

NEOS DANCE THEATRE

Home
for
the Holidays

A Big Band
Christmas!

LIVE MUSIC

KELLY KNOWLTON
AND THE BAND



DECEMBER 21-22, 2019

STOCKER ARTS CENTER, 1005 N. ABBE RD., ELYRIA, OHIO

THE
NORD
Family Foundation

PERFORMANCE SEASON 2019–2020

M.A.D.E. in Ashland
March 21, 2020
Ashland, OH

Carmina Burana
March 28, 2020
Renaissance Theatre, Mansfield, OH

Chance to Dance, Pointe of the Evening
April 18, 2020
Findlay, OH

@ neosdancetheatre.org



March 21.2020
Archer Auditorium
Ashland, OH

Neos Dance Theatre, Artists-in-Residence, Master classes, art shows, lectures
Ashland City Schools and Various city locations ,
Visit info@neosdancetheatre.org

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Neos Dance Theatre Endowment Fund.

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for next years M.A.D.E. in Ashland

Contact ACCF at 419-281-4733
or visit them online at
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Neos Dance Theatre is made possible
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NEOS DANCE THEATRE

Company

Bobby Wesner, Artistic Director

Brooke Wesner, Co-Founder

Lighting Designer and Technical Director: Dennis Dugan

Stage Manager: Christopher J. Ha

Director of Education and Outreach: Gwen LeBar Feldman

Graphic Design and Marketing: Kathy Hilton

Company Dancers: Juliana Freude, Cassandra Lee,

Alexandria LeBay,

Rebekah Mayfield, Kaleb Reilly,

Anna Trumbo,

Robert Wesner, and Brooke Wesner

Neos Youth Performing Ensemble:

Ophelia Calhoun, Grace Conklin, Kira FitzGerald,

Amaris Madding, Brooklyn Nagy,

Ruby Schaeffer, Isabella Soto,

EJ Thomas, Regina Wolf

Kelly Knowlton, Guest Vocalist

Paul Martin, Big Band Leader

Board of Directors: Daniel Budke,

Doug Marrah, Holly Handman-Lopez, Mark Jenkins,

Edward Reading, Judy Shoaff-Reading, Cyndee Snider,

Ian Haberman, Robert Wesner

Advisory Board: Glenn Edgerton, Sylvia McNair,

Cynthia Newland, Jane Startzman, Michael Uthoff

Sponsorship available for our events, contact us for more
information - info@neosdancetheatre.org

NEOS DANCE THEATRE

Special Thanks to:

Chris and Laurie Fike, Richard and Helen Wesner,
Ed and Judy Reading, Kathy Hilton, Mike and Natalie
Goshinski, Jody and Dale Thomae,
Downtown, Mansfield Inc., Cypress Hill Winery,
The Renaissance Theatre, Richland Source,
Drs. Heringhaus General Dentistry, Rick Kleshinski,
Zak Mills,
Neil Sapienza and Dale Dong

Neos Dance Theatre ~ Company History

With new office homes at The University of Akron and Oberlin's New Union Center for the Arts and a highly valued performance and education presence throughout Northeast Ohio — especially in Ashland, Cuyahoga, Hancock, Lorain, Richland and Summit counties — Neos has gained a reputation for artistic excellence, adventurous programming, and passionate community collaborations.

In March 2016, Neos received a significant and highly competitive arts challenge grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. With Knight's support, Neos' dance.r.evolution will expand and engage audiences, by bringing together its classically trained choreographers with local urban dancers, graffiti artists and urban/pop musicians to learn from each other. After a yearlong creative process, the group will blend their different styles to produce a performance throughout the Akron community.

In July 2017, Neos received support from the Nord Family Foundation to expand into Lorain County with existing and new programs. The official opening of Neos Center for Dance commenced in September under the direction of DeMarcus Akeem Suggs. Additional awards have enabled Neos to expand education and performance programs into Ashland in March, 2018.

Home for the Holidays- A BIG BAND CHRISTMAS!

Choreographer: Robert Wesner

Lighting Designer and Technical Director: Dennis Dugan

Costumes: Robert Wesner

Stage Manager: Christopher J. Ha

Program Order:

Act One

Sleigh Ride

The Big Band!

Run Run Rudolph

Vocalist Kelly Knowlton

White Christmas

Vocalist Bobby Wesner

Dancers: Neos Youth Performance Ensemble

Silver Bells

Dancers: Rebekah Mayfield, Kassandra Lee, Kaleb Reilly

Santa Baby/Merry Christmas Baby

Dancers: Juliana Freude and Kaleb Reilly

Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!

Neos Youth Performance Ensemble and Neos dancers

What Are You Doing NYE

Vocalist Kelly Knowlton

Jingle Bells

Vocals: Bobby Wesner with Kelly Knowlton,

Genevieve Shultz, & Ella Wesner

Dancers: Kaleb Reilly with all Neos dancers

Intermission

Act Two

I'll Be Home for Christmas

The Big Band!

Cool Yule

Bobby and Brooke Wesner

Ave Maria

Vocalist Ella Wesner

Piano: Theron Brown

Dancer: Anna Trumbo

Medley of Hymns

Kelly Knowlton and Neos Dancers:

- O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
- Still Still Still - All Neos ladies
- What Child Is This - All Neos ladies

Edelweiss

Guitar: Andy Cary

Vocalist Bobby, Brooke, Genevieve, Ella, Mekah, & Arowyn Wesner

Man with the Bag

Vocalist Genevieve Shultz

Santa Claus is Coming to Town/Here Comes Santa Claus

Vocalist Kelly Knowlton and Special Guest!!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

GUEST ARTISTS

Kelly Knowlton

Kelly was born and raised right here in Mansfield, Ohio. She has been singing since she could walk (and possibly before), and has spent the majority of her life as an avid participant in musical performances and ensembles of all types, ranging from jazz to musical theatre to marching band, as well as chamber ensembles and solo recitals. While earning her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Ashland University, she was the recipient of numerous vocal awards, including 1st place prizes

from the National Association of Teachers of Singing, and superlative honors from the Ashland University Department of Music. She was a featured soloist with numerous ensembles, as well as with the Ashland Symphony Orchestra. During her time there she also performed a varied repertoire of classical works, including oratorio, opera, and operetta, but it was also there that she discovered her passion for jazz music, honing her vocal, piano, and trumpet skills.

Kelly has been active in the theatre community throughout her life, performing onstage at The Renaissance Theater for the first time at age 7. Regionally, Kelly has performed roles in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (Phoebe D'Ysquith), *The Little Mermaid* (Ursula), *Hairspray!* (Tracy Turnblad), *Oklahoma* (Laurie Williams), *South Pacific* (Nellie Forbush), *Damn Yankees* (Gloria), *Into the Woods* (Cinderella), *Violet*, and *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She also holds several musical directing credits to her name, lending her talents to the Renaissance Theater's productions of *Sister Act*, *A Christmas Story*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Newsies*, *Annie*, *Matilda*, and *Mamma Mia*.



Kelly is a core member of Just Jazz Live, with whom she performs at numerous venues in Cleveland, Columbus, and throughout the state of Ohio. She favors the classics of the Great American Songbook, but always welcomes the opportunity to throw a wildcard into the mix, citing as influences the likes of Ella Fitzgerald, Natalie Cole, Rosemary Clooney, Kurt Elling, Diana Krall, Diane Schuur, as well as Adele, Lady Gaga, and Eva Cassidy. Kelly is also a featured performer with Stardust, The Artistic Jazz Orchestra, The Mansfield Jazz Orchestra, and with Ashland's Kroc Center Big Band as both a vocalist and pianist.

Kelly is in her 13th year as a music educator, and is currently teaching PreK-8th grade at St. Edward School. She also leads worship at Park Street Brethren Church in Ashland. Kelly and her handsome bearded husband Steve are the proud parents of three beautiful, inquisitive, and rambunctious girls, Olive, Georgia, and Winifred. When she is not teaching or making music, Kelly enjoys tinkering in her basement full of craft supplies, and making complicated ethnic recipes with entirely too many ingredients.

Paul Martin is an active bassist and saxophonist in the Ashland/Mansfield area and is a talented big band composer and arranger. Paul leads his own 19 piece Artistic Jazz Orchestra, the Stardust Dance Band, and the Paul Martin Jazz Quartet. Paul serves as Minister of Worship and Music at First Lutheran in Shelby, and also as Music Director at the Richland Academy of the Arts where he is the Artistic Director of the Mansfield Jazz Orchestra.



Big Band Members

Leader: Paul Martin

Saxes: Tom Reed, Eric Fairhurst, Dave Sterner,

Connor O'Brien, Jon-Scott Allen

Trumpets: Erik Gimbel, Jeff Boyd, Lew Friend, Jack Shultz

Trombones: Brett Balika, Nick Mihalich,

Luke Blackley, Darrin Harvey,

Rhythm: Andy Cary (guitar), Paul Martin (bass),

Steve Berry (drums), Theron Brown (piano)



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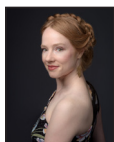
COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES



Robert Wesner: Neos Artistic Director, event planner, choreographer and is a busy father of four beautiful daughters, Genevieve, Ella, Mekah and Arowyn.



Brooke Wesner: Brooke Is a busy mother of four beautiful daughters, Genevieve, Ella, Mekah and Arowyn. When she isn't in the studio she enjoys frequenting their many activities. She can also be found on the lawn mower or digging herself out of a pile of laundry. She finds solace in reading her bible and red wine.



Anna Trumbo: An ideal Saturday afternoon must include, a cat in her lap, a full season of a period drama, and a buttered, toasted everything bagel.



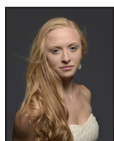
Juliana Freude: Her favorite Akron eateries are El Rincon and Luigi's. She loves a good beer, Broadway shows, good books and motorcycles. During class you can find Juliana wearing her heating pad and enjoying a big cup of coffee.



Ali Lebay loves camping, traveling, reading, horseback riding, snowboarding, acting, fruit, and Jane Austen. After her dance career she plans to teach English abroad. She is over the moon excited to be experiencing her first season with Neos.



Kassandra Lee: Kassandra's favorite cities she's visited so far include Denver and Madrid. She somehow owns multiple yellow sweaters and loves all things Harry Potter. Kassandra can often be found hanging with her dog, Puppies, and is always down for an adventure.



Rebekah Mayfield: Between rehearsals, you can find her studying and planning her wedding. She loves her mom's home cooked meals, movie night with her family, and spending time with her golden retriever.



Kaleb Reilly: Kaleb began dancing with Neos in the summer of 2017, and he loves being a part of this company's work. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his wife, experiencing nature, playing music, and eating!

FRIENDS OF NEOS

Thank you to our Friends of Neos Dance Theatre! Our current 'Friends' campaign is underway! A full listing of our newest members will be online and in subsequent online programs. Thank you for your support!

Founders' Support: Andy Gardner, Anonymous, Mike and Natalie Goschinski, Bobby and Brooke Wesner, William and Katherine Kreager, John and Katherine Fernyak, Richard and Arline Landers Foundation, Sonny and Jennifer Bowser, Heidi and Daniel Budke, Ed and Judy Reading, Taylor Family Foundation

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Audience Member: Harold and Lucy Amsbaugh, Paul R. McCauley, John and Terry Heringhaus, Mindy Duncan, Nusha Martynuk and Carter McAdams, John Wilde, Susie Fulton, Mary Bolin, James and Elisabeth Morando, Kristin Young, Kent and Barbara Edmonds, Gayle Martin, Becky's School of Dance, Mary and Walt Yoder, William and Cheryl Callis, Charles and Lisa Clark, Kathleen Graff, Allen Sanford, E. Jean Quinn and Mary Quinn-Herring, Sam and Jean Kaufman, Mary Ann Calhoun, James and Joyce Curry, Diana Hostettler, Yumi Ijiri, DeMarcus Akeem Suggs, Christina Foise, Marcel and Barbara Bovet, Malinda Heiniking, Janice Smith, Anthony and Melanie Vero, Barbara Schubert, Dan and Connie Marble, Michael and Beverly Spreng, Chris and Michelle Vanderzyden, Joel Black, Charles and Karen Dhyanchand, NeedDancers.com, Matthew Rogers, Heidi Zimmerman, Michelle Varisco, Angela Kiefer, Cassandra Crowley, Vanh Sayarath, Monika Hunziker-Schane, Brian Bagatto, Erica Kuntz and Michael Romanoski

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Consider donating to our Friends Campaign with convenient online links

Join Neos Friends Campaign

Each year gifts from individuals, local businesses, corporations and foundations provide operating support for Neos Dance Theatre. These donations help us continue Neos Dance Theatre public performances, educational programs, events, and collaborative efforts throughout the area — initiatives that add great and far-reaching value to life in our communities.

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**Oberlin College, Department of Dance
and Neos Dance Theatre**

July 12-18, 2020

Dancers 13 to 18



Photo by Mark Horning

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