

LES GRANDS BALLET



IMPACT REPORT · SEASON 2025-26



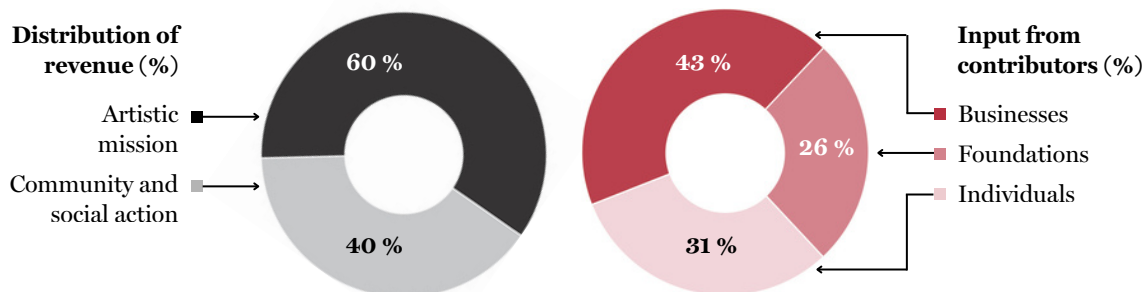
Cover pages and above: Sasha Onyshchenko | Dancer (above): Tuesday Rain Leduc

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON

The 2025–2026 season’s philanthropic campaigns, fundraising events and special initiatives mobilized Les Grands Ballets’s community around a common ambition: sustaining the company’s artistic mission, as well as its community and social action.



DONATION CAMPAIGNS

THE NUTCRACKER FUND FOR CHILDREN

Fall 2025

The campaign to benefit The Nutcracker Fund mobilized numerous donors in support of access to culture and for the continuity of this iconic Les Grands Ballets production. Contributions were also generated through various complementary channels, including major donations, donations via ticket sales, concert hall collections, merchandise, commercial agreements and revenue from the online auction.

STEP INTO THE DANCE!

Spring 2026

Inspired by Ivan Cavallari’s ballet *The Lake*, this campaign brought to light the tangible impact that donations to the Creation Fund made on the creation of new works for the company’s repertoire. The journey from a work’s initial idea to its final performance can take several months, if not years. This feat of creation harnesses the talents of over a hundred artists and artisans.

POINTE BY POINTE, FROM THE STUDIO TO THE STAGE

Ongoing until 2027

The first joint campaign by Les Grands Ballets and the École supérieure de ballet du Québec (ESBQ), this initiative is headed by Les Grands Ballets dancer and ESBQ graduate Tatiana Lerebours, and ESBQ student Maxime Coulombe. Its objective is to fund the 400 pairs of pointe shoes for students dancing in the École’s annual show and in certain Grands Ballets productions, notably *The Nutcracker*.

Over
\$890,000
raised



Photo (above): Vincent Morreale | Dancers (above): Simon Adamson-De Luca, Alexandra Eccles
Photo (centre): Nath Martin | Photo (below): Sasha Onyshchenko | Dancers (below): Tatiana Lerebours, Maxime Coulombe



Photos (centre and below): Vincent Morreale | Dancer (below): Felixovich Morante

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

LES GRANDS BALLETS' BALL

May 7, 2026
Annual benefit event

Themed after the ballet *The Lake*, the evening brought together both business-sector and individual donors. The philanthropic season's flagship event, the Ball directly contributes to funding the creation and dissemination of the company's productions.

SOIRÉE JEUNES GOUVERNEURS

March 20, 2026
Benefit event

This soirée convened a younger set of philanthropists to this benefit event in support of Les Grands Ballets' artistic mission. The initiative contributed to mobilizing a new generation of involved donors.

→ Over
\$585,000
raised

GRANDS BALLETS DANCE-A-THON

April 18, 2026
Fitness challenge and fundraiser
In collaboration with Studios GB

The Dance-a-thon brought the community together for a fitness and philanthropic event to benefit the National Center for Dance Therapy (NCDT). This first edition combined physical activity and solidary mobilization in a spirit of collective effort.





Photo: Sasha Onyshchenko

1

Your support of the artistic mission

A boost for
creation



Photo: Vincent Morreale | Dancers: Esnel Ramos, Rachele Buriassi with Ivan Cavallari, Artistic Director

ARTISTIC VISION AND ROLE OF THE CREATION FUND

Guided by the vision of our Artistic Director Ivan Cavallari, your donations enable Les Grands Ballets to give life to an ambitious choreographic repertoire that unites great ballet classics and contemporary creations.

For close to a decade, the Creation Fund has provided Les Grands Ballets with needed resources to sustain innovation, research and artistic exploration. It has enabled the company to pursue its creative ambitions while ensuring the vitality and renewal of its repertoire.

Your support contributes directly to gathering artists, musicians, designers, artisans and collaborators, who together bring alive the works presented on stage. Because of your support, the company can develop large-scale productions, explore new artistic avenues and foster choreographic creation here in Montreal and beyond.

Behind every step, every gesture, every soar, there is a bit of you.

"Your support makes it possible for us to give the general public our own vision of the greatest ballet classics. Long conferred upon guest companies, today our productions are conceived by renowned designers and collaborators employed by the company, and are built entirely by our own artisans here in Montreal. This is a bold, demanding and daring artistic choice, one I could not make without your support of Les Grands Ballets' Creation Fund."
— **Ivan Cavallari**, Artistic Director

RENEWING THE REPERTOIRE

The works performed this season showed the concrete effect of your donations on the artistic vibrancy of Les Grands Ballets. From reinterpretations of great classics to contemporary creations and multidisciplinary collaborations, your support helped us to achieve rich, audacious and vibrant programming.

BELLA FIGURA

Showcasing the repertoire

- Choreographies:
Voluntaries (Glen Tetley)
Fête sauvage (Hélène Blackburn)
 Excerpts from *Nebe* (Jérémy Galdeano and
 Věra Kvarčáková)
Bella Figura (Jiří Kylián)

Your generosity helped us to bring alive a rich and audacious repertoire, and one able to reach diverse audiences in various performance contexts. Presented first in Montreal, this mixed bill later toured in Victoriaville, confirmation of the artistic flexibility and reach beyond Montreal made possible by your support.

SNOW WHITE & THE MIRROR

Reinventing narratives

- Choreography: Étienne Béchard

This creation pushed the boundaries of the classic fairy tale through a contemporary approach that integrated set design, video projection and artificial intelligence. This kind of project illustrates the importance of your support for exploring new narrative forms.

THE CREATION

A dialogue between music, dance and the visual arts

- Choreography: Uwe Scholz

This program illuminated the multitudes and inseparability of music and dance. Carried by the orchestra and choir of Les Grands Ballets, and three vocal soloists, our dancers gave a living embodiment of Joseph Haydn's eponymous masterpiece, in Uwe Scholz's choreographic tableaux.

Your support made possible these large-scale productions uniting dance, music and the visual arts, notably this Québécois version of the ballet enhanced by projections of paintings by Jean-Paul Riopelle.

Photo: Michel Trahan | Dancers: Vanesa Garcia-Ribala Montoya, Tuesday Rain Leduc



Photos (centre and below): Sasha Onyshchenko

CREATION AND TRANSMISSION

Beyond the works performed on stage, your support enabled us to nurture artistic liveliness right within our company. It nourished spaces for experimentation, for a development of new practices and a transmission of knowledge among artists, contributing to the vitality and continuity of creation.



THE BLUE HOUR

Supporting contemporary creation

- Choreographies:
Ma Saudade (Anne Plamondon)
From the Sun to the Moon (Vanessa Garcia-Ribala Montoya)

This project illustrated the effect of your support on the development of contemporary creation. Your support enabled Principal Dancer Vanessa Garcia-Ribala Montoya to revive an existing work and Anne Plamondon to create a new piece. These two presentations contributed to revitalizing choreographic composition and to showcasing female artists.



THE LAKE

Reinterpreting great classics

- Choreography: Ivan Cavallari

To close the season, Ivan Cavallari revisited a masterpiece of the classical repertoire, giving it a contemporary and cinematic interpretation.

This production required over 300 costumes that were designed by Maria Porro and crafted in Les Grands Ballets' workshop. It also called for 75 performers on stage, 30 of whom were students from the École supérieure de ballet du Québec, a point of encounter between professional creation and emerging artists.



Photos: Sasha Onyshchenko

EMERGING ARTISTS

Your support helps us to train, mentor and integrate emerging artists and professionals within the company. Beyond the productions presented on stage, it nurtures the transmission of knowledge, experimentation and the development of a new generation of artists.

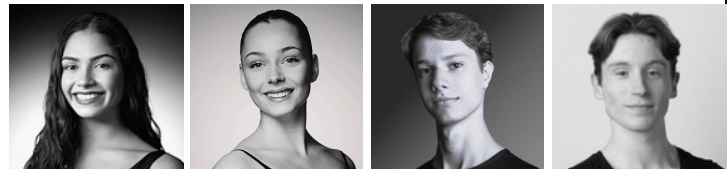
DANCE APPRENTICES

Entering the profession

Les Grands Ballets welcomed four apprentices, including two graduates of the École supérieure de ballet du Québec and one of Canada's National Ballet School: Ana Sofia Natera Marquez, Laure Billeau, Simon Adamson-De Luca and Arran O'Sullivan. This program gives up-and-coming dancers their first paid professional experience. Hired on a full-time basis, apprentices follow the same schedule as our permanent dancers and gain vital experience before joining a professional company.

"Being an apprentice with Les Grands Ballets gave me opportunities to grow as an artist while feeling supported. As a young dancer, a supportive environment is absolutely vital, and that's exactly what I found."

— **Simon Adamson-De Luca**, dance apprentice



Photos of Ana Sofia Natera Marquez and Laure Billeau : Sasha Onyshchenko

CHOREOGRAPHIC WORKSHOPS

Experimenting and creating

Held at Les Grands Ballets' Studio-Theatre in March 2026, the Choreographic Workshops provided dancers with a framework for research through which to shift from the role of performer to that of choreographer.

This in-house laboratory, made possible thanks to your support, helped 10 dancers to create short works performed for an audience. It fostered experimentation, risk taking, and the emergence of new choreographic voices within the company.



Photo: Sasha Onyshchenko

MASTER CLASSES AND EXCHANGES WITH ARTISTS

Transmitting knowledge and inspiring emerging artists

This season, six master classes were given by the company's dancers to close to 140 students from four Quebec dance schools: the École supérieure de ballet du Québec, the École de danse de Québec and Danse Attitudes, both in Quebec City, and the École de danse L'Entre-Choc in Victoriaville.

These exchanges enabled young dancers to deepen their technical training. Some activities also took the form of discussions and question-and-answer sessions, cultivating privileged dialogue between the next generation and the company's dancers, and allowing students to learn more about the realities of the profession, about artistic career paths, and about the stage experience.

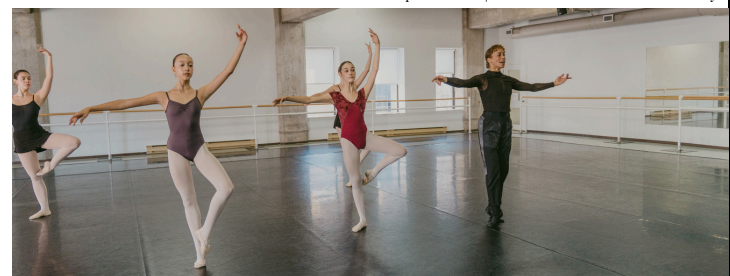


Photo: Anne-Sophie Coiteux | Dancer: Vanesa Garcia-Ribala Montoya



Photo: Martin Morissette | Dancers: Antoine Benjamin Bertran, Maude Sabourin





Photo: Sasha Onyshchenko | Dancers: Esnel Ramos, Rachele Buriassi

2

Your support of The Nutcracker Fund for Children

A boost for access
to culture



"Our outing to see The Nutcracker was a magical experience. The gazes of wonder, the smiles and excitement were evidence of the profound impact of this moment on them. Many would not have had the chance to experience a show like this without your indispensable contribution."

— **Lucie Cousineau,**
Director, Jeunes Musiciens du Monde—Sherbrooke



Photos: Sasha Onyshchenko | Dancer (above): Oscar Lambert | Dancer (below): Anya Nesvitaylo

BRINGING THE NUTCRACKER TO LIFE, YEAR AFTER YEAR

Your commitment helped Les Grands Ballets to offer, again this year, a sprawling production and unique cultural experiences to thousands of spectators of all ages.

MOBILIZATION AROUND THE NUTCRACKER FUND FOR CHILDREN

581 individual donors

55 contributors to the auction

36 foundations and corporate partners

Ensuring the show's continuity

Donations to The Nutcracker Fund contributed directly to supporting a large-scale artistic production fuelled by the work of hundreds of artisans, technical personnel and dancers.

Maintaining and restoring sets and costumes for the show is also essential work that guarantees continuity of what is the longest-running Canadian ballet on the same stage, performed for over 60 years at Place des Arts.

Access to the show free of charge for 2800 children

This season again, the free Nutcracker matinee with orchestra was given at Place des Arts, along with a greeting and photo session with the dancers.

Half the children were with community organizations and pediatric health facilities and were guests thanks to partners and donors, while the other half were with elementary schools located in underserved areas enrolled in the ministerial program *A Montreal School for All*.

ENRICHING THE ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

More than the show, your support of The Nutcracker Fund helps to enrich this artistic experience through workshops, encounters and special initiatives for children and families.

THE NUTCRACKER FUND TOTALLED:

Over **1,300** children introduced to the arts
27 schools and organizations invited
 About **260** workshops and visits organized
 Over **500** workshop hours given

Workshops for a sensitive encounter with the arts

Thanks to your generosity and to a partnership with *A Montreal School for All*, dance, visual arts and play-reading workshops were offered to elementary school students in the greater Montreal area that show a higher deprivation index, letting them experience a sensitive and immersive encounter with the arts.

Your support also enabled the company's dancers to visit several pediatric facilities and reach out to children who are unable to move about. These moments of sharing provided an artistic interlude filled with presence, listening, and comfort.

Immersive experiences for children and their families

Through the program *Mouse for a Day*, your donations of \$1,000 gave young people an unforgettable experience: the opportunity to be on stage for the very first time. During Act I of *The Nutcracker*, they became Les Grands Ballets dancers, performing the iconic role of a little mouse

This magical moment continued in the concert hall, where children joined their families for the rest of the show, for an experience both artistic and meaningfully shared.

With the selection method revised to include a wider reach of children, this initiative let even more young people experience this unique immersion at the heart of creation.

Your support also enabled us to sponsor and accommodate families for each performance of *The Nutcracker* at Place des Arts, and to offer an accessible and inclusive cultural experience.



"Thank you so much for the opportunity to experience a performance of the legendary The Nutcracker ballet. We had an unforgettable evening that will stay with us for a long time. Thank you again and again!"

— Elliot, Marianne, Nancy and Alexandre



Photo (above): Vincent Morreale | Dancers (above): Alexandra Eccles, Antoine Benjamin Bertran
 Photo (below): Sasha Onyshchenko





Photo: Sasha Onyshchenko

3

Your support of the social and community mission

A boost for
wellness and inclusion



Photos: Vincent Morreale



THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DANCE THERAPY

For over 13 years, Les Grands Ballets' National Centre for Dance Therapy (NCDT) has remained at the heart of the company's social mission, putting dance in the service of wellness, inclusion and the health of communities.

With your support, the NCDT's activities have developed and expanded, making it possible for us to forge new partnerships with organizations, to train more dance therapists, to broaden our services and to advance knowledge on dance therapy.

An approach in the service of wellness

The National Centre for Dance Therapy is dedicated to promoting the benefits of dance and its accessibility to various communities, particularly vulnerable or marginalized groups. It aims to strengthen the role of dance and the arts as tools for prevention and well-being.

Its activities are based on two complementary approaches:

- **Adapted Dance** is a recreational dance practice tailored to accommodate participants with particular needs, for example, people with autism or Down syndrome.
- **Dance Therapy** uses movement to facilitate self-expression and address individual emotional, cognitive, physical and social health.

Thanks to your support, these activities are run in a caring and inclusive setting, with concrete results on the wellness of participants and their families.

THE NCDT TOTALLED:

38 partnering community organizations

Over **140** sessions offered

Over **600** participants guided

7

major donors and partners dedicated to the NCDT, representing more than **\$210,000** in support

788

participants in the laid-back performance

"Tristan is always eagerly awaiting Sunday: his dance class has become the highlight of his week. In this supportive and safe environment, he was able to make new friends, to move, express himself freely and regain self-confidence."

— Geneviève Guidi, mom of Tristan



Photo (left): Vincent Morreale | Dancer (left): Sarah-Maude Laliberté | Photo (right): Vincent Morreale

ACCESSIBILITY AND TRAINING

Your support of the National Centre for Dance Therapy does not stop at action with people in their communities: it also helps to support training of the next generation of dance therapists and to make the practice of dance more accessible.

A Relaxed Performance

A showing adapted for every need

Thanks to your support, in June 2026, participants from partnering organizations were able to experience a relaxed performance of the ballet *The Lake*, at the Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier.

This initiative makes dance more accessible to people who might otherwise be excluded from traditional performance venues. The experience is adapted to reduce sensory barriers and encourage everyone's participation: adjusted lighting and sound levels, retreat areas accessible at all times, as well as freedom of movement and interaction within the space.

Beyond the above adaptations, this experience creates a true space for encountering dance, where every participant can encounter dance in their own way, unhindered.

The Alternate Route

Training emerging artists in dance therapy

Your support also contributes directly to training the younger generation in dance therapy, through the program *The Alternate Route*.

This intensive course, spread over three concentrated summer semesters, represents the only program in Canada that offers recognized courses for certification with the American Dance Therapy Association.

Through this program, future professionals develop a practice rooted in intervention, listening and assistance for diverse clientele, thereby strengthening the quality and scope of dance therapy services.

The 5th cohort's first year was in July 2025 and was held in Les Grands Ballets' studios. This phase brought together 21 students dedicated to their training program.



Photo: Vincent Morreale | Dancers: Tetyana Martyanova, James Lyttle, Célestin Boutin

BALLET TO SHARE

Thanks to your generosity, the *Ballet to Share* initiative lets people who would not otherwise have access to the performing arts experience a ballet performance in a welcoming and inclusive setting.

For people living in isolation or who experience economic precariousness or vulnerability, these outings are far more than entertainment: they are a breath of fresh air, a space of respite and a cherished occasion to gather for an artistic experience filled with emotion and beauty.

Your support also helps to enrich this first encounter with dance through cultural mediation activities. Before the performance, participants receive an introductory booklet on ballet and get a chance to talk with dancers and members of the artistic team, to learn about the phases of creating a show and what goes on behind the scenes.

Among the participants were students from arts programs at CEGEPs in the Montreal area, seniors, refugees, families in vulnerable circumstances, youth from youth centres, people living with Alzheimer's and caregivers.

By making these experiences accessible, you are making a tangible contribution to reducing inequalities in access to culture, and to making dance a true vehicle for well-being, discovery and social connection.

BALLET TO SHARE TOTALLED:

2 performances given
20 organizations involved
814 guests

APPENDICES

THANKS TO OURS DONORS AND PARTNERS

\$1,000,000 and over

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\$75,000 and over

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* Multi-year donations

** The Aisenstadt Youth Fund is an annual arts accessibility program that allows CEGEP students from the Montreal area to attend, free of charge, performances by Les Grands Ballets.

\$1,000 and over

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Opération Père Noël
Saint-Antoine 50+ Community Centre
Un Prolongement à la famille de Montréal

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THE CONSTANCE V. PATHY SOCIETY

Created in homage to donors who have generously chosen to make a planned donation, providing a lasting legacy for Les Grands Ballets.

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Sonia Tavernier*
Anne-Marie Trahan*
Jeannine Tremblay Saint-Aubin*
Anonymous (2)

* Posthumous recognition

A male dancer in a white leotard is captured in a dynamic, high-leap pose against a deep blue background. His body is arched, with one leg extended forward and the other back, and his arms reaching upwards. The lighting highlights the contours of his body. In the lower center, the letters 'GB' are displayed in a large, white, serif font.

GB