Dear Ballet West Family,

By the measure of any ballet company, indeed any arts organization, Ballet West’s 53rd Season was a great success.

Early in the fiscal year, I stepped into the dual role of CEO and Artistic Director, and it was a powerful, complicated, and illuminating experience. I was able to take a holistic view of the organization and examine our needs and strengths—a mile-high observation of sorts. With this more comprehensive organizational awareness, I was excited to launch a methodical and strategic international search for a new Executive Director. Renowned arts nonprofit executive, Michael Kaiser, agreed to spearhead it. I am pleased to report that by the fall, Ballet West will have a strong, new Executive Director in place to act as my business partner, and to continue leading the organization on both a sustainable and successful course as we build and continue to grow toward an even more exciting future.

Please review the specifics of our 2016–17 Fiscal Year, outlined in the following pages. This was a time of new milestones for Ballet West, beginning with our incredible tour to Cuba. The International Ballet Festival of Havana is one of the oldest and most prestigious dance festivals in the world, and it was an honor to be invited. Notably, we staged Rubies, the second act from George Balanchine’s 1967 ballet, Jewels; it was the first time this piece had ever been performed there, and it did so to great acclaim.

More than usual this year, nostalgia and excitement enveloped The Nutcracker, as we retired the sets and costumes of the current production. The community wanted to view it one last time and attended in record numbers, verified by record-setting revenue. The longest-running Nutcracker in the western hemisphere, Mr. C’s production is iconic and regularly held as the standard-bearer for audiences and critics alike. Just this year, Newsweek, The Washington Post, and The Chicago Sun Times all hoisted Ballet West’s version as the one against which other new productions around the country were judged. Now, with just a few months before the debut of our new Nutcracker, I’m certain that we will make Utah proud by once again elevating the whimsy, beauty, and unbridled joy of ballet that audiences see on stage via this joyous production.

We closed the year with the first-ever National Choreographic Festival. A long-time goal of mine, and a natural evolution of the Innovation Series, the National Choreographic Festival brought four ballet companies to Utah alongside Ballet West to stage new works. Nationally and locally, the works received accolades, and I was particularly proud of Ballet West in Nicolo Fonte’s Fox on a Doorstep and in Val Caniparoli’s Dances for Lou. Next year, we will expand this venture and continue to grow the prestige of the event with fringe festivals, VIP parties, and international companies.

As we close Ballet West’s 53rd Season and enter my 10th Anniversary with the Company, I’m filled with gratitude. During times that have been so difficult for arts organizations across the country, Ballet West has grown, in community support, audience attendance, and worldwide acclaim. This watershed moment was made possible by the many who have come before and helped align the building blocks for the future. Thank you again to everyone who has helped to continue to grow Ballet West into one of the finest ballet companies in America.

Warm regards,

Adam Sklute, CEO & Artistic Director
**16/17 Year-End Highlights**

Artistic Director Adam Sklute takes over as interim CEO.

Ballet West dancers, including Principal Beckanne Sisk, star in a state-wide commercial for Zions Bank.

City Weekly readers award “Best Dance Production” to Ballet West’s “Nijinsky Revolution.”

Ballet West is featured in a Google Fiber commercial.

The grand opening of the Ballet West Academy Peggy Bergmann Park City Campus is held.

Allison DeBona is featured in an 8-page Vogue Italia photo spread.

The Salt Lake Tribune awards a SALT Award to Ballet West as the Best Theater/Performing Arts Company in Utah.

Rita Moreno and Ballet West perform at the grand opening of the new George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Theater.

Ballet West II tours to sold-out houses in the American Southwest.

Renowned arts administrator, Michael Kaiser, agrees to lead international search for new Executive Director.

Kurt Jooss’ The Green Table receives international accolades.

Ballet West announces a return trip to the Joyce Theatre in New York City this fall.

The first-ever collaboration with The artÉmotion Summer Intensive—Adult Class and Choreographic Workshop is held.

Mayor Jackie Biskupski and Senator Jim Dabakis recognize the Ballet West National Choreographic Festival with an official proclamation.

The NCF is called a “Mesmerizing Visual Feast” by Deseret News, and “Masterful ballet” by the Salt Lake Tribune.

Legendary New York City Ballet dancer Merrill Ashley coaches Ballet West dancers for George Balanchine’s Chaconne.

Ballet West performs Balanchine’s Rubies at the International Ballet Festival of Havana, becoming the first Company to stage this work in Cuba, sponsored by the Quinney Family Foundations.

Madame Butterfly receives rave reviews from both patrons and critics.

VAGF is held for a second year at Ballet West. The gala performance brings New York City Ballet, Cuban National Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, The Washington Ballet and more to Salt Lake City for a one-night festival.

BYUtv films Emmalene, who uses a wheelchair, in the Sleeping Beauty production. Receives 2 million+ views.

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Ballet West Academy

The Frederick Quinney Lawson Ballet West Academy, one of the premier dance-education institutions in the country, provides the highest caliber of ballet instruction to almost 900 pre-professional students annually at four locations in Utah. Along with its unique relationship with the professional Company and artistic staff of Ballet West, the Ballet West Academy has a superior faculty of nationally-renowned instructors who are dedicated to developing and inspiring the “whole child,” both as accomplished dancers and healthy individuals.

BALLET WEST ACADEMY OPENS AN EXCHANGE WITH CUBA

After being invited to present at the International Ballet Festival of Havana, Artistic Director Adam Sklute and Academy Director Peter Merz began exploring a more formal exchange program with the Cuban National Ballet School. This summer, six students, along with a teacher and chaperone, traveled to Salt Lake for a two week intensive with Ballet West’s students. For most students, it was their first time out of Cuba, and while they were impressed by the ballet style in America, they were just as taken with the mountains in Salt Lake City. “Being in Utah and seeing those mountains is one of the best experiences of my life,” said 17-year-old Marcos Ramirez Castellano.

BALLET WEST SUMMER INTENSIVE BREAKS RECORDS

More than 380 students traveled from 41 states and three foreign countries to attend Ballet West Academy’s Summer Intensive. To compliment all the dancers, the Academy tapped some of the most renowned dancers, teachers, and coaches from around the world as instructors. Included were Karin Averty from Paris Opera Ballet, Sasha Radetsky, star of the classic ballet film, Center Stage; Olaf Hoeffer, who teaches at the State Ballet School in Berlin; Martha Aguero, Deputy Director of the Cuban National Ballet School; and Diana Cuni, who retired in 2015 from the Royal Danish Ballet in Copenhagen. The students trained for six hours a day, six days a week, for six weeks!

BALLET WEST EXPANDS TO PARK CITY

In July 2016, Ballet West Academy opened the Peggy Bergmann Campus in Park City, Utah. The fourth location for the school, in the first year, Principal Cati Snarr has built the school into a world class training facility. The beautiful, 6,000 square foot location, conveniently located near Kimball Junction, has four expansive sun-bathed studios. The campus has trained U.S. Ski and Snowboard athletes, and has an extensive outreach program offering low-cost ballet training for the Latino community.

875 YEAR-ROUND STUDENTS
386 SUMMER INTENSIVE STUDENTS
4 LOCATIONS
11 DEDICATED STUDIOS
I CAN DO
I CAN DO, an acronym for Inspiring Children About Not Dropping Out, offers fifth-grade students a hands-on dance education experience and performance opportunities. During the six-month residency of the I CAN DO program, students participate in lessons that include life skills necessary to prepare for and participate in a performance. These programs also help students establish core skills to complement their learning experiences. This year, the staff taught 747 instructional hours.

IN-THEATRE PRESENTATIONS
During the 2016–17 year, students had the opportunity to attend 17 presentations from either story ballets such as The Little Mermaid, Hansel and Gretel, The Sleeping Beauty, and The Nutcracker, or repertory programs such as Kurt Jooss’ The Green Table.

BALLET WEST FOR CHILDREN
Presented by Ballet West II, this program introduces students and faculty to the art of ballet. Traveling throughout Utah, it performs free-of-charge at each public elementary school on a regularly scheduled rotation. This year, the program reached 119 schools.

ADAPTIVE DANCE
Adaptive Dance, an arm of I CAN DO, provides special needs students with weekly in-school dance and movement instruction. Participating schools are visited once each week throughout the school year. Additionally, Adaptive Dance engages student leaders in target schools to serve as mentors to special needs students participating in the program.

FIRST LOOK
First Look gives students and teachers an opportunity to see an entire performance as a fully integrated learning experience. With pre-presentation discussions and opportunities for further dialogue during intermissions, students are able to recognize the contribution of an audience, develop and use criteria for evaluating authenticity, substance, and excellence, and engage in aesthetic activities to foster enjoyment and personal growth.

Education & Outreach
Ballet West continues its commitment to providing quality education programs that allow teachers and students of all ages to experience the joy and magic of live ballet, regardless of financial or geographical barriers. The programs are supported by generous contributions from public-minded corporations, individuals, foundations, government agencies, and by a broad base of community support.

17,895 attended performances through in-theatre student presentations
100,447 students, teachers, and community members were reached
384 schools served
29 districts
**16/17 Dancers**

**50 DANCERS**

**38 FULL COMPANY MEMBERS**

**1 SUPPLEMENTAL DANCER**

**11 BALLET WEST II DANCERS**

**REPRESENTING 4 COUNTRIES**

**21 STATES**

**1,471 REHEARSAL HOURS**

**1,286 POINTE SHOES**

**69 PERFORMANCES**

**Principal Artists**
- Emily Adams
- Allison DeBona
- Katlyn Addison
- Lindsay Bond
- Paige Adams
- Logan Martin
- Joshua Shutkind
- Stephanie Bueser
- David Huffman

**First Soloists**
- Chase O’Connell
- Adrian Fry
- Katie Critchlow
- Trevor Naumann
- Kimberly Ballard
- Emily Neale
- Ronald Tilton
- Luis Capetillo
- Jake Preote

**Soloists**
- Katherine Lawrence
- Sayaka Ohtaki
- Tyler Gum
- Jordan Veit
- Hadriel Diniz
- Kazlyn Nielsen
- Elizabeth Welden
- Isabelle Chang
- Brittany Rand

**Demi Soloists**
- Christopher Ruud
- Beau Pearson
- Jenna Rae Herrera
- Joshua Whitehead
- Olivia Gusti
- Oliver Oguma
- Kristina Weimer
- Kyle Davis
- Hannah Sterling
- Alexandra Terry

**Ballet West II Artists**
- Stephanie Buesser
- Luis Capetillo
- Isabelle Chang
- Brittany Rand

**Artists**
- Beckanne Sisk
- Christopher Sellars
- Alexander MacFarlan
- Joshua Whitehead
- Olivia Gusti
- Oliver Oguma
- Kristina Weimer
- Kyle Davis
- Hannah Sterling
- Alexandra Terry

**Artists**
- Arolyn Williams
- Rex Tilton
- Jacqueline Straughan
- Christopher Sellars
- Alexander MacFarlan
- Joshua Whitehead
- Olivia Gusti
- Oliver Oguma
- Kristina Weimer
- Kyle Davis
- Hannah Sterling
- Alexandra Terry

**Artists**
- Anisa Scott
- Rachael Kuefer
- Chelsea Kuefer
- Gabrielle Salvatto
- Enrico Hipolito

**50 Dancers**

**38 Full Company Members**

**1 Supplemental Dancer**

**11 Ballet West II Dancers**

**Representing 4 Countries**

**21 States**

**1,471 Rehearsal Hours**

**1,286 Pointe Shoes**

**69 Performances**
As it enters its final phase, we are excited to report that our $3 million Nutcracker Campaign has raised $2.8 million. Since its launch in September, 2016, over 300 donors have made contributions, both big and small, in support of unveiling new sets, costumes, props, and added magical theatrics for the production.

This new Nutcracker is made possible with a lead gift of $2MM from the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation. Their commitment and enthusiasm to support the legacy of William Christensen's The Nutcracker will have a significant impact on Ballet West and its audiences for many years to come.

Costume sponsorships are our most popular campaign option, with over 150 costumes personally named. It has been a joy to see individuals, foundations and corporations pool their donations to collectively sponsor a costume. The community involvement in terms of supporting this new production has been incredible.

Ballet West would like to offer a special thanks to everyone who has given to the Nutcracker Campaign. Following is a list of campaign donors and their selected costumes or sceneries:

### GEORGE S. AND DOLORES DORÉ ECCLES FOUNDATION – EXCLUSIVE PRODUCTION SPONSOR

- Waltz of the Flowers Corps
- Waltz of the Flowers Demi-Soloist
- Soldier
- Mouse Prince
- The Huntsman Foundation: Claws Tota, Claws Nightdress, Family Boy, 2 Family Girls, 2 Soldiers, 2 Pages, Snow Corps
- Elizabeth Uhli: Waltz of the Flowers Corps
- Raymond Vissmann: Monkey
- W. Mack and Julia Watkins: Snow Queen
- Mark Weisbender: Cammeo
- Lisa West: Sugar Plum Fairy
- Sarah and Rich West: Sugar Plum Fairy
- Robert and Susan Weiner: Mouse
- Robert and Susan Weiner: Mouse, Mark Weisbender: Cammeo
- Mary and Lance Wood: Sugar Plum Fairy
- Cindy and Blake Strong: Russian

### GEORGE S. AND DOLORES DORÉ ECCLES FOUNDATION – GENERAL SUPPORT

- Pamela Boren
- Kent and Martha DiFuria: Ballet West Main Company
- Dominon Questar Corporation
- Janet Q. Lawson Foundation
- Roxanne and Anthony Lazzara
- Paul and Melanie Lyon
- McCarthy Family Foundation
- Peter and Catherine Meldrum
- Dan Miller
- Nebeker Family Foundation
- R. Harold Burton Foundation
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Foundation
- Ben and Lael Selznick: Ballet West Main Company Dancers
- Susan Wardlaw
- Jackie Wentz
- Sarah and Rich West: Ballet West Main Company Dancers

### GEORGE S. AND DOLORES DORÉ ECCLES FOUNDATION – COSTUME SPONSORS

- Shanti Christensen: Spanish Woman
- Kaye Christensen: English: Monkey
- Barbara and James Clark: Military Corps
- Michael Goueny and Calvin Kitten: Ballet West II
- Sue Elks: Sugar Plum Fairy, Snow Queen
- Melissa Fennessey: Livery, Arabian Woman
- Waltz of the Flowers Corps
- Ann and Curt Futch: Snow Corps
- Charles Gardiner and Patti Elyar: The Devil
- Jacob Gardiner: Mirliton
- Marla Gault: Spanish Man
- Alan and Jeanne Hall: Sugar Plum Fairy
- Edna Hailey: Snow Queen
- Carole Wood and Darrell Hensleigh: Snow Cavalier
- Howard and Cindy Hochhausauer: Mouse Prince
- Joy Hodges: Mirliton
- Griffin Horne and Mia Horne: Military Boy
- Jennifer Horne: Soldier
- Lisa Hoyt: Lady in Waiting
- Sandra Jacobson: Snow Queen
- Clyde and Tom Johnston: Spanish Woman
- Blake Kothkohl: Mirliton Lead
- Pam King: Waltz of the Flowers Corps
- Barbara Kipper: Mouse King
- Christina and William Kohlburn: Waltz of the Flowers Corps

### GEORGE S. AND DOLORES DORÉ ECCLES FOUNDATION – ARTISTIC SPONSORS

- Katherine Lamb: Mouse
- Cynthia Lampropoulos and George Coury: Snow Queen
- Hank and Diane Louis: Bear
- Elizabeth Madsen: 2 Monkeys
- John and Andrea Miller: Dresselmoer
- Marc and Kathy Miller: Mirliton
- Anthony and Jessica Mirabile: Arabian Man
- Peter and Michelle Morgan: Waltz of the Flowers Corps
- Erin Murray: Soldier
- Scott and Joann Nanus: Mirliton
- Pamela Parkinson: Clove
- Kyrinda Peterson: 3 Snow Corps
- Medeleine Plohsky: Lead Arabian Man and Woman
- Brian and Janeau Powell: Snow Queen
- Pamela Robinson: Harris and Jeff Harris: Lead Mirliton
- Irwin and Harriet Ross: Mother
- Richard Ross: Snow Queen, Sugar Plum Fairy
- Ellen and Chris Rossi: Chinese Woman, Dragon People
- Theodore Schmidt: Russian
- Ben and Lael Selznick: Russian
- David and Melinda Simmons: Soldier
- Elizabeth Slager: Soldier, Party Boys
- Mercedes Smith: Mirliton
- Blythe Stewart: Nephew, Military Boy
- Stanford and Dixie Stoddard: Waltz of the Flowers Corps
- Tom Biersch and Jennifer Strachan: Grandfather, Grandmother, Monkey, Snow Corps
- Cindy and Blake Strong: Sugar Plum Fairy
- The Huntsman Foundation: Claws Tota, Claws Nightdress, Family Boy, 2 Family Girls, 2 Soldiers, 2 Pages, Snow Corps
- Elizabeth Uhli: Waltz of the Flowers Corps
- Raymond Vissmann: Monkey
- W. Mack and Julia Watkins: Snow Queen
- Mark Weisbender: Cammeo
- Lisa West: Sugar Plum Fairy
- Sarah and Rich West: Russian
- Anne Wilson and Peter Lawson: Lead Arabian Woman
- Mary and Lance Wood: Sugar Plum Cavalier
UPCOMING 2017/2018 SEASON

Carmina Burana with Serenade
NOV 3–11

Cinderella
FEB 9–25

The Shakespeare Suite with Return to a Strange Land and Summerspace
APR 13–21

The Nutcracker
DEC 2–30

National Choreographic Festival
MAY 18–26

Aladdin
OCT 19–22
MISSION

Ballet West inspires and empowers a broad community locally and globally through presentation, training, and education in the art form of ballet.