

# CLEVELAND BALLET

GLADISA GUADALUPE | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 24, 2023

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## CLEVELAND BALLET LAUNCHES NINTH SEASON WITH EXPANDED COMPANY OF ARTISTS

Cleveland – The artistic caliber of Cleveland Ballet continues to grow as the company starts its ninth season with a larger roster of artists, including nine new dancers and the 33-piece Cleveland Ballet Orchestra. New dancers from South Korea and Dominican Republic round out the 33-member company with artists from 10 countries.

In the tradition of Cleveland Ballet, the nine new dancers are from around the world – Anna Cole, Breanna Faith Justus, Eunjun Jung, Gabriela Checlo, Johan Mancebo, Svetlana Svinko, Tiera Peters, Trisha Carter, and Uma Deming.

“Ballet is a universal, global language and our company of artists reflects the worldliness of this spectacular art form,” said Gladisa Guadalupe, artistic director and co-founder of Cleveland Ballet. “In the nearly 10 years since our founding, we have continually grown artistically, with an unprecedented aesthetic and artistic caliber this season.”

While national trends are to use recorded music for performances to help manage costs, Cleveland Ballet elevated its productions last year by introducing the Cleveland Ballet Orchestra. The orchestra is led by Alexandra Preucil, music advisor and concert master, Caleb Young, conductor, and Cleveland Ballet’s own resident composer, Anna Segal.

Cleveland Ballet’s ninth season launches September 22-23 at Connor Palace Theater in Playhouse Square with the reimagined *Carmen*, complete with Rodrigo Lara Alonso’s flamenco guitar and famous opera singers - Zoya Gramagin from New York and James Binion from Florida. The evening also includes the romantic *Pas de Dix* from the grand ballet *Raymonda*, and the inspiring Nocturne the renowned Steinway artist, Gerardo Teissonnière, performing on stage along with the dancers.

Tickets are available online through [ClevelandBallet.org](http://ClevelandBallet.org) or [PlayhouseSquare.org](http://PlayhouseSquare.org) or can be purchased by calling Ticketing at 216.320.9000, ext. 107 or emailing [tickets@clevelandballet.org](mailto:tickets@clevelandballet.org)

### New Artists:

**Anna Cole** - Originally from Marietta, Georgia, Anna joined The Washington School of Ballet’s Professional Training Program in 2018 where she performed Julie Kent’s *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, Septime Webre’s *The Nutcracker*, George Balanchine’s *Concerto Barocco*, *Theme and Variations*, and *Serenade*. She has also trained at several summer intensives including American Ballet Theatre in

New York and Pacific Northwest Ballet. In 2021, Anna worked with the Italian Embassy and choreographer Mimmo Miccolis in the screen dance film, Magnifica. She began her choreographic career in 2022 and has since created two works on the Professional Training Division at TWSB.

**Breanna Faith Justus** – Breanna was born in Lexington, Kentucky, and began dancing at the age of three. She trained at the Kentucky Ballet Theatre Academy, performing with their professional company until 2021. She then trained in Orlando Ballet's and Atlanta Ballet's Second Companies before joining Cleveland Ballet. Breanna has attended multiple summer intensives, including the Kentucky Governor's School of the Arts and the NSLI-Y program at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Moscow, Russia.

**Eunjun Jung** - Eunjun comes to Cleveland from South Korea, where he was enrolled in the dance department at the Korea National University of Arts. Among his honors, he placed at the top levels in the Valentina Kozlova International Ballet Competition, Certamen Internacional de Danza Ciudad de Barcelona competition, first in the World Ballet Grand Prix Korean Competition, and the Youth America Grand Prix

**Gabriela Checło** - Originally from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic where she joined the National School of Ballet before moving to Spain to train with Ballet de Cámara de Madrid. In 2019, she joined Sibiu Ballet Theater in Romania. She has also participated in international tours to Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Belgium, and Turkey. Gabriela has been a guest artist at 'The XXIII International Dance Day Ballet Gala' in San Sebastián, Spain; 'The XII Gala of Stars in Dominican Republic; and 'VI Edition Dance Campus and Contest San Francesco di Paola Gala' in Romania. Gabriela holds a Pedagogy of Classical Dance degree and won an Academic Excellence Award at Instituto Universitario de Danza Alicia Alonso, King Juan Carlos University.

**Johan Mancebo** - Born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Johan started his dance training as the first generation of male dancers graduating in 2015 from the National School of Ballet of Dominican Republic. He trained with Dominican National Ballet and The Washington Ballet Studio Company before moving to Spain where he joined Ballet de Cámara de Madrid and obtained a Degree in Pedagogy of Classical Dance: Cuban Method. In 2019, he joined Sibiu Ballet Theater in Romania as a company member. He danced as a guest artist at galas around Spain performing Giselle pas de Deux at 'XXI Internacional Dance Day, San Sebastián' at Victoria Eugenia Theater, Don Quixote Pas de Deux and Black Swan pas de deux at 'Internacional Dance Day Colmenar III and V edition', 'Segovia en Danza 2016-2019' and 'XII Gala of Stars 2021' performing Coppelia Pas de Deux at Eduardo Brito Theater in Dominican Republic, and Diana and Acteon Pas de Deux at 'Gala Internazionale Sulle Ali Della Danza' on 2023 at Teatro Goldoni Livorno, Italy.

**Svetlana Svinko** - We are excited to welcome Svetlana Svinko to Cleveland Ballet. Originally from Krasnoyarsk, Russia, Svetlana graduated from the Krasnoyarsk State Choreographic College, where she was awarded a People's Artist of Russia N.L. scholarship Semizorova. She later joined the Novosibirsk State Academic Opera and Ballet Theater as a leading ballerina. In 2016 she joined the troupe of the L.V. Yakobson St. Petersburg State Ballet Theater. Svetlana has received many accolades and toured throughout France, Spain, Latvia, South Korea, Canada, China, Kazakhstan, India, Thailand, Germany, Switzerland, Japan, Estonia, Morocco, and Italy. In 2021 she graduated from the Academy of Russian Ballet with a Bachelor of Education in Ballet Pedagogy.

**Tiera Peters** - From Rockland County, New York, Tiera joined the Pre-Professional Training Program at Ballet Rockland in Haverstraw, NY, at age 13 where she had the opportunity to perform with both professional and nonprofessional companies including; Hudson Valley Ballet, Hudson Lyric Opera, Capezio Dance Center Showcase in NYC, Garner Arts Center, Fischer Ballet Company, and Rockland Theater Company. She also attended the Pittsburgh Ballet Theater's 2020 Intensive Summer Program. In 2021 she accepted a position in Cleveland Ballet's Trainee Program where she spent two years. As a trainee she performed in Don Quixote, The Nutcracker, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Swan Lake, and George Balanchine's Serenade.

**Trisha Carter** - Trisha began her training in Maine with Bossov Ballet Theater and continued training abroad, ultimately leading to her acceptance into the Vaganova School in St. Petersburg, Russia. She completed her schooling at the Harid Conservatory and Kirov Academy in the United States before joining Houston Ballet II and later Ballet Florida. Trisha has performed and toured with multiple companies and choreographers: Houston Ballet, Ballet Florida, Cuban Classical Ballet, Miami Contemporary Dance Company, Dance Now Miami, and was a founding member of Dimensions Dance Theater of Miami. Trisha holds a BBA in International Business & Trade and a BS in International Economics, which she uses to develop the performing arts. Her most outstanding off-stage achievement is founding Miami Dance Hub, the dance alliance organization for South Florida, where she served as Executive Director for three years.

**Uma Deming** - Born in Rochester, New York, Uma began her ballet training at the Timothy M. Draper Center for Dance Education at the age of three. She attended summer courses at the School of American Ballet (SAB), the official school of New York City Ballet (NYCB), before entering SAB full-time. Uma received additional summer training at Miami City Ballet School, Boston Ballet School, the School of Carolina Ballet, and Pacific Northwest Ballet School. While at SAB, she trained with the Royal Danish Ballet company and school as a recipient of the Danish American National Cultural Exchange scholarship program. Uma was named an apprentice with NYCB in November 2018, and a Corp De Ballet member in November 2019.

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**ABOUT CLEVELAND BALLET:** From the fascinating history of dance in Cleveland starting at the beginning of the 20th century, Dr. Michael Krasnyansky, a successful Ukrainian businessman who settled in the Cleveland area, and his wife Gladisa Guadalupe, a wonderful dancer originally from Puerto Rico, have made their mission to build on the vision and business acumen of Adella Prentiss and impresario Giacomo Bernardi. Prentiss and Bernardi were instrumental in the development of Cleveland's dance audience and responsible for bringing one of the world's foremost ballerinas of the 20th century, Anna Pavlova, as well as the internationally famous Diaghilev Ballets Russes which performed in this city during their first U.S. tour. Today and under their artistic vision, business expertise and leadership Dr. Krasnyansky and Ms. Guadalupe has established the city's resident ballet company, Cleveland Ballet, successfully filling the void of classical and contemporary ballet. Please see <https://case.edu/ech/articles/c/cleveland-ballet> and <https://case.edu/ech/articles/d/dance> for more information.