

# GUEST ARTISTS



## MAIZYALET VELÁZQUEZ

*M*aizyalet Velázquez, a native of Puerto Rico, began her training at Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico training in both the conservatory and company. She graduated from the Virginia School of the Arts in 2007, where she studied under David Keener and the late Petrus Bosman.

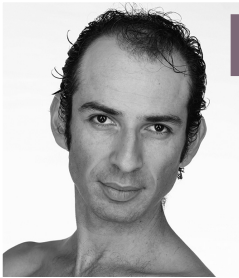
Velázquez joined Cincinnati Ballet upon graduation and was promoted to Soloist in 2012. She enjoys working with Cincinnati Ballet because it offers the opportunity to perform both classical and contemporary repertoire. She has performed the leading role in Val Caniparoli's *Lady of the Camellias* as Marguerite, as well as the title role in Amedeo Amodio's *Carmen*. Velázquez was promoted to First Soloist for Cincinnati Ballet's 2017-2018 Season.



## LUCA DE-POLI

*L*uca De-Poli, a native of West Palm Beach, Florida, began his training when he was fourteen years old at Ballet Florida's school under the direction of Marie Hale and at A.W Dreyfoos School of the Arts under the direction of Jan Goetz.

He attended the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music and graduated in May 2015 when he joined Cincinnati Ballet Second Company. In 2016 he was promoted into the company and has danced in a world premiere by Ma Cong, *Minus 16* by Ohad Naharin, debuted the role of Zeus in the North American premier of Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's *Eros Redux*, the title role in Nicolo Fonte's world premiere of *Carmina Burana*, Justin Peck's *Murder Ballads*, Jiri Kylian's *Sechs Tänze*, and works by Victoria Morgan, Devon Carney, Adam Houglan, Kate Weare and Septime Webre.



## DANIEL BENAVIDES

*D*aniel Benavides grew up dancing traditional Mexican folk dance ballet folklórico, and began his ballet training through the STEP-UP! program at Anaheim Ballet where he received a full tuition scholarship in his second year. Within his first two years of ballet training, he was accepted to summer intensives at both American Ballet Theatre and San Francisco Ballet. He joined the San Francisco Ballet School in 2002 on

full scholarship. After two years training and performing with San Francisco Ballet, he moved to Boston to begin his professional career with Boston Ballet II. In 2006, he had the opportunity to tour with The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, performing in Scotland at the Edinburgh International Festival, a world-renowned venue for artists from across the globe. Benavides danced with Orlando Ballet for fifteen seasons, performing roles such as The Cavalier and Drosselmeyer in *The Nutcracker*, Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet*, Von Rothbart in *Swan Lake*, The Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*, Birbanto in *Le Corsaire*, and the title role in *Dracula*. He has worked with many notable choreographers, including Twyla Tharp, Jessica Lang, Lila York, Peter Chu, Bruce Marks, Michael Pink, and Robert Hill.



## GARLAND LEE BOROWSKI

Garland Lee Borowski began his training at Mobile Ballet where he studied ballet and jazz. He went on to study with the Studio Company of Ballet Chicago, A&A Ballet, and at summer intensive programs including Pacific Northwest Ballet, School of American Ballet, and Ballet Austin where he expanded his training into musical theater, modern, contemporary, ballroom, and various other styles. Garland danced professionally as a soloist with Huntsville Ballet, where he performed in ballets including *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Phantom of the Ballet*, *Amore*, and *The Letter* as well as several original contemporary pieces. He joined Twin Cities Ballet of Minnesota in 2021, performing in several classical and contemporary productions. Garland graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BA degree in theater technology and design from the University of Alabama in Huntsville.



## GABRIEL ARANGO

Gabriel Jaime Posada Arango was born in Colombia, where he began his training with INCOLBALLET, The National Ballet of Colombia. He trained from a very young age in many different styles of dance such as Contemporary, Spanish and Classical Ballet. At the age of 18, Gabriel received a full scholarship to continue his dancing with the pre-professional division of the internationally renowned Ballet Academy East (BAE) in New York. In 2021, he moved to Florida where he danced with Fort Lauderdale Youth Ballet and received a full scholarship to join the Miami City Ballet pre-professional division where he graduated in 2022.

Arango has performed in many traditional repertory ballet productions as well as in several innovative pieces from some of the industries most recognized choreographers and coaches in the field, and has been recognized by the American Guild of Musical Artists as an artist of extraordinary ability. He recently joined Ballet Pensacola.



## KEYNALD REINALDO VERGARA SOTO

Keynald Reinaldo Vergara Soto was born in Santa Cruz del Norte Mayabeque, Cuba. He became interested in Ballet at age nine and trained at the Alfonso Perez Isaac ballet school in Matanzas, Cuba for five years. At 14 he was accepted at the Cuban National Ballet School and graduated in 2010. He started his professional career at age 18 at ProDanza Ballet Company, where he starred many main and secondary roles such as the Nutcracker, Lead Russian, Harlequin in *The Nutcracker*, Reinfield in *Dracula*, Jester and Pas de Trois in *Swan Lake*, among others. He represented the company for five seasons where he had the opportunity to travel to France and Mexico, and came to the United States at the age of 21. He was part of the Columbia City Ballet in South Carolina for three years and is currently a freelance dancer, training and dancing with Florida Classical Ballet directed by renowned Cuban ballet teacher Magaly Suarez.

# MOBILE BALLET ORCHESTRA



## DAVID OTT, CONDUCTOR

*D*avid Ott, composer and conductor, a native of Wisconsin, has lived in Northwest Florida since 1996. His compositions have been performed and recorded by symphony orchestras across four continents. He is also active as a church musician and lecturer. For the past 7 years, he has devoted most of his career to ballet-related activities.

Ott has conducted more than two dozen ballet performances of *The Nutcracker*. He created the original score for Katia Garza's *Peter Pan* and conducted the Mobile Ballet Orchestra for this production at Mobile Ballet in 2022, as well as for *Swan Lake* in 2023.

In recent years, Ott has rescored Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and *Sleeping Beauty* for chamber orchestra creating opportunities for more performances of ballet with live music. David and his wife Susan have three children and eight grandchildren.

## MUSICIANS

*Live Performances on Friday Evening and Saturday Evening*

### VIOLIN

Enen Yu, *concertmaster*  
Andres Alean  
Ingrid Roberts  
Silvia Suarez  
Allen Knight

### VIOLA

Daniela Pardo  
Ashley Overby

### CELLO

Guo-Sheng Huang  
Jose Sutherland

### BASS

Max Levesque

### FLUTE

Andra Bohnet  
Travis Jones

### OBOE

Rebecca Mindock  
Galit Kaunitz

### CLARINET

Marissa Standfill  
Richard Jernigan

### BASSOON

Kim Woolly  
Ross Roberts

### FRENCH HORN

Ken Ortlepp  
Judy Sykes

### TRUMPET

Natalie Hughs

### TROMBONE

Arie VandeWaa

### TIMPANI

Matt Greenwood

### PERCUSSION

John Purser

### CELESTE

Bob Holmes

### HARP

Katie Ott