



## Friends of The Sarasota Ballet End-of-Season President's Letter

Dear Friends,

We have come to the end of another Season, and we are grateful to have shared so many amazing performances and delightful Showcase Luncheons with our members.

Speaking of Luncheons, we were honored to have Director Iain Webb as the speaker at our final Luncheon on April 10th. Iain was excited to share the details of the 2023-2024 Season on the very day of the press release! He was gracious in answering questions from members in attendance, especially for the April Tribute to Balanchine performance to close out the season.



The month of April closed with the *Gala Royale* honoring the leadership of Joseph Volpe, Executive Director of The Sarasota Ballet. The performance at the Sarasota Opera House celebrated the outstanding achievements of the 2022-2023 Season, followed by an elegant dinner and dancing at the Circus Arts Conservatory. It was an honor to co-chair the event with Friends Member and Board of Trustee Member, Julie Harris. Many thanks to Rachael Fisk, Board & Patron Engagement Manager for designing and facilitating a fabulous evening.



Dancers Pictured in Order from Top to Bottom: Sierra Abelardo, Josh Fisk and Evan Gorbell, Maximiliano Iglesias and Macarena Gimenez, Ricardo Rhodes and Danielle Brown, Marijana Dominis and Richard House- Photography Frank Atura

May was a whirlwind of activity with The Sarasota Ballet School performances. Beginning with *Images of Dance*, featuring The Sarasota Ballet Studio Company, The Margaret Barbieri Conservatory, Sarasota Music Conservatory, Sarasota Youth Opera, and Key Chorale. This collaboration showcased the future of ballet along with these local arts organizations. The audience was in awe and overjoyed with the professionalism of this performance.

# IMAGES OF DANCE



Congratulations to Christopher Hird, Education Director and staff for a delightful performance, *The Carnival of the Animals*, showcasing The Sarasota Ballet School and Dance -The Next Generation students at the Riverview High School Performing Arts Center. Proud parents and patrons alike were entertained by the adorable 3-year-olds as well as the entire cast of students.

Mid-May, there was a Day of Giving and a special virtual fundraising event for the Dance For All initiative, which was launched in the Fall of 2022. Through six unique pillars, the mission of Dance For All is to engage new audiences and provide access to the world of dance. If you missed the Day of Giving, there is still time to give! Donations can be made online at [sarasotaballet.org](https://sarasotaballet.org) or by contacting Lauren Stroman, Development Director at 941-225-6510. Thank you to all who donated thus far.

The Friends Board of Directors closed out the month with an end-of-season dinner at the Bijou Garden Cafe. We were honored to have Iain Webb and Margaret Barbieri plus several staff members join us for the evening. Many thanks for the countless hours this hard-working Board contributes in support of The Sarasota Ballet. We look forward to the 2023-2024 Season and the excitement generated by our Company performing at the Royal Opera House in London. Save the date, June 4-9, 2024!



# BIJOU

## *Garden Cafe*



As always, I am delighted that you are a member of the Friends of The Sarasota Ballet. Be sure to renew your membership when it's due. If you're not sure of your renewal date, you can contact the Membership Chair, Betty Ferguson by email at [bcamarest@yahoo.com](mailto:bcamarest@yahoo.com).

Have a wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing you in the fall.  
Warm Regards,

Patricia Golemme  
President  
Friends of The Sarasota Ballet

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For questions regarding the Friends of The Sarasota Ballet's  
Showcase Luncheons, please contact Phyllis Myers at

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**Find Out More About the Friends of The Sarasota Ballet!**

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