

# Swan Lake

February 16–18, 2024 • Schuster Center

## ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS

Septime Webre, *choreographer*  
Brandon Ragland, *artistic director*  
Dayton Ballet  
Dayton Ballet School Ensemble  
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, *composer*  
Neal Gittleman, *conductor*

Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra  
Campbell Baird, *scenic designer*  
A. Christina Giannini, *costume designer*  
Lowell Mathwich, *additional costumes*  
Joe Beumer, *lighting designer*

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The Masterworks Series sponsor is Dr. Ingrid Brown and Dr. Troy Tyner.

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## ACT I

Odette ..... Claire Bergman  
Young Siegfried ..... Chase Ewald  
Siegfried ..... Lukas Pringle  
Siegfried's Mother ..... Rachel Cahayla-Wynne  
Von Rothbart ..... Isaac Jones  
Pas de Trois  
(February 16 & 18) ..... Erin Blair, Hailey Flanagan, Francisco Rivera  
(February 17) ..... Emma Duncan, Patrick Lennon, Marjorie Sherman  
Guests  
(February 16 & 18) ..... Nicolas Bierwagen, Harrison Broadbent, Alyssa Eyster,  
Emma Duncan, Jasmine Getz, Katy Gilliam, Patrick Lennon,  
Kyan Park, Marjorie Sherman, Jalen Williams  
(February 17) ..... Nicolas Bierwagen, Harrison Broadbent, Erin Blair, Alyssa Eyster,  
Hailey Flanagan, Jasmine Getz, Katy Gilliam, Kyan Park,  
Francisco Rivera, Jalen Williams  
Additional Party Guests ..... Emma Barrentine, Eden Beert-Nordeen, Aimee Besl,  
Eliana Egbert, Ian Egbert, Benjamin Forney, Alek Kohut,  
Jane Middleton, Rebecca Perry, Anna Williams  
New York Socialites ..... Ella Addison, Trudie Arling, Olivia Bruno,  
Jessica Etling, Mollie Juniewicz, Ava McKinney,  
Elizabeth Sabol, Caroline Woessner  
Cygnets ..... Erin Blair, Alyssa Eyster, Hailey Flanagan, Katy Gilliam  
Tall Swans ..... Olivia Bruno, Emma Duncan, Jasmine Getz, Marjorie Sherman

Swan Maidens ..... Ella Addison, Trudie Arling, Jessica Etling, Mollie Juniewicz,  
Sophia Krapf, Ava McKinney, Elizabeth Sabol, Caroline Woessner

**- INTERMISSION -**

**ACT II**

Odile ..... Belle Urben

Pocket Dancers ..... Nicolas Bierwagen, Harrison Broadbent, Patrick Lennon,  
Kyan Park, Francisco Rivera, Jalen Williams

Debutantes ..... Erin Blair, Olivia Bruno, Emma Duncan, Jasmine Getz,  
Katy Gilliam, Marjorie Sherman

Socialites ..... Ella Addison, Trudie Arling, Jessica Etling, Alyssa Eyster,  
Hailey Flanagan, Mollie Juniewicz, Ava McKinney,  
Elizabeth Sabol, Caroline Woessner

*United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829, IATSE is the union representing Scenic, Costume, Lighting,  
Sound, and Projection Designers in Live Performance.*



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**PRODUCTION/ARTISTIC STAFF**

Megan Forney, *Dayton Ballet School*  
*Ensemble co-director*

Gabrielle Sharp, *Dayton Ballet School*  
*Ensemble co-director*

Kelly DeLisle, *production stage manager*

Alex Wolfthal, *assistant stage manager*

Lyn Baudendistel, *wardrobe supervisor*

Kim Keough, *carpenter*

Sam Knopp, *carpenter*

Amber Ring, *swing*

Louie Kemp, *swing*

Steve Williams, *electrician*

Emily Junker, *electrician*

Mike Strawdeman, *sound engineer*

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# Synopsis

## NEW YORK 1912

### ACT I

Though blessed by wealth and opportunity, Siegfried, the scion of one of New York's great families, is tormented by a recurring dream. He finds himself drawn both to darkness and to light. In his dream, this struggle is embodied in the ethereal images of swans.

On the eve of his twenty-first birthday, Siegfried stands on the brink of adulthood. Seemingly befriended by the mysterious Von Rothbart, he struggles to understand his dream.

During an afternoon tea in Siegfried's mother's wintergarden, members of New York's social set mingle. Siegfried's mother enters and, as throughout his childhood, her smothering devotion to him leaves him distraught. He seeks solace in his dream of white swans.

In Siegfried's dream, his surroundings transform, and the image of a beautiful swan queen, Odette, appears with her entourage of swan maidens. Siegfried is captivated by Odette's soulfulness and purity. He swears eternal devotion to Odette and her light.

As dawn approaches, Siegfried's dream leaves him and he awakens unsettled.

## ACT II

Guests have assembled at a ball given in Siegfried's honor. Siegfried enters, his mind filled with thoughts of Odette. His mother reminds him that he has come of age and it is time to select a bride. Von Rothbart arrives and presents Siegfried with the alluring image of seductive darkness, the beguiling Odile. Siegfried is mesmerized by Odile's dark beauty. He confuses his attraction to Odile's darkness with his passion for Odette's light. Siegfried mistakenly swears himself to the dark Odile. Upon realizing he has betrayed his promise to remain faithful to Odette, he collapses into his dream state.

The swans are grieving for Odette and Siegfried. The two are reunited, but as a storm rages, Siegfried is unable to reconcile his simultaneous attraction towards darkness and light.

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## About the Artists



### **Septime Webre** Choreographer

Septime Webre is an internationally recognized ballet director, choreographer, educator, and advocate. He is the Artistic Director of the Hong Kong Ballet after 17 years as Artistic Director of The Washington Ballet. Previously, he served as a Artistic Director of the American Repertory Ballet, based in Princeton, New Jersey, from 1993–99. In addition, Webre serves as the Artistic Director of Halcyon, a Washington, D.C.-based foundation, launching an annual international Festival for Creativity in Washington, D.C. in June 2018.

During Webre's tenure at The Washington Ballet, the institution's budget grew by 500%, and it enjoyed unprecedented advances in the scope and quality of its work on stage; in the size and reach of its professional school; and in the development of several far-reaching community engagement programs, which he founded. Webre launched an array of artistic initiatives including The American Experience, which developed great works of literature into full-length ballets, including *The Great Gatsby* and Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*, among others.

As a choreographer, Webre's works appear in the repertoires of ballet companies throughout North America, including Pacific Northwest Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Colorado

Ballet, Ballet West, Atlanta Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Ballet Austin, Kansas City Ballet, Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico, and many others, and he has worked frequently in theatre as well as opera. As a dancer, Webre was featured in solo and principal roles from the classical repertoire as well as in contemporary works by choreographers such as Twyla Tharp, Paul Taylor, and Merce Cunningham. He has served on the juries of a number of international ballet competitions, including those in Varna, Bulgaria, Istanbul, Cape Town, New York, Seoul, and elsewhere. He has served on the board of Dance/USA and his work has received numerous honors, grants and awards. He holds a degree in History/Pre-Law from the University of Texas at Austin, and is the seventh son in a large, boisterous Cuban-American family.

### **A. Christina Giannini** Costume Designer

A. Christina Giannini was greatly inspired by her uncle, the famous composer Vittorio Giannini, who had a tremendous influence on her life. She fell deeply in love with theater and costume design during her time studying at the Buxton School in New Jersey. She joined Douglass College, a part of Rutgers University of New Jersey, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1959. Giannini went on to pursue postgraduate coursework at the Birmingham School of Art in England from 1959 to 1960 and completed an apprenticeship with the Zurich Opera House from 1963 to 1964.

In 1960, Giannini established Studio Giannini, a costume and set design studio where she has flourished for more than 60 years. Over the course of her career, she has created a wide range of costumes, props, and set pieces for numerous ballet companies, on- and off-Broadway productions, and opera

houses. Impressively, she was the first designer to use Lycra to design dance costumes and she has developed an esteemed reputation for her expertise in dyeing and painting materials.



### **Campbell Baird** Scenic Designer

Campbell Atkinson Baird III is an American design educator. He was the recipient of the Best Scenic Design award at the Gay and Lesbian Theatre in 1982. He was a steering committee member North Carolina School Arts, Winston-Salem, from 1980 to 1982, and a member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829 (a trustee 1995–2002 and exam committee judge since 1987).



### **Joe Beumer** Lighting Designer

Joe Beumer is a freelance lighting designer for theatre, dance, and opera. He is passionate about telling stories and collaborating to create unique products through research, ingenuity, and an eye for design. Design highlights include *Thumbprint* for Portland Opera; *Rigoletto*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, and *The Barber of Seville* for Opera Colorado; *Tosca* for Utah Opera; *Aida* for Cincinnati Opera (with Thomas Hase); *Tosca* and *The Elixir of Love* with Permian Basin Opera; *Yardbird* with Atlanta Opera; and *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *Dracula: Bloodlines* (World Premiere) with Dayton Ballet. He recently lit the current tour of *The Book of Mormon* for original designer Brian MacDevitt.