



Artistic Director – Sarah Cyders
School Director – Ann Marie Benshoff-Todd
Founder/Executive Director – Hellie Schussler

The Company

Megan Abel, Emma Blake, Gisella Blake, Amelia Brown, Erin Ekin, Megan Harrigan, Taylor Hill, Landon Hyatt, Peyton Hyatt, Mikayla Jarvis, Audrey Rosby, Anna Slade, Tara Tavallaee, Allie Wentworth

Company Apprentices

Timora Barnett, Mira Bechtol, Julia Brauner, Eva Early, Adley Grabowski, Skylynn Heichel, Samantha Metz, Lyla Metzger, Katrin Parker, Valerie Raubenolt, Elise Sabourin, Emma Schaefer

Faculty / Artistic Staff: Ann Marie Benshoff-Todd, Sarah Cyders, Margaret Minick-Blake, Sydney Box, Julie Kirkpatrick

Guest Faculty: Rebekah Brown, Avery Gingrich, Christina Lindhout, Sabrina Lindhout, Lucia Mancha

Assistant Teachers: Megan Abel, Emma Blake, Erin Ekin, Megan Harrigan, Taylor Hill, Landon Hyatt, Mikayla Jarvis, Jennie Riffle, Tara Tavallaee, Allie Wentworth

Technical Director / Lighting Design for ARB : Don Pontious

Master Electrician: Don Pontious/Jerry Calhoun

Light Board Operator: Don Pontious

Sound Design/Operator: Jerry Calhoun

Stage Manager: Bobby Broyles

Assistant Stage Managers: Angie Kochenderfer / Sue Kochenderfer

Technical Director Archer Auditorium: Phillip McNaull

Backstage Assistance: Sydney Box, Abigail Hout, Micah Jarvis, Melanie Irvine-Selby and Friends of Ashland Regional Ballet

Costume Mistress Margaret Minick-Blake

Original Costume Design for *The Little Mermaid* Barbara Reed

Costume Assistance Polly Ekin, The Dancers, ARB Faculty/Staff

Dressing Room Assistance: Parents of Dancers

Box Office: Ann Marie Benshoff- Todd

House Manager: Tony Box

Ushers: Friends of Ashland Regional Ballet

Studio Receptionist/Assistants: Soni Crist, Laura Kime, Veronica Middaugh, Jennifer Raubenolt

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Douglas Brown, William S. Harvey (Treasurer), Fred Reeder, Barbee Thomas



39th Annual Spring Dance Concert

Featuring
The Dancers of Ashland Regional Ballet
&
Students of Opus II Dance Studio
Official School of the Ashland Regional Ballet



Special Ballet Presentation



The Little Mermaid

May 21 – 23, 2021
Archer Auditorium/AHS

The use of flash cameras and unauthorized video recorders during performances is strictly prohibited. Patrons are asked to disable any audible signals from cell phones, pagers, and watches, and refrain from texting or using electronic devices in any manner while the performance is in progress.

Welcome and thank you for joining us! We have a great show planned. We are happy to provide the opportunity for the dancers to show their work, from the youngsters taking their tentative first steps on stage to the experienced company dancers and all phases of accomplishment in between. Our dancers are eager to show you what they have achieved.

We say goodbye to our graduating high school seniors. We wish them much success, and hope that dance will always be a part of their lives.



Megan Abel was 10 when she began studying dance at Opus II, and became a member of Ashland Regional Ballet at the age of 13. In her 1st Spring Concert she was a *Red Bird* in *The Meadow* and *Child of Tomorrow* in *The Bluebird*. In her first *Nutcracker* she was *Lead Snow Angel*. When asked about her favorite roles she said, *"Being able to portray Clara was an absolute dream come true. I also loved being one of the sophisticated ladies in Blue Rondo, and a Princess in*

The Firebird." Megan is a home-schooled student. She plans to attend Toccoa Falls College in Georgia pursuing Family/Children Ministries with a minor in Counseling Psychology, and she hopes to continue dancing. *"I have loved being able to dance at Opus II/ARB. Dancing has shaped my personality and outlook on life, It has taught me to work hard, to love beautiful things, and to make the most of every opportunity. I am thankful for the friends and memories I have made. Special thanks to Hellie, Swa, and Ann Marie for the impact you have had on my life."*



Emma Blake was 5 years old when she began studying dance at Opus II Dance Studio. At the age of 14 she became a member of Ashland Regional Ballet. In her first Spring Concert she was a *Doll* in *La Boutique Fantasque* and *Snow Angel* was her first *Nutcracker* role. Her favorite role was *Princess in The Firebird*. After graduation from Ashland High School Emma will attend Wayne State University (in Detroit MI) majoring in Mortuary Science. *"Dancing at Opus has impacted my life in so many positive ways! Even though I do not plan to pursue a career in dance, I feel confident as a dancer and I look forward to continuing to express myself through dance in the future."*



Erin Ekin was 10 when she began studying dance at Opus II, becoming a member of Ashland Regional Ballet at the age of 14. In her first Spring Concert she was *Pansy* and a *Child of the Future* in *The Bluebird*, sharing the role with Emma Blake. Her first *Nutcracker* roles were *Mouse* and *Candy Cane*. Erin says that her favorite Opus moments *"were not solos but the moments when everyone worked together, moving as one, to an especially emotional piece of music such as "Funny Feeling," "Let the Music Speak," "Confrontation," "Snow," or "Carnival Overture."* Erin is a home-schooled student with plans to become a Trainee

with Fort Wayne Ballet for 21/22 season. Erin says *"I hope our audience tonight can escape for a few hours into our fairy tale and enjoy the show!"*



Rubyjean Walker was 6 years old when she began studying dance at Opus II. At the age of 13 she became a member of Ashland Regional Ballet for one school year. In her first Spring Concert she was a *Lilac Fairy* in *The Sleeping Beauty*, and a *Snow Angel/Story Child* in her first *Nutcracker*. Her favorite role was definitely *Trepak (Nutcracker)*. After graduation from Hillsdale High School Rubyjean will attend Cleveland State University with a major in English and a Dance minor. She says that, *"One of the best decisions my parents ever made was putting me in dance. I am forever grateful for my teachers and peers here at Opus II.*

The Supporting Role helps Ashland Regional Ballet meet expenses incurred in daily operations. With gratitude that we thank the role for our 2020/2021 Season. Charitable contributions to ARB may be mailed to:
Ashland Regional Ballet, 130 East Main Street, Ashland, OH 44805
For **ONLINE GIVING** please visit www.AshlandRegionalBallet.org

FOUNDATION SUPPORT & SPONSORSHIP

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TIARA

Tim & Monique Barnett; Aaron & Aubrey Bates; Daniel Mull

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Tom & Sandy Brown; Douglas, Mariely & Kariely Dawson; Alan & Marjorie Poorman; Jim & Denise Rosby; Jerry & Lillian White

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IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

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Our apologies to anyone whose name was omitted or misspelled. Please contact our office to make corrections - (419) 289-3581