

# The North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble

*presents*

## STEP IN TIME

### **Artistic Directors**

Gene Medler

Caroline Vance

### **Guest Artist**

Martin "Tre" Dumas III

### **Live Band**

John Hanks - Drums

Robbie Link - Bass

Mark Wells - Keys

### **Company**

Krishna Beattie  
Katie Bermeo\*  
Iris Blanton-Parke  
Caroline Brodie  
Emma Butler  
Casey Dwyer  
Makayla Graybeal  
Kevin Higgins  
Izzy Jackson  
Eliza Jennings  
Isabella Kenoyer  
Colleen Kinsella

Jason Kinsella  
Kavi Kurup  
Daphne Layfield  
Kallista Mela  
Kailee Midgette  
Emma Mitchell  
Chloe Moodra  
Anna Naftel  
Ela Narayan  
Zubin Narayan  
Sophia Rauda\*

Kari Riggins\*  
Josephine Rustay  
Kinley Sayed  
Rebecca Shank  
Channing Smith  
Carter Strong  
Dylan Szuch  
Ava Rose Turek  
Annabel Vance\*  
Sadie Vaughan  
Chuanchuan Zhang  
Talya Ziya

\*Graduating Senior

# ACT I

## **Coles Stroll & Shim Sham**

*Take the "A" Train* (Billy Strayhorn)

"Coles Stroll" choreographed by Charles "Honi" Coles

"Shim Sham" choreographed by Leonard Reed and Willie Bryant

This dance consists of two traditional pieces of choreography. The first is the Coles Stroll, choreographed in the 1950's by Charles "Honi" Coles. The second is the Shim Sham, created in the 1930's by Leonard Reed and Willie Bryant. The Shim Sham is affectionately referred to as tap dancers' "national anthem." The Coles Stroll is always danced to the Duke Ellington/Billy Strayhorn tune "Take the 'A' Train" and the introduction is: "If you can walk, you can dance..."

## **Buck and Wing**

*Yes Sir, That's my Baby* (Gus Kahn and Walter Donaldson)

Traditional steps arranged by Josh Hilberman, 2006

## **My Own House Waltz**

*My Own House Waltz* (traditional)

Choreographed by Ira Bernstein, 1992

Violin- Dylan Szuch

## **Isicathulo**

*A capella*

Choreographed by James Kelly Green III

**Vocal Stylings of Julianne Vance** (Saturday) and **Lily Vance** (Sunday)

## **Stair Dance**

*Cute* (Neil Hefti; arranged by Jerry Kalaf)

Choreographed by Steve Zee, 2002

## **Positively Dianne**

*Ac-cent-tchu-ate the Positive* (Harold Arlen and Johnny Mercer)

Choreographed by Dianne Walker, 2003

## **Never Never**

*Never Never* (SBTRKT)

Choreographed by Star Dixon, 2016

## **Concerto for Two Violins and Cello in D Minor**

*Concerto for Two Violins and Cello in D Minor* (Vivaldi)

Choreographed by Derick K. Grant, 2010

## **Song For My Father**

*Song For My Father* (Horace Silver)

Choreographed by Margaret Morrison, 1999

## **St. Patrick's Day in the Morning**

*St. Patrick's Day in the Morning* (traditional)

Violin- Dylan Szuch

Traditional steps arranged by Jan and Eddie Owens, 1988

## **Taiko**

Traditional Japanese drumming

Concept by Gene Medler, 2011

*Taiko, which means "drum" in Japanese, has a long and rich history. Japanese villagers used the drums to communicate, motivate troops, and call in fisherman from the sea. Much of the movement and form used in taiko comes from the martial arts, festival dances and movements of everyday life, such as hauling fishing nets, pushing a car, or planting rice.*

*In this dance, the two drummers represent Japanese fishermen. Their movements symbolize the hauling of fishing nets out to sea as they take turns casting out their nets and catching fish. As the tap dancers emerge, the rhythms of other cultures and American tap dancing are woven together, much like the intricate weaving of Japanese fishing nets.*

## **Guest Artist: Tre Dumas**

### **Night Dream**

*Such Sweet Thunder* (Duke Ellington)  
Choreographed by Melinda Sullivan, 2011

### **Route 66**

*Route 66* (Nat King Cole)  
Choreographed by Gene Medler, 1990

### **Bluegrass Suite**

*Hard to Love* (Old Crow Medicine Show)  
*Bullfrog Shuffle* (Bela Fleck and Mark Schatz)  
*Shadow Ridge* (Chris Thile)  
Choreographed by Michelle Dorrance, 2005

**- Intermission -**

## **ACT II**

### **Tubular**

A cappella  
Choreographed by Nicholas Van Young, 2014

### **Trash Talk**

A cappella  
Choreographed by Nicholas Van Young, 2013

### **Sing Sing Sing**

*Sing, Sing, Sing* (Composed by Louis Prima; Gene Krupa Big Band & Anita O'Day; Musical arrangement by the band)  
Choreographed by Ayodele Casel, 2010

### **Opus 1**

*Opus 1* (Tommy Dorsey Orchestra; arranged by Sy Oliver)  
Choreographed by Harold Cromer, 2006

## **Traditional Copasetic Soft Shoe**

*Me and My Shadow* (Dave Dreyer, Al Jolson, and Billy Rose; Vocals by Josephine Rustay, Lily Vance, and Julianne Vance)  
*Serenade in Blue* (Harry Warren and Mack Gordon)  
Choreographed by Brenda Bufalino, 1999

## **Step It Up and Go**

*Jitterbug Rag* (Blind Boy Fuller)  
Choreographed by Ruth Pershing and John Dee Holeman, 1993

## **From Me to You**

*From Me to You* (McCartney/Lennon-Beatles; Bobby McFerrin)  
Choreographed by Martin "Tre" Dumas, 2008

## **Audrey**

*Audrey* (Dave Brubeck and Paul Desmond)  
Choreographed by Ayodele Casel, 2005

## **White Table Act**

Makayla Graybeal, Josephine Rustay, Carter Strong

## **Sound and Color**

*Sound and Color* (Alabama Shakes)  
Choreographed by Dani Borak, 2019

## **Musical Stylings of Dylan Szuch and Josephine Rustay**

**The Machine** - *Extraordinary Machine* (Fiona Apple)

**The Rag** - *St. Louis Cemetery Blues* (Squirrel Nut Zippers)

Choreographed by Michelle Dorrance, 2010-2011

## **doom doom bop**

*A cappella*

Choreographed by Michael Minery, 1997

*The End*

# Step In Time Choreographers

**Brenda Bufalino** performs and teaches throughout the United States and abroad. She has appeared as a guest soloist in such prestigious arenas as Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, the Apollo Theater, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Kennedy Center. A trailblazer in the renaissance of jazz and tap dance, she is currently the artistic director and choreographer of both the American Tap Dance Orchestra and the International Tap Dance Orchestra, and has been awarded numerous fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts. "For sheer tap brilliance, no one can compare with the remarkable Brenda Bufalino, a superb technician who lets you hear each tapped phrase." (Dance Magazine) "Brenda Bufalino is one of the greatest female dancers that ever lived." (Gregory Hines)

**Ayodele Casel**, a native New Yorker, trained at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and William Esper's professional acting program in NYC. Most recently, Ayodele was a featured soloist in "Imagine Tap!" and is developing her own work "Diary of a Tap Dancer." Television and film credits include "Third Watch", "Law & Order," "The Jamie Foxx Show" and "Bojangles" starring Gregory Hines. She has performed at The White House, Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, and Madison Square Garden. Ayodele has appeared on the cover of Dance Spirit, American Theater Magazine and The Village Voice. She has worked and performed with the greatest tap dancers and companies including the late great Gregory Hines, Jazz Tap Ensemble, American Tap Dance Orchestra, and Savion Glover as the only female member of his company N.Y.O.T.s. Her work has been presented on stages throughout NYC and the world.

**Harold Cromer** was born in New York City, and began his 50-year career as a tap dancer on roller skates at the Hudson Guild in Hell's Kitchen. He made his Broadway debut with Bert Lahr, Ethel Merman (later replaced by Gypsy Rose Lee), and Betty Grable in DuBarry Was a Lady. Mr. Cromer later performed around the world as a member of the well-known song and dance comedy team, Stump and Stumpy, with James Cross. They appeared in leading theaters and night clubs

**Harold Cromer continued)** with Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra, Billie Holiday, and Count Basie. Stump and Stumpy also toured with Nat Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, The Ink Spots, Stan Kenton, and Sophie Tucker, among others. In the late 1950's, Mr. Cromer became the Master of Ceremonies of Rock and Roll's The Biggest Show of Stars, introducing such talents as Buddy Holly, Paul Anka, Bobby Darin, Fats Domino, Chubby Checker, Frankie Avalon, Chuck Berry, Aretha Franklin, and Marvin Gaye. Mr. Cromer returned to Broadway in 1978 in The American Dance Machine as a guest soloist, which later toured many cities in the U.S., Japan, and Europe.

**Star Dixon**, an original principal dancer of world-renowned tap company, MADD Rhythms, is starting to make a name for herself as a solo dancer. She has taught and performed at such festivals as The L.A. Tap Fest, Chicago Human Rhythm Project, Detroit Motorcity Tap Fest, and MADD Rhythms' own Chicago Tap Fest. She made her debut teaching and performing overseas in Brazil at Floripa Tap 2014 and has been featured in Dance Spirit Magazine twice (Artist On the Rise and Speed Demon), The Chicago Reader, and independent film The Rise and Fall of Miss Thang, starring Dormeshia Sumbry Edwards. She has been a guest artist with Jason Samuels Smith's company ACGI performing at the COCA St Louis festival and in a 20's themed variety show directed by R. Kelly. Star is currently on staff at numerous dance studios around the city of Chicago.

**Michelle Dorrance**, founder and artistic director of Dorrance Dance, is one of the most sought after tap dancers of her generation and "one of the most imaginative tap choreographers working today" (The New Yorker). A 2015 MacArthur Fellow, 2014 Alpert Award Winner, and 2013 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award Winner, Michelle performs, teaches and choreographs throughout the world. Mentored by Gene Medler, Michelle grew up performing with the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble and has since performed to rave reviews with "STOMP," Manhattan Tap, Savion Glover's "Ti Dii," JazzTap Ensemble, Barbara Duffy & Co, Rumba Tap, Derick Grant's "Imagine Tap" and Jason Samuels Smith's "Chasing the Bird." She holds a BA from NYU and teaches on faculty at Broadway Dance Center.

**Derick K. Grant**, a native of Boston, has been tapping for 27 years. He was an original company member and dance captain for Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk at The Joseph Papp Public Theater/New York Shakespeare Festival and on Broadway. Derick recreated Savion Glover's choreography and starred in the role of "'da beat" for the show's first national tour. Derick began his training at the age of two at The Roxbury Center for the Performing Arts, and by the time he was eight years old, he had learned the "hoofin" style of tap from the master tap dancer Dianne Walker. He is the recipient of the Princess Grace Award for Upcoming Young Artists as well as The Helen Hayes Award (Washington D.C.) for Outstanding featured Actor for his role in Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk. Derick created Imagine Tap which had a successful run in Chicago, and A Night Out: Tap! which toured the country for three months. Of his latest choreography and performance with Jazz Tap Ensemble at the Joyce Theater in NYC, The New York Times said, "Mr. Grant let gusts of rhythm propel him with remarkable velocity!"

**John Dee Holeman** is among the best of Durham's great blues musicians. Mr. Holeman's talents in music and storytelling have been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts and North Carolina Heritage awards. Ruth Pershing has traveled across the South learning steps and styles from numerous dancers. She used a year-long grant from the North Carolina Arts Council to study buck dancing with John Dee Holeman. She collaborated with Mike Seeger in the video documentary Talking Feet, which was funded by the Smithsonian Institution and the National Endowment for the Arts. Ms. Pershing performs and choreographs for the Cane Creek Cloggers, calls dance, and plays a little banjo and fiddle.



**Gene Medler** founded the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble in 1983. His previous teaching credits include Elon University, Duke University, and Meredith College. He is on the faculty at The Ballet School of Chapel Hill and has taught master classes at the St. Louis Tap Festival, the American Dance Festival, the Chicago Human Rhythm Project, Tap City in New York City, the Saratov Music Conservatory (Russia), Tap Encontro (Rio de Janeiro), The Hot Shoe Show (Vienna), Feet Beet (Helsinki), the Internationales Steptanz- Festival (Berlin) and the Heidelberger Steptanz Festival (Heidelberg). Gene has also taught at the Broadway Dance Center in New York City. Selected performances include solos in Duke Ellington's "Nutcracker," Ellington's "David Danced," "Rising Stars of Tap" (Colorado Dance Festival), and "The Great Tap Stars of Tap Reunion" (Boston) as well as an appearance with the Squirrel Nut Zippers. He has been seen nationwide in the PBS special, "Juba! Masters of Tap and Percussive Dance." Gene has received grants from the Durham Arts Council, the North Carolina Arts Council, and the Orange County Arts Commission. He has been featured in such publications as Dance Teacher Now, Carolina Alumni Review, Southern Living, and Our State. Gene has received many honors for his contributions to dance and his achievements as a dance artist. These include: "Tar Heel of the Week" from The News and Observer; an Indy Arts Award from The Independent; the North Carolina Dance Alliance Annual Award; and the JUBA Award from the Chicago Human Rhythm Project, the Academy Award of the tap dance world. Gene started dancing at the age of 28 and was quickly bitten by the tap dance bug. He was entranced by the combination of movement, rhythm, and sound. He started the ensemble because he wanted to offer his students more opportunities to perform and wanted to expand his own teaching and choreography. After nearly 40 years, he still loves mentoring young dancers and is thrilled with the journey NCYTE has taken him on.

**Michael Minery** has established himself as one of the finest young tap dancers working today. Featured in the acclaimed touring company Manhattan Tap, he has performed throughout the United States and Canada. He is a regular soloist at New York City's Supper Club and was a principal dancer with the New Jersey Tap Ensemble. A dancer who has won numerous national competitions, Mr. Minery teaches in his home state of New Jersey and at workshops throughout the United States. He was assistant choreographer to Heather Cornell for "The Tap Suite" written by Ray Brown, which was premiered by Manhattan Tap at Lincoln Center with the Ray Brown Trio.

**Margaret Morrison** is a tap soloist, choreographer, and actress. She has been featured in tap festivals in Brazil, Germany, and across the U.S. and has performed her one-woman show in New York and Florida. Since 1993, she has collaborated on Pulsation, a feminist performance ensemble. She served as workshop coordinator for Tap City 2001. Ms. Morrison teaches classes that focus on swinging tap choreography, the art of improvisation, and tap history. Ms. Morrison is on the faculties of Barnard College, NYU's Tisch School of the Arts Musical Theater Program at CAP21, and Broadway Dance Center. She is a founding member of the American Tap Dance Orchestra, directed by renowned tap artist Brenda Bufalino. Since 1986, she has performed with ATDO throughout Europe, Bermuda, and the U.S., appearing at Lincoln Center, Dance Theater Workshop, the Joyce Theater, and the Apollo. She appeared on the PBS special Tap Dance in America with Gregory Hines and a national commercial for Seagrams. The New York Times called her an "exciting virtuoso dancer," and her choreography "the witty highlight of the evening."

**Jan and Eddie Owens** are members of the Cane Creek Cloggers, and have been members of the Apple Chill Cloggers and the Step Cats. They are former pupils of Donnie Golden, who is one of only two Americans to win the Irish Step Dancing Competition.

**Leonard Reed** and dance partner, **Willie Bryant**, were popular dancers in the 1920s who created the Shim Sham, known as the tap dancers' national anthem. Reed began in entertainment as a Charleston dance specialist. He learned to tap by watching other performers and soon became a regular at the Hoofers Club in Harlem, where dancers such as Bill Robinson traded steps and styles with other dancers. After forming a partnership with Willie Bryant, they created a new finale for their show, a step of simple heel-and-toe combinations danced to four eight-bar choruses. They called it "Goofus," but it became known as the Shim Sham after a club where they regularly appeared.

**Melinda Sullivan** - On the silver screen, her credits include "Glee," "So You Think You Can Dance," "Dancing with the Stars," "As the World Turns," "Star Search," "One on One," "G.I. Joe: Retaliation," "It's Complicated," and "Tap Heat." Melinda was also featured opposite Landon Pigg in his music video, "Falling in Love at a Coffee Shop." She appeared as one of the Top 11 Finalists on season seven of Fox Television's "So You Think You Can Dance, taking tap dance the farthest it has gone in the show's history. As a hooper, she tours with Emmy Award winner Jason Samuels Smith's tap company, Anybody Can Get It, including sold out performances at Jacob's Pillow, NY City Center, and the Sadler's Wells Theatre in London. In musical theatre, Melinda toured in the original stage production of Disney's "High School Musical," directed by Tony nominee Jeff Calhoun. Other theatre credits include the 25th Anniversary tour of "Cats," Frank Wildhorn's "Wonderland," and numerous Town Hall "Broadway by the Year" performances in New York City as a soloist and choreographer. Recently, Melinda has toured internationally with the New York Song and Dance Company, traveling to the Middle East as an ambassador of the arts for the U.S. Embassy as well as Jazz at Lincoln Center.

**Dianne “Lady Di” Walker**, a pioneer in tap dancing’s resurgence, has a 40-year career spanning Broadway, television, film and international jazz concerts and tap festivals. Savion Glover and his contemporaries affectionately call her, “Aunt Dianne,” acknowledging her unique role as mentor, teacher and confidante. Dianne performed in both the original Paris Production of Black and Blue as well as the Broadway production, where she was a featured dancer, Dance Captain and Assistant to the Directors. Film credits include the movie Tap, the PBS special, Great Performances: Tap Dance in America, JUBA! (WTTW), and Songs Unwritten. Dianne has been dubbed the “Ella Fitzgerald” of Tap Dance. For two years, Dianne directed the Tap Program at Jacobs Pillow and is presently Artistic Advisor to the Program. Holding a Master’s degree in Education, she has taught at numerous universities including Harvard, MIT, Wesleyan, Bates, UCLA, and Williams College. Dianne is a participant on many educational task forces, and sits on numerous boards throughout the dance community. Dianne has received the “Living Treasure in American Dance” Award from Oklahoma City University, The FloBert Award, The Hoofers Award, The Gregory Hines Humanitarian Award, the prestigious Dance Magazine Award, and was the 2008 USA Rose Fellow. Dianne has been generously mentored by many musicians and Tap Dance legends throughout her career, notably Leon Collins and Jimmy Slyde. Dianne has worked with Savion Glover, Jimmy Slyde, Buster Brown, Gregory Hines, Honi Coles, Cholly Atkins, Tina Pratt, Barry Harris, Max Roach, Alan Dawson, Major Holley, Ruth Brown, Nicholas Brothers, Peg Leg Bates, Arthur Duncan and many others.

**Nicholas Van Young** is a New York-based dancer, musician and choreographer. He performed the lead role for both the touring and New York-based versions of the Off Broadway sensation STOMP, acted as rehearsal director for the American tour, and is grateful to have spent more than nine years with the show. Nicholas began his professional career at the age of 16 with Tapestry Dance Company of Austin, TX. Under the direction of Acia Gray and Deirdre Strand, he eventually moved to the positions of principal dancer and resident choreographer. While in Austin, he was awarded "Best Male Dancer" in 2001 and "Best Choreography" in 2003 by the Austin Critics Council. Since moving to New York, Nicholas has performed with Manhattan Tap, Rumba Tap, "Hoofing to Hitting" with Jared Grimes, "Jazz in Motion" with Sarah and Leela Petronio in Paris, and most recently with Michelle Dorrance's company, "Dorrance Dance," in her critically acclaimed work, Sound Space, about which Brian Seibert of The New York Times wrote "But the height of virtuosity came in a late body-percussion solo by Nicholas Young. Snapping, clapping, stomping and clicking his tongue, Mr. Young played the church with his body, a one-man band juggling two or three rhythms at once, developing a sophisticated composition within Ms. Dorrance's." Nicholas has been a featured percussionist with Cyro Baptista's fusion Brazilian ensemble "Beat The Donkey," and a drummer for indie pop star Darwin Deez, touring throughout North and South America, Europe, and Japan. His original compositions and production were included in the tap dance documentary "Tap or Die." Nicholas is on faculty at Broadway Dance Center and is a master teacher of tap and body percussion for festivals worldwide.

**Steve Zee** has danced with Gregory Hines and the Nicholas Brothers and has shared the bill with other tap notables, including Savion Glover, Arthur Duncan, Leonard Reed, Dianne Walker, Sam Weber, and Fred Strickler. He has been a featured soloist in the Jazz Tap Ensemble and a member of Rhapsody In Taps. He has performed and taught across the United States, Canada, Brazil, and Germany and has been an artist in residence at the Chicago Human Rhythm Project. Steve was previously an original cast member in the American premiere of the musical Hot Shoe Shuffle. Steve is currently on faculty in the dance department of Cal State Long Beach, teaches for the Gabriella Axelrad Education Foundation in Los Angeles, and is the Executive Director of the nonprofit arts organization LA Ironworks.

## **Guest Artist: Martin "Tre" Dumas III**

Martin "Tre" Dumas III is a tap dancer and choreographer hailing from Chicago, IL. Mr. Dumas received most of his early dance (tap & jazz) training and his first teaching experience (at age 16) at Tommy Sutton's Mayfair Academy of fine Arts on Chicago's south side. He graduated from (HBC) Clark Atlanta University with a B.A. in Mass Media Arts with a concentration in Speech and Theatre Arts. In 1995 he had his first tap festival teaching experience at the Chicago Human Rhythm Project as a representative of Mayfair and Mr. Sutton's tap legacy. This led to Mr. Dumas being offered and accepting an opportunity to reprise the role of Daddy Bates in a national touring revival of Broadway's The Tap Dance Kid where he first encountered Brill Barrett. Later on, together as two thirds of Steppin' Out, they performed and taught at the St. Louis Tap Festival, Detroit Tap Festival, and (performed at) The Democratic National Convention among many other performance opportunities. Mr. Dumas was featured in the North American, and European tours of Riverdance for three years. Mr. Dumas rejoined Brill Barrett in January 2001, helping him develop his vision (of a lasting institution to train and create work for tap dancers in Chicago) into the internationally renowned company, M.A.D.D Rhythms. He also co-founded the M.A.D.D. Rhythms Tap Academy later that year. From September 2001-February 2002 Mr. Dumas lived in Stuttgart Germany during which time he conceived and implemented a complete teen through senior citizen tap program teaching five days a week at the New York City Dance School and performing and sitting in with live musicians at several Stuttgart jazz and R&B clubs by night. Together over the past six years, Brill & Tre' have trained a formidable crew of young dancers who are all individually beginning to make their own marks in "the dance." They also built a thriving young (tap specific) dance school at a beautiful facility in inner city Chicago. In 2005, Mr. Dumas (along with Brill Barrett and Lisa LaTouche) co-founded The Chicago Tap Summit. Recently, Mr. Dumas has stepped down from his position as M.A.D.D. Rhythms co-artistic and technical director. In the summer of 2006, He was a featured soloist portraying a fiery tap dancing preacher in David Danced in director/choreographer Derick Grant's tap musical extravaganza, Imagine Tap. Most recently, he was honored to become the newest "extended member" of Jason Samuels Smith's ACGI performing in London at Sadler's Wells. Mr. Dumas has taught and performed extensively throughout the continental U.S., Canada and Germany as well as other parts of Europe, and South America. Aside from his beautiful daughter, Lauren, his greatest joy lies in dancing and sharing his love and knowledge of "the art-form" with others and receiving the same from his elders, peers and yes his students as well.

# 2021-2022 NCYTE Company

## \*Graduating Senior

**Krishna Beattie** is 10 years old, and he is from Carrboro, NC. He has been tap dancing for 5 years. This is his second year with NCYTE. Krishna also enjoys baseball, playing piano, Scouts BSA, playing outside, and engineering small simple things such as fans out on broken toys. He is excited to perform at Carolina Theater for the first time.

**\*Katie Bermeo** is a senior at Eno River Academy. This is her sixth year on NCYTE and she is very happy to be part of the group. In the past fifteen years she has done many forms of dance but tap is her favorite. When she is not dancing Katie runs on her school's cross country team. She has enjoyed her time in NCYTE and thanks Gene and Caroline for all their help and advice.

**Iris Blanton-Parke** is 15 years old and in 9th grade at Riverside High School in Durham, NC. She has been tap dancing for 12 years, and this is her 4th year in NCYTE. When she's not tapping, she enjoys reading, cooking, engineering, spending time with friends and family, and playing with her parakeet, Gus. She is very grateful to her mom, dad, and twin brother for all their support and for driving her to all her rehearsals and shows. She also wants to thank Ms. Robin, Gene, and Caroline for all the amazing opportunities that have been open to her thanks to all their wonderful teaching and guidance.

**Caroline Brodie** is a sophomore in high school and has been a member of NCYTE for eight years. Caroline plans to pursue a professional career in tap dance and is extremely grateful for all that NCYTE and Gene have given her over the years. When she is not dancing she enjoys listening to music, cooking, and making art. She appreciates all that Caroline, Zoe, and Gene do to keep NCYTE running and to provide opportunities to its members.

**Emma Butler** is a 16 year old dancer that lives in Mebane, NC. She has been tap dancing for about 5 years, and just recently joined NCYTE last year. She is a Junior in high school and is excited to continue to dance with NCYTE and learn and grow as a tap dancer until she graduates. In her free time she likes to crochet, play saxophone, draw, do yoga, and sing. Emma heard about NCYTE from a previous member, and also saw the CT show that she was in. Because of this Emma decided to join NCYTE because she wanted to grow as a tap dancer, and do what they were doing on that stage in the Carolina Theater. Emma is so excited to perform at the Carolina Theater for the first time with this Ensemble, and continue to experiment, grow, and perform with NCYTE.

**Casey Dwyer** is a 15 year old dancer currently living in Durham, NC. She has been dancing since she was about 7 years old, and is in her 2nd year with the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble. Her goals for the rest of the time she is in NCYTE are to explore different kinds of dance to expand her personal style, and to keep practicing so she can continue to grow. In her free time, she likes to crochet, draw, and spend time with her pet cat, Rosie. Due to COVID-19, she hasn't been in very many shows with NCYTE since she got into the company in the midst of the pandemic, so she is thrilled to finally perform at the Carolina Theater this year with the rest of the ensemble.

**Makayla Graybeal** is 17 years old and in her 8th year at NCYTE. Besides her love for tap, she enjoys singing, writing and hanging out with her lovely friends! She is excited to finally be performing with everyone again, and can't thank Gene and Caroline enough for all their hard work. Enjoy the show:)

**Kevin Higgins** is an 11th grader at East Chapel Hill High School. He started tap dancing at age 5, and this is his 8th year in the company. In addition to tap, Kevin studies modern, ballet, and jazz and is also passionate about choreography. When he is not dancing, Kevin enjoys participating in school clubs like Science Olympiad and playing percussion in band. Kevin would like to thank Gene Medler and Caroline Vance, the directors of NCYTE, for helping him to become a better dancer.



**Izzy Jackson** is a 13 year old dancer from Chapel Hill, NC. She started tap dancing at age 4 at the ballet school, where she continues to dance, and has been in NCYTE for 3 years. She is in 7th grade, and enjoys Math and English, and is nearly fluent in Spanish. When she's not dancing, you can find Izzy listening or playing music, which has been a huge part of her life for as long as she can remember. Izzy is excited for her first show in the Carolina Theatre with NCYTE. She would like to thank her mom and dad, for getting her into tap dance, and supporting her through the years. She can't wait to continue dancing with NCYTE in the future!

**Eliza Jennings** is a 16 year old sophomore from Durham, and she is in her fourth year in NCYTE. Eliza has been tap dancing at The Ballet School of Chapel Hill since she was five years old. In addition to tapping, she enjoys participating in the Junior Interpreter program at Duke Homestead State Historic Site, playing piano, reading, and writing. Eliza is grateful to Gene and Caroline for all of their love and support.

**Isabella Kenoyer** is 16 years old and is in her junior year of highschool. This is her fourth year in NCYTE and she is excited to be back at the Carolina Theatre! When she is not dancing, she enjoys reading, listening to music, and spending time with her friends. She also spends her time singing and acting, since she loves to perform.

**Colleen Kinsella** is a 15 year old tap dancer who has been in NCYTE for 5 years. During her coming years in NCYTE she is excited to expand her tap dance skills, as well as her tap dance history knowledge. In her free time she enjoys playing guitar, and piano, and sees a future in the arts.

**Jason Kinsella** is a twelve-year-old dancer from Durham, NC. Jason has been dancing since he was five. This is his second year dancing with NCYTE. When not dancing, Jason loves to play tennis and golf, ride his bike, draw, play video games, and trade Pokemon cards with his friends.

**Avik Kurup** is a 9 year old dancer from Chapel Hill. He has been tapping for 5 years. While he has loved handing out programs for various NCYTE shows, he is thrilled to be joining his older brother as a first year in the company. He loves listening to music, running, playing piano, football and basketball. He is very excited for his first CT show with his NCYTE family!

**Kavi Kurup** is a 14 yr old dancer from Chapel Hill, NC. He was born in New York City, but moved to North Carolina at an early age. He started tap dancing at age 9, and has been in NCYTE for 4 years. When he is not dancing, Kavi likes to play sports and video games. He is also a runner at Chapel Hill High School. He is looking forward to the future in NCYTE.

**Daphne Layfield** is a 14-year-old homeschooler from Burlington, and this is her fourth year in NCYTE. She started dancing at the Centre of Performing Arts at the age of 3. When she was 11, Daphne began taking classes with Gene Medler at the Ballet School of Chapel Hill. She enjoys many crafts including painting, origami, and embroidery. This is her 6th season singing with the Durham Children's Choir. Daphne appreciates her parents who drive her to so many rehearsals and shows, and all the teachers throughout the years who have encouraged her to do her best.

**Kallista Mela** is a 13 year old dancer from Carrboro, North Carolina. She began tap dancing at the Ballet School at age 7 and has been dancing with NCYTE for 3 years. When she is not dancing Kallista enjoys traveling, baking, painting and spending time with friends. Kallista is grateful for all the new opportunities and experiences she has had during her time at NCYTE and looks forward to continuing to perform with them and being able to grow as a tap dancer.

**Kailee Midgette** is a 16-year-old dancer from Raleigh, NC. She has been dancing since she was 2 years old but didn't pursue tap dance until about age 11. She has been a part of NCYTE for 3 years! She practices other styles of dance at Carolina Dance Center which include: ballet/pointe, contemporary, and hip hop. When she's not dancing, Kailee loves to go out with friends and try new foods. Kailee is always excited to perform and she's thankful she can create new memories with her friends at NCYTE!

**Chloe Moodra** is a 15 year old from Chapel Hill. She has danced since she was four, and has done tap dance at the Ballet School since age 7. Chloe started dancing with NCYTE two years ago. She hopes to continue dancing at the Ballet School for as long as she can so she can build and grow her skills and knowledge of this art form. Chloe hasn't performed much with this company because of the pandemic, but is very grateful and excited to be in the Carolina Theater show this year.

**Anna Naftel** is a 12 year old dancer from Chapel Hill, NC. This is her first year as a North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble member. She has been tap dancing since she was about 3 years old and has loved it ever since. Anna enjoys many styles of dance such as jazz, hip hop, ballet, and of course tap. Aside from dance Anna likes to run, play tennis, and hangout with her friends. Anna cannot wait to learn more NCYTE dances, improve her tap skills, be in shows, and get to know the NCYTE family better!

**Ela Narayan** is a Chapel Hill native and has been a part of NCYTE for 7 years. She is 14 years old, and a rising junior in high school. When she's not tapping, she enjoys drawing, watching anime, doing ballet, and playing the guitar and viola. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**Zubin Narayan** is a 15 year old Sophomore from Chapel Hill. He has been dancing for 11 years, and has been part of NCYTE for 7 years. He also enjoys ballet, tennis, and hacking Zion's mainframe. He is excited to be performing again after 2 years, and hopes you enjoy the show.

**\*Sophia Rauda** is a 17-year-old senior at East Chapel Hill High School in North Carolina. Sophia has been dancing since the age of five at the Chapel Hill Ballet School, learning and growing as a dancer under Aimee Burke, Robin Vail, and Gene Medler. Aside from tap dancing, Sophia enjoys playing tennis, hanging out with friends, and taking an avid part in her community. She is excited to continue dancing in college, and wants to take what she has learned from the art form out into the world. Sophia wants to thank NYCTE for an amazing six years in the company and her Mom for giving her a reason to dance and express herself, as she would not be here without the support and encouragement.

**\*Kari Riggins** is 17 years old and a senior at Ashley High School in Wilmington, NC. She has been tap dancing since she was 5 with the Wilmington Conservatory of Fine Arts. Kari also enjoys other genres of dance such as ballet, jazz, modern, and contemporary. She is excited to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall. Kari would like to thank the whole NCYTE family for being so welcoming to her during her four years in the company. A special thank you to Gene Medler, Caroline Vance, Mrs. Cory, her Mom, and her Dad for this wonderful opportunity and for their endless support and wisdom.

**Josephine Rustay** is from Holly Springs, NC and is currently a sophomore at Holly Springs High School. This is her 5th year with the company. When she's not tapping, you can find her swimming, running Track and Field where she does pole vault, high jump, and hurdles, singing and writing music or playing the ukulele, guitar, or piano. She also loves to read, play with her three dogs, and spend time with her family and friends. She would like to thank Gene, Caroline and all of the NCYTE family for sharing their expertise and for all of their support and encouragement over the years.

**Kinley Sayed** is a 9 year old dancer from Hillsborough, NC. She started tap dancing at age 5, and this is her very first year in NCYTE. Kinley loves spending her free time laughing with friends, exploring creeks, and playing with her 3 siblings. She has a great love of all critters and especially enjoys helping care for the foster kitties and puppies that are often in her home. Kinley would like to thank everyone in the company for welcoming her with open arms and hearts. She is thrilled to be starting this journey with NCYTE and is so proud to be part of the NCYTE family!

**Rebecca Shank** is a 10th grader at East Chapel Hill High School. Rebecca started taking ballet at the age of three but is currently solely focused on tap dance, which she has participated in since the age of seven. Outside of tap dance she enjoys singing and playing the piano. This is Rebecca's seventh year in the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble.

**Channing Smith** is in the 11th grade at Durham School of the Arts (DSA). She started dancing at Barriskill Dance Theater School when she was 3 years old and has been a member of NCYTE for 2 years. When she is not dancing, Channing helps care for the kittens her family fosters and is an active member of the DSA chorus and photography programs. She can't wait for her first Carolina Theater show!

**Carter Strong** is 17 and in his 8th year of NCYTE. He attends East Chapel Hill High School, where he sings, plays French horn, and starts on the school frisbee team. He enjoys tapping and hanging with his friends every Saturday. He would like you all to enjoy the show.

**Dylan Szuch** is a 16 year old tap dancer and musician from Wilmington, NC. He has been tap dancing for 7 years. He spreads his tap dance energy amongst teaching and taking class at his local studio, Techniques In Motion, attending and dancing for his 4th year at NCYTE, being a mentee of Derick Grant on improvisation, as well as being a mentee of Brenda Bufalino. Along with his professional training he loves to listen and practice to jazz music with his violin and tap shoes, dance with musicians at live jazz jams, and produce projects and shows with his peers. Dylan plans to one day turn tap dance into his professional career and to continue dancing as a lifelong endeavor. In his free time, Dylan enjoys experimenting with the guitar, producing ambient music with modular synthesis, painting in the style of Bob Ross, researching and talking about philosophy, and anything else that makes him question existence.

**\*Annabel Vance** is eighteen years old and is a senior at Jordan High School. This is her tenth and last year in NCYTE and cannot believe how fast her years spent in the company have flown by. Outside of tap, Annabel enjoys playing field hockey, going to concerts, and being creative. She would like to thank her three sisters, Caroline, Julianne, and Lily for all being great role models to look up to in the world of tap. Annabel would also like to thank Gene for not only teaching her how to be a better tap dancer, but also a better person, and for being the best mentor anyone could ask for. Lastly, she would like to thank everyone for attending the show and hopes you enjoy it as much as she and her fellow seniors have enjoyed putting it together!

**Sadie Vaughan** is a second year NCYTE member from Davidson, North Carolina. She's 16 and is a junior in high school. She's passionate in all things chemistry, music, and visual arts. She also does various other styles like contemporary and jazz and loves to teach little ones to dance. When Sadie is not training in dance, you can find her outside painting, seeking out a new kind of insect, or learning a new language.

**Rongchuan Zhang** is a 12 year old boy who is in 7th grade. He has been tap dancing for 7 years, and been in the company of NCYTE for 3. He plays the clarinet and piano, and takes karate lessons. His favorite color is blue, and he enjoys anything Pokemon. Ever since he was 3, he has had a love for animals. His dream is to become an oceanographer when he grows up, so he can swim with animals.

**Talya Ziya** is a 11 year old dancer from Chapel Hill, NC. She started tap dancing at age 7, and has been in NCYTE for 3 years. She plays piano and has many different interests. Her dream job is to be a lawyer or psychologist. Talya is excited to be dancing at the Carolina Theatre for the first time. She would like to acknowledge all the friends she has made and all that she has learned. Even during COVID she is ready to come back stronger than ever.