

Lourdes Lopez  
Artistic Director

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Toby Lerner Ansin  
Founder

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Edward Villella  
Founding Artistic Director

July 11, 2022  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT MIAMI CITY BALLET**

Amber Dorsky  
[communications@miamicityballet.org](mailto:communications@miamicityballet.org) | 305.929.7000 x7189

**Miami City Ballet announces Five New Dancers**  
**Ukrainian principal dancer Yuliia Moskalenko set to join**  
**and**  
**Miami City Ballet School adds new faculty member and**  
**choreographer Durante Verzola**



KSENIA ORLOVA PHOTOGRAPHY

Yuliia Moskalenko © Ksenia Orlova

(Miami Beach, FL) – Entering its 37<sup>th</sup> season, [Miami City Ballet \(MCB\)](https://miamicityballet.org), one of North America’s “most beloved” dance companies is pleased to announce five new dancers to its company roster. (The New York Times)

Joining MCB’s roster of world-class dancers for the [22/23 Season](#) is principal dancer **Yuliia Moskalenko**, who joins the company from the National Opera of Ukraine.

And fresh faces in the corps de ballet are **Alexander Kaden**, **Brooks Landegger**, **Isadora Valero**, and **Kaelah Poulos-Hopkins**.

In addition, MCB School alumnus **Durante Verzola** will join the school as a faculty member and choreographer. Durante has been choreographing for the school's Choreographic Intensive since its inception in 2017. As a teacher and choreographer, students at the school will have the opportunity to have original works created for them. Durante is also part of MCB's 22/23 season, where he will premiere a work that celebrates his adopted home of Miami. This marks his third commission by MCB Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez.

### [About the Artists](#)

#### **Yuliia Moskalenko, Principal**

Yuliia is a native of Kyiv, Ukraine, where she was a principal dancer at Urkaine's premiere ballet company, Kyiv's National Opera of Ukraine. As war broke out in Ukraine, Yuliia sought help to escape the war and to find a new home to dance at. In June 2022, with the help of Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez and several others, Yuliia was granted a United States Visa allowing her to work in the country.

During her celebrated career at the National Opera of Ukraine, Yuliia performed many leading roles including Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*, Princess Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty*, the title roles in *Cinderella* and *Giselle*, Juliet in *Radio and Juliet* (set to the music of Radiohead), Aegina in *Spartacus*, as well as *The Nutcracker*, *Paquita*, *La Bayadere*, *Don Quixote*, and many more.

Yuliia has toured Japan, Canada, China, Germany, Russia, Estonia, Kazakhstan, France, and other countries.

#### **Alexander Kaden, Corps de Ballet**

Brazilian/German dancer is a graduate of the Vienna State Opera. Upon graduating in 2015, Alexander enjoyed an impressive stint at Vienna State Ballet. His initial training began in Recife, Brazil at Ballet Gonzalez.

At the Vienna State Ballet, he performed many roles including Vesna Orlić's *Peter Pan*, Aladdin in Orlić's *One Thousand and One Nights*, and Mercutio in Davide Bombana's *Roméo et Juliette*, plus several others. At Vienna State Opera he danced in Rudolf Nureyev's *Swan Lake* and *Don Quixote*, Pierre Lacotte's *La Sylphide*, and Elena Tschernischova's *Giselle*. He has also appeared in numerous musicals, operas, and operettas. His awards include first place in 2010 at the Passo De Arte, Fortaleza and the Seminário Internacional de Dança de Brasília.

#### **Brooks Landegger, Corps de Ballet**

Brooks trained at the School of American Ballet and Boston Ballet School. He has performed in numerous productions at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater and Metropolitan Opera House. At the age of 12, Brooks joined a touring production of the famed musical *Billy Elliot*, winning awards for his portrayal of the title character. At 16, he moved to Boston to train with longtime mentor Peter Stark and danced with Boston Ballet II, performing the lead role in George Balanchine's *Allegro Brillante*. Brooks is a YoungArts Winner in Dance.

### **Isadora Valero, Corps de Ballet**

Isadora grew up in Caracas, Venezuela. She began her dance training at the age of eight at Academia de Ballet Clásico Nina Novak. In Venezuela, she was invited to perform as a soloist with Ballet Teresa Carreño. In 2006 and 2007, she was a finalist at The USA International Ballet Competition, Youth America Grand Prix, and Korea International Ballet Competition.

In 2008, Isadora was awarded a scholarship to the School of the Hamburg Ballet in Germany, and in 2010, she joined the Hamburg Ballet Company under the direction of John Neumeier. In 2015, Isadora became a member of the National Ballet of Portugal and performed principal roles in *The Sleeping Beauty*, George Balanchine's *Serenade*, Fernando Durante's *La Bayadère* and *Swan Lake*, *The Rite of Spring* by Vaslav Nijinsky, *iTMOi* by Akram Khan, *Short Cut* by Hans van Manen, and Eric Volodine's *Don Quixote*, among others.

In 2021, during the pandemic, she embarked on a freelance career to work internationally and build social projects abroad.

### **Kaelah Poulos-Hopkins, Corps de Ballet**

Kaelah began dancing at age 6 at Philadelphia Studio Ballet in Ardmore, Pennsylvania. At age 11, she began training at Pennsylvania Ballet (now Philadelphia Ballet) under Arantxa Ochoa and later, Denis Gronostayskiy. At age 14 she received a trainee scholarship with the Pennsylvania Ballet. In her two years as a trainee, she had the opportunity to dance corps de ballet roles in Kenneth Macmillan's *Romeo and Juliet*, Angel Corella's *Swan Lake*, and *Giselle*. Kaelah spent summers training on scholarship at San Francisco Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, and Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell.

In 2019, she received a full merit scholarship to attend a summer course at the School of American Ballet. Following that summer, Kaelah joined the Pre-Professional Division at Miami City Ballet School to again study under Arantxa Ochoa. As a student at MCB, Kaelah had the opportunity to perform corps de ballet roles in Alexei Ratmansky's *Swan Lake* as well as George Balanchine's *Jewels*.

MCB's 22/23 season opens in October 2022 with John Cranko's *Romeo and Juliet* and runs through May 2022. Season highlights include the company premiere of Martha Graham's *Diversion of Angels*, a Miami-flavored reimaged production of George Balanchine's *Square Dance*, Jerome Robbins' *West Side Story Suite*, and *Afternoon of a Faun*, plus three world premiere commissions from diverse and noteworthy choreographers Amy Hall Garner, Pontus Lidberg, and Durante Verzola. [Subscriptions](#) are on sale now and start at \$84.

## **ABOUT MIAMI CITY BALLET**

Miami City Ballet has a diverse roster of 52 dancers and a repertoire of more than 130 works. As one of the most renowned ballet companies in the country, Miami City Ballet performs for nearly 125,000 patrons annually during its South Florida home season in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and tours to major cities domestically and internationally, including recent visits to New York City, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Los Angeles, and Paris.

Miami City Ballet School, the official school of Miami City Ballet, is one of the most respected ballet training academies in America. The School trains students, ages 3-18 year-round, and grants more than \$650,000 in scholarships annually.

Miami City Ballet's Community Engagement programs, serving more than 12,000 people annually in schools and communities; our free programs use the power of dance to uplift, teach and bring joy.

Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez leads the company. Lopez was recently awarded the prestigious Dance Magazine Award in 2018 and was named one of "The Most Influential People in Dance Today." She is on the Ford Foundation Board of Trustees, the first artist to ever serve on its Board.

Miami City Ballet was founded in 1985 by Miami philanthropist Toby Lerner Ansin and Founding Artistic Director Edward Villella. It is headquartered in Miami Beach, FL, at the Ophelia & Juan Js. Roca Center, a facility designed by renowned architectural firm, Arquitectonica.

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The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation has been a generous supporter of Miami City Ballet with over \$11 million in cumulative giving since the company's founding. Knight Foundation is a national foundation with strong local roots. We invest in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Our goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which we believe are essential for a healthy democracy. For more, visit [KF.org](http://KF.org).

Major funding is also provided by the Ford Foundation, working with visionaries on the frontlines of social change worldwide.

Miami-Dade County support is provided by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners.

Performances and programming in Miami Beach provided by the City of Miami Beach Department of Tourism and Culture, Cultural Arts Council, and the Miami Beach Mayor and City Commissioners.



Support for Miami City Ballet in the Palm Beaches is generously sponsored in part by the Board of County Commissioners, the Tourist Development Council and the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County.

Broward County funding is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida, as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council.

The company is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

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