

# Iowa Youth Ballet

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November 16, 2020

Dear Dance Enthusiast \_\_\_\_\_,

The Iowa Youth Ballet (IYB) was created as a non-profit dance company in 2001. Based in Ames, Iowa, IYB provides aspiring young dancers an opportunity to further their studies and work in a professional-like environment. IYB offers an ever-changing array of classical and contemporary ballets, as well as character dance.

Every year our dancers, together with numerous other dancers from our central Iowa community, participate in the Iowa State Center's "Nutcracker Ballet" at Stephens Auditorium. This ballet was scheduled for its 40<sup>th</sup> annual performance in December of this year. Sadly, due to COVID-19 in our community, the ballet was canceled amid concerns that Stephens Auditorium would have to close.

This decision has impacted hundreds of children that traditionally participate in this event. We, at IYB, have decided to put on "Sugarplum Celebration", a holiday event to replace "Nutcracker" for this year.

We are delighted to inform you that Stephens is open, with limited seating due to COVID-19, and we will be able to stage "Sugarplum Celebration" at Stephens. While we are giving our best efforts, we still need help from individuals and companies to meet the financial goals necessary to mount this production, provide an event for the children, and support our "home", Stephens Auditorium.

COVID-19 precautions require smaller dance pieces, fewer dancers, and limited ticket sales. We plan to offer livestreaming of the performances for those that wish to watch the performances but are not able to attend. We have approximately 85 dancers in rehearsal now, down from the 300 that are normally involved in "Nutcracker".

The lower number is the maximum we are able to stage safely with the current COVID-19 guidelines. Selections were made through audition and user fees have been collected; however, we require an additional \$5,000 to meet our goal for this production.

Your help is crucial to our immediate needs and to our longstanding efforts to support Stephens and increase the arts scenery of Ames, Iowa. A portion of any funds raised above our goal of \$5,000 will be donated to the C.Y. Stephens Auditorium Fund.

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#### IYB Executive Board

Serica Maiers, President  
Robert Thomas, Vice President  
Kimberly Kellen, Treasurer  
Mariana Serao, Secretary  
Lisa Davis, Member at Large

#### IYB Artistic Board

Miyoko Kato Thomas, Artistic Director, Emeritus  
Robert Thomas, Artistic Director

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If you are able, we would greatly appreciate your donation in helping us achieve our goal for this important event. Donations are tax-deductible. Even a donation of **\$50** will go a long way toward helping us.

Donations of **\$200** will provide you with a complimentary livestream link and social media promotion.

Donations of **\$500** will provide you with a complimentary livestream link, social media promotion, and a performance announcement.

Donations of **\$1,000** will provide you with a complimentary livestream link, social media promotion, a performance announcement, and ad media promotion as well as a display listing you as a benefactor of the event.

And a **COMPLETE GOAL DONATION OF \$5,000** will provide you with a complimentary livestream link, social media promotion, a performance announcement, ad media promotion, a display listing you as a PATRON of the Iowa Youth Ballet,....AND IYB Board Vice President Robert Thomas prancing about on the corner of Beach and Lincoln Way one hour before each performance waving an event banner or directional arrow with not only the event name but also yours as PATRON. He'll be wearing a green Santa elf costume while Board President Serica Maiers performs a traditional Holiday Irish Circle Dance around him in an authentic Irish costume.....Wow!!

On behalf of the whole organization, as well as the young dancers, their families, and Stephens Auditorium, we thank you for your continued support. Please reach out to us if you have any questions.

Happy Holidays,

*Robert Thomas*

Robert Thomas  
Iowa Youth Ballet  
Artistic Director and Board Vice President

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