Our Mission

The mission of Saint Louis Ballet is to provide the metropolitan St. Louis region with a resident professional ballet company that performs classical and contemporary works and offers education programs of the highest quality for the cultural enrichment and enjoyment of the entire community.

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Saint Louis Ballet is indebted the following major season sponsors:

Pictured: Tiffany Mori in “The Nutcracker”. Ms. Mori retired from the stage in 2021 after providing St. Louis audiences with ten years of stunning and memorable performances.
Dear Friends,

The increasing cases of the variants of Covid-19 have continued to challenge us in ways that seem there is no way out. But during the 2020-2021 season the St. Louis community has also continued to show tremendous encouragement and support which has given us the strength to move forward during this difficult time.

I am pleased to present this report of Saint Louis Ballet’s programming and activities during the 2020-21 season. In this report you will find a number of accomplishments we achieved both artistically and financially, including my new ballets *This is Who We Are* and *Love (and Ballet) in the time of Corona* via the YouTube streaming platform.

In May 2021 we presented historic works by the renowned choreographers George Balanchine and Peter Martins as well as a piece by myself set to an original composition by TOYA, a talented composer from New York. This performance was the first live audience the company has had since February 2020. It was done using socially-distanced seating as well as mask and sanitation protocols.

Saint Louis Ballet held a successful online gala in May hosted by Ms. Anne Allred, a favorite anchor of KSDK Channel 5. The Gala included an original documentary, *A Ballet is Born*, which explored the process involved in creating a new ballet.

We also received so much encouragement through donations from our supporters and patrons which enabled us to continue to move forward with our plans throughout the year.

I would like to thank Saint Louis Ballet’s Board of Directors for their continued trust in my leadership. I am also grateful to those who invest in our organization and for their commitment and devotion to the ballet company in and for this community.

Gen Horiuchi
Executive and Artistic Director
By July of 2020, it became clear to even the most optimistic observer that the pandemic would preclude the return to in-person performances and education programs for the foreseeable future. Saint Louis Ballet quickly pivoted to filming and streaming new works and favorites from the repertoire. The Board of Directors made the decision to offer these virtual performances at no cost to the public, which had the positive effect of bringing the artistry of Saint Louis Ballet to a wider audience than ever before.

2020-2021 COMPANY

Mark David Bloodgood • Michael Burke • Lauren Christensen • Rebecca Cornett
Olivia Cornelius • Colin Ellis • Emily Fugett • Elliott Geolat • Rachel Harrison
Julia Heiss • Amy Herchenroether • Lauren Kot • Elizabeth Lloyd • Tiffany Mori
Elaine Rand • Matthew Rusk • Sean Sessions • Roxy Shackelford • Lori Wilson

ARTISTIC/PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

Executive and Artistic Director
Gen Horiuchi

Rehearsal Directors
Matthew Dibble
CiCi Houston Sudholt

Director of Stage Production
Amy Soll

Lighting Designer
Maureen Berry

Technical Director
Jim Dolan

Wardrobe Mistress
Susan Erhart

Wardrobe Assistant
Eadaoin Erhart

Videography
Dancing Fox Pictures

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

Director of Finance
Julie Abernathie

Director of Development
Valerie Miller

Events Coordinator
Kirsten Schultz

Manager of Design and Marketing
Tanya Strautmann

Marketing Consultant
Nancy Goldstein

Public Relations Consultant
Cindy Lander Wallach

Ticketing Manager
Ryan Mak

Management Consultant
John Cattanach
This Is Who We Are

World Premiere: October 24, 2020
Choreography: Gen Horiuchi
Music: Johann Sebastian Bach
Videography: Dancing Fox Pictures
Filmed onstage at Touhill Performing Arts Center

The season opener featured an elegant new work by Artistic Director Gen Horiuchi. This Is Who We Are consists of three sections featuring twenty evocative solos and duets interspersed with personal interviews. The reflections of SLB dancers on the experience of rehearsing and performing during a pandemic offered a moving testament to the grit and determination required of performing artists during this unprecedented time.

YouTube views: 4,884

The Nutcracker

Sponsored by Emerson

December 12-23, 2020
Choreography: Gen Horiuchi
Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Videography: Dancing Fox Pictures
Filmed onstage at Touhill Performing Arts Center

The perennial holiday favorite was seen by over 150,000 people worldwide. The presentation included archival Act I footage paired with a newly filmed Act II, which featured members of the current company. Saint Louis Ballet created a celebratory event by offering sumptuous dining packages with special Nutcrackers delivered to audience members’ homes by our own Saint Louis Ballet dancers.

YouTube views: 154,926
Dining Packages by Butler’s Pantry
Love (and Ballet) in the Time of Corona

World Premiere: February 13, 2021
Choreography: Gen Horiuchi
Music: Johann Sebastian Bach
Videography: Dancing Fox Pictures
Filmed onstage at Touhill Performing Arts Center

The global pandemic challenged the company to approach its annual Valentine’s Weekend production with a renewed perspective. Featuring solos and duets in a new work set to Bach’s French and English Suites, as well as variations from the classical repertoire – Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake and Coppelia – the performance was filmed on stage and streamed through the month of February. For audience members celebrating Valentine’s Day, Butler’s Pantry offered a number of different delicious home-delivered dining options.

YouTube views: 3,425 of Gen Horiuchi’s Balanchivadze and Le Sentiment dedicated to ardent ballet supporters Francois and Francoise Fraudeau.

Rebecca Cornett and Michael Burke in Balanchivadze

Rachel Harrison in Le Sentiment
Saint Louis Ballet LIVE!

May 29-30, 2021
Touhill Performing Arts Center

In its first live concert since February, 2020, Saint Louis Ballet produced three works, two of which were St. Louis premieres, and one of which received its world premiere.

Valse Fantaisie
Choreography: George Balanchine, 1969
Staged by Gen Horiuchi
Music: Mikhail Glinka
Lighting Design: Maureen Berry
Costume Design: Susan Erhart

Ash
St. Louis Premiere
Choreography: Peter Martins, 1991
Staged by Nilas Martins
Music: Michael Torke
Lighting Design: Maureen Berry
Original Costume Design: Steven Rubin

TOYA/GEN VOL. 1 Appassionato
World Premiere
Choreography: Gen Horiuchi
Music: Atsushi Toya Tokuya
Lighting Design: Maureen Berry
Costume Design: Susan Erhart

This original ballet, the creation of which was documented in the film A Ballet is Born, is an energetic and dynamic collaboration between choreographer Gen Horiuchi and New York composer Toya. It was fully conceived over Zoom meetings during the pandemic.

Attendance: 1059
Saint Louis Ballet’s annual Spring Gala was re-imagined as a virtual offering and featured a journey behind the scenes with Artistic Director Gen Horiuchi as he created a new ballet with original music by the composer TOYA. Interspersed with testimonials from our host and chairs, the presentation also featured an auction with a varied assortment of fabulous items and experiences donated by individuals and the business community. The resulting program raised over $120,000 for Saint Louis Ballet. This support helped offset the substantial budget gap created by the lack of ticket sales in 2020-2021.

**Chairs:** Brooke and Dr. Brian Meek     Tedd and Justin Trabert

**Hosted by:** 5 On Your Side’s Anne Allred

**Auction Chair:** Sarah Glasser

**Advisory Chairs:** Pat and Dr. Leo Whiteside

**Videographer:** Stephanie Diffin of vidcreative

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Yoga Six
Dancers First Campaign

June 17, 2020 – December 31, 2020

Saint Louis Ballet’s Board of Directors’ emergency campaign raised $133,000 from 222 generous donors in just six months. This support, along with the receipt of a second PPP loan, allowed the ballet company to keep its workforce safely employed throughout the pandemic.

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* of blessed memory
Saint Louis Ballet is indebted to the individuals, foundations and corporations that support annual operations and in 2020-21, the performance fund. This support made it possible to offer free virtual performances during the season just completed.
GIVESTL DAY
May 6, 2021

Sponsored by the St. Louis Community Foundation, GiveSTL Day is an annual online event that seeks to raise awareness and funds for hundreds of not-for-profit organizations doing important work in the St. Louis region. Saint Louis Ballet is grateful to the following generous individuals who supported this campaign:

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Ballet Arts Outreach

Because of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, Saint Louis Ballet was unable to offer our in-school education program, *Pointe to Succeed*. The ability to provide public lectures or master classes was also limited. Instead, virtual productions of *The Nutcracker* were made available for streaming into schools, retirement communities and local pediatric hospitals.
SAINT LOUIS BALLET BY THE NUMBERS

25 ARTISTS EMPLOYED
1020 GENEROUS DONORS
6 BALLETS
3 WORLD PREMIERES
5 ST. LOUIS PREMIERES
2,469 SCHOOL CHILDREN SERVED
163,235 YOUTUBE VIEWS

Saint Louis Ballet Company
Statement of Activities - Preliminary *
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

REVENUES AND SUPPORT
Ticket Sales 18,103
Contributions and Grants 495,375
Events 152,202
Merchandise and Other 7,396
Other (312)
Total Revenues and Support 672,764

EXPENSES
Program 531,138
General and Administrative 185,995
Fundraising 38,562
Total Expenses 755,695

Change in Net Assets From Operations (82,931)

EXTRAORDINARY REVENUE AND SUPPORT
Disaster Relief Support 285,761

Net Assets, Beginning of Year 79,687
Net Assets, End of Year 282,517

* Unaudited
Lyn Ragsdale Fund for New Dancers

Professor Lyn Ragsdale was a scholar, educator and author and long-time supporter of Saint Louis Ballet. Lyn passed away unexpectedly on December 13, 2020. In her memory, Lyn’s family has established The Lyn Ragsdale Fund for New Dancers, which provides a stipend to new Saint Louis Ballet dancers to assist with the costs of relocating from other cities and establishing their lives in St. Louis.

To find out more about this fund, please contact Gen Horiuchi at gen.horiuchi@stlouisballet.org.

Marco Custodio

Saint Louis Ballet is pleased to welcome Marco Custodio as the newest member of the Board of Directors. Marco is Brazilian-Italian, hailing from Sao Paulo, Brazil. He has had a 25-year career within the Nestle Group, and moved to St. Louis two years ago in his current assignment as HR Vice President for Nestle Purina Latin America & the Caribbean. Marco has a special interest in the arts, which includes his love of ballet. He has been actively engaged with Saint Louis Ballet since November 2020, working to build an international network of support for the organization.