NEW
HAVEN
**BALLET**

October 12, 2026

Dear New Haven Ballet Families and Friends,

The leaves are turning, sweaters are coming out, and the air is filled with the tang of fall and the excitement that comes with new beginnings. Here at New Haven Ballet (NHB), we are particularly excited about the new beginnings taking place in our school and our outreach program, as our new Director of Curriculum Development comes on board and we engage in discussions with several prestigious New York–based companies about partnership possibilities for our outreach program and our school.

As I wrote to you in September, this year the Board created the position of Director of Curriculum Development to support and expand upon the excellent work of NHB's artistic director Lisa Kim, and division heads Timothy Fountain and Ruth Barker. After an extensive search, we were delighted to offer the job to Maria Balogh, a former professional ballerina with deep experience teaching and curriculum-building. Maria has jumped right into her new role, launching a reviewing the school's ballet curriculum, teaching, and helping to strengthen and unify the progression of the students' training. She is tasked with designing a codified curriculum for NHB tailored to our community, and we are tremendously excited to be working with her.

Meanwhile, we are also envisioning new scope for our community outreach initiatives, DanceAir and Shared Ability, which bring the joy of dance into the public schools and to communities in New Haven that might not otherwise have access to dance. We are currently in discussions with three New York–based companies about partnerships to expand and improve the DanceAir program and bring guest artists into the schools. We'll keep you posted as the year goes on.

As you can see in these developments, NHB is poised to take flight: we are actively creating new ways to expand our offerings to our students and the New Haven community as a whole. But we need your help. These initiatives cannot be paid for through

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tuition alone. We have been seeking grants to offset the costs, but grant money is disappearing. Without the support of our NHB families and friends, these exciting opportunities may be lost.

Won't you please help NHB soar? Any amount you can give is welcome; no gift is too small. This year, we are delighted to announce three additional giving tiers, each of which comes with a special thank-you gift for early donors---created through the generosity of members of our Board. If you donate to the ballet by **November 1** at one of the tiers listed below, we are pleased to offer you the following:

•Tier 1: Donors who give $2,000 will receive two orchestra tickets to New York City Ballet at Lincoln Center, New York (the tickets chosen must be for the winter or spring 2027 seasons, excluding *The Nutcracker*), as well as a special backstage tour with Daniel Ulbricht, NYCB principal dancer and NHB Board member.

•Tier 2: Donors who give $1,500 will receive four premium (center orchestra) tickets to New Haven Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* at the Shubert Theater at the performance of their choice.

•Tier 3: Donors who give $1,000 will receive a special gift of a warm cashmere sweater (available in an array of colors).

Whatever amount you can give will help NHB in its mission "to provide the greater New Haven Community with exceptional classical ballet training, performances, and outreach programs that nurture appreciation of ballet and foster the joy of dance." And together we can take flight.

Thank you,

Emily Coates

Emily Coates
President, New Haven Ballet Board of Directors

New Haven Ballet is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.