

The following are this year's acceptances for Crooked Tree Arts Center dancers, and programs in which they will study this summer:

Alexandra Baron, 14 (Charlevoix)

Charlotte Ballet – attending
Miami City Ballet
Kaatsbaan Extreme Ballet
Joffrey Ballet (summer & trainee)
Washington Ballet
American Ballet Theatre

Lillian Ellsworth, 13 (Harbor Springs)

Kaatsbaan Extreme Ballet – attending
Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet
San Francisco Ballet
Ballet West
Charlotte Ballet
Boston Ballet
Joffrey Ballet (summer & trainee)
Bolshoi Ballet
American Ballet Theatre
*Harriett Lee Hicklen Memorial Scholarship recipient

Anna Haf, 13 (Charlevoix)

Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet – attending
Charlotte Ballet
Joffrey Ballet
Suzanne Farrell's Cedar Island

Nancy Hohlbein, 12 (Levering)

Ballet West's artEmotion – attending
LINES Ballet
Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet

Greyson Janka, 13 (Boyne Falls)

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp (scholarship) – attending

Lilah Laininga, 12 (Brutus)

Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet

Taylor Naturkas, 15 (Petoskey)

Miami City Ballet (scholarship) – attending
Kaatsbaan Extreme Ballet
Joffrey Ballet (full scholarship summer & trainee)
San Francisco Ballet
Ellison Ballet
Pacific Northwest Ballet
Washington Ballet
Cincinnati Ballet
Kansas City Ballet
Charlotte Ballet summer & year-round (full scholarship)
Boston Ballet
Pennsylvania Ballet (scholarship)
Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell
Oregon Ballet Theater (scholarship)
Denton City Contemporary Ballet (scholarship)
*Harriett Lee Hicklen Memorial Scholarship recipient

Olivia Pearsall, 14 (Charlevoix)

Miami City Ballet – attending
San Francisco Ballet
Kaatsbaan Extreme Ballet
Princeton Ballet SI (scholarship)
Boston Ballet
Pittsburgh Ballet Theater (scholarship)
Washington Ballet
Charlotte Ballet
Houston Ballet
Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet (summer & year-round)
Chautauqua Institution
Joffrey Ballet
Ellison Ballet
American Ballet Theatre

Emily Stabile, 14 (Petoskey)

University of North Carolina School of the Arts Contemporary SI (scholarship) – attending
Hubbard Street LINES Ballet Advanced Program
San Francisco Conservatory of Dance

Haley Van Patten, 17 (Petoskey)

University of Illinois BFA (scholarship) – attending fall
*Harlequin Floor Scholarship recipient

Abigail Walz, 16 (Petoskey)

Pennsylvania Ballet
Joffrey Ballet
Grand Rapids Ballet
American Ballet Theatre



SEAN MILLER/NEWS-REVIEW

Crooked Tree Arts Center School of Ballet dancers take the stage for a dress rehearsal of a previous Fall For Dance performance.

Crooked Tree Arts Center School of Ballet announces summer acceptances

Beginning in June, dancers from the Crooked Tree Arts Center School of Ballet Pre-Professional Program will be attending intensive dance programs around the country.

An integral part of a serious dancer's training process is attending summer intensive programs at the country's finest schools, which are generally attached to professional companies. The school directors travel across the country, often holding auditions outside of the U.S., looking at thousands of young dancers.

This year, 11 arts center pre-professional dancers have achieved acceptances in many of the country's top programs — several of them have been accepted to multiple programs.

"I am so proud of our students' many accomplishments this audition season. It is exciting to see the very wide range of prestigious programs our dancers have been invited to," said school of ballet artistic director Heather Raue.

During the months of January and February,

dancers and their parents travel out-of-state to attend auditions, which entail additional expenses on top of the year-round financial commitments, including the price of lessons, workshops, summer intensive programs, and numerous pairs of ballet shoes. Summer intensive programs can last two to six weeks, and cost an average of \$5,000 per dancer.

More than a decade ago, the arts center established the Crooked Tree Dance Scholarship Fund to alleviate some of the financial burden

on families. Each year the school of ballet puts on three full-length productions: "The Nutcracker" in December, a June performance, and "Fall for Dance" in October or November. Proceeds from "The Nutcracker" and the June performance go to the fund, which helps to offset the cost of the summer intensive programs. Proceeds from "Fall for Dance" go to the Harbor Springs Performing Arts Center, where all ballet performances take place.

This June, the dancers will be performing

"Sleeping Beauty" at the Harbor Springs Performing Arts Center. This performance will feature all of the students from the school of ballet, ages 4 and up. Tickets will be available for purchase beginning Wednesday, April 18.

For more information on the school of ballet or its scholarship fund, contact the Crooked Tree Arts Center at (231) 347-4337 or visit www.crookodtree.org. The Crooked Tree Arts Center is located at 461 E. Mitchell St., downtown Petoskey.

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