Spring 2026

The HARID *Conservatory*

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IN THIS ISSUE

1 Winter Performances Enjoyed by All
2 Mark Godden Creates New Ballet
3 Prix de Lausanne
3 Celebrating the Class of 2026
4 Accreditation Renewed
4 Alumni Spotlight

Winter Performances Enjoyed by All

The HARID Conservatory's Winter Performances, held at the Countess de Hoernle Theatre on December 19, 20, and 21, 2025, offered a festive and engaging start to the holiday season. The first half of the program was a thoughtfully balanced mix of styles, presenting a classical pas de deux, a contemporary work, and a character dance. The second half featured *The Nutcracker*, Act II.

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The Peasant Pas de Deux from Giselle, Act I

The program opened with an effervescent display of youthful vitality in the Peasant pas de deux from *Giselle*, Act I. Both casts rose to the occasion with confidence and charm. Giovanna Pascale danced with a luminous presence, her lines fully realized and beautifully extended, particularly in her buoyant jumps. Her partner, Sora Iwahara, impressed with airy elevation, precise landings, and an open, inviting stage presence. Fina Sai and Shang-Chun Liao likewise delivered a polished and engaging interpretation, demonstrating strong musicality and partnership. The work was expertly staged and coached by Svetlana Osiyeva and Meelis Pakri.

Next, HARID presented the premiere of *Echo Tide*, an original contemporary modern work by faculty member Libby Faber Deen. Set to the atmospheric music of Aukai, the piece was developed corroboratively with the student dancers. Movement unfolded fluidly, with dancers sweeping across the stage like brushstrokes on a proscenium canvas. The work provided a compelling opportunity for classically trained students to explore contemporary modern vocabulary while maintaining their technical foundation.

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Echo Tide

The first half concluded with *Yurochka*, a Belarusian character dance staged by Bertha Valentin. Full of spirit, the piece combined crisp footwork with a playful theatricality. The dancers embraced the style with energy and clarity, and the bright costumes enhanced its uplifting appeal.

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Yurochka

In keeping with HARID's annual holiday tradition, the second half featured *The Nutcracker,* Act II, a vibrant showcase of the students' technical and artistic growth. Choreographed and staged by HARID's distinguished ballet faculty—Alexey Kulpin, Svetlana Osiyeva, Meelis Pakri, and Victoria Schneider—the production displayed polish and stylistic clarity throughout.

Saydee McBain and Koyuki Taguchi each brought a distinct interpretation to the Sugar Plum Fairy. McBain's performance was marked by a delicate, ethereal quality, while Taguchi offered a more grounded and assured approach, dancing with clarity and control. Their partners, Nathan Lachenmayer and William Kinloch, provided elegant and attentive support, each demonstrating strong partnering.

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Grand Pas de Deux from The Nutcracker

The divertissements offered a colorful range of styles. Spanish Chocolates sparkled with rhythmic precision and dynamic energy. Arabian Coffee unfolded with fluid control and sustained focus. Waltz of the Flowers brought a sense of sweep and cohesion, highlighting the ensemble's musicality and spatial awareness.

Denise Thompson photo ©

Arabian Dance from The Nutcracker

HARID's dancers performed with a level of assurance and sophistication that reflects the strength of the Conservatory's training. With each season, the students' growth becomes increasingly evident, as performances demonstrate their heightened precision and stylistic clarity.

Choreographer Mark Godden Creates New Work for HARID

We were honored to host HARID's resident choreographer Mark Godden through February 10. During his residency, he created a new 27-minute ballet that reflects the moral and ethical tensions portrayed in the classic film *Casablanca*. Titled *You Must Remember This*, the work will premiere during our May performances. It promises to be both dramatically compelling and artistically rewarding for our dancers. The opportunity to work directly with an internationally respected choreographer is an invaluable part of the HARID training experience.

As a note of interest, Mr. Godden recently restaged his acclaimed ballet *Angels in the Architecture* for Orlando Ballet, where it was performed March 27–29.

Mark Godden at work with the students

National Honor Society Inductees

Scholarship • Character • Leadership • Service

On March 4, nine HARID students were inducted into the HARID Chapter of the National Honor Society. These students have demonstrated not only academic excellence but also leadership and a commitment to service—qualities that reflect the values we strive to instill in every dancer. Congratulations to:

Addy Brown
Duru Dilek
Emmaline Georgiou
Sophia Gordon
Talia Lee
Sloane Maa
Fiona McIntyre
Sofia Mihai
Giovanna Pascale

Their accomplishments remind us that HARID students are developing both as artists and as scholars.

National Honor Society Inductees

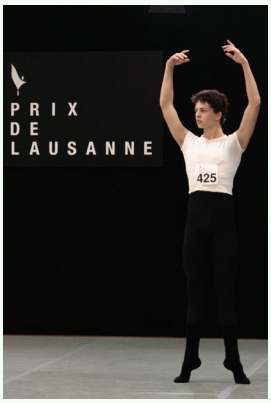
HARID's 2025 Summer Intensive

2026 Summer Intensive, June 22–July 17

HARID's Summer Intensive continues to attract exceptional young dancers from across the country and around the world. During January and February, our faculty and director traveled to fifteen cities to conduct auditions. Although severe winter weather forced the cancellation of four auditions, interest in the program remains strong.

We have already received applications from many promising dancers and look forward to welcoming a new group of talented students in June. The Summer Intensive introduces aspiring dancers to HARID's training and often provides the first step toward future professional careers.

Prix de Lausanne



Nathan at the Prix de Lausanne

In January, HARID senior Nathan Lachenmayer traveled to Switzerland with his teacher Meelis Pakri to compete in the Prix de Lausanne, one of the most prestigious international ballet competitions for young dancers.

Throughout the week, Nathan distinguished himself in daily classes and rehearsals, earning the attention of the judges and fellow participants. Although he was not selected as a finalist, he represented HARID well with his artistry, discipline, and professionalism.

Following the competition, Nathan remained in Europe to take classes and audition for several ballet companies. We are happy to report that he has already received several opportunities that promise to provide an exciting beginning to what we believe will be a successful professional career.

HARID Welcomes New Students

Saku and Rosabel enrolled in January

This January we were delighted to welcome two new freshmen to the HARID community. Saku Kudo, from Tokyo, Japan, and Rosabel Beaumont, from Ada, Michigan, joined our Ballet I class under the guidance of faculty member Victoria Schneider.

Students who arrive mid-year often bring fresh energy and perspectives to our studios, and we are thrilled to see them already becoming part of the close-knit HARID community.

Welcome

Celebrating the Class of 2026

Ten seniors will graduate from HARID during our Commencement and Awards Dinner on May 26. Please join us in congratulating the members of the Class of 2026:

Miranda Bowen
Luciana Choy Lu
Sophia Gordon
Pin-Han Huang
Nathan Lachenmayer
Saydee McBain
Fina Sai
Haruno Sasaki
Izadora Soares
Koyuki Taguchi

Congratulations and best wishes to the Class of 2026!

These students represent years of dedication, discipline, and artistic growth. Many will soon begin careers with professional companies around the world. The opportunities they have received at HARID are made possible through the generosity of supporters who believe in the future of these young artists.

Spring Performances, May 22, 23 & 24

HARID's Spring Performances are the culmination of a year of intense study and artistic growth. This year's program will feature a rich and varied selection of classical and contemporary works, including:

- The Garland Dance from Act I of *The Sleeping Beauty*, featuring a vibrant corps de ballet dancing to Tchaikovsky's grand waltz.
- The Pas d'esclave from *Le Corsaire*, an exhilarating pas de deux that will showcase HARID's advanced students.
- The premiere of *You Must Remember This*, Mark Godden's new ballet inspired by *Casablanca*.
- Excerpts from the classical jewel *Paquita*, featuring a principal couple, the renowned Pas de Trois, and a striking corps de ballet.

We hope you will join us at the Countess de Hoernle Theatre in Boca Raton on May 22, 23, or 24 to celebrate the extraordinary work of our dancers.

Scan to Purchase

Tickets: $40 and $35
Online: harid.edu/performances
Phone: 561-998-8038
In person: HARID Ticket Office
2285 Potomac Road, Boca Raton
(Weekdays, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.)

Excerpts from Paquita *will close the show.*

Alumni Update

Emery Meroni (Class of 2022), presently a dancer with the Milwaukee Ballet, has been selected to participate in the Helsinki International Ballet Competition in Finland, May 27–June 5.

Emery Meroni (Class of 2022)

Accreditation Renewed

We are pleased to share that HARID's accreditation has been renewed for a ten-year period by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Precollegiate Arts Schools (ACCPAS).

This rigorous process, which began in the fall of 2025, involved a comprehensive evaluation of both our academic curriculum and our professional ballet training. The renewal affirms HARID's continued commitment to providing students with the highest level of education and artistic preparation.

Your Support Makes This Possible

HARID remains the only tuition-free boarding school of its kind in the United States. While students do not pay tuition, fees for room and board remain a significant challenge for many families. Gifts to HARID's Annual Fund provide essential financial assistance that allows talented young dancers, regardless of financial circumstances, to continue their training and pursue their dreams.

Your generosity helps sustain the environment in which these students grow as artists, scholars, and future leaders in the dance world. Thank you for supporting HARID and the extraordinary young dancers who study with us.

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

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