

WRIGHT STATE
DANCE

PRESENTS

Spring Dance Concert 2021

Virtual Performances
April 16–18, 2021



Credit: Courtney Michelle Photography

WRIGHT STATE
DANCE

presents

**Spring Dance
Concert 2021**

Virtual Performances
April 16–18, 2021

Streaming online at
wright.edu/tdmp

Go to **Box Office** for link

Choreographers

Christian Denice, KC Lyphout, Teressa Wylie McWilliams, Ray Mercer,
Ashley Pabst, Gregory Robinson, Jacob Shade, Gina Walther

Featuring

Wright State University Dance Ensemble

Chair and Artistic Director

Joe Deer

PROGRAM

Ebb and Flow

ChoreographerGina Walther
Music Henrik Schwarz & Bugge Wesseltoft, East Forest, Culprit
Costume DesignNaomi Reisner
Lighting Design Jera Lauderdale
Dancers Hillary Allison, Olivia Bruno, Ellie Ferraro, Jonathan Foster,
Rachael Hayes, Ava Howe, Natalie Nagy, Megan Steinberger
Understudies Daniella Fuson, Macy Perry, Brooklyn Skinner

The Golden Ratio

Choreographer Gregory Robinson
Music A. Faure, I. Stravinsky, M. Ravel
Lighting Designer Jera Lauderdale
Costume DesignWright State costume shop
DancersHannah Bond, Olivia Bruno, Emma Courtney, Breah Duschl,
Meredith Erickson, Celeste Kennington, KC Lyphout,
Wilhelmina Marks, Marlyna Orebaugh
Understudies Ellie Ferraro, Elizabeth Sabol

Technicolor Dream Monster

Adjudicated Senior Work 2020

ChoreographerJacob Shade
Music Kronodigger
Lighting DesignerMalia Dalba
Dancers Courtney Anderson, Hannah Bond, Courtney Draper,
Breah Duschl, Meredith Erickson, Nicole Fredette,
Rachael Hayes, Jillian Krekel, KC Lyphout

Bloom

ChoreographerAshley Pabst
Music Shea Bodega, Max Richter, Ezio Bosso
Costume DesignAshley Pabst
Videographer/Editor Ellie Ferraro
DancersHillary Allison, Olivia Bruno, McKenna Delp, Courtney Draper,
Wilhelmina Marks, Natalie Nagy, Marlyna Orebaugh,
Elizabeth Sabol, Megan Steinberger
Understudies Daniella Fuson, Victoria Henwood

INTERMISSION

Chat with Joe Deer, Chair of Department of Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures
Introduction of Christian Denice

PROGRAM (continued)

Excerpts from Fade Into View

<i>Choreographer</i>	Christian Denice
<i>Music</i>	Nicolas Jaar
<i>Videography</i>	KC Lyphout
<i>Dancers</i>	Courtney Draper, Breah Duschl, Meredith Erickson, Ellie Ferraro, Nicole Fredette, Rachael Hayes, Jillian Krekel, Jacob Shade
<i>Understudies</i>	Bethaney Latessa, KC Lyphout, Hannah Neff, Jeannie Sincic

Visual Voices

<i>Choreographer</i>	Teresa Wylie McWilliams
<i>Music</i>	Night Noise, Afro Celt Sound System
<i>Costume Design</i>	Josh McEwen
<i>Lighting Design</i>	Matthew P. Benjamin, Shawn Nielson
<i>Dancers</i>	Hannah Bond, Emma Courtney, Courtney Draper, Nicole Fredette, Rachael Hayes, Victoria Henwood, Jillian Krekel, Bethaney Latessa, Brooklyn Skinner
<i>Understudies</i>	Ellie Ferraro, Ava Howe

All Good Things

Adjudicated Senior Work 2021

<i>Choreographer</i>	KC Lyphout
<i>Music</i>	Mary Magdalene, Sad Day by FKA Twigs What About Love by Banks
<i>Lighting Design</i>	Malia Dalba
<i>Videographer and Editor</i>	Ellie Ferraro

Pull

“Pulled by both sides, movement in any direction takes strength”

<i>Choreographer</i>	Gina Walther
<i>Music</i>	Ezio Bosso
<i>Lighting Design</i>	Malia Dalba
<i>Costume Design</i>	Carly Kimmins, Gina Walther
<i>Videographer</i>	Ellie Ferraro
<i>Dancers</i>	Breah Duschl, Meredith Erickson, Nicole Fredette, Kailey Hackathorne, Jillian Krekel, KC Lyphout, Wilhelmina Marks, Marlyna Orebaugh, Jeannie Sincic
<i>Understudies</i>	Victoria Henwood, Celeste Kennington

She/Her

<i>Choreographer</i>	Ray Mercer
<i>Rehearsal Director</i>	Gina Walther
<i>Music</i>	Jo'hann Jo'hansson, Moodie, Fixated by Bongi Duma
<i>Lighting Design</i>	Matthew P. Benjamin
<i>Costume Design</i>	Carly Kimmins
<i>Dancers</i>	Hillary Allison, Hannah Bond, Courtney Draper, Breah Duschl, Meredith Erickson, Nicole Fredette, Rachael Hayes, KC Lyphout, Natalie Nagy
<i>Understudies</i>	Victoria Henwood, Megan Steinberger

PRODUCTION STAFF

<i>Production Manager</i>	David J. Castellano
<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i>	Anna Hunter
<i>Technical Director</i>	Kevin Nedberg
<i>Carpenters</i>	Matthew Ley, Andrew Moore, Christine Orr, John Pfister
<i>Charge Artist</i>	Pam Knauert Lavarney
<i>Scenic Artists</i>	Antonia Hummel, Jera Lauderdale, Carleigh Siebert, Jonathan Yokiell
<i>Props Master</i>	John Lavarney
<i>Props Artisans</i>	Julia Antoine, Greg Davis, Anna Hunter, Mariana Gonzalez, Murphy Vanbalen
<i>Costume Shop Manager</i>	Carly Kimmins
<i>Production Electrician</i>	Matthew P. Benjamin
<i>Assistant Production Electrician</i>	Alexander Markley
<i>Electrician</i>	John Morgan
<i>Sound Engineer</i>	James Dunlap
<i>Sound Technicians</i>	Aaron Poland, Grace Randall, Lara Sagraves
<i>Run Crew</i>	Alexis Weihe

BIOGRAPHIES

CHOREOGRAPHERS

Teresa Wylie McWilliams (Head of Dance/Choreographer) has choreographed 100 productions in both concert dance and musical theatre. Her Wright State choreographic credits include *Chicago*, *Hot Mikado*, *Hairspray*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *West Side Story*, *AIDA*, *Cabaret*, *Oklahoma!*, and 19 faculty dance concerts. Her regional credits include *Caroline, or Change*, *Carousel*, *Funny Girl*, *8-Track*, and *Follies*. Her Equity credits include Mary Riley/Dance Captain in world premiere of *Jekyll and Hyde*, first national tours of *Sophisticated Ladies* and *My Fair Lady*, Cassie in *A Chorus Line* and *42nd Street*. Awards include 2014 Outstanding Teaching Award, three Kennedy Center Meritorious Achievement Awards, and Artist Choreography Fellowship. Teresa is honored to have worked with Jerry Mitchell, Tommy Tune, Donald McKayle, Frank Wildhorn, Linda Eder, and Laurie Beechman. She has a B.F.A. from North Carolina School of the Arts and M.F.A. from Sam Houston State University.

Gina Walther (Choreographer) is a dedicated teacher/mentor and award-winning choreographer who has choreographed nationally, regionally, and on university stages. While performing with The Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, she toured Germany, Russia, France, and throughout the United States. She had the honor of performing at Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, and The Joyce Theatre. She performed works by many of modern dance's most influential choreographers, including Dwight Rhoden, Ulysses Dove, Donald McKayle, Merce Cunningham, Talley Beatty, Anna Sokolow, Donald Byrd, and many more. Gina's choreography has won several awards including the prestigious National Choreographic Award. *The New York Times* called her work *Still Present* set on DCDC "a stirring dance" that "served as a sparkling introduction to the troupe."

Gregory Robinson (Choreographer) received his early dance training at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. He joined Dayton Ballet in 1980 and was appointed artistic associate/ballet master in 1993. His choreography has garnered critical praise and funding from nation and regional arts agencies, including The Montgomery Country Arts & Cultural District, Culture Works, The H. Robert Magee Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. He offers his thanks and appreciation to WSUDE for their work on "The Golden Ratio."

Christian Denice (Guest Choreographer) brings professional dance experience that includes Odyssey Dance Theatre, River North Dance Chicago, and Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal. Christian has been on faculty with the Joffrey Academy and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's HS Pro Program. As a choreographer, he has created new works for Odyssey Dance Theatre, DanceWorks Chicago, Interlochen Center for the Arts, METdance too, the Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Company, Visceral Dance Chicago, Missouri Contemporary Ballet, Western Michigan University, METdance Houston, MADCO, Modas Dance, SALT II, Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance Company, Eisenhower Dance Detroit, Houston Contemporary Dance Company, and Wright State University. Christian is the 2015–16 winner of the University of South Florida's Echo Choreographic Competition and the 2016 winner of the Joffrey Academy's Winning Works Choreographic competition. In 2019, Christian restaged KOSMOS by Andonis Foniadakis on the National School of Dance in Athens, Greece, and is working with Foniadakis as a dancer for his new project set to premiere Fall of 2021 in Greece. Christian is both performing artist and guest choreographer for the 2020–21 season with Chamber Dance Project in Washington, DC, and is currently the artist in residence at the Peabody Institute of John Hopkins University for the 2021 spring semester.

Ray Mercer (Guest Choreographer) is a native of Omaha, Nebraska, and started his dance training at the University of New Orleans. He is presently in his 17th year as a dancer and fight captain in Disney's *The Lion King* on Broadway. Throughout his tenure on Broadway, Mercer has also donated his time to create work for various initiatives within Broadway Cares/Equity Fights Aids. His presentations earned the coveted Best Onstage Presentation Award a record 10 times. Ray has choreographed for premiere dance companies (Ailey II, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, New Jersey Ballet, the Pensacola Ballet, and Philadanco). The Smithsonian Museum commissioned and archived his work *Hamdan: Through the Gate of Tears*. Ray's theatrical contributions include work as the choreographer of *Deep Love: A Ghostly Rock Opera* at The New York Musical Theatre.

BIOGRAPHIES *(continued)*

Ashley Pabst (Guest Choreographer) is a native of Dayton, Ohio, and graduate of Point Park University. Walton has worked with many notable instructors and choreographers such as Darla Hoover, Margo Sappington, Robert Battle, Julie Nakagawa, Christian Holder, Alan Himeline, Ron de Jesus, Doug Varone, and Lynne Taylor-Corbett. While at Point Park University, Walton was chosen to perform at Kennedy Center, where she was awarded Northeast Performer of the Year. Ashley's professional teaching credits include International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi, Regional Dance America Pacific and Northeast Festivals, adjunct faculty at Wright State University, Cincinatti Ballet, National Choreography Intensive, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Mid-Columbia Ballet, Dayton Dance Conservatory, and Southern New Hampshire Dance Theater.

KC Lyphout (Student Choreographer) will be graduating with a B.F.A. in dance from Wright State University in May 2021. In her time at Wright State, KC has had the pleasure of working with guest choreographers Ray Mercer and Christian Denice. KC's choreography has been recognized in Wright State University's Fall Dance Concert, Emerging Choreographers Concert, and in the SHAPE Choreography Festival hosted by SALT Contemporary Dance. KC hopes to continue to grow her choreographic résumé after graduation, and she is completely overjoyed to be presenting her work, *All Good Things*, in the Spring Dance Concert this year.

Jacob Shade (Student Choreographer) graduated from Wright State University in 2020 with a B.F.A. in dance. His adjudicated senior work was not able to be performed in the faculty concert, so it will be reappearing in the 2021 Spring Dance Concert. He has had the pleasure of working with big-name choreographers such as Dwight Rhoden, Ray Mercer, and Lloyd Culbreath from the Fosse Legacy during his time at Wright State. None of this would have been possible without the help and assistance from the program. He is very excited to see his piece share the screen with all of the other amazing works!

DANCERS

Hillary Allison is a sophomore from Fort Wayne, Indiana. She trained at Project Ballet (formally known as New American Youth Ballet) under Beth McLeish. As a freshman, she was able to join Dayton Ballet's Second Company. She is excited to perform for the first time with the Wright State Dance Ensemble!

Hannah Bond is a senior at Wright State. Hannah has been dancing her whole life and is a third-generation dancer. She had the opportunity to work with Ray Mercer twice while at Wright State and is so grateful for all of the opportunities WSUDE has given her.

Olivia Bruno began dancing at the age of two. Growing up, she trained in classical ballet with Pontecorvo Ballet Studios and Dayton Ballet School. After high school, she became a trainee with Nashville Ballet and BalletMet. Along with her studies at Wright State, she also dances with Dayton Ballet.

Emma Courtney is a senior dance major at Wright State. She performed and had her own choreography featured in the Emerging Choreographers Concert earlier this year. Emma also enjoys performing at Kings Island amusement park, as well as teaching dance to younger students. Emma can't wait to step on the Festival Playhouse stage one last time!

McKenna Delp is from Columbus, Ohio, and began dancing at Dance Works at the age of four. From the ages of 10 to 18, she trained with The ML Dance Academy in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. McKenna is currently a sophomore dance major and wants to thank her family for their support.

Courtney Draper, from Toledo, Ohio, is a junior B.F.A. dance major at Wright State. She is also working towards completion of her Arts Management Certificate. Courtney has completed two seasons with DCDC II. She is very thankful for everyone who has believed in her and encouraged her journey thus far.

Breah Duschl is a senior dance major who will be graduating this spring. During her time at Wright State, she has worked with choreographers including Ray Mercer, Christian Denice, and Shannon Branham. Breah danced with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company's second company for the 2019–20 season.

BIOGRAPHIES *(continued)*

Ellie Ferraro says dancing has been the center of her life since she was four years old. She is now a sophomore dance major at Wright State University. She is excited for everyone to see the show!

Nicole Fredette looks forward to completing her senior year this spring as a dance major at Wright State. She has grown up training for 10 years at Dayton Dance Conservatory.

Jonathan Foster is a freshman dance major who graduated from Toledo School for the Arts with a certificate in dance. He studied under Laura Blaufuss, Alison Reny, and Talina Tolson. Jonathan has taken master classes with Douglas Burkhardt, Lisa Mayer-Lang, and Batsheva dancer Sean Howe, along with many more.

Daniella Fuson started her dance training at Maria's School of Dance. At Maria's School, she has performed in the *Nutcracker*, *Mary Poppins*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Little Mermaid*, *Peter Pan*, and *Sleeping Beauty*. She has also performed in dance competitions at Stage One, Energy, KAR, and Nexstar.

Kailey Hackathorne, a senior from Dayton, Ohio, is so excited for her last dance concert. She performed in ECC all four years and also choreographed pieces for it her last two years. While at Wright State, she worked with Ray Mercer and Gina Walther. She wants to thank her teachers and family for where they have gotten her.

Rachael Hayes is a junior dance major at Wright State University. She is from Centerville, Ohio, started competitive dancing at the age of seven, and continued throughout high school. Rachael is thankful for all the support and challenges she has been given by her teachers and peers. She looks forward to what the future will hold.

Tori Henwood is a sophomore dance major at Wright State. Starting at the age of three, Tori trained at Touch of Class in Broomall, Pennsylvania, and then continued her training at Expressions Dance Theatre in Crescent Springs, Kentucky. Tori graciously thanks her family, educators, and friends for their constant support.

Ava Howe is a sophomore dance major looking forward to her first performance in Wright State's annual spring concert. She is thankful for the privilege to work with the talented Wright State faculty as they are helping her turn her passion for dance into a career!

Celeste Kennington is from Springfield, Ohio, and started her dance training at Ohio Performing Arts Institute under D. Scot Davidge and Amy Davidge. She is currently a sophomore dance major at Wright State University. This is her first Spring Dance Concert at Wright State and she is looking forward to it.

Jillian Krekel is a Cincinnati native and originally trained at Premier Studio for Dance before attending Wright State as a dance major. Jillian does work with Pones, a nonprofit talent company in Cincinnati, and is an apprentice with Platinum Dance Convention. Alongside dancing herself, Jillian loves teaching for two local studios!

Bethaney Latessa is a junior dance and biology double major. Born in Dayton, Bethaney grew up in Englewood and trained at Dayton Dance Conservatory. She is ecstatic to continue her dance training at Wright State, while teaching, choreographing, and pursuing her journey to PA school.

Wilhelmina Marks is a graduating senior who grew up in Mansfield, Ohio, and trained at the Richland Academy. As a freshman, she was a part of the Dayton Ballet Second Company, and as a sophomore she joined Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. She is grateful for her experiences and looks forward to viewing the final product of Spring Dance Concert!

Natalie Nagy is a freshman dance major at Wright State. She trained at South Dayton School of Dance in Centerville, Ohio. She has participated in a number of summer intensives including Forum Dance Theatre and the Cincinnati Ballet, and plans to attend North West Dance Project's summer intensive this year.

BIOGRAPHIES *(continued)*

Marlyna Orebaugh is a junior dance major and began dancing at age four with Mason Dance Center. In high school, Marlyna trained with Ballet Tech of Ohio to focus on ballet technique. As a college freshman, Marlyna joined Dayton Ballet's Second Company, where she had the opportunity to perform in three company productions.

Macy Perry is originally from Ironton, Ohio, where she trained at Yvonne Dekay School of Dance. She is a freshman dance major at Wright State and is enjoying the training and experience from this program. This year she plans to attend Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Company summer intensive.

Elizabeth Sabol is from Erie, Pennsylvania, and studied dance under Sarah Purvis at Erie Dance Conservatory since 2007. Elizabeth then joined Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre as an apprentice in 2012 and began participating in Regional Dance America. She has attended summer intensives, including Huntsville Ballet, Charlotte Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, and Mercyhurst University.

Megan Steinberger is a Delaware, Ohio, native. She originally trained at Performing Arts Dance Center before coming to Wright State University. Megan currently is a junior dance major. She has worked with Ray Mercer and Ted Seymour. Megan has gone to Anderson University, Ballet Chicago, and Joffrey summer dance intensives.

DANCE FACULTY AND STAFF

Teressa Wylie McWilliams, Professor and Head of Dance

Gina Walther, Associate Professor

Greg Hellems, Professor

Joe Deer, Professor, Chair and Artistic Director

Michelle McElveen, Senior Lecturer

Erin Robbins, Adjunct Faculty

Gregory Robinson, Adjunct Faculty

Kelly Fuller, Adjunct Faculty

Molly Murphy Gilbert, Adjunct Faculty

Ashley Pabst, Adjunct Faculty

Lily Seitter, Adjunct Faculty

Kandee Thacker-Mann, Adjunct Faculty

Kevin Anderson, Accompanist

SPECIAL THANKS

Carol Fisher

Carly Kimmins

Matthew P. Benjamin

James Dunlap

David Castellano

Ellie Ferarro (I_e_productions)

KC Lyphout

Courtney Michelle Photography

Joe Deer, Chair and Artistic Director

Victoria Oleen, Managing Director

Dean Linda Caron, College of Liberal Arts