



Hardesty Park

July 23 & 24, 2010

Dr. Margaret Carlson, Director

The Company

Danielle Brickman*, Ashley Cohen, Antwon Duncan, Katie Gnagy,
Stephanie Krise, Gary Lenington, Erin Conway Lewis,
Garrett Winston McCann[#], Brian Murphy, Rebecca J. Nicklos[#]

*On leave of absence, [#] Apprentice

Verb C.L.I.C.Ks. Summer Trainee Program

Lloyd Boyd Amir, III, Kathryn Edmonds, Megan Gurcze, Kara Madden, Philip Williams

The Verb C.L.I.C.Ks. Program is made possible through generous funding from the Cleveland Foundation.

Outreach and Education

Katie Gnagy

Artist in Residence

Terence Greene

Rehearsal Director

Richard Dickinson

Lighting Design

Trad A Burns

Lighting Assistant

Benjamin Gantos

Production Stage Manager

Rachael Sauber

Assistant Stage Manager

Barbee Thomas

Verb Ballets

PROGRAM

Casting for each piece will be announced.

WINGS AND AIRES (1981)

Choreography: Heinz Poll

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach, Brandenburg Concerto No. 4

Used by Permission: Paul Ghiselin

Restaged by Jane Startzman

Costumes: Janet Bolick

Original Lighting: Thomas Skelton

Lighting Design: Trad A Burns

World Premiere: October 16, 1981 by Ohio Ballet

E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall, Akron, Ohio

Major support for this production of "Wings and Aires" provided by AHS Foundation.

~SHORT INTERMISSION~

DUST BOWL BALLADS (1941)

Company Premiere

Choreography: Sophie Maslow

Licenser: Abigail Blatt

Regisseur: Lynn Frielinghaus

Music: Woody Guthrie

Lighting Design: Trad A Burns

Costume Reconstruction: Janet Bolick

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD (1989)

For those we have loved and lost but not forgotten.

Company Premiere

Choreography: Danial Shapiro & Joanie Smith

Music: Scott Killian

Original Lighting: Roma Flowers

Lighting Design: Trad A Burns

Costume Reconstruction: Janet Bolick

Staged for Verb Ballets by Kelly Drummond Cawthon

TARANTELLA (2005)

Company Premiere

Choreography: Pamela Pribisco

Music: Louis Moreau Gottschalk;

Grand Tarentelle for Piano and Orchestra, Op. 67 (ca. 1866)

Lighting Design: Trad A Burns

Costumes: Janet Bolick

~SHORT INTERMISSION~

C.L.I.C.KS. CREW (2010)

Company Premiere

Choreography: Annalee Traylor

Music: Various Artists

Lighting Design: Trad A Burns

Featuring Verb C.L.I.C.Ks. Students

UNTITLED (2010)

World Premiere

Choreography: Tommie-Waheed Evans

Music: Various Artists

Lighting Design: Trad A Burns

Costumes: Jane Smith

The **Verb Ballets** organization has established the company as Cleveland's premiere national dance repertory company. Verb Ballets was named one of "25 to Watch in 2004" by *Dance Magazine*, the country's leading news magazine covering dance, and recently the magazine bestowed more kudos on the company by naming Verb Ballets one of 5 "Great Tiny Troupes" in America. Verb Ballets discovers, collects, interprets and stages choreography that matters to the region and to the world of dance. As a curator of expressive movement that is globally connected and nationally respected, Verb Ballets has a mandate to support and foster emerging talent, present excellence in contemporary choreographers and revive and honor modern dance classics.

Verb Ballets gratefully acknowledges the citizens of Cuyahoga County for their support through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

Verb Ballets' Exclusive North American Representation
River City Artists Management; Linda Resnik, Booking Manager

500 Grant Street / Suite 2720 / Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2502
(412) 434-7222, ext. 106 / Fax: (412) 434-6436

Verb Ballets is fully licensed to perform music publicly at recitals or concerts in the United States presented by or under the auspices of ASCAP/BMI.

Biographies

Dr. Margaret Carlson (Director) has international expertise in performing, teaching, choreographing, and working in a variety of settings. Dr. Carlson was an original member of the Cleveland Ballet, serving as a Principal dancer from 1972-1983. Also a member of Actors Equity, she performed in numerous musical theatre tours throughout the 1970's, including *Sweet Charity*, *Ballroom*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Brigadoon*, *Mame*, *Hello Dolly!* and *The Merry Widow*. For many years, she choreographed for the Cleveland Opera. Dr. Carlson served as Director of the School of Dance at the University of Akron from 1985-1993. In 1993, she became Dean of the School of Dance at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, until she returned to Cleveland in 1999. She then served as the Development and Education Director for the Cleveland San Jose Ballet. She consulted both nationally and locally through her company, Carlson Consulting Group, Inc., with groups that have included The American Dance Guild, Chinese Performing Artists of America, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, Ohio Ballet, Dancing Wheels, Ohio Youth Ballet, Ohio Conservatory of Dance, Tom and Susana Evert Dance Theatre, and White Cloud Studios. Dr. Carlson founded the American Alliance of Dance Artists and served as its first President. She has served as a Board member and officer for Kids on Broadway, DANCECleveland, the Cleveland Ballet Council, the American Dance Guild, the Council of Dance Administrators, the Hong Kong Ballet, the Hong Kong Dance Company and The Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund. She served as the secretary of the International Organization for Transition for Professional Dancers, a sub-committee of UNESCO, based in Switzerland from 1998-2006, and was Treasurer and Board member of the American Dance Guild in NYC and was its vice-president for 10 years. She is known for her work as the regisseur for the works of Ian (Ernie) Horvath. She received her doctorate from Durham University in the United Kingdom.

Trad A Burns (Lighting Designer) Mr. Burns' career has spanned theatre, dance, and amusement parks, as well as architectural and retail lighting. Designing over 400 productions during the last two decades, his varied work has been seen around the world. His extensive credits include designs for Cincinnati Ballet, New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Houston Ballet, Spectrum Dance, Verb Ballets, New York Theatre Workshop (NYC), La Mama ETC (NYC), HERE (NYC), Classic Stage Company (NYC), The Public Theatre (NYC), Cleveland Public Theatre, Cedar Point, Valley Fair, Knott's Berry Farm, Kings Island, Walt Disney World, Disneyland, Disneyland Japan, Disney Sea, Disney Cruise Lines, Carnival Cruise Lines, Universal Studios Florida & Japan, Woodstock Ice Productions, and The Family of Charles M. Schulz. As the lighting director for the Cincinnati Ballet, Mr. Burns' designs have included works by Artistic Director Victoria Morgan, George Balanchine, Kirk Peterson, Trey McIntyre, Donald McKayle, Val Caniparoli, Donald Byrd, Darrell Moultrie, Sarah Slipper, Luca Veggetti, Viktor Kabanjaev, Devon Carney and Septime Webre. With NYC Ballet, Mr. Burns has been restoring the original lighting designs for most of the Balanchine Repertory. His work includes re-lighting *Serenade*, *Bugaku*, *Rubies*, *Symphony in C*, *Stars and Stripes*, *Agon*, *Allegro Brillante*, *Who Cares?*, *Brahms-Schöenberg Quartet*, *The Prodigal Son*, *Square Dance*, *Theme and Variation*, *Tchaikovsky Pas De Deux*, *Western Symphony* and *Union Jack*. This is Mr. Burns' sixth year designing for Verb Ballets.

Tommie -Waheed Evans (Choreographer). Tommie commenced his dance training with Michelle Blossom at Dance Connection and Andrea Calomee at Hamilton High School in Los Angeles. As the result of Karen Mc Donald's guidance, he studied under a fellowship at The Alvin Ailey School. Tommie has worked and performed for Matthew Rushing, Benoit-Swan Pouffer, Debbie Allen and was an assistant to Troy O'Neil Powell. Mr. Evans' professional appearances include Los Angeles Emmy Awards, The Ailey Student Showcase Group and Lula Washington Dance Theatre. Recently he founded Waheed-Works and presented the first concert engagement in Philadelphia.

Sophie Maslow (1911-2006) (Choreographer) began her dance career studying at the Neighborhood Playhouse with Blanche Talmund, Louis Horst, and Martha Graham with whose company she danced as a soloist for twelve years. While a member of the Graham company, she began choreographing dances that were inspired by the social and political climate of the Great Depression, the rise of labor unions, and the working class. She was a founding member of the Dudley-Maslow-Bales trio, which focused on those same ideals and worked under the auspices of the New Dance Group. Ms. Maslow later formed her own company and continued to create works inspired by socially conscious

themes. Ms. Maslow also choreographed for the New York City Opera, the yearly Chanukah Festivals at Madison Square Garden, and several off-Broadway musicals.

Heinz Poll (1926-2005) (Choreographer) was born in Oberhausen, Germany, in 1926. Poll was a champion ice skater before he became a dancer. His experience on the rinks imbued him with a love of speed that he expressed in his athletic baroque ballet, *Cascade* (1985). After World War II, he studied dance at Joss's Folkwang School in Essen, began his professional career at the Municipal Theatre in Goettingen and became a principal dancer with the Berlin State Opera Ballet. In 1951, he joined the National Ballet of Chile as a dancer, ballet master, and teacher. The company's tradition of bringing serious programs to indigenous people in remote mountain villages served as the model for Ohio Ballet's Summer Festival of free outdoor performances. In 1962, Poll joined Ballet de Jeunesse Musicales de France as ballet master. Two years later, he came to the United States as a guest artist with the Chilean company. He performed in the American Dance Festival the following summer and stayed in New York to teach at Thalia Mara's National Academy of Ballet. In Akron, he developed Ohio Ballet into one of America's most polished, respected, and widely traveled chamber dance troupes. Poll was awarded the Association of Ohio Dance Companies Award in 1983, the Cleveland Arts Prize in 1995, and the Ohio Arts Council's Governor's Award in 1999. After his retirement, he wrote his memoir and has conferred a number of his ballets to former Ohio Ballet dancers.

Shapiro & Smith (Choreography) has a reputation for performing tales of beauty and biting wit that run the gamut from searingly provocative to absurdly hilarious. Dancing with breathtaking physicality and emotional depth they have earned an international reputation for virtuosity, substance, craft, and pure abandonment. Founded in 1985, the Company began as a collaboration between Danial Shapiro and Joanie Smith. After meeting in the companies of Murray Louis and Alwin Nikolais, they went on to create their first choreography during a Fulbright Lectureship in Helsinki, Finland. Since then Shapiro and Smith's blend of contemporary dance and dramatic theater has elicited enthusiastic receptions across the U.S., Europe, Asia and Canada. The Company has been presented by major festivals and venues including the Joyce Theater, Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors, Dance Theater Workshop, St. Mark's DanSpace Project, PS 122, Festival di Milano, Teatro de Danza in Mexico City, Recklinghausen RuhrFestSpiele, and the Korean International Festival. Danial Shapiro died of complications from prostate cancer in 2006 and now Joanie Smith continues as sole Artistic Director.

Annalee Traylor (Choreographer). Originally from Huntsville, AL, Annalee Traylor started dancing at the early age of five and has been fortunate enough to be able to continue exploring her passion ever since. After spending her sophomore year of high school at the Alabama School of Fine Arts, she decided to continue her training at the North Carolina School of the Arts, where she graduated with a concentration in contemporary dance. Currently, Annalee is a senior in the Conservatory at Point Park University and is pursuing a BFA in dance performance. She has had the honor of dancing in works by Bill T. Jones, Robert Battle, Whitney Moncreif, Daniel Ezralow, Doug Varone, Jason McDole, Kiesha Lalama-White during here time there. Annalee is also a performing member of the August Wilson Dance Ensemble, a new company in Pittsburgh that is under the artistic direction of Greer Reed-Jones. Through the company, she has been lucky enough to work with such choreographers as Christopher Huggins, Crystal Frazier, and Terence Greene.

Rachael Sauber (Stage Manager) Ms. Sauber received her degree in Theatre Arts and Business from Ohio Northern University, with an emphasis in stage management. As a stage manager, Ms. Sauber has had the pleasure of working with many companies in Cleveland and Akron that include: The Ohio Ballet, Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet, The University of Akron Dance Department, Groundworks Dance Theater, Dancing Wheels, and Inlet Dance Theatre. She lives in Cleveland with her husband and their two cats. This is her second season with Verb Ballets.

Barbee Thomas (Assistant Stage Manager) has served Verb Ballets in many capacities over the years, and is usually seen staffing Verb's lobby information table. Barbee is the former National Director of Standing Ovation, and has choreographed numerous national title award winning competition routines. Barbee's day job is Manager of Operations and Support Services for Summa Foundation (Summa Health System).

Lloyd Boyd Amir, III (Verb C.L.I.C.Ks. Summer Apprentice) just graduated from the Cleveland School of the Arts. He has traveled all over with the school, places such as International Association of Blacks in Dance which took place in Texas, Colorado & New York. In The fall of 2008 Lloyd was Joseph in the Karamu House Production of *Black Nativity*. He has performed in numerous shows that the School such as *Homage*, *Changing Hands*, *Coming of the King*, Etc. Also with the school he has traveled to train at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Jones Summer Intensive in Pittsburgh under the direction of Ms. Greer Reed-Jones. Lloyd has trained under the direction of Terence Greene for 7 years, even though this is his last year he's thankful for all the things that Terence has passed on to him. Lloyd hopes to perform in a world renowned company then hopes to one day teach at the Cleveland School of the Arts. He made a guest

appearance with Verb Ballets in the fall of 2009 but this is his first full summer with the company.

Danielle Brickman*(Dancer) was born and raised in Euclid, Ohio. She began her ballet training at the age of four at the School of Cleveland San Jose Ballet under the direction of Dennis Nahat, performing in Cleveland San Jose Ballet's performances of *Toreador*, *Coppelia*, and *The Nutcracker*. She continued her studies with the Chautauqua Institution of New York and the Cleveland School of Dance under the direction of Gladisa Guadalupe. She performed with the Cleveland Youth Ballet dance company for four years. She danced as an apprentice for three seasons for Pointe of Departure under the direction of Raymond Rodriguez and Karen Gabay. Danielle teaches and choreographs around the Mentor area. She joined Verb Ballets in the summer of 2004.

*On leave of absence

Ashley Cohen (Dancer) is originally from South Florida, where she started dancing at a young age. She continued her training in Cincinnati and went on to study dance at The University of Akron, where she graduated with a BFA in dance in 2006. While at the university, Ashley was trained by members of The Martha Graham Company, the Pennsylvania Ballet, and the Jennifer Muller Company. She was in The University of Akron Dance Company for four years and also performed in the student-choreographed concerts. Ashley has had the honor to perform many great works from well-known choreographers including Martha Graham, Heinz Poll, Hernando Cortez, and Ulysses Dove. Currently, Ashley teaches throughout the area. Ashley debuted with Verb Ballets in the summer of 2006.

Antwon Duncan (Dancer) received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Akron. He has performed with Ohio Ballet, Nadeen O'Connor Dance Theatre, Living Fountain Dance Company and The University of Akron Dance Company. As a member of Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theater from 2005 – 2007 he performed in *Church of Nations* by Kevin Iega Jeff, *To Have and to Hold* by Shapiro and Smith, and *Dear Adnil* by Linda Kahn. Antwon joined Verb Ballets in the summer of 2009.

Kathryn Edmonds (Verb C.L.I.C.Ks. Summer Intern) trained with the Christine Jones-Meneer School of Dance for 14 years, was a member of Children's Ballet Theatre for five years, and Ballet Theatre of Ohio (BTO) for 4 years. While with BTO she danced many lead roles in *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Coppelia*. In the Heinz Poll Summer Dance Festival, she performed in *Rosso*, *Beyond the Stars*, *Swingity*, and *I Had the Same Dream*. Ms. Edmonds is excited to work with Verb Ballets this summer, and looks forward to continuing her dance career with Ballet Memphis this fall. This is Kathryn's debut summer with Verb Ballets.

Katie Gnagy (Dancer, Outreach and Education) is originally from North Carolina, where she received her training at the North Carolina School of the Arts. While there, she trained and performed under the direction of Nina Danilova, Warren Conover, and Melissa Hayden. After graduating from high school, Ms. Gnagy moved to New York, and in 2005 received her bachelor's degree in fine arts from Purchase College Conservatory of Dance. Ms. Gnagy also trained and performed with Ballet Contemporaneo de Burgos, Spain, for two summers under the leadership of Kazuko Hirabayashi. Katie debuted with Verb Ballets in the summer of 2005. She has been the Verb Ballets' Outreach and Education Coordinator since 2007.

Megan Lara Gurcze (Verb C.L.I.C.Ks. Summer Intern) is a graduating senior of Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School and has grown up in the greater Cleveland area. She started her dance training at the age of 10 with Revolutions Dance Academy, where the directors opened many doors for her by exposing her to conventions, master classes and competitions where she has been honored to study with Joe Tremaine Travis Wall Dee Castleberry, and members of Verb Ballets. Megan has received many awards and scholarships through these programs and will continue to pursue dance after graduation. She is honored and excited to be an intern with Verb Ballets. This is Megan's debut summer with the company.

Stephanie Krise (Dancer) began her dance training at The University of Akron's Dance Institute. She then continued her training at The North Carolina School of the Arts under Melissa Hayden and Warren Conover, and at BalletMet under Yoko Ichino. Ms. Krise has spent summers training at The North Carolina School of the Arts, BalletMet, San Francisco Ballet, Nashville Ballet, Richmond Ballet, The National Hungarian Ballet and in New York with Doug Varone and Dancers, as well as workshops with Taylor 2 and Lines Ballet. Ms. Krise has performed with BalletMet, Richmond Ballet, and The University of Akron Dance Company. She recently graduated Summa Cum Laude from The University of Akron with her B.F.A in Dance Performance. This is Stephanie's debut season with Verb Ballets.

Gary Lenington (Dancer) A native of Akron, Ohio, he began his dance training with Nan Klinger and the Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet and studied extensively with Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux at the Chautauqua Institute. Since turning professional in 1993, he has appeared in a number of soloist and principal roles for both the Richmond Ballet and Ballet Florida including "Romeo" in *Romeo and Juliet*, "Sugar Plum Cavalier" and "Snow Pas de Deux" in *The Nutcracker*, *Lambarena*, and roles in *The Moor's Pavane*, *Elemental Brubeck*, ...*Smile With My Heart*, *Lady of the Camellias*, *A*

Midsummer's Night Dream, Carmina Burana, and Peter Martins' Barber Violin Concerto. As a member of Ballet Florida, he appeared twice at the "Le Temps D'aimer" international dance festival held in Biarritz, France: in 1999 as the soloist in Danny Ezralow's high energy production, *Spark*, and again in 2001 as the principal in Thierry Malandain's production of *The Stone Flower*. Gary also had the privilege of performing at Ballet Florida's debut at the Joyce Theatre (NYC), where he received rave reviews in Ezralow's *Read My Hips*. He attributes the longevity of his career to his versatility as both a modern and classical dancer and is thankful to have had the privilege of working with many influential teachers and choreographers in the dance world today. Gary debuted with Verb Ballets in the summer of 2009.

Erin Conway Lewis (Dancer) was a competitive gymnast for eleven years before studying dance exclusively under the direction of Shelagh Dubsky. After receiving a scholarship to Ohio University, Erin earned a BFA in dance in 2002. Upon graduating she performed with Dancing Wheels and Tom & Susana Evert Dance Theatre. Erin has had the honor of performing Martha Graham's *Appalachian Spring*, Ulysses Dove's *Vespers*, Paul Taylor's *Esplanade*, Heinz Poll's *Wings and Aires* and David Parsons' *The Envelope*. She has worked with many brilliant choreographers including Dianne McIntyre, Sean Curran, Patrick Corbin and Hernando Cortez. Erin enjoys her outreach work teaching dance in the community and schools. Erin debuted with Verb Ballets in 2003.

Kara Madden (Verb C.L.I.C.K.S. Summer Apprentice) began her training at age five at the School of the Grand Rapids Ballet Company. She was a Junior and Senior Trainee with GRBC under the direction of Gordon Peirce Schmidt, performing in many professional productions, including *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Can-Can*. She also toured Italy and Croatia with students and professional dancers from GRBC. Her teachers included world-renowned dancers Gaiane and Akop Akopian. In 2010, Ms. Madden graduated Summa Cum Laude from Aquinas College with a double major in English and Biology. During college, she continued training at GRBC and participated in the summer intensive programs at STEPS on Broadway, Merce Cunningham, and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Ms. Madden also performed with the Chicago Civic Ballet, directed by Larry Long, in its production of *The Nutcracker*, and is a founding member of the Grand Rapids Dance Project. Kara is very excited to be joining Verb Ballets as this is her debut summer with the company.

Garrett Winston McCann (Apprentice) was born and raised in Akron, Ohio. He received his dance education at the University of Akron's Dance Institute and Firestone High Schools' Visual and Performing Arts Program. He graduated from Firestone in Spring 2010. Mr. McCann has worked with choreographers from DCDC, GroundWorks Dance Theater, Francais Patrelle, and many others. Future plans include attending The University of The Arts in Philadelphia or The University of Akron. This is Garrett's debut season with Verb Ballets.

Brian Murphy (Dancer) has been dancing professionally for 15 years with a number of dance companies including Nashville Ballet, Cleveland San Jose Ballet, Richmond Ballet, BalletMet, New Orleans Delta Ensemble, GroundWorks Dancetheater and Ohio Ballet. He has danced leading roles in *The Nutcracker*, *Coppelia*, *Hamlet*, *Swan Lake*, *Dracula*, *Peter Pan* and *Sleeping Beauty*. He has also enjoyed performing in works by Heinz Poll, Leslie Cook, Jennifer Muller (Muller & Co.), and Diavalo. Brian co-owns a Pilates Studio (Pilates by Murphys) in Akron, OH, with his wife Suzy. Brian is a part-time faculty member at The University of Akron and is on the faculty, and he performs with Dance Caravan in the summer months. He is very grateful to be given the opportunity to dance with Verb Ballets. Brian joined Verb Ballets in September of 2006.

Rebecca J. Nicklos (Apprentice) only recently returned to Cleveland, after pursuing training and performance opportunities on the East Coast. Rebecca studied Vaganova and Graham techniques at the Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts in Connecticut and supplemented her degree with courses at STEPS on Broadway, the Alvin Ailey School, School of American Ballet and the Harkness Dance Center. She developed her performance skills under the mentorship, direction and coaching of dance masters Eleanor D' Antonio, Theresa Capucilli, Kevin Martin, Victoria Mazzarelli, Alexi Tchernivchov and Doug Varone. Rebecca was honored to qualify to the final round of the NYC Youth American Grand Prix and enjoyed working and performing with the Kirov Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Ohio Dance Theatre and MOMIX Dance Theatre. In 2009, she had the amazing opportunity to perform *Fraulein Maria* with Doug Elkins and Friends as presented by DANCECleveland. She has been a performer and artistic consultant with MegLouise Dance since 2009. In addition to her work with MegLouise Dance, Rebecca has performed with MorrisonDance and taught dance throughout NE Ohio. Rebecca debuted with Verb Ballets in April, 2010. This is her first full year with the company.

Philip Williams (Verb C.L.I.C.K.S. Summer Apprentice) trains at the Cleveland School of the Arts where he will be entering the 10th grade and will begin training under the direction of Terence Greene. He got his start in dance training through the Rainy institute. This is Philip's first season with Verb Ballets.

Verb Ballets outreach programs include school assembly performances, master classes, workshops, and residencies. Our school programs in the Greater Cleveland area are presented through

Young Audiences of Greater Cleveland.

Please call 216-561-5005 or visit www.yagc.org.

For information about Verb's **Moving Connections** program for seniors, call 216-397-3757.

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