



LES  
GRANDS  
BALLETS  
CANADIENS

ANNUAL  
**REPORT**  
2023-2024

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# LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS

A creation and production company, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens is devoted to the development of dance in all its forms, building on the discipline of classical ballet. Under the artistic direction of Ivan Cavallari, some fifty Canadian and international dancers - accompanied by Les Grands Ballets Orchestra - bring the great classics of ballet to the stage, as well as the creations and repertoire of established and emerging contemporary artists.

Located in the heart of Montréal's Quartier des spectacles, Les Grands Ballets is wholly committed to give to as many people as possible access to dance, whether through the Nutcracker Fund for Children, leisure activities in Studios GB or with the National Centre for Dance Therapy (NCDT), which is devoted to greater wellbeing through the benefits of dance. Through the excellence of its productions and the scope of its cultural and social actions, the company seeks to inspire discovery and conjure emotions, stimulate the imagination, convey a passion for dance and create a lasting impact.

**IVAN CAVALLARI**  
ARTISTIC  
DIRECTOR

**MARC LALONDE**  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

**LUDMILLA  
CHIRIAEFF**  
FOUNDER

**CONSTANCE  
V. PATHY,  
C.M, C.Q, DMUS.**  
PRESIDENT  
EMERITA

**GRADIMIR  
PANKOV**  
ARTISTIC  
DIRECTOR  
EMERITUS

PHOTO: SASHA ONYSCHENKO





PHOTO: SASHA ONYSHENKO | DANCER: CÉLESTIN BOUTIN

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

After years marked by uncertainty and unpredictability, the 2023–2024 season was one of confidence, helping to ensure long-term sustainability.

With total attendance levels returning to pre-pandemic figures, Les Grands Ballets reached a peak this year, with attendance increasing by 50% since 2018. This growth is mainly due to the strategic decision made six years ago to fully take on the entire range of a ballet company without relying on guest companies. This bold choice highlights Les Grands Ballets' audacity, expertise, and creativity — and reflects the public's enthusiastic embrace of the company's programming. These outstanding results are especially remarkable given the broader context: the live performing arts sector has seen significant declines in attendance over the past five years.

This season also marked a full return to in-person programming across all activities. The company's social engagement initiatives flourished, including the work of the National Centre for Dance Therapy, educational matinées, and various outreach activities — notably supported by the Nutcracker Fund.

Of course, no mention of success would be complete without recognizing the exceptional dancers from Quebec, across Canada, and around the world who compose our company. Their passion and diversity enrich every creation, continuing to bring deeply

moving and unique interpretations to audiences both locally and abroad. Our relationship with the École supérieure de ballet du Québec also grew stronger this year — with two of its graduates joining Les Grands Ballets as apprentices.

These accomplishments were made possible thanks to the invaluable support of our sponsors, partners, and donors — to whom I express my sincere gratitude. Les Grands Ballets' Endowment Fund, built through extraordinary and sustained philanthropic support, also played a key role in ensuring the company's sustainable growth. Despite the effects of inflation, the company returned to a balanced budget this year.

We also acknowledge the continuous support of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec as we emerge from this period of revival.

Success is only possible through collective effort, and I warmly congratulate the leadership, the artists, and all the teams who contributed to this achievement — which I am confident will positively shape seasons to come.

Finally, I would like to recognize the dedicated volunteer work of our Board of Directors. A heartfelt thank you goes especially to Marcel Martin, who, after 19 years of service as board member and treasurer, stepped down at the end of his term.

MAURICE CÔTÉ  
CHAIR OF THE BOARD



PHOTO: SASHA ONISHCHENKO | DANCER: MAUDE SABOURIN

LOOK BACK ON THE  
**ARTISTIC**  
**season**

# OVERVIEW OF THE 2023-2024 SEASON

## PERSONNEL

- Artistic:**
- **215** people, including **45** full-time dancers and over **150** musicians and singers
- Production:**
- **185** employees, including **28** in the costume workshop and **150** in the stage technical teams
- Community Services:**
- **10** employees and **34** freelancers, including dance therapists, dance instructors, artists, and trainers
- Administration:**
- **25** employees



## PERFORMANCES AND TOURS

- **45** performances at Place des Arts in Montreal
- **4** performances at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa
- **6** performances at the Grand Théâtre de Québec
- **1** performance in Joliette
- **4** performances in the United States
- **5** performances in Spain
- **4** performances at Les Grands Ballets' Studio-Theatre

## AUDIENCE

- **99,000** spectators in Montreal
- **27,250** spectators on tour

PHOTO: SASHA ONYSCHENKO

PHOTO: NATH MARTIN

## NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DANCE THERAPY

- **600** beneficiaries served through partnered initiatives
- **33** partner organizations
- A new cohort of **17** students enrolled in the qualifying dance therapy training program
- **70** participants in continuing education activities
- **8** public classes offered weekly
- **5** in-person summer camps

## STUDIOS GB

- **50** recreational dance classes offered weekly
- **1,839** unique clients
- **31,943** total visits



PHOTO: SASHA ONYSCHENKO



PHOTO: SASHA ONYSCHENKO

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **248** educational workshops delivered in **60** classrooms in underserved communities, reaching **1,400** children
- **1,160** individuals in vulnerable situations invited to performances
- **220** young adults and nearly **250** seniors invited free of charge to attend performances

## WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

- **338,168** visits to the website grandsballets.com
- **90,775** Facebook followers
- **36,370** Instagram followers

# SPOTLIGHT





# 2023-2024 SEASON DANCERS

TOP ROWS — LEFT TO RIGHT:  
**TETYANA MARTYANOVA** (CB), **RODDY DOBLE** (P), **THOMAS LEPROHON** (CB), **SARAH BRANCH** (CB), **FRANÇOIS GAGNÉ** (CB),  
**CÉLESTIN BOUTIN** (FS), **VANESA G.-R. MONTOYA** (P), **YUI SUGAWARA** (P), **MARCEL GUTIÉRREZ** (CB), **ANAÏS ROY** (A),  
**TUESDAY RAIN LEDUC** (A), **FELIXOVICH MORANTE** (CB), **OSCAR LAMBERT** (CB), **CALISTA SHEPHEARD** (CB),  
**KIARA FLAVIN** (DS), **ANYA NESVITAYLO** (FS), **GRAEME FUHRMAN** (DS), **MAUDE SABOURIN** (P), **THÉODORE POUBEAU** (CB),  
**AURORA DE MORI** (CB), **CHRISTIAN PFORR** (CB)

PHOTO: SASHA ONYSHCHENKO

BOTTOM ROWS — LEFT TO RIGHT:  
**JAMES LYTTLE** (CB), **MAI KONO** (FS), **SOFÍA GONZÁLES** (CB), **ESNEL RAMOS** (P), **ANGEL VIZCAÍNO** (DS), **SAHRA MAIRA** (S),  
**ROSE TRAHAN** (CB), **JOSÉ CARLOS LOSADA MORALES** (CB), **CATHERINE TOUPIN** (CB), **EMMA GARAU CIMA** (FS),  
**BERNARD DUBOIS II** (CB), **ANNA ISHII** (P), **MAUDE FLEURY** (CB), **ANDRÉ SANTOS** (FS), **BERNARDO BETANCOR** (CB),  
**HAMILTON NIEH** (DS), **RACHELE BURIASSI** (P), **TATIANA LEREBOURS** (CB), **CARRIGAN MACDONALD** (CB), **ÉTIENNE DELORME** (CB),  
**KIARA DENAE FELDER** (S), **ALEXANDRA ECCLES** (CB), **ANTOINE BENJAMIN BERTRAN** (CB)

ABSENT FROM PHOTO: **RAPHAËL BOUCHARD** (P)

P: Principal dancer | FS: First soloist | S: Soloist | DS: Demi-soloist | CB: Corps de ballet | A: Apprentice

## LOOKING BACK ON THE MONTREAL SEASON

The 2023-24 season was an ode to love. Les Grands Ballets staged the intense passions and the strength of love in all its complexity. The audience responded enthusiastically, with nearly 100,000 spectators attending the 45 performances at Place des Arts.

At the start of the season, following the success of the previous year, *Cinderella*, the timeless ballet choreographed by Jayne Smeulders, was brought back for five additional performances. This was followed by six performances of *La Dame aux Camélias*, a two-act creation by Canadian choreographer Peter Quanz, who surrounded himself for this literary and dramatic masterpiece with fellow compatriots: Michael Gianfrancesco, who designed the sets, and Anne Armit, who created the costumes.

In March, former and current dancers of Les Grands Ballets came together in celebration of the love of dance through the *Cantata* program. In addition to the eagerly awaited revival of the eponymous ballet by Mauro Bigonzetti, accompanied by singers from southern Italy, Jérémy Galdeano and Věra Kvarčáková



PHOTO: SASHA OINYSCHENKO | DANCERS: AURORA DE MORI AND RODDY DOBLE

— both of whom have been part of the company — offered a dreamlike choreography with *Nebe*. This program also highlighted emerging talent with dancer Étienne Delorme presenting his latest creation, *Podium*, a dynamic contemporary ballet.

The year flowed to the rhythm of Les Grands Ballets Orchestra, which accompanied five programs. Among them were *Carmina Burana* by Edward Clug, a celebrated success with its choir and soloists, as well as the beloved *The Nutcracker* by Quebec choreographer Fernand Nault, which has become an annual tradition with the Montreal public during the holiday season.

To close the season on a truly romantic note, Artistic Director Ivan Cavallari put the finishing touches on his adaptation of the famous *Giselle* by Marius Petipa, which confirmed more than ever its relevance in the company's repertoire.

This season left a lasting impression, sparking spontaneous and meaningful engagement from the public, resulting in a record number of subscriptions for the 2024-2025 season.



PHOTO: SASHA OINYSCHENKO



PHOTO: SASHA OINYSCHENKO

MINNESOTA  
FEBRUARY 2024  
PHOTO: LAURA SUKOWATEY



OTTAWA  
NOVEMBER 2023  
PHOTO: JEN DERBACH



TENERIFE  
APRIL 2024  
PHOTO: MIGUEL BARRETO  
DANCER: ANNA ISHII

## TOURS AND OUTREACH

es Grands Ballets enjoyed remarkable visibility beyond Montreal and across borders during the 2023–2024 season.

After a 10-year absence, the company made a significant return to the United States with a memorable week-long tour in Virginia (Fairfax, Center for the Arts), Nebraska (Lincoln, Lied Center for Performing Arts), and Minnesota (Minneapolis, Northrop). The program *Symphony No. 7* by Uwe Scholz — in which ballet enters into symbiosis with Beethoven’s music — traveled through several states and brought together over 5,000 people. Three of these performances were presented with local orchestras, conducted by Principal Conductor Dina Gilbert.

Les Grands Ballets also crossed the Atlantic to perform on Iberian stages. The dancers performed in Bilbao (Teatro Arriaga), Pamplona (Teatro Museo de la Universidad de Navarra), and Tenerife (Teatro de San Martín de Tenerife), presenting *Symphony No. 7*

and *Cantata*, accompanied by the four Italian singers of the musical group Assurd. The Spanish tour was a resounding success, drawing nearly 5,000 spectators in total.

The past season was also deeply rooted in Quebec. The company traveled to Joliette as part of the Festival de Lanaudière to perform *Jeune homme* and *The Four Seasons*, welcoming 1,700 spectators at the Lanaudière Amphitheatre.

To spread holiday magic, the company also performed its beloved *The Nutcracker* in Quebec City for over 10,000 people. In total, six nearly sold-out performances were presented at the Grand Théâtre de Québec, delighting audiences of all ages — including the 21 children in the production.

Finally, Les Grands Ballets enchanted audiences in Ottawa with four performances of *Cinderella* at the National Arts Centre. The magic worked once again, with more than 7,400 spectators in attendance.

REPERTOIRE

# CREATORS



PROGRAM  
**CINDERELLA**  
(Montreal and Ottawa)  
Choreography: **Jayne Smeulders**  
Sets: **Simon Guilbault**  
Costumes: **Marie-Chantale Vaillancourt**  
Lighting: **Marc Parent**  
Music: **Sergei Prokofiev**



PROGRAM  
**LA DAME AUX CAMÉLIAS**  
Choreography: **Peter Quanz**  
Sets: **Michael Gianfrancesco**  
Costumes: **Anne Armit**  
Lighting: **Marc Parent**  
Props: **Normand Blais**  
Narration: **Jonathan Michaud**  
Music: **Grażyna Bacewicz, Lili Boulanger, Louise Farrenc, Carl Maria von Weber, Fanny Mendelssohn, Kaija Saariaho, Clara Schumann**  
Musical selection and arrangements: **Florian Ziemen**  
Conductor: **Dina Gilbert**  
Solo pianist: **Rosalie Asselin**



PROGRAM  
**THE NUTCRACKER**  
(Montreal and Quebec City)  
Choreography: **Fernand Nault** based on Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov  
Music: **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**  
Sets: **Peter Horne**  
Costumes: **François Barbeau**  
Lighting: **Nicholas Cernovitch**  
Libretto: **Marius Petipa**, based on E.T.A. Hoffmann  
Conductors: **Dmitri Zrajewski** and **Airat Ichmouratov**



PROGRAM  
**GISELLE**  
Choreography: **Ivan Cavallari**, based on Jean Coralli, Jules Perrot, and Marius Petipa  
Choreographer's assistant: **Marina Villanueva**  
Music: **Adolphe-Charles Adam** and **Christoph Willibald Gluck**  
Sets: **Ivan Cavallari**  
Costumes: **John Dinning** (1990)  
Costume adaptation: **Ivan Cavallari** and **Mélanie Ferrero** (2019)  
Lighting: **Marc Parent**  
Original libretto: **Théophile Gautier** and **Jules-Henri Vernoy de Saint-Georges**, based on Heinrich Heine  
Video content: **Starno** and **Hugues Kir**  
Conductor: **Jean-Claude Picard**



PROGRAM  
**CARMINA BURANA**  
**JEUNEHOMME**  
Choreography: **Uwe Scholz**  
Music: **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**  
Costumes and scenography: **Uwe Scholz**  
Lighting: **Marc Parent**  
Conductor: **Jean-Claude Picard**  
Solo pianist: **Rosalie Asselin**  
**CARMINA BURANA**  
Choreography: **Edward Clug**  
Sets: **Marko Japelj**  
Costumes: **Léo Kulas**  
Lighting: **Marc Parent**

Music: **Carl Orff**  
Conductor: **Jean-Claude Picard**  
Soloists  
Soprano: **Aline Kutan**  
Tenor: **Mishaël Eusebio**  
Baritone: **Dominique Côté**



PROGRAM  
**CANTATA**  
**PODIUM**  
Choreography: **Étienne Delorme**  
Costumes: **Julie Pelletier**  
Lighting: **Chantal Labonté**  
Music: **Charles Bicari, Marie Davidson, Nina Kraviz, Leigh Walker** and **Zao Dinel**  
**IN HONOUR OF**  
Choreography: **Bridget Breiner**  
Music: **Georgs Pelēcis**  
Assistant to the choreographer: **Sébastien Mari**  
Costumes: **Thomas Lempertz**  
Lighting: **Marc Parent**

**NEBE**  
Choreography: **Jérémy Galdeano** and **Věra Kvarčáková**  
Music: **Ezio Bosso, Hania Rani, Dominique Charpentier** and **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**  
Costumes: **Marija Djordjevic**  
Lighting: **Chantal Labonté**

**CANTATA**  
Choreography: **Mauro Bigonzetti**  
Solo singers:  
**Cristina Vetrone** (vocals and organetto), **Lorella Monti** (vocals, tambourine, and castanets), **Enza Pagliara** (vocals, tambourine, tammorra, and castanets), and **Enza Prestia** (vocals, drums, and tammorra)  
Costumes: **Helena De Medeiros**  
Lighting: **Carlo Cerri**

## WORKS PRESENTED ON TOUR



**THE FOUR SEASONS (FESTIVAL DE LANAUDIÈRE)**  
Choreography: **Mauro Bigonzetti**  
Music: **Antonio Vivaldi**  
Costumes: **Helena de Medeiros**  
Lighting: **Marc Parent**



**SYMPHONY NO. 5 (UNITED STATES)**  
Choreography: **Garrett Smith**  
Music: **Ludwig van Beethoven**  
Sets: **Michael Mazzola**  
Costumes: **Monica Guerra**  
Lighting: **Marc Parent**



**SYMPHONY NO. 7 (UNITED STATES AND SPAIN)**  
Choreography: **Uwe Scholz**  
Music: **Ludwig van Beethoven**  
Assistant to the choreographer: **Roser Munoz**  
Adaptation: **Ivan Cavallari**  
Sets and costumes: **Uwe Scholz**  
Lighting: **Marc Parent**



# social

ACTION

## THE NUTCRACKER FUND

For over 25 years, the Nutcracker Fund has brought holiday magic to thousands of children. This year again, 2,800 children in vulnerable situations were able to attend a free matinée performance of *The Nutcracker*. Nearly 250 educational and artistic workshops were delivered in 60 classrooms in underserved areas, in collaboration with *Une école montréalaise pour tous*, to help prepare students for the show.



## ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES

As part of the *Gratitude and Generosity series*, the company invited marginalized and vulnerable audiences to attend selected performances or dress rehearsals. This season, 250 socially isolated seniors or individuals living with Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease, along with 220 teenagers affected by bullying or mental health issues, benefited from the program.

To democratize access to culture, the Aisenstadt Youth Fund enabled nearly 150 students from public CEGEPs in the greater Montreal area to discover ballet — all were invited to attend a performance free of charge.

## ADAPTED WORK PROGRAM

In collaboration with the *Fondation Les Petits Rois*, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens has been hosting, for five years now, a supported work program for seven young adults from the Champagnat Center who face specific challenges. This initiative presents a valuable opportunity for participants to integrate into a professional environment while developing new skills.

PHOTOS: BAPTISTE VARENNE



# NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DANCE THERAPY

Dedicated to promoting and improving access to the benefits of dance for communities and vulnerable and marginalized populations, the National Centre for Dance Therapy (NCDT) continues to grow.

Last season, the NCDT carried out 33 intervention projects in dance therapy and adapted dance, both in person and online, in institutions from the education, community, social, health, and cultural sectors. These initiatives reached nearly 740 vulnerable or marginalized individuals, including single mothers, immigrants, LGBTQ+ youth, Indigenous people, autistic individuals, people with disabilities, individuals with intellectual disabilities, and adults living with neurocognitive disorders. The interventions took place on the Island of Montreal, in Outaouais, Montérégie, Lanaudière, and the Capitale-Nationale region. In parallel, 140 individuals participated in eight adapted dance and dance therapy classes at Les Grands Ballets' studios.

The *Dance for Cultural Well-Being* project, created to build bridges between francophone communities in Ontario and Quebec through a collaboration between the Chigamik Community Health Centre in Midland and the NCDT, provided 70 participants with access to adapted dance sessions. The project reached 11 groups from vulnerable francophone communities in Ontario.

*The Alternate Route*, a private 405-hour dance therapy training program, welcomed Canadian instructors for the very first time and allowed 17 professionals from the arts and health sectors to earn 27 graduate-level credits.

Throughout the year, the NCDT fostered a direct connection between the communities it serves and Les Grands Ballets:

- **Summer 2023:** 53 youth living with intellectual disabilities, Down syndrome, or autism spectrum disorder participated in five dance and creative arts day camps at Les Grands Ballets' studios.
  - **Winter 2024:** Dancers from diverse backgrounds shared the stage during the inclusive breakdance event *No Limits* with ILL-Abilities, bringing together 496 spectators and participants.
  - **Spring 2024:** Beneficiaries of NCDT activities were invited to attend a relaxed performance of *Giselle* in May 2024, which brought together over 500 spectators.
- In terms of research, the NCDT took part in two major projects:
- **E2IAN**, a multidisciplinary research-creation project led by McGill University and Concordia University in collaboration with the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, combines immersive approaches and technologies to understand the lived experiences of neurodiverse individuals better.
  - **Dancing in the Metaverse**, in partnership with CHU Sainte-Justine, aimed at improving access to dance activities for youth with disabilities living outside major urban centers.

The NCDT acknowledges the support of the City of Montreal, the Secrétariat du Québec aux relations canadiennes, and the Ontario Ministry of Francophone Affairs for funding several of these activities.

## BENEFICIARY ORGANIZATIONS / SERVICE PARTNERS

- AMDI
- Autisme sans Limites
- Centre Jeunesse — Site Rose Virginie Pellettier
- Clinique Duluth
- Connected North
- Galileo School
- Étincelle School
- Irénée-Lussier School
- John F. Kennedy School
- Roslyn School
- Saint-Pierre Apôtre School
- Tournesol School
- Calixa Lavallée High School
- Saint-Henri High School
- Gérard-Filion High School
- L.I.N.K.S. High School
- Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation
- Federation of Quebec Alzheimer Societies
  - Société Alzheimer Outaouais
  - Société Alzheimer Québec
  - Société Alzheimer Brome Missisquoi
  - Société Alzheimer Haut-Richelieu
- Véro & Louis Foundation
- Les Arches
  - Arche Lanaudière
  - Arche Montreal
  - Arche Montérégie
- La Petite Maison de la Miséricorde
- Regroupement pour la Trisomie 21
- CHSLD Saint-Andrews
- CPE Rising Sun
- Alzheimer Society of Montreal
- Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
- City of Kirkland
- LGBTQ+ Community Centre
- Dollard Centre for the Arts
- Duluth Clinic
- Myriam Foundation
- Maison des Petits Rois
- Monastère des Augustines
- Espace Transition
- HEC
- Université de Montréal

## ORGANIZATIONS THE NCDT IS A MEMBER OF

- Dance Movement Therapy Association in Canada
- American Dance Therapy Association

## POPULATIONS SERVED

- Children, adolescents, and adults with Down syndrome
- Children, adolescents, and adults with intellectual disabilities
- Autistic children, adolescents, and adults
- Adults with neurocognitive disorders
- Adult caregivers
- Children and adolescents with communication disorders
- Adults with physical disabilities
- Adolescents with relational difficulties
- Immigrant youth
- LGBTQIA2S+ community
- Indigenous communities
- Adolescents in need of protection
- Children and adolescents under youth protection
- Seniors
- University students
- People living with mental health challenges



PHOTO: BAPTISTE VARENNE

# STUDIOS GB

## DANCE CLASSES

Studios GB welcomed over 1,839 clients, offering an average of 50 recreational-level dance and fitness classes each week. The studios recorded approximately 672 weekly visits, totaling 31,943 visits for the season, a 47% increase compared to the previous year.

Among the most popular classes, classical ballet stood out, allowing the public to learn from renowned professionals, including Les Grands Ballets' principal dancers Vanessa Garcia-Ribala Montoya and Esnel Ramos. Additionally, classical and contemporary ballet repertoire workshops, based on choreographic excerpts from seasonal productions such as *The Nutcracker*, *Cantata*, *Giselle*, and *Carmina Burana*, provided a unique and enriching experience.

Last spring, an off-site cultural outreach event was organized in collaboration with the National Centre for Dance Therapy and in partnership with the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec as part of the *Lundis culturels* series at the Grande Bibliothèque. The event brought together 150 spectators, who came to watch a ballet class performance taught by former dancers of Les Grands Ballets and interpreted by students from the Studios GB ballet classes, as well as neurodiverse participants from the NCDT. The presentation continued with a piece inspired by the ballet *Giselle*, celebrating dance as an art form accessible to all.

During the summer, Studios GB also launched their first-ever classical ballet intensives — exclusive programs designed for college-level dance students and adult amateurs. Taught by current and former dancers of Les Grands Ballets, the intensives allowed nearly 40 participants to hone their skills.

## RENTAL SPACES

Studios GB hosted 45 clients in their rehearsal studios, including artists, nonprofit arts organizations, and members of the public, for rehearsals, auditions, and film shoots — totaling 1,299.5 hours of studio rentals. Notably, filming for the 6th season of the television competition *Révolution* once again highlighted Les Grands Ballets' rehearsal studios.

As for the spaces managed under the GB Fund, the Atrium and Studio-Theatre were used for a total of 170 days throughout the year. These venues hosted Les Grands Ballets' productions and events (51% of the time), and were rented (49% of the time) for artistic productions, seminars, professional gatherings, and film shoots, serving a total of 39 clients. Of these rentals, 50% were by nonprofit arts organizations, and 30% were by artists and organizations who are members of the Regroupement québécois de la danse, benefiting from preferred rates. Major players in Montreal's cultural scene — including Agora de la danse, Cinemania, the École supérieure de ballet du Québec, Festival Quartiers Danses, and Festival Parcours Danse — held events in these spaces.



PHOTO: LANANIMMOIS

PHOTO: NATH MARTIN



# Philanthropic action & PARTNERSHIPS

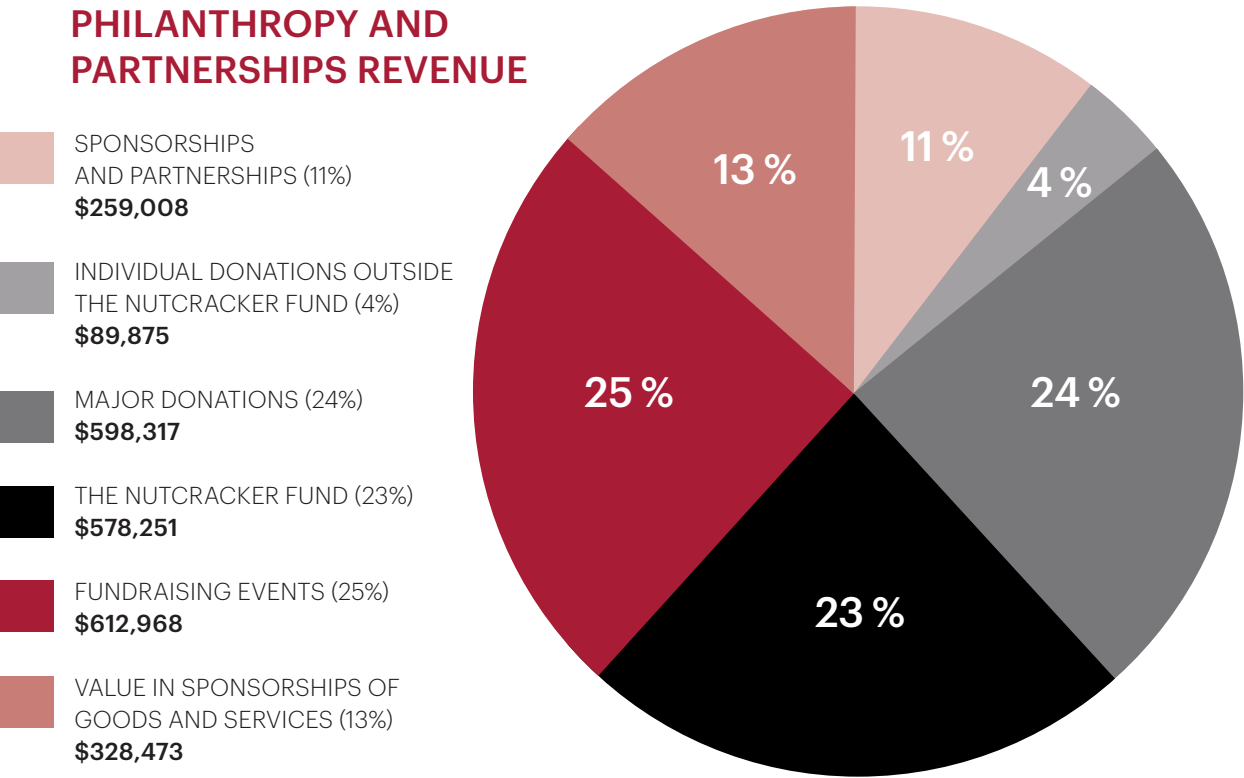
PHOTO: BAPTISTE VARENNE

# PHILANTHROPY

The funds raised through solicitation efforts targeting businesses, foundations, and individuals help support the company’s artistic and philanthropic missions. These revenues totaled more than \$2 million for the 2023–2024 season, divided into various types of contributions as shown in the chart below.

Each private contribution helps renew and enrich the choreographic repertoire through the Creation Fund, support the talent and professional development of dancers and emerging artists, present grand productions with live orchestra, custom-designed costumes, and lavish sets, and directly fund community and social action initiatives, including many inclusive education and arts accessibility programs via the Nutcracker Fund for Children.

## PHILANTHROPY AND PARTNERSHIPS REVENUE



**TOTAL: \$2,138,479**  
(EXCLUDING CONTRIBUTIONS OR REVENUE FROM THE ENDOWMENT FUND)

# DONATION CAMPAIGNS

Several donation campaigns were conducted to encourage all types of donors to support the mission or to dedicate their contributions to specific projects.

The fall campaign focused on the Nutcracker Fund, while the spring campaign benefited the Creation Fund. Additionally, donations were received throughout the year through ticketing

transactions, both online and by phone. A total of 1,201 individual donations were recorded.

As for major donations, Les Grands Ballets also relies on the support of several loyal companies and around forty foundations, which together contributed nearly \$600,000 to various projects.

## SPONSORSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS

### SPONSORSHIPS AND SERVICE SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorship revenues reached \$180,000, while private events organized by partners raised nearly \$80,000. Added to this is the value of \$328,000 in in-kind sponsorships and goods and services donations.

- The team secured in-kind donations from around one hundred partners for three virtual auctions held this year:
- 226 items with a total value of more than \$140,000 were auctioned.
  - The Nutcracker Fund auction, the Jeunes Gouverneurs Evening, and the Annual Gala raised nearly \$80,000 from more than 600 participants.



PHOTO: STUDIO KARINE KALFON



PHOTO: SASHA ONYASHCHENKO | DANCER: MAUDE SABOURIN

### CAUSE MARKETING

The company developed a wide range of merchandise sold at various locations, including at all Les Grands Ballets performances at Place des Arts, during tour stops outside Montreal, and permanently at the Studios GB front desk. All proceeds go to the Nutcracker Fund and represent nearly 30% of the fund’s annual revenue.

During the 2023–2024 season, 180 volunteers contributed over 1,600 volunteer hours, primarily by assisting with merchandise sales and helping at fundraising events and recognition activities.



PHOTO: WILLIAM RICHARD-DOSTIE

## FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA

Thanks to the generosity of 250 guests, over \$540,000 was raised for Les Grands Ballets' Creation Fund during the company's annual fundraising gala, held on May 16 under the honorary co-presidency of Mathieu Talbot, Vice-President, Vice President, Business Services Group and Corporate Banking at Desjardins, and Martin Tremblay, President and Chief Executive Officer of Solotech. This is a record since the event has been held at Les Grands Ballets. The gala stands as a gesture of generosity and commitment from the business community to arts and culture.

### JEUNES GOUVERNEURS' COMMITTEE

The Jeunes Gouverneurs' Committee of Les Grands Ballets, composed of around twenty early-career professionals aged 25 to 35, leveraged its network by organizing three fundraising activities in support of Les Grands Ballets' philanthropic mission. The two co-chairs, Ariane Dusablon and Alexandra Freedman, were in their first year leading the committee. The Jeunes Gouverneurs' contribution for the 2023-2024 season amounts to over \$73,000.

### JEUNES GOUVERNEURS

#### CO-CHAIRS

- **Alexandra Freedman** – Lawyer, Corporate and Commercial Law, Fasken
- **Ariane Dusablon** – Manager, Strategy & Transformation, EY

#### COMITTEE MEMBERS

- **Aude Babakissa** – Senior Consultant, Capgemini Invent Montréal
- **Irina Boldeanu** – Lawyer, Monette Barakett S.E.N.C.
- **Jonathan Brotto** – IT Lead, IT Project Manager (SAP)
- **Elodie Dion** – Lawyer, Robic, S.E.N.C.R.L.
- **Viviane Dorval** – Lawyer, Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM)
- **Jeremi Joseph** – Senior Financial Analyst – FP&A, Intelcom
- **Gabrielle Ménès** – Lawyer, Morency Société d'avocats S.E.N.C.R.L.
- **Yi Hui Qin** – Manager, Strategy and Operations, KPMG
- **Claudia Rajaonah** – Senior Consultant in Digital Health, Deloitte
- **Sarah-Jade Ratelle** – Senior Tax Analyst, Deloitte
- **Jean-René Roy** – Lawyer, Trivium Avocats Inc
- **Veronica Rusu** – Research Assistant, Pôle santé, HEC Montréal
- **Catherine Simard Boulé** – Project Manager, Digital Content, LCI Éducation
- **Erica Singerman** – Consultant, Boyden
- **Yasmine Zerkouni** – Director of Business Strategy, Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)



PHOTO: STUDIO KARINE KALFON

# SPONSORS AND CORPORATE PARTNERS

## \$100,000 AND ABOVE

- TD Bank Group

## \$75,000 AND ABOVE

- BMO Financial Group
- Hydro-Québec

## \$50,000 AND ABOVE

- Desjardins
- Kinatex Sports Physio
- RBC Royal Bank
- Solotech

## \$25,000 AND ABOVE

- National Bank
- Scotiabank
- Blakes
- Canada Life
- Clarins
- Fednav
- Germain Hotels
- IG Wealth Management
- KPMG
- La Presse
- McCarthy Tétrault

## \$10,000 AND ABOVE

- Air Canada
- BFL CANADA
- Deloitte
- Desjardins Business – Montreal
- EY
- Normandin Beaudry
- SAQ

## \$5,000 AND ABOVE

- Boyden
- Caisse Desjardins de la Culture
- CDPQ
- Claridge Inc.
- L-Acoustics
- SFM

## \$1,000 AND ABOVE

- Benny & Co.
- BlackCat SEO
- Cycle Action Sports
- Fasken
- Groupe Leclair
- Huître au Carré
- Intelcom
- Morency Avocats
- Roche Bobois
- Lantic Sugar
- Teneo
- Trivium Avocats

## \$500 AND ABOVE

- Bloom Sushi
- Boréale
- Bouchée Double
- CN Employees’ and Pensioners’ Community Fund
- Chocolata
- Mila B. Eyegue MD Inc.

## \$250 AND ABOVE

- Bar Spaghetti Western
- MJ Fiscalité Inc.
- Montréal Hôtels & Suites
- Nacho Libre

# DONORS (JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024)

## \$75,000 AND MORE

- Azrieli Foundation\*
- RBC Foundation
- Anonymous (1)

## \$50,000 AND MORE

- J.A. DeSève Foundation
- Sandra and Alain Bouchard Foundation

## \$25,000 AND MORE

- Les Petits Rois Foundation
- OVI Foundation

## \$10,000 AND MORE

- Ariane Riou and Réal Plourde Foundation
- Chodos Family Foundation
- Jacques Francoeur Foundation
- Rossy Foundation
- Jane Skoryna Foundation
- Julie Lee, M.D.
- Leslie Silver and Laurent Ferreira

## \$5,000 AND MORE

- Douglas Ajram
- John Farrell and François Leclair
- Brujavin Foundation
- Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal
- Le Blanc Family Foundation
- Jacques & Michel Auger Foundation
- Korwin-Szymanowski Foundation\*
- Lorraine and Jean Turmel Foundation
- Pierre Desmarais Belvédère Foundation
- René Malo Foundation
- Aisenstadt Youth Fund\*\*
- Marie-Josée Lecours and Marc Lalonde
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## \$2,500 AND MORE

- BMJV Fund
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- Maurice Côté
- Marie Lynne Desrochers and François Labrie
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- Anonymous (1)

## \$1,000 AND MORE

- Pierre Bélisle
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## \$500 AND MORE

- Magali Amiel
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- Yvan Meilleur
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- Anaïs Roy
- Christine Smith
- Mario Théorêt
- Sylvain Thibaudeau
- Anonymous (1)

## \$250 AND MORE

- Gwynneth Allen
- Janos Baracs
- Lucille Beauchemin
- Karine Emmanuelle Boisvert
- Micheline Bouchard
- André Bourgault
- Marie-Josée Brouillette
- Carmen Bruneau
- Barry Cole and Sylvie Plouffe
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- Cat Van
- Mahalia Verna
- Anonymous (4)

\* Multiyear Gifts

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UNE ÉCOLE  
MONTRÉLAISE  
POUR TOUS

LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS BENEFITS FROM THE SUPPORT OF THE GB FUND  
AND LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS ENDOWMENT FUND.

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SOLOTECH



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Regroupement québécois de la danse  
La Danse sur les routes du Québec  
Quartier des Spectacles Partnership  
Canadian Dance Assembly

Co-ownership member of the Édifice Wilder – Espace Danse

LES GRANDS BALLETS IS A RESIDENT ORGANIZATION OF THE PLACE DES ARTS IN MONTREAL.

GB