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## ***Kansas City Ballet Announces Two Company Promotions and Three New Members; Welcomes New KCB II and Trainee Members***

KANSAS CITY, MO (Sept. 12, 2017) — Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney today announced the promotion of two existing members and appointment of 16 new members to the Company and Second Company.

### **Company Member**

Javier Morales will join the Kansas City Ballet Company.

### **Apprentices**

Cameron Thomas and Goldie Walberg, former members of KCB II, will join the Company as Apprentices. New members Enrico Hipolito and Sasha Chernjavsky will join the Company as Apprentices.

### **KCB II**

New members Angelin Carrant, Glenn Kelich and Divya Rea will join KCB II.

## Trainees

New members **Madison Braaksma, Katharine Clark, Tyler Ferraro, Emma Fridenmaker, Georgia Fuller, Austin Meiteen, Emelia Perkins** and **Madeline Wittman** will join the Trainee Program. High resolution photos of all the members can be downloaded [here](#).

## New Company Member

### Javier Morales

Javier Morales graduated from the National School of Ballet in Havana, Cuba in 2003. He danced at the National Ballet of Cuba until 2014, participating in the Ballet Festival of Havana. During his time with the company, he had featured roles in *Giselle, Swan Lake, Coppelia, Sleeping Beauty, Romeo and Juliet* and *Don Quixote*. He danced in works by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Alberto Mendez, Peter Quans, and Jorge Amarante. He has danced in Europe, Asia, South America, and North America. He danced the *Le Corsaire Pas de Deux*, among other works with the Classic Ballet of Sinaloa, Mexico. He was a principal in *Snow White, Nutcracker, Cinderella, Dracula, Don Quixote*, and *Spring Waters* with Bay Area Houston Ballet & Theatre.

## Promoted Company Members

### Cameron Thomas

Cameron Thomas began his dance training in 2008 at the Draper Center for Dance Education in his hometown of Rochester, New York. In 2013, he became a trainee with the Rochester City Ballet. In January 2015, Mr. Thomas received a full scholarship to attend the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis (JKO) School at American Ballet Theatre. In 2016, he joined Kansas City Ballet II. After the 2016-2017 season, he was promoted to Apprentice with the Kansas City Ballet for the 2017-2018 season. With Kansas City Ballet, Mr. Thomas has performed in Bruce Wells' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Devon Carney's *The Nutcracker* and *The Sleeping Beauty*, and George Balanchine's *Theme and Variations*.

### Goldie Walberg

Goldie Walberg grew up in Sherman Oaks, California where she studied with Andrea Paris Gutierrez and Conny Mathot at Los Angeles Ballet Academy. Goldie received scholarships to Houston Ballet, Harid Conservatory, and Pacific Northwest Ballet where she attended summer intensives. In 2012, Goldie received the Royal Academy of Dance's highest honor, the Solo Seal. She was also a finalist at Youth America Grand Prix in New York where she received a

full scholarship to the Washington School of Ballet. While at TWSB, Goldie performed the Pas de Deux from *Don Quixote*. In 2013, Goldie joined the second company at Ballet Met in Columbus, Ohio. In 2014, she joined KCB II.

## New Company Apprentices

Company Apprentices perform with the company under the tutelage of the artistic leadership as part of their initial professional experience.

### Enrico Hipolito

Enrico Hipolito is from Seattle, Washington. He began his training with Pacific Northwest Ballet School on a full scholarship. Mr. Hipolito has attended summer programs with Boston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet and Houston Ballet. In 2012, Enrico participated in a summer exchange program with The Royal Dutch Ballet, representing Pacific Northwest Ballet. Upon graduating Pacific Northwest Ballet School, he trained at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet for two years through the male scholarship program. Mr. Hipolito then joined Ballet West II in 2015 and danced there for two years. Enrico has performed works by Twyla Tharp, John Cranko, Stanton Welch, Nicolo Fonte, August Bournonville and George Balanchine.

### Sasha Chernjavsky

Sasha Chernjavsky, of Rochester, New York, started training at the age of 12. As a trainee, he performed with Rochester City Ballet in *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, and *Serenade*. In 2015, he received a full scholarship to attend Houston Ballet Academy. There, he performed in *The Nutcracker* and *Long and Winding Road*. In 2016, he was invited to perform John Neumeier's *Yondering* in Hamburg, Germany. He then joined Houston Ballet II where he performed in *Sleeping Beauty*, *A Dance in the Garden*, *Mirth*, *Brigade*, *Molto Espressivo*, *Allegro Brillante*, and *Yondering*. He also performed in the world premiere of Stanton Welch's *The Nutcracker* and *Madame Butterfly*. Recently, Mr. Chernjavsky went on tour with HBII to Cannes, France for the 2017 International Meeting of the Junior Ballets and to Toronto, Canada for Assemblée Internationale 2017.

## New KCB II dancers

KCB II, a program connected with Kansas City Ballet School and a part of the second company of Kansas City Ballet, is Kansas City Ballet's emerging professionals program, giving talented young dancers a professional company experience. Dancers in the KCB II program are selected from auditions around

the country. These dancers receive professional experience, performing corps de ballet roles in Kansas City Ballet full-length productions.

KCB II is committed to arts education, community outreach and the development of aspiring young artists preparing them for professional dance careers. KCB II provides a platform for emerging performers, teachers and choreographers to hone their technical skills and showcase their artistic talent. KCB II performs throughout the region through public performances, lecture demonstrations, residencies and workshops, enabling the community to experience live dance in a public setting. Dancers in KCB II act as ambassadors for Kansas City Ballet.

### **Angelin Carrant**

Angelin Carrant, originally from Paris, France, began his training at the age of six with the American Academy of Dance. As a child he was chosen to perform in *Le Songe de Médée*, by Angelin Preljocaj, with the Paris Opera Ballet. In 2013, Mr. Carrant was offered a full scholarship with the San Francisco Ballet School, under the leadership of Patrick Armand. He trained there for four years where he danced in productions such as Helgi Tomasson's *The Nutcracker*, Christopher Wheeldon's *Cinderella* and John Neumeier's *Yondering*.

### **Glenn Kelich**

Glenn Kelich began his ballet training as a junior in high school at Indiana Ballet Conservatory, under the direction of Alyona Yakovleva and Tatiana Pali. He continued his training at Indiana University in the Jacob's School of Music under Michael Vernon and Violette Verdy, where he received his Bachelor of Science in Ballet and an Outside Field in Sports Marketing and Management. While at IU he was featured in many roles including George Balanchine's *Elegie*, *Rubies* and *Divertimento No. 15*, Jerome Robbins' *Fanfare*, Michael Vernon's *The Nutcracker*, and debuted the male principal role in the world premiere of Sasha Janes' *Saudade*.

### **Divya Rea**

Divya Rea is from Wheaton, Illinois. Her ballet training started at age eight at Faubourg School of Ballet. At 15, Ms. Rea accepted a scholarship from Houston Ballet Academy. Over three years, she was a pre-professional student, a trainee, and a member of Houston Ballet II. She danced numerous roles for the academy, including soloist in Stanton Welch's *Ladies* and the lead in Garrett Smith's *Mortal Form*. In 2016, she attended the National Ballet School of Canada as an exchange student. She returned the following spring to perform Stanton Welch's *A Dance in the Garden of Mirth* at Assemblée Internationale.

## New Trainee Dancers

The Trainee Program, which is a tuition based program of Kansas City Ballet School, aims to nurture and develop young aspiring post-secondary dancers' technical skills and artistry, ultimately preparing them for a professional dance career by bridging the gap between the student and KCB II. In addition to their dance studies, trainees participate in some company classes, have the opportunity to be considered for performances with Kansas City Ballet Company during the season and also perform in tandem with KCB II in their own educational and community outreach performances throughout the year.

The new members include **Madison Braaksma, Katharine Clark, Tyler Ferraro, Emma Fridenmaker, Georgia Fuller, Austin Meiteen, Emelia Perkins and Madeline Wittman.**

## About Kansas City Ballet

### *Making Kansas City a destination for dance*

Founded in 1957, Kansas City Ballet is a 30-member professional ballet company under the leadership of Artistic Director Devon Carney and Executive Director Jeffrey J. Bentley. The company's mission is to establish Kansas City Ballet as an indispensable asset in its community through exceptional performances, excellence in dance training and quality community education programs for all ages.

Kansas City Ballet is home to Kansas City Ballet School with an enrollment of over 2000 children and adults offering professional training for the career-minded student as well as for those simply seeking a healthy lifestyle.

Through the professional company, second company (KCB II & Trainees), and community service programs such as Reach Out and Dance (ROAD), we seek to nurture and develop our artists, audiences and students in the values inherent in the creativity, diversity and joy of dance.

Our home, the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity, in conjunction with our Resident Company status at the world-class Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, truly has positioned Kansas City as a destination for dance.

# Kansas City Ballet

## 2017-2018 Diamond Jubilee Season

Subscriptions are available now at the Kansas City Ballet ticket office **816.931.8993** or online at [kcballet.org](http://kcballet.org). Subscription tickets are a 20% savings on single ticket prices and range from \$142 to \$305 for the 3-ballet package. The add-on option to see both Festival weekend programs is at a 60% savings.

### *Romeo & Juliet*

October 13-22, 2017 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts  
World Premiere Choreography: Devon Carney  
Music: Sergei Prokofiev performed by Kansas City Symphony

Fri., Oct. 13	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 14	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 15	2 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 20	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 21	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 22	2 p.m.

### *The Nutcracker*

December 7-24, 2017 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts  
Choreography: Devon Carney  
Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky with music performed by Kansas City Symphony

Following its Kennedy Center premiere in Washington, D.C., Devon Carney's acclaimed holiday production returns to KC for its third season. Presented by Bank of America.

Thurs., Dec. 7	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 8	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 9	2 p.m.* & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 10	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 13	7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 14	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 15	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 16	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 17	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 20	7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 21	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 22	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 23	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 24	1 p.m.

(\*) Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball

## *New Moves*

February 15-18, 2018 | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

A unique performance event designed to search out, develop and showcase new emerging choreographers both locally, some from within Kansas City Ballet, and from the national dance scene. No subscriptions available for these performances.

Thurs., Feb. 15	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 16	10:30 a.m. (Student/Senior Group Matinee)
Fri., Feb. 16	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 17	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb 18	2 p.m.

## **Anniversary Dance Festival**

April 6-15, 2018 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

The 2017-2018 season continues with the Anniversary Dance Festival, featuring two weekends of two separate programs of World and Kansas City Premieres.

### Diamonds

**April 6, 7 and 8**

Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

<i>World Premiere</i>	Choreography: Matthew Neenan	Music: Philip Glass
<i>Petite Mort</i>	Choreography: Jiří Kylián	Music: W. A. Mozart
<i>Diamonds</i>	Choreography: George Balanchine	Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky

Fri., April 6	7:30 p.m.
Sat., April 7	7:30 p.m.
Sun., April 8	2 p.m.

### The Man in Black

**April 13, 14 and 15**

<i>World Premiere</i>	Choreography: Andrea Schermoly	Music: World Premiere by Rob Fidel
<i>The Man in Black</i>	Choreography: James Kudelka	Music: Johnny Cash
<i>Play</i>	Choreography: Stanton Welch	Music: Moby

Fri., April 13	7:30 p.m.
Sat., April 14	7:30 p.m.
Sun., April 15	2 p.m.

*WORLD PREMIERE of*

*The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*

May 11-20, 2018 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

World Premiere Choreography: Septime Webre

Music: Matthew Pierce performed by Kansas City Symphony

Fri., May 11	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 12	7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 13	2 p.m.
Thurs., May 17	7:30 p.m.
Fri., May 18	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 19	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 20	2 p.m.

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