

# A Year of Growth and Challenge

## International Ballet Exchange

Annual report, fiscal year 2020

(July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020)



# A Year of Growth and Challenge

As we look back on 2019-2020, the two themes that emerge are [growth](#) and [challenge](#).

How we grew:

- IBE welcomed Christina Castro-Tauser as associate director.
- We were in residence at four Philadelphia public schools, two of which were pilots.
- We became an approved Strategic Partner of the Philadelphia School District.

Our challenges:

- The first challenge was continuing to serve the students of the Philadelphia public schools from March to June as the schools were physically closed in response to the pandemic. Working with our school partners, we were quickly able to begin teaching online. While the situation precluded a performance, our engaging classes gave the students an opportunity to move during the day of remote learning while continuing to build their skills.

“Thanks a million for keeping our students connected and dancing!”  
—Teacher, Mifflin School

- The second challenge was the same one facing so many performing arts and arts education organizations: how to reimagine our work so that we best serve students and the community. But we found that a period in which we cannot do “business as usual” provides opportunities to grow in different and important ways.

Now, as we enter fiscal year 2021, [we are building on our strengths and creativity as we explore new ways to teach and perform.](#)

We thank our teaching artists, board of directors, and our school partners for their energy and creativity during this extraordinary time, and we are so very grateful to our funders and contributors for their support.

Nancy Malmed  
Christina Castro-Tauser



# Four Ballet Residencies

In the 2019-2020 school year, IBE was in residence at [four Philadelphia public schools](#):

- Frances Willard Elementary School (19134)
- John B. Kelly Elementary School (19144)
- Thomas Mifflin School (19129)
- Kensington Creative and Performing Arts High School (19122)

IBE's professional dance educators teach our 30-week in-school ballet course "in residence" at each partner school. The course starts with ballet basics and builds to dances that the students will perform. In addition to full-body coordination, the students develop vocabulary and musicality, teamwork, goal-setting, and pride in accomplishment.



The weekly classes uniquely culminate in participation in a performance in a fully staged story ballet. With choreography tailored expressly for them, the students share the stage with our guest artists and advanced-level students from the Wissahickon Dance Academy.



IBE is present in up to four schools each school year, and our goal is always to build a multiyear partnership. We work with each school to determine how best to offer the course: as an enrichment period elective, a full-class program, or after-school activity. The program is free to the students and schools.

"truly wanted to thank u from the bottom of my heart. I have never seen my child so happy about something she did. She is so proud of herself and has been smiling ever since."  
—Parent of Willard student

78

Students in IBE's 30-week in-school ballet course in 2019-2020

# Performances

From December 19 through 22, 2019, [school and community audiences](#) enjoyed three performances of the Donetsk Ballet's Nutcracker.



Philadelphia is traditionally the company's final stop on its annual US tour. We value this special relationship with the Donetsk Ballet. It is an opportunity to present the company's world-class dancers and beautiful production in accessible venues such as school auditoriums. And the Donetsk's Nutcracker makes significant roles available for a supporting youth cast of up to 50 dancers. Because this is such a remarkable opportunity for young dancers to share their art, IBE uniquely opens the audition for the youth roles to all ballet students in the region.

"My students were excited after the performance and shared details even I didn't notice ... I LOVE that the study guide provided a map and accompanying questions. That led to a very productive discussion."

—Teacher with students attending The Nutcracker

"This performance was a spectacular opportunity for my students ... I found the Teacher's Guide to be very informative with exciting lessons that held my students' attention. I appreciate IBE for all they do for our Phila. school children."

—Teacher with students attending Sleeping Beauty



Our annual spring performance for the Philadelphia schools was to be La Boutique Fantasque (The Fantastic Toy Shop), a classic story ballet from the early twentieth century, featuring local professionals, 35 students from Wissahickon Dance Academy, and 78 students from the ballet residencies at Kelly, Kensington CAPA, Mifflin, and Willard. When the pandemic closed the schools and our home studio, we created a [video of an archive performance](#) of the ballet, sharing it with the schools and posting it on our website, along with our educational materials, [including a new interactive virtual guide](#), for all to enjoy.

# 2,300+

Audience members in 2019-2020

# Supporters

We deeply appreciate the gifts of the many individuals who contributed to IBE this year, and we thank the following funders for their generous support of our work:

Christopher Ludwick Foundation

COVID-19 Arts Aid PHL Fund

Pennsylvania Partners for the Arts

Philadelphia Cultural Fund

Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial



We also thank

- The principals and teachers of our residency schools and educators across the city for supporting their students' participation in the arts.
- The school leadership of George Washington High School for our performances for the Philadelphia schools.
- The families of our youth casts, who give so generously of their time to help make each show a success.

And we thank the following for their support of our performances:

Dress 2 Dance • Eyeglasses Etc. • The Fence Guys • Frosted Fox Cake Shop • Germantown Friends School • Germantown Studios • The Glenside Pub • Golden Crust • Greene Street Friends School • MacGuffin Theatre & Film Company • The Miquon School • Motions Dance and Fitness Shoppe • Pages to Pirouettes • Premier Orthopaedics • Sculpture Workshop • Swan Dancewear

# Financials

Summary, fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020)

Revenue	
Grants	\$20,334
Individual giving	\$17,111
Earned income	\$23,868
Fund-raising	\$10,922
	<hr/>
Total revenue	\$72,235
Expenses	
Program services	\$58,921
Operations	\$4,187
Scholarships	\$1,636
	<hr/>
Total expenses	\$64,744



## PHOTOS:

Cover: Youth cast of IBE's Porgy and Bess, 2004 (©IBE)

P2: Backstage at rehearsal for The Nutcracker 2014 (Nathaniel Hamilton for NewsWorks©)

P3: IBE teacher Elena Tiurikulova with students at George Washington High School (IBE ©); students from John B. Kelly school take their bows after performing in Sleeping Beauty 2019 (Julianne Harris ©)

P4: Youth artist as Clara in The Nutcracker with the Donetsk Ballet 2018 (Julianne Harris ©); Yulia Polgorodnyk and Maxim Valchik of the Donetsk Ballet in The Nutcracker (IBE ©); youth cast members in La Boutique Fantasque 2012 (Julianne Harris ©)

P5: Students from Frances Willard Elementary School take their bows after performing in Sleeping Beauty 2019 (Julianne Harris ©)

P6: Youth artists in The Four Seasons 2018 (Julianne Harris©)



International Ballet Exchange  
 38 East School House Lane  
 Philadelphia, PA 19144  
 (215) 849-7950 [www.internationalballet.org](http://www.internationalballet.org)

Founded in 1998 with a mission to make ballet accessible, International Ballet Exchange has 501(c) 3 designation from the Internal Revenue Service and is a registered charitable organization with the Pennsylvania Department of State.