MISSION: To create new and innovative works defined by the inherent beauty of classical training, and redefined by our ability to challenge the many and diverse languages of dance, movement, music, and technology, to create work that conveys emotion, evokes thought, and provides a lasting memory of the scope of the artistry of dance. It is our mission to create and inspire, engage and excite the public through the experience of the artistry of dance.

WINSTON-SALEM FESTIVAL BALLET

418 N MARSHALL ST, WINSTON-SALEM, NC  27101  
winstonsalemfestivalballet.org  336-724-9977
“Words are not my way of telling a story... This isn’t my language, I speak through movement. I tell stories that move... An author is defined as the originator of any written work. I am a choreographer. Dance is my medium, and music is my language.”

GARY TAYLOR is recognized throughout the southeast for his mastery of innovative choreography, partnering, instruction and performance.

GARY TAYLOR
Founder and Artistic Director

A graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Gary was a professional dancer working for two decades before retiring from performance in 2007.

Gary is an award-winning choreographer and teacher. He is the recipient of the Regional Dance America Choreographic Commission and National Choreographic Awards. UNCSA named him “Outstanding North Carolina Teacher in Performing Arts” in 1999 and he served as the RDA National Choreographic Intensive Director for nearly a decade.

Gary’s original works are presented by Winston-Salem Festival Ballet where he serves as Founder and Artistic Director. He also serves on the faculty of the organization’s instructional division, teaching master classes to its students.

RACHMANINOFF, Introspective
Chris Heckman, Pianist

CHRIS HECKMAN, composer of music for film, commercials, video games, and dance, holds a B.M. in Music Composition from Florida State University, an M.F.A. in Film Music Composition from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and a Ph.D. in Music Composition for Visual Media (the first and only degree of its kind) from the University of California, Los Angeles.

In 2011, Chris returned to his alma mater as a faculty member to become Chair of Film Music Composition at UNCSA. “Dancing Beethoven, Chopin, Rachmaninoff & Rakowski” marks one of five collaborations with the Winston-Salem Festival Ballet. He also composed original music for “Dracula” (2012-19), “Metropolis” (2012, 2014, 2019) “Angels in Our Midst” (2013, 2018), and “Journey of Honor” (2016).

Chris is an active professional musician in the Triad. He is the Organist & Accompanist at Ardmore Moravian Church, Tenor Section Leader with the Piedmont Chamber Singers, and an occasional keyboard player with both the Winston-Salem and Greensboro Symphonies.

“Rachmaninoff’s work can be very weighted. His works come from a place of intense thought and motivation... The rhythms are verbose and weighty.”

Gary Taylor

PHOTO COURTESY OF GARY TAYLOR PHOTOGRAPHY
PAMELA HOWLAND is a gifted American pianist, Steinway Artist, 2017-18 U.S. Fulbright Scholar to Poland, arranger/composer, and educator based in North Carolina. Her passion for promoting classical music has led her to develop a unique style of performance which allows her audiences to go away educated and entertained, feeling they have learned something about themselves as well as the music.

Trained at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music and the Eastman School of Music, where she received the Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance and Literature, she has appeared from coast to coast in the United States as both soloist and chamber musician. She spent her 2017-2018 Fulbright year as a visiting professor at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, teaching about American music, continuing her research on Chopin, and performing 35 events in Poland and Denmark.

She has toured Poland many times under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State, been selected as a touring artist for the state of North Carolina, toured in Colombia, South America, and been featured on live U.S. National Public Radio broadcasts in Minnesota, New York, and North Carolina. Her documentary film, REMEMBERING FREDERIC: The Genius of Chopin, featuring legendary actress Rosemary Harris, premiered at the RiverRun International Film Film Festival in 2012, and was selected as one of three “Films with Class.”
FREDERIC CHOPIN
Pamela Howland, Pianist
Waltz No. 9 in A-flat major, Op. 69 No. 1 “The Farewell Waltz"
Waltz No. 11 in G-flat major, Op. 70 No. 1
Nocturne In B-major, Op. 9 No. 3

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF
Chris Heckman, Pianist
G-minor Prelude, Op. 23 No. 5
E-minor Presto, Op. 16 No. 4
D-major Prelude, Op. 23 No. 4

DAVID RAKOWSKI
Morgan Hunkele, Pianist
Vol. 4 Etude #85 “Diminishing Return”
Vol. 4 Etude #97 “Quietude”
Vol. 4 Etude #79 “Narcissitude”
Mr Rakowski’s permission and music is made possible by David Rakowski & C. F. Peters Corp. Edition Peters Group, New York Office 70-30, 80th Street, Glendale, NY 11385

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
Barbara Lister-Sink, Pianist
Sonata #8, in C-minor, Op. 13 “Grande Sonata Pathetique”
3rd Movement - Rondo: Allegro
Sonata #14, in C#-minor, Op. 27 No. 2 “Moonlight Sonata”
1st Movement - Adagio Sostenuto
2nd Movement - Allegretto
3rd Movement - Presto Agitato

INTERMISSION

CAST
Julie Cox-Taylor
Ryan Taylor
India Green
Jacqueline Draughon
Mary Costanza
Elizabeth Fowle
Nicholas Franco
Emily Rose Apple

LIGHTING
Ansel Hollis

SPECIAL APPRECIATION TO:
Chris Heckman, Pamela Howland, Barbara Lister-Sink, and Morgan Hunkele, Pianists,
The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, The Hanesbrands Theatre Staff, and
Chris Fulk of Piedmont Music Center.
BARBARA LISTER-SINK, internationally acclaimed pianist and acknowledged global leader in injury-preventive keyboard technique, is a graduate of Smith College, the Utrecht Conservatory and holds an Ed.D. from Columbia University. A Steinway Artist since 1977, Lister-Sink has performed and recorded as soloist and with many of the world’s most distinguished musicians throughout North America, Europe, and Australia. Her DVD Freeing the Caged Bird – Developing Well-Coordinated, Injury-Preventive Piano Technique won the 2002 MTNA-Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award. Presently Artistic Director of the Salem College School of Music and Director of the Graduate Music Program, she has taught on the Eastman School of Music Artist Faculty and was formerly keyboardist for the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra prior to returning to her native state. Recently, Lister-Sink was chosen by Musical America Global as one of America’s “30 Top Professionals of 2018” who have contributed to the music profession as innovators, independent thinkers, and visionary leaders. A visual artist herself, she enjoys creative collaboration with poets, actors, visual artists, and dancers.

MORGAN HUNKELE has been a prizewinner in the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, the Charlotte Steinway Piano Competition, the Greensboro Euterpe Club Instrumental Competition, the Triad Institute Young Artist Competition, the North Carolina Bach Festival Young Artist Competition, and for three consecutive years in the North Carolina MTNA Piano Competitions. She has appeared as a guest artist in the Music for a Great Space Concert series, as a soloist with the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra, and as a returning guest artist of the North Carolina Bach Festival. Last month, she performed solo recitals in Winston-Salem and Concord, North Carolina, and in 2018 organized and gave an interactive lecture-recital entitled “The Creativity Workshop.” As a collaborative artist, Ms. Hunkele works with soprano Elizabeth Pacheco Rose and her students at Wake Forest. She has also collaborated with soprano Lindsay Kesselman, and bassoonist Saxton Rose. Ms. Hunkele is currently an undergraduate student at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.
In memory of
SEDRIK GILLESPIE

SEDRIK GILLESPIE came to study under the guidance of Gary And Rita Taylor at age 11 when he reached out to (then) Taylor Dance looking for tap lessons. He went on to immerse himself in the program, performed and also studied with the High Point Ballet pre-professional program, and later went on to North Carolina School of the Arts while never leaving his dance family. He returned to become a professional dancer with Winston-Salem Festival Ballet and also worked as a program instructor. Sedrick’s talents made him an accomplished dancer in ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary and even musical theatre all the while becoming a well-sought after dance partner.

He was a thoughtful, kind, giving, and helpful young man who we miss greatly.

We lost a beloved member of our dance family on January 23, 2020. Sedrick passed away at age 30, after a long illness, and we are devastated at the loss of this talented, exceptional young man.

Since it’s launch in 2009, it has long been a goal of Winston-Salem Festival Ballet to be located within the downtown arts district, a creative hub for the Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, fellow arts organizations, and the Downtown Arts District, an eclectic collection of working studios, galleries, shops, residences, restaurants, and nightlife.

After a decade, the goal is becoming attainable. Thanks to a partnership with Sentinel Commons, WSFB will be moving into its permanent studios this spring bringing its artistry and educational opportunities downtown!

To follow the story, visit winstonsalemfestivalballet.org.