for more details.*

### ELEGY PAS DE DEUX (FROM WITH A CHANCE OF RAIN)

**Choreography by:**  
Liam Scarlett

**Music by:**  
Sergei Rachmaninoff

### SOUVENIR D'UN LIEU CHER

**Choreography by:**  
Alexei Ratmansky

**Music by:**  
Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

### I FEEL THE EARTH MOVE

*World Premiere*

**Choreography by:**  
Benjamin Millepied

**Music by:**  
Philip Glass

### DAPHNIS AND CHLOE

**Choreography by:**  
Benjamin Millepied

**Music by:** Maurice Ravel

*Daphnis and Chloe has been generously supported by The Leila and Mickey Straus Family Charitable Trust and through an endowed gift from the Toni and Martin Sosnoff New Works Fund.*



# DANCER & TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMS

Photo: Richard Corman.

## ABT STUDIO COMPANY



Photo: Rosalie O'Connor

### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:

Kate Lydon

Over the course of 2017, a total of 21 dancers trained and performed with the ABT Studio Company, representing ten different countries and eight U.S. states. In 2017, seven ABT Studio Company dancers were promoted to ABT's main company, five dancers from the 2016–2017 season were invited back for the 2017–2018 season, and others continued their professional careers with positions at renowned institutions such as The Royal Danish Ballet and Texas Ballet Theater.

### Performance Highlights

#### WORLD PREMIERES BY:

Dana Genshaft	Jessica Lang
Marcelo Gomes	Benjamin Millepied
Lauren Lovette	Liam Scarlett

#### LOCATIONS:

David H. Koch Theater (ABT's 2017 Fall Gala)  
 David H. Koch Theater lobby (site-specific)  
 Frank Sinatra School of the Arts  
 Kaatsbaan International Dance Center  
 The Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College  
 Mount Holyoke College  
 NYU Skirball Center  
 Segerstrom Center for the Arts (ABT's *The Nutcracker*)

As of December 31, 2017.

## ABT JACQUELINE KENNEDY ONASSIS SCHOOL



Photo: Kyle Froman.

### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:

Cynthia Harvey

#### CHILDREN'S DIVISION

Pre-Primary through level 3  
 Ages 3-12  
 361 students enrolled

#### PRE-PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

Upper 1 & 2  
 Ages 12- 18  
 58 students enrolled  
 Five students promoted to the  
 ABT Studio Company

### Performance Highlights

In October 2017, ABT JKO School students performed with the ABT Studio Company in ABT's Fall Gala and Fall Season at the David H. Koch Theater. In March 2017, a select group of students from the highest level of the ABT JKO School performed at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in the *Ballet Across America* gala in a world-premiere piece, *Garden of Dreams* by Jeremy McQueen. For this event, the students participated in a film by Ezra Hurwitz, *At this Stage*, which also premiered at the gala.

As of December 31, 2017.

## ABT SUMMER INTENSIVES



Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.

Under the supervision of Artistic Director of ABT Summer Intensives and ABT Studio Company, Kate Lydon, 1,375 students participated in ABT's nine summer programs across the United States in 2017. Dancers from 38 countries, including Italy, France, England, Mauritius, Estonia, New Zealand, Albania, Denmark, Argentina, and Colombia attended ABT Summer Intensives. Eight students were selected to become ABT National Training Scholars. These dancers are awarded scholarships to study at home during the year and return to ABT on scholarship during the following summer.

As of December 31, 2017.

## ABT NATIONAL TRAINING CURRICULUM



Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.

In 2017, more than 300 ballet teachers were certified at Teacher Training Intensives held in New York, Orlando, Salt Lake City, Mexico, Italy, and Peru. Additionally, over 100 Certified Teachers presented more than 2,300 students for ABT Student Examinations in the US, Barbados, Canada, Hong Kong, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Switzerland, and Venezuela.

As of December 31, 2017.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.

## PROJECT Plié



American Ballet Theatre is committed to the advancement of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the arts. ABT identifies promising young dancers, dance teachers and emerging arts administrators of color to participate in high-quality training programs.

In 2017, ABT welcomed the second cohort of 21 students into the ABT JKO School Children's Division Bridge Class, reached 978 students through 43 Master Classes at 38 Boys & Girls Clubs across the United States, and launched the first Diversity & Sensitivity training workshop for dance teachers through ABT's National Training Curriculum.

*As of December 31, 2017.*

## ABTKIDS



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Kara Medoff Barnett

On Saturday, May 20, ABT presented our annual *ABTKids* performance at the Metropolitan Opera House. This one-hour, narrated performance for children ages 4-12, introduced over 3500 children and their parents to previews of ABT's Spring Season ballets and to the magic of the performing arts.

*As of December 31, 2017.*



## EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN 2017

# 4,900

students from NYC public schools served by **Young People's Ballet Workshops**, a semi-annual, free, narrated performance by ABT Company and Studio Company dancers

# 3,000

free and highly discounted tickets to ABT's Spring Season at the Metropolitan Opera were distributed to NYC public school students through ABT's **Ticket Distribution Program**

# 1,200

students at ten NYC schools were served through the **ABT at School Residency Program**

# 400

students across six private schools participated in ABT's **Ballet for New Audience** program

*As of December 31, 2017.*



*Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.*

## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF MAKE A BALLET



*Photo: Mitch Carter.*

### **MAKE A BALLET and YOUNG PEOPLE'S BALLET WORKSHOPS**

ABT's *Make a Ballet* program celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 2017. Over the last 20 years, *Make a Ballet* has served more than 5,000 students and introduced ballet to over 75,000 students, families, and friends through in-school performances and *Young People's Ballet Workshops*. *Make a Ballet's* mission is to help provide arts education in underserved schools and communities by exposing, enriching and empowering students through the creation of an original dance production, while promoting career opportunities in the arts.

*As of December 31, 2017.*



# SPECIAL EVENTS

Photo: Alexa Hoyer.

## SPRING GALA



Photo: Alexa Hoyer.

The 2017 Spring Gala celebrated ABT's annual Spring Season at the Metropolitan Opera House with the New York premiere of *Whipped Cream* – the full-length ballet by ABT Artist in Residence Alexei Ratmansky. Following the performance, guests enjoyed an elegant dinner and a night of dancing on the Promenade of the David H. Koch Theater, which was festooned with thousands of crystals from Spring Gala Lead Partner Swarovski. ABT honored Board Chairman Emeritus Hamilton E. James, President, Blackstone, for his leadership support of the Company. Proceeds from the Spring Gala supported American Ballet Theatre and its artistic and educational initiatives.

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*President, Blackstone*

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Beth Chartoff Spector  
Elettra Wiedemann

### LEAD PARTNER

Swarovski

## FALL GALA



Photo: BFA.

Photo: BFA.

At the Fall Gala, ABT proudly celebrated Kevin McKenzie's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Artistic Director and honored trustee Valentino D. Carlotti with the Melville Straus Leadership Achievement Award. The Gala performance featured World Premieres by ABT Artist in Residence, Alexei Ratmansky, and Jessica Lang, followed by a black-tie dinner and dancing on the Promenade of the David H. Koch Theater. Proceeds from the Fall Gala supported American Ballet Theatre's dancers and nationally acclaimed diversity initiative, *Project Plié*.

### HONORING

Valentino D. Carlotti  
*with The Melville Straus Leadership Achievement Award*

*and celebrating the 25th anniversary of Kevin McKenzie Artistic Director, Hamilton E. James Chair*

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## HOLIDAY BENEFIT



Photo: Vince Bucci

American Ballet Theatre celebrated the holidays at The Beverly Hilton in Los Angeles, California, with a one-night-only Gala performance and dinner featuring ABT dancers in excerpts from works by celebrated choreographers Benjamin Millepied, Alexei Ratmansky, and Christopher Wheeldon, as well as scenes from treasured classics like *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Romeo & Juliet*. The performance was followed by dinner and dessert and brought together more than 300 guests for an evening of ballet and holiday cheer. Proceeds from the Holiday Benefit supported American Ballet Theatre and its educational outreach programs.

### HONORING

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*Executive Vice President,  
Segerstrom Center  
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Misty Copeland and Alexandre Hammoudi performing the Romeo and Juliet pas de deux at the 2017 Holiday Benefit.

Photo: Vince Bucci.



# THE RATMANSKY PROJECT

In 2016, ABT launched The Ratmansky Project to fully realize the talent of acclaimed Artist in Residence Alexei Ratmansky. Together with Artistic Director Kevin McKenzie, they set a goal for the creation of at least five ballets through December 2020 to add to ABT's canon of works, enhance the name and stature of the Company, build audiences, and help build financial stability. A fundraising goal of \$15 million was established to support the production of these new works. As of 2017, more than \$10 million had been raised. The Ratmansky Project funds have supported the ABT premieres of *Serenade after Plato's Symposium* (2016 World Premiere), *The Golden Cockerel* (2016 American Premiere), *Whipped Cream* (2017 World Premiere), and *Songs of Bukovina* (2017 World Premiere).

The next installment of The Ratmansky Project is the reconstruction of *Harlequinade*, which premieres on June 4, 2018 at The Metropolitan Opera House.

*Leadership support for The Ratmansky Project has been generously provided by Linda Allard, Avery and Andrew F. Barth, the Blavatnik Family Foundation, The Ted and Mary Jo Shen Charitable Gift Fund, and Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton E. James. Additional support has been provided by Sarah Arison, Lisa and Dick Cashin, The Susan and Leonard Feinstein Foundation, Brian J. Heidtke, Lloyd E. Rigler - Lawrence A. Deutsch Foundation, Bernard L. Schwartz, Melissa A. Smith, The H. Russell Smith Foundation/Stewart R. Smith and Robin A. Ferracone, the Martin and Toni Sosnoff Foundation, Sutton Stracke, and an anonymous donor.*

Alexei Ratmansky in rehearsal.  
Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.

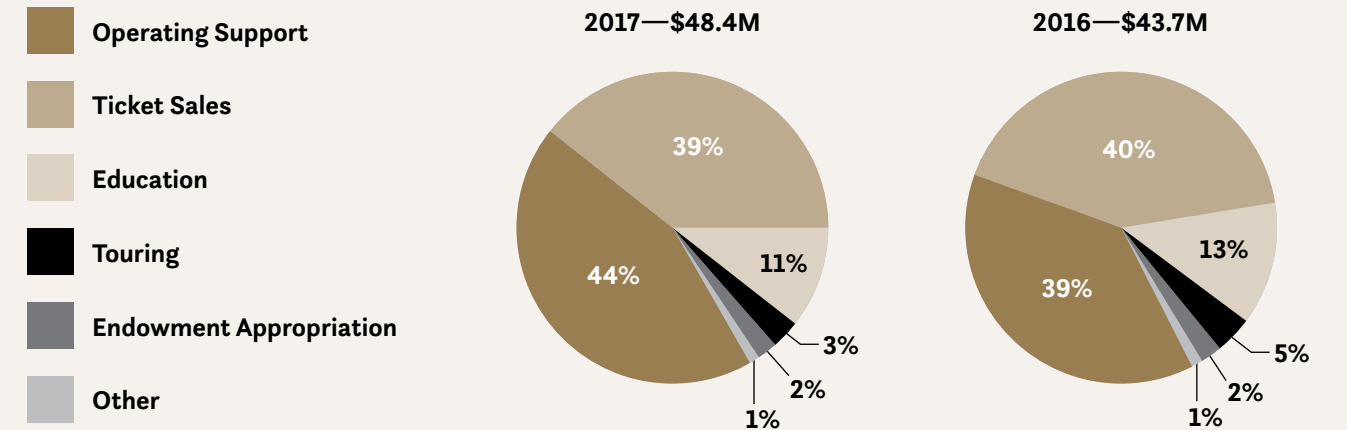
# FINANCIAL REPORT

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$M)

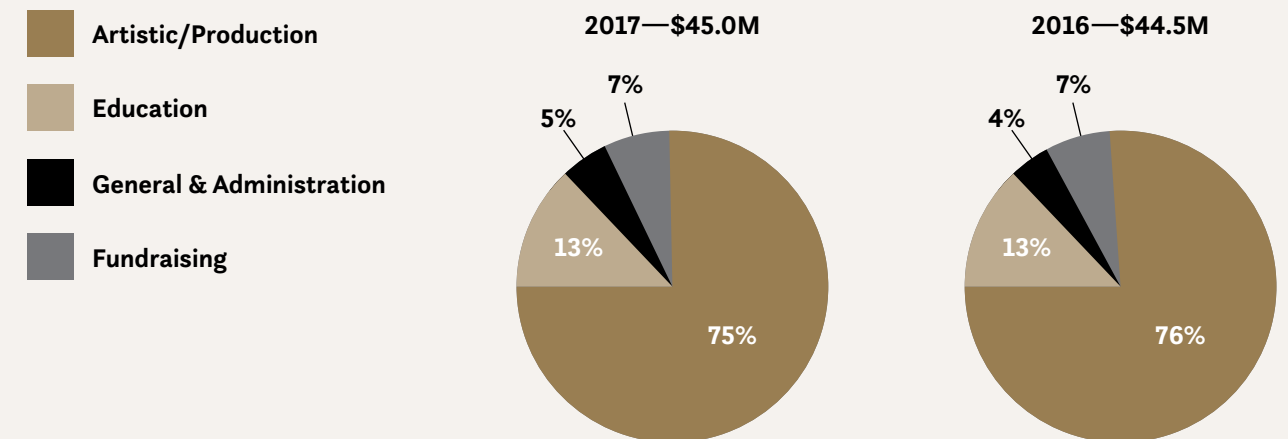
OPERATING RESULTS	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Revenue</b>				
Earned Revenue	26.0	25.6	23.8	24.4
Operating Support	21.4	17.2	20.3	16.4
Endowment Appropriation For Operations	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>43.7</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>41.7</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Programming Activities	39.6	39.8	38.4	39.0
Supporting Services	5.4	4.7	5.1	4.4
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>43.4</b>
Net Increase / (Decrease) From Operations	<b>3.4</b>	<b>(0.8)</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>(1.7)</b>
Non Operating Activities	0.6	(0.2)	(0.1)	0.1
<b>Total Increase / (Decrease) In Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>(1.0)</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>(1.6)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>				
<b>Beginning Total Net Assets</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>28.2</b>
Net Increase / (Decrease) In Unrestricted Net Assets	4.0	(1.0)	1.4	(1.6)
Net Increase / (Decrease) In Donor Restricted Net Assets	6.0	5.7	(5.0)	5.9
<b>Ending Total Net Assets</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>32.5</b>

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## OPERATING REVENUE



## OPERATING EXPENSES



## ABT STAFF

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Artistic Director,  
Hamilton E. James Chair

**Kara Medoff Barnett**  
Executive Director

**David G. Lansky**  
General Manager

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Artist in Residence

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Assistant Artistic Director

Cristina Escoda  
Artistic Administrator

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Sofiya Leavsie, Dmitry Polischuk,  
Tim Prepescius, Victor See Yuen,  
Lauren Shapiro, Matthew Sheridan,  
Mihoko Suzuki, Laura Tishchenko,  
Mira Tsidulk  
ABT JKO School Accompanists

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Dr. Philip Bauman  
Assistant Orthopedist

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Suzanne Hall  
ABT JKO School Wellness Advisor

Karen Kubicina  
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*Cassandra Trenary is the 2017 recipient of a Leonore Annenberg Fellowship in the Arts.*

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We express our sincere gratitude to the following donors for their support of ABT's The Ratmansky Project

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As of December 31, 2017.

As of April 5, 2018.



## Annual Fund (Cont.)

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