



Tchaikovsky

ENCHANTED

fort wayne
ballet

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

26-28 MARCH 2021 • ARTS UNITED CENTER

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is an exclusive opportunity to be a catalyst for creativity, in the spirit of Sergei Diaghilev, a Russian-born promoter and catalyst for innovation in the arts.

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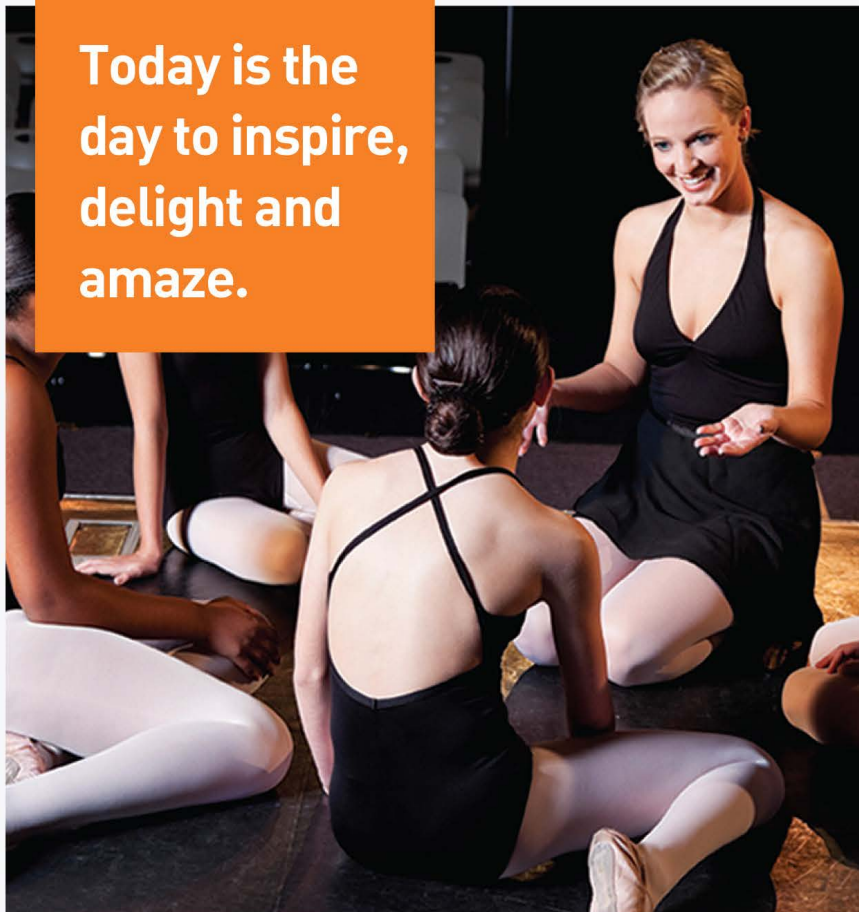
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day to inspire,
delight and
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Thank you, Mr. Tchaikovsky

Pyotr (Peter) Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) was a man well ahead of his time. His musical prowess as a composer earned him fame early in his short life and a legacy that will last forever in the hearts of arts lovers, advertisers, cinematographers, and the youthful spirits of every generation to come. His achievements are remarkable and his gifts are what we must (and do) enthusiastically appreciate.

Certainly, there are many books, recordings, and online sources of Tchaikovsky's works — his operas, ballets, and instrumental masterpieces — but truly, the *live performance* is the most rewarding way to experience his music magic. Tchaikovsky is widely praised as the most popular Russian composer in history, particularly for his sumptuous and familiar musical scores for the ballets *The Sleeping Beauty*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Swan Lake* — enduring classics with intriguing plots and enriching entertainment.

And that brings us to this enchanting performance. Each of these story ballets challenges its dancers and rewards its audiences visually against the audio backdrop of Tchaikovsky's lush, story-telling music. COVID-19 has usurped our plans to present a full-length story ballet with Fort Wayne Philharmonic, but we are taking this perfect opportunity to spotlight these three essential ballets and Tchaikovsky's artistic brilliance. *Thank you, Mr. Tchaikovsky — and thank YOU, our audience, for joining us!*

Our Spring Season is in full kinetic motion with several upcoming performances to enjoy (safely, of course). Mark your calendar for **The Adventures of Peter Rabbit** on April 24, performed at the University of Saint Francis North Auditorium ... and our always popular **Progressions**, featuring our own dancers' choreography in May. Also in May we start a **new initiative**: the **Fort Wayne Ballet Firefly Tour**, whereby our dancers tour the Northeast Indiana region to dance among the fireflies during the warm evenings to come — [a full list of dates and locations to be announced soon](#). Please check our website (fortwayneballet.org) and social media channels for details.

Finally, a note of gratitude to every one of our patrons, parents, dancers, and instructors. We're in challenging times, but together, we are making a notably positive difference through dance. Collectively, we are continuing to empower others to recognize the importance of the arts for everyone. Thank you for joining us on this journey!

Karen Gibbons - Brown

Karen Gibbons-Brown

Artistic Director
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Tuesday, May 18, 2021 7:00PM

Glover Pavilion, Warsaw

Thursday, May 20, 2021 7:00PM


DeKalb Outdoor Theatre, Auburn

Friday, May 21, 2021 7:30pm

More locations and dates to be announced —
watch for details on Facebook, Instagram, and our
website!

fort wayne ballet

KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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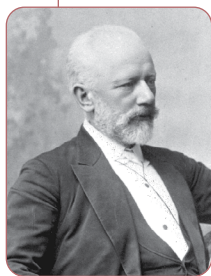
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FORT WAYNE BALLET'S ORIGINAL

Tchaikovsky

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Peter Illyich Tchaikovsky is arguably the most widely known composer of ballets. His compositions are woven with emotion, turbulence and tension which reflect his life experiences, anxieties and feelings. In his own words, *"A composer uses his music to express his own feelings, joys, sufferings; in short, like a lyric poet he pours out, so to speak, his own soul."* Indeed, Tchaikovsky infused his very self into his work, leaving us with a legacy of music that reads like a book of his life and struggles.

Born in 1840 in Votkinsk, Russia, Peter grew up intending to become a lawyer, to please his parents. As a child, he was introspective and sensitive, often frustrating those around him. Young Peter realized this, which led to more anxiety. He was desperate to suit his family whom he loved very much, especially his mother. When she died of cholera, fourteen-year-old Peter was devastated. He turned to music to release his feelings.

Tchaikovsky enrolled in the newly formed St. Petersburg Conservatory in 1862. His first serious effort in composition was a waltz to honor his beloved mother's memory. By age 37, he had composed three operas, three symphonies, and among other pieces, his first of three ballets: *Swan Lake*. In 1868, his *First Symphony* premiered. It already possessed the hallmark of Tchaikovsky's musical style, formal Classical construction coupled with Romantic expression.

Madam Nadezha von Meck, a wealthy widow, patronized Tchaikovsky, allowing him to travel extensively. During his travels he hungrily drew from other cultures to add flavor to his music. All three of his ballets (*Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Nutcracker*) incorporate cultural music and dances from the many countries that Tchaikovsky visited.

Peter Tchaikovsky died in 1893 at the age of 53. He composed eleven operas, three ballets, six symphonies, four orchestral suites, more than thirteen concerti and numerous other orchestrations. He was the first full-time, formally trained professional composer in Russian history.

FORT WAYNE BALLET'S ORIGINAL

Tchaikovsky

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<i>Music by</i>	Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
<i>Staged by</i>	Karen Gibbons-Brown Nurzhan Kulybaev
<i>Choreographed after or by:</i>	
<i>The Nutcracker</i>	after Marius Petipa and by Karen Gibbons-Brown
<i>Swan Lake</i>	after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov
<i>The Sleeping Beauty</i>	after Marius Petipa
<i>Rehearsers</i>	Nurzhan Kulybaev, Tracy Tritz
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Nan Possemato
<i>Production Managers</i>	Christina Brinker Luke Holliger
<i>Lighting Director</i>	Miriam Morgan
<i>Set Design & Execution for The Sleeping Beauty</i>	Adam Fletcher

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FORT WAYNE BALLET'S ORIGINAL

Tchaikovsky ENCHANTED

The Nutcracker

Dew Drop Amanda Eve Carrick

Flower Demi-Soloists Babette Hunter, Carmie Schiano Nelson

Flowers Alexis Aria, Alexandra Chumney, Tatum Farlow,
Jessica Humphrey, Cailin Kluttz, Lindsay Navarre,
Maddie Opacinch, Leah Wolfe

Sugar Plum Fairy Amber Bailey¹, Saki Morimoto²
Sugar Plum Cavalier David Claypoole², Brandon Penn¹

Swan Lake

Pas de Trois Yu-Chieh Chao¹, Tatum Farlow¹, Ashleigh Sewell¹
Alexandra Chumney², Zion Harris², Lindsay Navarre²

Four Swans Katie Brown, Alexandra Chumney¹,
Jessica Humphrey², Babette Hunter²,
Lindsay Navarre¹, Carmie Schiano Nelson¹,
Leah Wolfe²

Black Swan Pas de Deux

Odile, the Black Swan Saki Morimoto
Prince Siegfried Thomas Caleb Roberts

PERFORMANCE KEY:

1 Friday, March 26, 7 PM and Saturday, March 27, 2 PM

2 Saturday, March 27, 7 PM and Sunday, March 28, 2 PM

FORT WAYNE BALLET'S ORIGINAL

Tchaikovsky

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The Sleeping Beauty

Candlebutte Yu-Chieh Chao¹, Zion Harris²

Nursemaid Samantha Berry

King Florestan Brandon Penn

Queen Florestan Raleigh Sparrow

Court Ladies Alexis Aria, Avalou Burns, Grace Sauls

Court Men Tekhylon Armour, David Claypoole²,
Thomas Caleb Roberts¹, Allen Sizemore

Jewels Amanda Eve Carrick, Saki Morimoto,
Lindsay Navarre, Carmie Schiano Nelson

**Puss-N-Boots
and the White Cat** Zion Harris¹, Yu-Chieh Chao²
Jordan Stevens

Blue Birds
Princess Florimunda Abby Zinsser

Prince Florimund Talbot Rue

Red Riding Hood Jessica Humphrey

The Big Bad Wolf Graeham Toomey

Aurora Amber Bailey

Prince Desire David Claypoole¹, Thomas Caleb Roberts²

Lilac Fairy Rachel Aron

— FIN —

PERFORMANCE KEY:

1 Friday, March 26, 7 PM and Saturday, March 27, 2 PM

2 Saturday, March 27, 7 PM and Sunday, March 28, 2 PM

Production Credits

Master Technician	Luke Holliger
Stage Manager	Luke Holliger
Lighting Designer & Director	Miriam Morgan
Light Board Operator	Miriam Morgan
Fly Master	Ryan Myers
Costume Designer	Nan Possemato
Costume Shop Supervisor	Nan Possemato
Costume Shop Volunteers	Anna Hess, Caraline Schuppe, Jordan Stevens
Backstage Crew	Olivia Ley, Jim Sizemore, Julie Sizemore, Payton Wilson, IATSE Local 146
Special Thanks	Adam Fletcher Fort Wayne Civic Theatre
ArtsTix Community Box Office	Reuben Albaugh, <i>Box Office Manager</i>

Fort Wayne Ballet gratefully acknowledges the invaluable contributions of every volunteer who has given so freely of his or her time to make this production possible.

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THE
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THE
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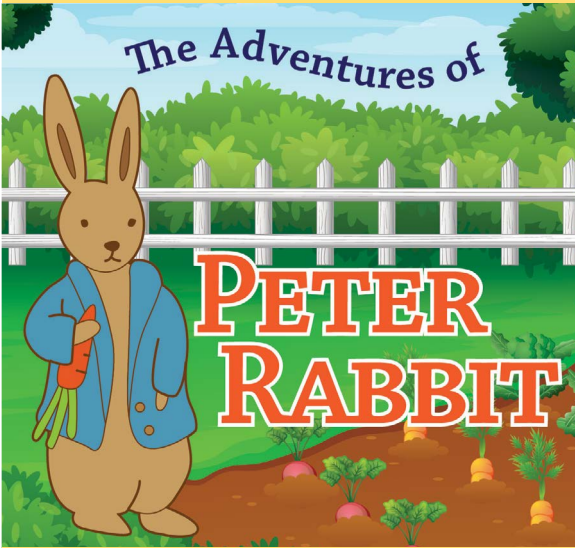


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fort wayne
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KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



FORT WAYNE BALLET

To help us maintain the traditions so vital to this community, please consider sponsoring our "Keeping Traditions Alive" initiative:

fortwayneballet.org/keeping-traditions-alive ... or ... call 260.484.9646

OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS are an essential part of our ability to fulfill our mission and commitment to the community. This year has proved challenging but we are determined to move forward and most importantly continue to provide traditions, experiences and programming that are essential to our community.

Familiar favorites such as Fort Wayne's original production of *The Nutcracker*, our spring Main Stage story ballet, and our new Family Series, as well as a variety of new offerings that we hope will become traditions as well.

OUR GOAL is to garner collective community

support through the KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE initiative with a target of \$30,000. Our suggested amount of support is \$1,000 and we hope to have a long list of supporters that we can acknowledge at all of our remaining performance experiences throughout the 2020 - 2021 season.

PLEASE CONSIDER joining these community-dedicated companies supporting Fort Wayne Ballet's Keeping Traditions Alive initiative. Together, we can maintain a vital part of Fort Wayne's wonderful, unique traditions. *Thank you!*

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KAREN GIBBONS-BROWN

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Karen Gibbons-Brown's resume contains an impressive list of credentials. She began her early training in Columbia, South Carolina under Ann Brodie, Naomi Calvert and Adolphina Suarez-More. Her early training and performing included ballet as well as modern, jazz, tap and theater dance. She continued her studies at American Ballet Theatre with Maria Swoboda, Michael Lland, Patricia Wilde and Leon Danelian and studied on scholarship at David Howard School of Ballet.

Her professional experiences also include South Carolina Chamber Dance Ensemble, Ballet Celeste, Bristol Ballet and the Theatre Ballet of San Francisco where she recreated Anna Pavlova's roles *The California Poppy* and *The Dragonfly*. Other performing highlights include performances at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, the title role in *Cinderella*, *The Sugar Plum Fairy* in *The Nutcracker*, *Swanhilda* in *Coppelia*, *Aurora* in *The Sleeping Beauty* and "Spring Waters" pas de deux, an exciting display of partnering created by the great Russian choreographer Asaf Messerer. Ms. Gibbons-Brown considers herself fortunate to have had works created especially for her including solos, *Pentimento* by Jill Eathorne Barr and the role of Anna in Richard Monroe's work, *The Hussar*. Throughout her career, she has made numerous guest appearances throughout the United States.

Ms. Gibbons-Brown is known for her work in the classroom and enjoys teaching a variety of dance related subjects including ballet, pointe, repertoire, terminology, dance history, pedagogy and makeup and hair for stage as well as restaging major classical works. She has often been invited to teach guest classes and workshops including in Sicily, Italy, Fontenay le Fleury, France and the prestigious Joffrey San Antonio Workshop under the directorship of her mentor Jeremy Blanton. She received her certification in Labanotation while serving on the faculty of Virginia Intermont College under the direction of Constance Hardinge and served as Ballet Mistress for John McFall as he created his production of *The Nutcracker* for Atlanta Ballet. In 1985, Ms. Gibbons-Brown founded the Kingsport Guild of Ballet and became Artistic Director of the State of Franklin Dance Alliance at its inception in 1988. Other dance administrative duties include serving on the Tennessee Association Board of Directors in many capacities including as president and serving on the Performing Arts Panel for the Tennessee Arts Commission. She assumed directorship of Fort Wayne Ballet in August of 1998. Other career highlights include Outstanding Dance Artist Award in 1997, serving as a juror for Concours International de Danse Classique in Paris, France in 2000, a 2002 graduate of Leadership Fort Wayne and being listed in *Who's Who in the 21st Century*. In 2010, a new book authored by renowned choreographer Dean Speer, entitled *On Technique*, identifies Ms. Gibbons-Brown as among the world's 18 most respected ballet masters, pedagogues and artistic directors. Karen is fully accredited ABT® National Training curriculum instructor.

Her other full time job is spending time with her husband, Jim, and children Watson, Madison, Hannah, Zachary, Raleigh and a sundry of dogs.

FORT WAYNE BALLET STAFF & FACULTY

Click an individual's image to learn more at fortwayneballet.org/staff



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Click a dancer's image to learn more at fortwayneballet.org/dancers

COMPANY



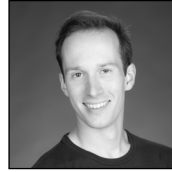
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**AMANDA EVE
CARRICK**



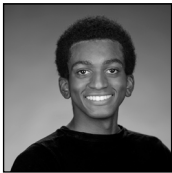
**ALEXANDRA
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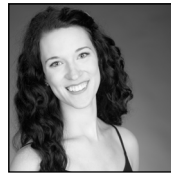
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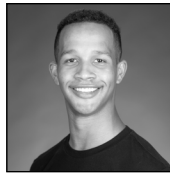
BABETTE HUNTER



SAKI MORIMOTO



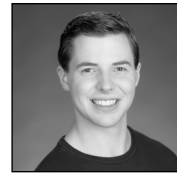
**LINDSAY
NAVARRE**



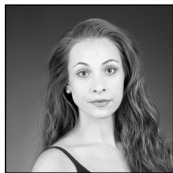
BRANDON PENN



**THOMAS CALEB
ROBERTS**



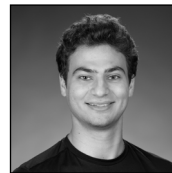
TALBOT RUE



**CARMIE SCHIANO
NELSON**



JORDAN STEVENS



**GRAEHAM
TOOMEY**

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CORPS DE BALLET



RACHEL ARON



ALEXIS ARRIA



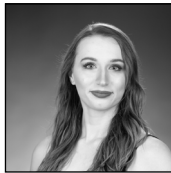
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CAILIN KLUTTZ



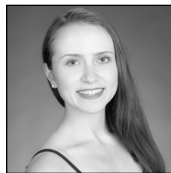
**MADDIE
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GRACE SAULS



ASHLEY SEWELL



LEAH WOLFE



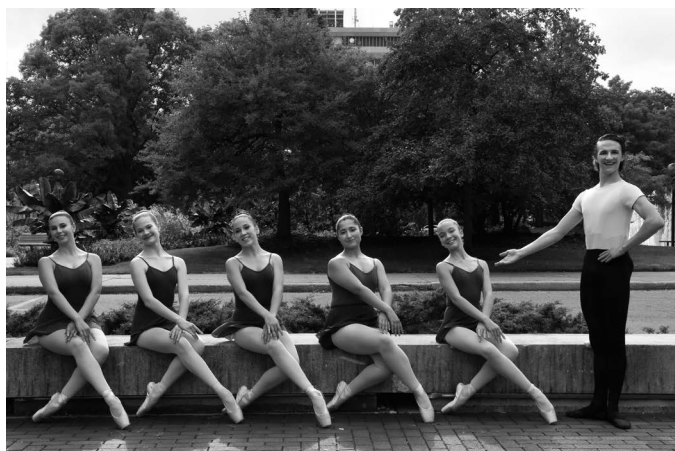
ABBY ZINSSER



TRAINEES

TOP, L TO R: **CAROLINE SCHUPPE, ANNA HESS, VICTORIA ANGLE, OLIVIA LEY, RACHEL MACK**

BOTTOM, L TO R: **ARIANNA FLEISCHMAN, ROSEMARY AARONS, ABBY STORER, GRACE MCCUTCHEON**



PRE-PROFESSIONAL 2

Left to Right:

Payton Wilson
Olivia Myers
Allison Banks
Isabel Carrillo
Gigi McDowell
Allen Sizemore



PRE-PROFESSIONAL 1

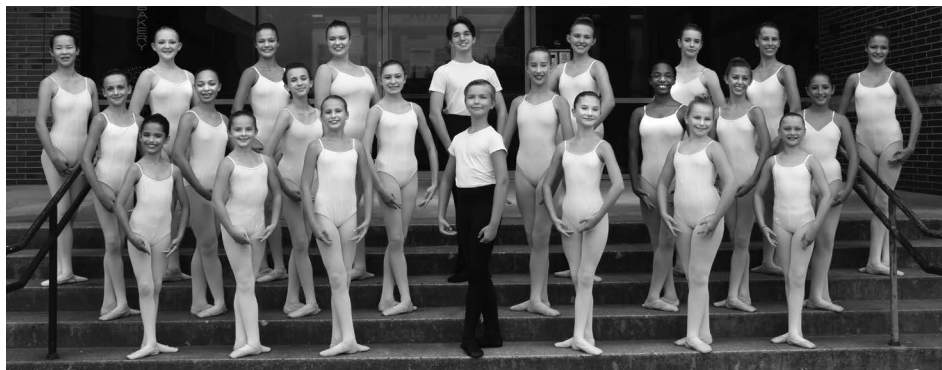
Back: TK Armour;

Front:

Stella Falconer
Alexis Andrews
Isabel Hollis

Not pictured:

Fiona Tippmann



PHOTOS: ROB BOREL

YOUTH COMPANY (left to right)

Back Row: Lily Berning, Sophie Reynolds, Tabitha Wolf, Kate Hargens, Leo Walker, Yevva Ireland, Faith Button, Sophia Francke, Ella Wolf; **Middle Row:** Harper Kurzen, Ana Pelance, Natalia Yorgova, Ella Emrick, Olivia Johnson, Trinity Kelsaw, Alexa Bremer, Ana Carrillo; **Front Row:** Bianca Parra, Katherine Potter, Leah Thomas, Danny Button, Ellis Baron, Isabel Hoffer, Hannah Kozak;
Not pictured: Grace Gephart, Rocco O'Reilly

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fort wayne ballet

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- Sharing our art with this community and beyond through a variety of educational and outreach programs
- Maintaining modern, safe facilities for our students
- Hiring some of the industry's most qualified instructors
- Expanding the programming of the Auer Academy

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