



Department of Dance  
*Franklin College of Arts and Sciences*  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**  
**DANCE COMPANY**  
**SPRING CONCERT 2025**

New Dance Theatre

THURS. APRIL 10, FRI. APRIL 11 at 7:30 p.m.

SAT. APRIL 12 at 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.



## WE WOULD LOVE YOUR SUPPORT

Gifts from you, our donors, have enabled students to attend classes and perform at the American College Dance Festival Conference, the Tennessee and Alabama Dance Festivals, the National Salsa Congress, and presentations at the National Dance Education Organization Conference, Rex Nettleford Arts Conference, as well as other regional and national performance events. Gifts also provide scholarships for our dance majors, and professional master classes for students by renowned artists.

We invite you to join us on the dance floor next year with a gift in support of our outstanding young dancers. We hope to see you at our performances in the 2025-26 Season!

## GIVING ONLINE TO OUR FUNDS



### **FRIENDS OF DANCE FUND**

Benefits the Department of Dance at the University of Georgia; providing support for performance and touring, student scholarship, student travel to conferences, master classes by renowned artists, dance equipment, etc.



### **MARK WHEELER DANCE STUDENT SUPPORT FUND**

Provides support for undergraduate students in the Department of Dance, including dance majors/minors & students pursuing other majors who are studying ballet, contemporary, ballroom, jazz, tap, other dance genres, or Ballroom Performance Group members.

If you wish to make a gift by check, make your check payable to:  
UGA Foundation. *Be sure to include the fund name on the memo line.*

Mail your gift to:  
Franklin College of Arts & Sciences, UGA Department of Dance  
124 Old College, Athens, GA 30602

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DANCE.**



**Department of Dance**  
*Franklin College of Arts and Sciences*  
**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

# **UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA DANCE COMPANY 2025 SPRING CONCERT**

THURSDAY, APRIL 10 & FRIDAY, APRIL 11 at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12 at 2 & 7:30 p.m.

New Dance Theatre

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

Welcome to the Department of Dance's annual faculty concert, the UGA Dance Company spring concert. This production marks the final show of a busy and successful performance season for the Department of Dance. In addition to home season performances of the Young Choreographer's Series, Ballroom Magic, and Black History Month, dance students have graced the stages of the American College Dance Association festival at the College of Charleston, Spotlight on the Arts President's Reception at the Lamar Dodd School of Art, and will perform at the Hodgson Concert Hall next week alongside the ARCO Chamber Orchestra. As a faculty, we are immensely proud of the hard work, talent, and professionalism exhibited by the dancers and we are pleased to share that with you tonight.

The spring concert includes a diverse array of dance genres that are representative of the coursework we offer within the AB degree in dance. Dance majors and minors train in techniques including aerial, ballet, ballroom, contemporary modern, hip hop, jazz, pointe, tap, and West African. The Department of Dance is also excited to feature collaborative guest performances by the UGA Ballroom Performance Group and the UGA Jazz Sextet to round out this exciting and diverse concert.

In addition to the hard work and dedication of our choreographers, cast, and crew, tonight's program would not be possible without the support of Carina McGeehin, Technical Director; Betty Prickett, Business Manager; and Rebecca Gose, Department Head. Our sincere thanks to the Franklin College of the Arts and the Friends of Dance whose continued support for dance in higher education is invaluable to the success of our program. Finally, as a form of artistic expression, the show would not be complete without your support from the audience. Thank you so much for attending, and enjoy the show!

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Stich  
Director, UGADC Spring Concert

# UGA DANCE COMPANY

Lee Alleyne	First year	Interdisciplinary Art major, Wildlife Science major, Dance minor
Bethany Barner	Second year	Dance major, Advertising major, Domestic Field Study NYCprogram
Lucy Brimberry	Second year	Mathematics major, Dance minor
Spencer Burdett	First year	Dance major
Elizabeth Clark	Fourth year	Dance major, Exercise & Sport Science minor, Domestic Field Study NYCprogram
Lorelai Crook	Fourth year	Dance major, Music minor, Redcoat Marching Band, Domestic Field Study NYCprogram
Penny Czabala	Second year	Hospitality & Food Industry Management major, Dance minor
Emma Dowdy	Second year	Dance major, Psychology major American Sign Language minor
Molly Drake	First year	Health Promotion major, Dance minor
Megan Fitzgerald	Second year	Dance major, Engineering major
Ava Grau	Second year	Dance major, Marketing major
Claire Gregory	Second year	Social Work major, Dance minor, Study Away Ghana
Caroline Hawes	First year	Dance major, Criminal Justice major
Grace Healy	Fourth year	Psychology major, Dance minor
Juliana Hitch	Second year	Biology major, Dance minor
Mary Laura Hodges	First year	Dance major, Psychology major, Womens Studies minor
Tess Holloway	Third year	Spanish major, Dance minor, Portuguese minor
Eden Kahiga	Second year	Statistics major, Dance minor, Biology minor
Naomi Kleber	First year	Sociology major, Dance minor
Kat Lazos	Second year	Dance major, Marketing major
Shania McConnell	Second year	Computer Science major, Dance minor
Chelsea Mills	First year	Dance major
Dylan Mojock	First year	Dance major, Anthropology major
Sara Mullis	First year	Dance major, Exercise & Sport Science major
Bailey Orr	First year	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology major
Sky Poole	Fourth year	Dance major, Social Work minor, Domestic Field Study NYCprogram
Andie Richardson	Second year	Dance major, Political Science major PK-12 Teaching certificate

Abby Schulze	Fourth year	Dance major, Double Dawg Nonprofit Management & Leadership
Anna Jane Self	Second year	Dance major, PK-12 Teaching certificate Musical Theatre certificate
Nika Shlomi	Third year	Biology major, Psychology major, Dance minor
Ava Siegel	First year	Dance major, Marketing major
Hannah Smith	Second year	Cognitive Science major, Dance minor
Elizabeth Steele	Fourth year	Dance major, Study Away Ghana
Katherine Stockton	Third year	Dance major, Human Development & Family Science minor, Business minor, and Study Away Ghana
Mary Peyton Tanner	First year	Dance major, Business minor, Intended Double Dawg Nonprofit Management & Leadership
Laura Towner	Second year	Dance major, Psychology major Exercise & Sport Science minor, Domestic Field Study NYC program

## GUEST PERFORMERS

The **UGA Jazz Sextet** is made up of music majors that are members of the UGA Jazz Ensemble Big Band, directed by Senior Lecturer, David D'Angelo. Comprised of traditional big band instrumentation: saxophones, trombones, trumpets, and a rhythm section featuring drums, piano, guitar, and bass, the band performs music of a variety of styles, including swing, be-bop, Latin, and contemporary jazz. Performances take place both on campus and at off-campus events by invitation. Jazz Ensemble regularly performs on and off campus as well as recordings and has performed at the undergraduate commencement ceremonies. Students work on American standards, jazz standards, Latin jazz, and contemporary commercial compositions. The setting provides students with the opportunity to develop their improvisational skills. Each song rehearsed in combos is accompanied by an in-depth study of the piece's chord, melodic, and harmonic structures. Students are also encouraged to write their own original compositions for performance.

The **UGA Ballroom Performance Group** (BPG), founded in 1991 by Dr. Mark Wheeler and currently co-directed by Natalie Cox and Michael Fulford, is a registered Student Activities organization, which enjoys the support of the Department of Dance. The group performs on campus, in local schools and nursing homes, on tour for charity and alumni events, and around North Georgia. The company's program consists of choreographed pieces in a variety of styles, including cha-cha, foxtrot, salsa, quick-step, rumba, samba, east coast swing, west coast swing, tango, Viennese waltz, and slow waltz.

# PROGRAM

## A Wicked Medley

Choreographed by Elizabeth Stich and Michael J. Fulford

Music: Music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz  
performed by the original Broadway cast of Wicked the Musical

Featured Dancers: Ballroom Performance Group featuring aerialists Elizabeth Clark,  
Elizabeth Steele, Katherine Stockton with Rebecca Haulk,  
Anna Jane Self, Julia Tuttle

## Telemann Baroque Suite

Choreographed by Lisa Fusillo

Music: Georg Philipp Telemann, Suite in A Minor for Flute & String Orchestra

Costumer: Angela Hewitt Thedinga

Featured Dancers: Caroline Hawes, Grace Healy, Naomi Kleber, Bailey Orr, Nika Shlomi,  
Hannah Smith, Mary Peyton Tanner, Laura Towner, Bethany Barner (Understudy)

### *I. Overture*

Caroline Hawes, Grace Healy, Naomi Kleber, Nika Shlomi, Hannah Smith,  
Mary Peyton Tanner, Laura Towner

### *II. Les Plaisirs I & II*

Caroline Hawes, Grace Healy, Naomi Kleber, Laura Towner

### *III. Air a l'italien*

Caroline Hawes, Grace Healy, Naomi Kleber, Bailey Orr, Nika Shlomi,  
Hannah Smith, Mary Peyton Tanner, Laura Towner

### *VI. Passepied I & II*

Caroline Hawes, Hannah Smith, Mary Peyton Tanner

### *VII. Polonaise*

Ensemble

## No Room for Hate

Choreographed by Jason Aryeh

Music: "Here to Love" by Lenny Kravitz

Featured Dancers: Juliana Hitch, Shania McConnell, Sky Poole, Elizabeth Steele, Katherine Stockton

## Whispers of Passion

Choreographed by Jason Aryeh

Music: "Prodigy" by Nathan Lanier

Costumer: Emmanuel Saim (SAIMIC Creations – Ghana)

Featured Dancers: Lorelai Crook, Megan Fitzgerald, Ava Grau, Claire Gregory, Juliana Hitch,  
Tess Holloway, Kat Lazos, Shania McConnell, Sky Poole, Andie Richardson,  
Anna Jane Self, Elizabeth Steele, Katherine Stockton

## Musical Interlude

UGA Jazz Sextet

*Out of respect for the performers, please silence all electronic devices throughout the performance.  
Thank you for your cooperation.*

## PROGRAM

### Counting Sheep...5, 6, 7, 8

Choreographed by Rebecca Gose

Music: "Moonglow" by Will Hudson, Irving Mills

Musicians: UGA Jazz Sextet:

Michael Solomon – Piano; Myles Cutter – Drums; V'Shoi Garfield – Bass;  
Thomas Cook – Saxophone; Teddy Cone – Trumpet; Jonas Ventresca – Trombone

Featured Dancers: Bethany Barner, Spencer Burdett, Penny Czabala, Ava Grau, Mary Laura Hodges,  
Dylan Mojock, Andie Richardson

### Nostalgia in Motion

Choreographed by Rebecca Gose

Music: "String of Pearls" by Jerry Gray

Musicians: UGA Jazz Sextet:

Michael Solomon – Piano; Myles Cutter – Drums; V'Shoi Garfield – Bass;  
Thomas Cook – Saxophone; Teddy Cone – Trumpet; Jonas Ventresca – Trombone

Featured Dancers: Lorelei Crook, Megan Fitzgerald, Eden Kahiga, Kat Lazos, Sky Poole, Anna Jane Self,  
Ava Siegel, Laura Towner

### Musical Interlude

UGA Jazz Sextet

### A Mind to Change

Choreographed by Barbara Powers in collaboration with the dancers

Music: Rejoice (feat. T.D. Jakes) by Steve Angello

Featured Dancers: Lee Alleyne, Bethany Barner, Lucy Brimberry, Spencer Burdett, Elizabeth Clark,  
Emma Dowdy, Molly Drake, Ava Grau, Chelsea Mills, Sara Mullis, Sky Poole,  
Abby Schulze, Elizabeth Steele, Katherine Stockton, Mary Peyton Tanner

Program Note: Inspired by the work of Sara Elyse Sanford and the dancers of  
Alabama Dance Theatre.

*Please join us after the Friday evening performance for a reception in the Mark Wheeler Studio.*

*For the safety of the dancers and experience of audience members,  
no unauthorized photography/videography. Thank you for your cooperation.*

## CHOREOGRAPHER BIOGRAPHIES



**Jason Aryeh**



**Michael J. Fulford**



**Lisa Fusillo**



**Rebecca Gose**



**Barbara Powers**



**Elizabeth Stich**

**Jason Aryeh**, Lecturer of Dance, is a traditional and contemporary trained dancer and historian from the coastal area of Accra- Ghana, born into the Aryeh family of court traditional historians and dancers of the Ga-Ngleshie people. Aryeh has toured the world extensively with traditional and contemporary West African dance groups, and has diverse experience as a performer, teacher, choreographer, and movement research scholar throughout West African and the United States. Aryeh is the Artistic Director and Founder of Africa Alive Dance Company, a project research-oriented movement performance ensemble, resident in Accra. He was the lead Dancer and Choreographer for the Performing Arts Workshop (PAWS), a resident performance dance company affiliated with the University of Ghana. Aryeh was also a featured performance soloist and Choreographer for the Sankofa African Dance and Drum Company affiliated with the State University of New York, College at Brockport. He was the Director, Choreographer and movement research scholar for the resident Theater Company at the Center for National Culture, Sunyani, Brong-Ahafo Region, Ghana. Jason Aryeh earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree in Dance and African Studies from the University of Ghana and his Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree in Performance and Choreography Studies from State University of New York, College at Brockport.

**Michael J. Fulford** is the assistant dean for institutional effectiveness and strategic initiatives in the UGA College of Pharmacy, serves on the graduate faculty in the Mary Frances Early College of Education, and teaches ballroom dance in the Department of Dance, where he is co-director of the UGA Ballroom Performance Group. Along with teaching dance, Fulford is active in the local theater scene. Minor in theatre at UGA, he began his long connection with the Town and Gown Players, where he serves on the board of trustees. He has choreographed musicals for various groups and universities locally and regionally throughout the years.

**Lisa Fusillo** began professional ballet training at the Washington School of Ballet and later trained in New York, London, Russia and Denmark. She holds the Professional Teaching Diploma from the Royal Ballet School (London) and certifications from American Ballet Theatre National Training Curriculum and

## CHOREOGRAPHER BIOGRAPHIES

the New York City Ballet Education Department. She has taught and choreographed in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, England, the Netherlands, Thailand, Taiwan, and for the International Ballet Competition (Jackson, MS). Dr. Fusillo is Fulbright Scholar (Taiwan), a Willson Center Research Fellow and the recipient of four National Endowment for the Arts grants. She has taught with the UGA at Oxford Program in the U.K. and in May 2024, Dr. Fusillo directed the new UGA Domestic Field Study program, Dance in New York City. Also in 2024, her choreography “Celebration for Hyorim” won 2nd Place at Prague International Dance Festival and she won “Best Presentation” at an International Arts and Humanities Conference. Dr. Fusillo is the founder/director of Dance Repertory Project and is the UGA Foundation Professor in the Arts.

**Rebecca Gose** (MFA, University of Washington) was a principal performer with Garth Fagan Dance. She has also performed a variety of iconic modern dance repertoire ranging from Ruth St. Denis and Alwin Nikolais to Doug Varone, Bill Evans, Stephen Petronio, and Rob Kitsos. As Associate Professor at UGA, Rebecca teaches courses in contemporary modern, pedagogy, dance science, and directs the P-12 teacher certification program. Rebecca’s scholarly work primarily focuses on issues around wellness in dance education and has been published in journals such as *Journal of Dance Education*, *Frontiers in Psychology*, *International Journal of Education*, and *the Arts*, *Experimental Brain Research*, and as part of the 2022 book, *Dancing Across the Lifespan*.

**Barbara Powers** is a Senior Lecturer of Dance at the University of Georgia where she teaches ballet, contemporary, jazz, yoga, dance appreciation, and Practicing Wellness. She holds a B.F.A. from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts and an M.F.A. from the University of Washington. Her research interests lie in the field of dancer wellness and her work has been presented at the IADMS iConference, Healthy Dancer Canada Conference, Association of Contemplative Minds in Higher Education, and NDEO. She has also been published in the *Dance Education in Practice* journal. Ms. Powers has danced with the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, The Radio City Christmas Spectacular as a Rockette, Li-Chiao Ping Dance, The Catey Ott Dance Collective, and Skybetter and Associates. She holds certifications in vinyasa yoga, restorative yoga, Pilates mat, and meditation instruction and is the co-founder and director of the Art of Wellness Living Learning Community on UGA’s campus. [www.barbipowers.com](http://www.barbipowers.com)

**Elizabeth Stich** is an Assistant Professor specializing in contemporary and aerial dance. Her choreography has been featured in Tuacahn Amphitheatre’s Broadway season, Santa Barbara Floor to Air Festival, Red Rock Dance Festival, and the American College Dance Association regional gala, as well as numerous university dance programs. Elizabeth’s scholarly research on aerial dance has been published in the *Journal of Dance Education*, *Theatre, Dance, and Performance Training*, *Performance Research*, and *Choreographic Practices*. She is currently a Willson Center Faculty Fellow with support for her research on the intersection of aerial arts and dance improvisation. Prior to joining UGA Dance, Elizabeth was an assistant professor at Utah Tech University where she founded the department’s aerial dance program. She holds an MFA from the University of Utah, a certificate in Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis from Integrated Movement



## ARTISTIC STAFF

Director	Elizabeth Stich
Lighting Designer / Stage Manager	Carina McGeehin
Poster / Program Design	Shaun Baer
Videographer & Livestream Feed	Ron Braxley
Photographer	Jason Thrasher

## DEPARTMENT OF DANCE FACULTY AND STAFF

### FACULTY

Jason Aryeh	Lecturer
Lisa Fusillo	Professor
Rebecca Gose	Associate Professor and Head
Barbara Powers	Senior Lecturer
Elizabeth Stich	Assistant Professor

### PART-TIME FACULTY

Natalie Cox, Michael Fulford, Lindsay Giedl, Nena Gilreath,  
Tina Martin, Melissa Roberts, Lisa Williamson

### STAFF

Shaun Baer	Director of Public Relations
Carina McGeehin	Technical Production Manager
Betty Prickett	Business Manager

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Phone: 706-542-4415 Website: [dance.uga.edu](http://dance.uga.edu)





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# ARCO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA & UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA DANCE COMPANY



## *Music and Dance*

ARCO Chamber Orchestra and the UGA Dance Ensemble, directed Levon Ambartsumian and Lisa Fusillo respectively, collaborate to create an evening highlighting the intricate relationship between music and dance.

The program will feature music by Telemann, Tchaikovsky, Grieg, Piazzolla, Schnittke, and Khachaturian. Angela Jones-Reus, professor of flute, will be a featured soloist. This stunning performance is not to be missed.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 17**  
at 7:30 p.m.

**HODGSON CONCERT HALL**  
UGA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
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