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# BALLET INDIANA

## ANNUAL REPORT

2019/2020

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**PREPARED BY**  
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS

# DANCE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

What a difference a year makes! When the Ballet Indiana Board came together last June at the Annual Retreat, we were ready to plan our 2019-20 season. The previous year had ushered in a new era for our organization: our home studio had changed to The School of Ballet Indiana, and we had just finished off the year collaborating with the Evansville Philharmonic on *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* at the Victory Theatre. As we began to focus on the next phase of our organization, we came up with a new theme: "Dance Makes a Difference."

This theme sums up our commitment to change--making a difference in the lives of our dancers, our families, and our community. With this idea in mind, we worked to expand our community outreach, joining the WNIN Kids Fest and volunteering at Ark Crisis Children's Center. We worked to make a difference for our dancers and our community. And we were able to finish 2019 with eight sold-out performances of *Nutcracker Adventures!*

With the spread of Covid-19, our spring production was put on hold as large gatherings were banned for public safety. Our rehearsals were canceled, and dancers have adapted to going to virtual SBI classes, learning TikTok dance videos, and watching New York City Ballet performances on YouTube for the time being.

That June meeting in 2019 seems far removed from the events of today, and the lockdown has stalled many of our efforts; however, this situation offers our organization a chance to reflect on our past and re-imagine our future. Ballet Indiana will be moving forward, continuing to collaborate and create in whatever way we can. We will continue working, intent on making a difference in this very different year.

--Amy Scharf,  
Ballet Indiana Board President



**Our mission is to inspire a lifelong appreciation for dance by facilitating and supporting high quality performances with artistic excellence.**

# Dance Makes a Difference

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## FOR OUR SCHOOL

### The SBI Connection

All dancers in the Tri-state area are welcome to audition for Ballet Indiana productions, but the majority of participants are students of the School of Ballet Indiana, a for-profit ballet studio that has a strong relationship with Ballet Indiana. The School of Ballet Indiana, or SBI, supports Ballet Indiana in many ways, such as by providing rehearsal, meeting, and performance space. SBI does not produce recitals for its older dancers, so the majority of performing opportunities are through Ballet Indiana. The two organizations also share artistic staff. The parents of dancers at SBI frequently volunteer to support Ballet Indiana productions and serve on the Ballet Indiana Board and its committees.



## BI HISTORY

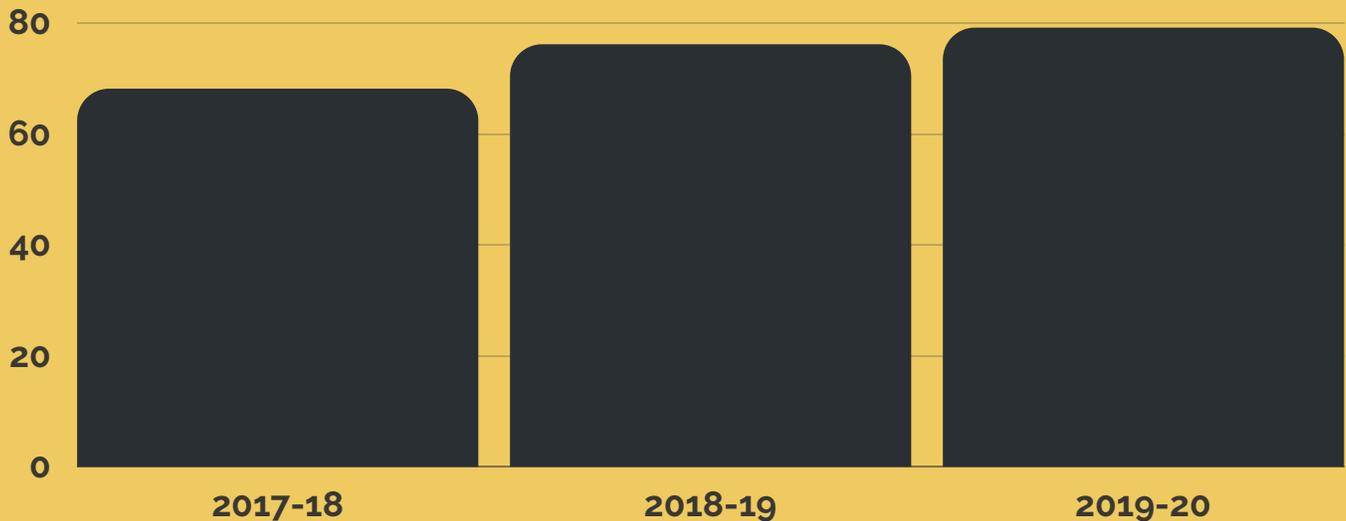
**Ballet Indiana (BI) was founded in 2010 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization by Keith and BJ Martin. The Martins later moved to Studio 321 run by Ellen Harpole, and BI became the production company for The Ballet Academy students at this new studio. Kerri Lambert was named Artistic Director in 2016, and the Academy moved to Stockwell Road in 2018 to become The School of Ballet Indiana (SBI). Ballet Indiana followed SBI to its new location and is proud to work in conjunction with this fine pre-professional school.**

# Dance Makes a Difference

## FOR OUR STUDENTS

### Student Participation

Number of students participating per season



***"Ballet dancers get to become the elegance and strength that everyone has inside, and when they go onstage, they feel unstoppable."***

*--Emma Greenawalt, dancer, age 17*

***"My dance friends have really become my family."***

*--Petra Corn, dancer, age 14*

***"Ballet makes me feel happy!"***

*--Grace Bernardin, dancer, age 6*

Dance Makes a Difference

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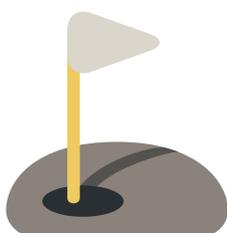
## FOR OUR FAMILIES

### Fundraising Events 2019-20



#### **Improv Night at SBI**

July 2019



#### **Walther's Golf-n-Fun**

#### **Coupon Cards**

October 2019



#### **Tree Decorating Contest**

November 2019



#### **Nutcracker Boutique**

December 2019

*"We are lucky to have such an organization in our area."*

*--Deanna Muth, parent*

Over  
**\$2500**  
raised for  
fall 2019

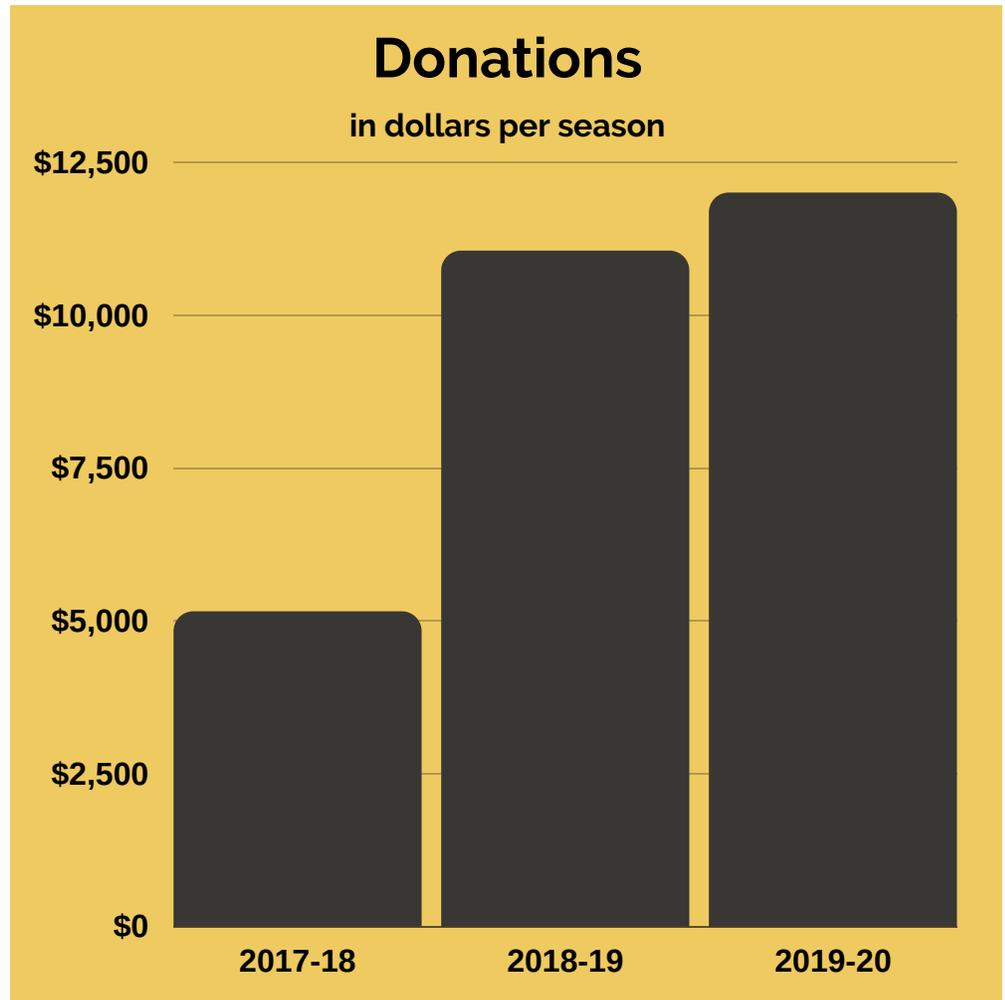
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# Dance Makes a Difference

## FOR OUR SPONSORS

*"I sponsor Ballet Indiana because I support their initiatives to expose and enhance dance and performance to those curious to explore it. I have witnessed first hand their approach, their vision and passion when my sons were students, and I enjoy being able to support their initiatives."*

*--Andrew Thacker,  
Sponsor and Board  
Treasurer*



### 2019-2020 Sponsors

**Thacker, Charnes, Stowe & Associates**  
**Berry Global**  
**The School of Ballet Indiana**  
**The Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana**  
**Cook Construction**  
**Bud's Plumbing**  
**Tri-State Orthopedic Associates**

Dance Makes a Difference

# FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS



## By the Numbers\*

**45**

volunteers per season

**55**

costumes per show

**600**

volunteer minutes  
per costume

***"To see the dancers come alive as their character when they put their costumes on really fills my heart with pride and a sense of accomplishment. To be just one part of their success is highly rewarding."***

*--Melissa Brown-Stewart,  
Costume Designer*

\*represents averages for 2019

Dance Makes a Difference

# FOR OUR COMMUNITY



**WNIN Kids Fest**



**Ark Crisis Children's Center**



*"In-house adventures give Ark kiddos the opportunity to experience fun activities and the opportunity to make new friends with volunteers. Thank you, Ballet Indiana!"*

*--Ark Facebook page*

Dance Makes a Difference

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# FOR OUR AUDIENCE

**19**

**Ballet Indiana  
productions over  
ten years**

**8**

**Sold out  
performances  
of  
Nutcracker  
Adventures (2019)**

*"BI's commitment to art in  
the community and their  
students is apparent thru  
the originality of their  
choreography and the  
development of their  
student's skill levels."*

*--David Helfrich,  
Evansville Resident*

**1033**

**Students attending  
the free school  
performance (2019)**

Dance Makes a Difference

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## FOR OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**Kerri Lambert**



*"I'm excited to work with Ballet Indiana because the people involved are so passionate.*

*Our Board of Directors and enthusiastic parent volunteers support our talented, dedicated dancers so we can share performances with our community. I love being part of it all."*

*--Kerri Lambert*

Kerri Lambert received her M.F.A in Dance from the University of Oklahoma, where she performed with Oklahoma Festival Ballet and OU Opera Theatre, and was the recipient of awards for choreography and contributions to the arts. She performed soloist and principal roles with Gainesville Ballet, Bighouse Dance Theatre, Anton del Calizon's Fusion Flamenco, and as a guest artist. She studied the art of dance pedagogy under the direction of Diane Callahan and Mary Margaret Holt, and attended the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet Teacher Training Seminar 2012 and 2013. Kerri coaches classical works, has produced and choreographed evening length story ballets and concerts of contemporary dance. Before relocating to Indiana with her husband and young son, Kerri was a Director of the USC Dance Conservatory and Instructor in the USC Dance Program. She is also certified in Progressing Ballet Technique and Vinyasa Yoga.

Dance Makes a Difference

## FOR OUR BOARD



***"I find working with the Board is inspiring because everyone has the best interest of the students with a drive to push production elements towards the best result with realistic resources. The artistic director is able to dream big, while trusting her support team, and everyone does their part to bring these dreams to reality. I certainly am thankful that the leadership in this organization appreciates all the contributors from students and parents to local professionals giving their time and expertise."***

*--Stephen Boulmetis, Board Member and Lighting Designer*

### **Board of Directors**

Amy Scharf, President  
Paula Petrig-Kempf, Vice President  
Andrew Thacker, Treasurer  
Kim Corn, Secretary  
Stephen Boulmetis  
Lisa Foster  
Brandon Frazer  
Stephanie Gilbert  
Rodgers Greenawalt  
Barbara Kuykendall  
Erika Taylor

***"This art form allows every one involved to express emotions and share experiences that build community at a time when connection is so important. I take my role on the Board very seriously, and cherish the chance to support the work of our dancers, artists, parents, and members."***

*--Stephanie Gilbert, Board Member*

