Fall 2025

The HARID *Conservatory*

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IN THIS ISSUE

1 Spring Performances Continue to Wow!

2 HARID's Class of 2025

2 A Teaching Milestone

3 Winter Performances

4 HARID's Summer Auditions

4 Alumni Spotlight

Spring Performances Continue to Wow!

Each spring, The HARID Conservatory presents a showcase of remarkable artistry and skill, and somehow the standard rises every year. The 2025 Spring Performances were no exception, offering an engaging, exquisitely danced program that highlighted classical precision and youthful vitality. Credit goes to HARID faculty members Alexey Kulpin, Svetlana Osiyeva, Meelis Pakri, and Victoria Schneider for their superb coaching and staging.

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Grand Waltz from Raymonda

The evening opened with the Grand Waltz from *Raymonda*, Act I—a sweeping ensemble work that revealed the students' impressive unison and stage presence. The corps moved as a single, breathing organism: graceful, musical, and regal. Rachel Zwieschowski and Haruno Sasaki delivered elegant interpretations of Raymonda, while William Kinloch (Jean de Brienne) stood out for his refinement and technical assurance. The men's Pas de Quatre was notable for its style and coordination, and Kotono Suzuki impressed with precise, radiant dancing.

The Pas de Deux from *Giselle*, Act II, brought an ethereal stillness. Saydee McBain (Giselle) and Teofil Cosma (Albrecht) offered performances of emotional depth and surprising maturity. McBain floated with otherworldly delicacy, while Cosma's strong, sensitive partnering supported a portrayal of tragic, redemptive love.

A delightful contrast followed with the Bluebird Pas de Deux from *The Sleeping Beauty*, Act III. Koyuki Taguchi flitted across the stage with quick, light charm and remarkable musical clarity. Henry Matthews partnered her with buoyant jumps, confident lifts, and crisp turns. Their playful rapport and polished dancing were a pleasure to watch.

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Bluebird Pas de Deux from The Sleeping Beauty

The Pas de Quatre from *The Flames of Paris*—performed by Kinloch, Nathan Lachenmayer, Matthews, and Kantaro Takishima—was an explosive display of energy and technical command. Their unity and drive made the piece exhilarating, reaffirming why this work won First Place at the Youth America Grand Prix Final.

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Harlequinade Pas de Deux

The *Harlequinade* Pas de Deux, performed by Fina Sai and Harrison Cornellier, brought charm and whimsy. Sai's delicate artistry paired beautifully with Cornellier's dazzling technique, from lightning-fast pirouettes to crisp footwork. Their seamless dancing and chemistry made the choreography appear playful and effortless.

The Gypsy Dance from *La Fille Mal Gardée* burst onto the stage with bold color, character, and exuberance. Its high spirits and robust energy made it one of the evening's most joyful highlights. Bravo to the dancers for bringing this vibrant character work to life.

Closing the evening was resident choreographer Mark Godden's newest work, *QuaREtet*. A striking shift from the classical repertoire, the piece offered kinetic energy, vibrant patterns, and exuberance. Its recurring motifs created satisfying musicality, leading to a clever ending: the choreography circled back to its opening as one dancer remained onstage until the full ensemble returned for a sudden final blackout punctuated by a single pizzicato note. The audience was left breathless.

Denise Thompson photo ©

Mark Godden's QuaREtet

These performances celebrated not only the students but also HARID's exceptional faculty, whose coaching, artistry, and uncompromising standards continue to shape young dancers of remarkable caliber.

HARID's Class of 2025

On May 27, at its annual Commencement & Awards Dinner, HARID celebrated the graduation of nine talented seniors. Each is successfully pursuing the next step in their education or professional career:

- Teofil Cosma (Romania) – joined the Estonia National Ballet's corps de ballet.
- Natalie Du Charme (Maryland) – trainee with Orlando Ballet.
- Wyatt Kinsman (Oregon) – dancing with Orlando Ballet II.
- Abigail Knecht (Texas) – enrolled in the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Graduate Program.
- Henry Matthews (New York) – corps de ballet member, Estonia National Ballet.
- Paris-Renee Street (England) – attending Po Science University in Paris, France.
- Kotono Suzuki (Japan) – trainee with Orlando Ballet.
- Kantaro Takishima (Japan) – corps de ballet member, Estonia National Ballet.
- Rachel Zweischowski (Florida) – trainee with The Joffrey Ballet in Chicago.

Congratulations and best wishes to HARID's Class of 2025!

During the Commencement celebration, several students received special recognition for their artistry and achievement. Saydee McBain, Teofil Cosma, and Harrison Cornellier each received a Jeannot B. Cerrone Award for outstanding technique and artistic performance during the Spring Performances. The Fred Lieberman Award for Excellence, recognizing the top overall student in academics, dance, and citizenship, was presented to Nathan Lachenmayer.

A Teaching Milestone

Earlier this year, HARID celebrated Victoria Schneider's 30th anniversary as a faculty member. For three decades, she has dedicated herself to teaching, coaching, and mentoring students with remarkable care and insight. Ms. Schneider has long served as HARID's liaison to schools and dancers in Asia, spending part of each summer judging and recruiting at the Japan and Taiwan Grand Prix competitions. HARID's trustees, faculty, and staff extend heartfelt gratitude to Victoria for her exceptional service and unwavering commitment to our students.

Faculty member Victoria Schneider

Make a Child Happy: Toys for Tots

The HARID Chapter of the National Honor Society will host a December toy drive supporting Toys for Tots. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy to the Winter Performances. A collection box will be available in the theatre lobby. Your gift will brighten the holiday season for a child in need.

Summer Intensive Concludes with Awards Presentation

This past summer, fifty-nine students attended HARID's four-week Summer Intensive. On the final day, following an informal performance for families and friends, the faculty presented two special awards:

- Isabella Boylston Scholarships: Sofia Mihai and Sophia Close
- Male Dancer Scholarships: Kyle Cloutier and Noe Rascon

These scholarships provide financial assistance for the subsequent school year.

Summer Intensive award recipients

Rudolf Nureyev Award

Through a generous endowment from the Rudolf Nureyev Dance Foundation, HARID annually presents the Rudolf Nureyev Award to a deserving student selected by the faculty and director.

Past recipients include Cavan Conley (San Francisco Ballet), Vanessa Lai (Hong Kong Ballet), Henry Grey (Finnish National Ballet), Cy Doherty (American Ballet Theatre), Bela Erlandson (Dutch National Ballet), Alexis Valdes (San Francisco Ballet), Nathaniel Lillington (Hungarian National Ballet), Tiffany Hopkins (Colorado Ballet Studio Company), Harrison Cornellier (Class of 2027), and Kantaro Takishima (Estonia National Ballet).

In October, the 2025 Rudolf Nureyev Award was presented to Saydee McBain, a fourth-year student and senior. Congratulations, Saydee!

Saydee McBain, this year's Rudolf Nureyev Award recipient

Ruth Nelson Kraft Awards

The Ruth Nelson Kraft Foundation, established in 2002 through the estate of Boca Raton resident and concert pianist Ruth Kraft, continues to provide generous support for promising young dancers at HARID.

This fall, three students received Ruth Nelson Kraft Awards:

- Saydee McBain, senior – from Pyeongtaek, South Korea
- Samuel Marçal, junior – from Contagem, Brazil
- Viktoria Nikitenko, freshman – from Manassas, Virginia

HARID remains deeply grateful to the Foundation for its ongoing commitment to our students' success.

Winter Performances: December 19-21

Our Winter Performances are fast approaching, and we look forward to sharing another festive and inspiring program of dance. This year's performances will feature Divertissements from *The Nutcracker*, Act II, the Pas de Deux from *Giselle*, Act I, the premiere of a new modern-dance work, and the Belarusian folk dance *Yurochka*.

Performances will take place at the Countess de Hoernle Theatre (5100 Jog Road, Boca Raton):

Friday, December 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 20, and Sunday, December 21, at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets are $35 & $40 and available at harid.edu/performances, by phone at 561-998-8038, or in person at HARID's ticket office (2285 Potomac Road, Boca Raton) Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

We look forward to welcoming you to this year's performances!

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Dance of the Mirlitons

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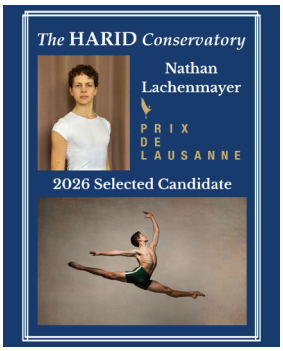
Grand Pas de Deux from The Nutcracker

2025-26 School Year

In August, HARID welcomed thirty-six new and returning students from across the United States and abroad. It is a pleasure to have this vibrant and diverse group of young dancers training on campus once again.



Prix de Lausanne, 2026

Congratulations to Nathan Lachenmayer, a HARID senior, who has been selected to participate in the 2026 Prix de Lausanne in Switzerland, February 1–8. Nathan will be accompanied by his teacher, Meelis Pakri. We wish him great success in this prestigious international competition!

Congratulations, Nathan!

Orlando Ballet's Swan Lake

On October 19, HARID dancers traveled to Orlando to attend Orlando Ballet's production of *Swan Lake*. Artistic Director Jorden Morris graciously arranged prime seating, while Jay and Nancy Parker of Palm Beach generously sponsored the coach transportation. The students thoroughly enjoyed both the performance and the journey; it was a fun and inspiring experience for all.

HARID's 2026 Summer Auditions

HARID's faculty and director will conduct Summer Intensive auditions in fifteen U.S. cities during January and February. Video applications are also accepted for students who are unable to attend in person. In addition, scholarships will be awarded at select ballet competitions this fall, winter, and spring. For details, visit harid.edu/auditions.

Alumni Spotlight: Amir Dodarkhojayev (Class of 2020)

Amir Dodarkhojayev, Michael Cairns photo

Born in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Amir Dodarkhojayev began studying ballet at age ten. After earning a scholarship to HARID through the Youth America Grand Prix competition in New York, he enrolled at the school in 2017. Amir spent his first year working with faculty member Alexey Kulpin; then advanced to Meelis Pakri's class, where he studied for two additional years. He was awarded First Prize at YAGP Dallas before graduating in 2020.

Amir joined Orlando Ballet II before being promoted to the main company, where he performed leading roles in *The Nutcracker, Swan Lake, Giselle, Romeo & Juliet, The Sleeping Beauty, Dracula, Serenade, Company B, Maple Leaf Rag*, and the U.S. premiere of *Casanova*.

This season, Amir has taken an exciting new step by joining the Latvian National Ballet as a principal dancer. Congratulations, Amir!

Support HARID's Students

HARID's annual-fund campaign provides the financial assistance many students require to attend the school. (While HARID remains tuition-free, fees must be charged for room and board.) Please help replenish our financial-aid fund so we can continue supporting the dancers while they complete their studies with us. Your generous assistance will be greatly appreciated. To contribute, you may use the envelope provided, or visit harid.edu/contribute.

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We hope you enjoyed reading HARID's Fall Newsletter. The next issue will be published in March 2026.

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