

# Orchesis Dance Company Presents



## ORCHESIS 22/23

Friday, November 11 - 8 pm

Saturday, November 12 - 2 pm and 8 pm

Chappelear Drama Center

Welcome to “Orchesis 22/23” presented by the Orchesis Dance Company! This is Ohio Wesleyan's annual faculty led dance concert. It provides students the opportunity to gain choreographic and performance experience. Orchesis is open to students of all majors and levels of dance experience and students look forward to it each year. Thank you for supporting the arts and the scholarly pursuit of dance at OWU!

Follow us on instagram to keep up with our work @owu\_orchesis\_

This show will run approximately 55 minutes with no intermission. We hope you enjoy the show!

Audience members with light sensitivity should be aware that several pieces use intense lighting effects. Please alert an usher if you need assistance.

# Director's Note

Just over 11 weeks ago, an enthusiastic group of dancers and part-time dance faculty gathered in the Jannuzi Dance Studio to kick off fall semester with a dance party and information session. A few days later, we hosted auditions for the concert you're about to witness. And in the weeks since, each choreographer has held rehearsals for their new works. Choreographers and student lighting designers have devised plans to visually support the movement and choreographic visions that come to life on stage. And each week, we met as a full cast for an extended rehearsal to create an ensemble experience for all involved. In total, the program includes new works by six student choreographers and two part-time faculty members, features 16 undergraduate student dancers, and is managed by 10 crew members.

Though "faculty led," this project has been a team effort from the beginning of fall semester. Students did more than attend rehearsals and prepare their moves. Their commitment to the production included serving on committees devoted to community engagement, publicity, social media, swag, and physical conditioning. And students running the backstage aspects of Orchesis have similarly committed to their roles, taking notes and continually improving the elements for which they are responsible. Interim technical director, Justin Miller, built out the stage, mentored student crew members, managed lighting equipment and design, and so much more. And choreographic coaching by part-time dance faculty, Rashana Perks Smith, got the student choreographers from the ideas in their heads to what you ultimately see on the stage.

Finally, you are also part of our team, joining us for the final phase of this project. While the concert is entertaining, I ask you to thoughtfully engage with what you see on stage. The choreographic works are meant to draw you in, to make you think and feel, and to connect you with the physical art form of dance. I know you'll find something to think about.

# Program Order

## *The Liturgy of Muses*

*Choreographer:* Isaiah L. Harris

*Lighting Designer:* Daniel Smith

*Performers:* Brielle DeCarolis, Ali Dix, Grace Frye, Kayla Rush, Isabelle Tinti-Kane

*Music:* “Ha Ya (Eternal Life)” by the Clark Sisters & Mattie Moss Clark

*Program Note:* This choreographic work examines the relationship between identity and spirituality and how the two coexist on stage. This piece is a take on W.E.B Dubois’s “double consciousness” layered with a kind of “triple consciousness.” I’ve asked the dancers to explore their identities, respective “muse,” and one of the five Clark Sisters. The choreographic work pulls from movement from the African Diaspora and liturgical dance found in the Black American church.

## *Kingdom by the Sea*

*Choreographer:* Chloe Williams

*Lighting Designer:* Sam Miller

*Performers:* Kaylen Brandt and Emerson Freas

*Music:* When We Die by Bowling For Soup

*Program Note:* I was inspired to create this piece because of my experience with relationships, whether that be with myself, friends, family, objects, or habits. I’ve struggled with forming healthy relationships my whole life. This dance is my way to examine what it’s like to form relationships, experience loss, move on, and ultimately heal.

## *Odyssey*

*Choreographer:* Grace Frye

*Lighting Designer:* Ran Ye

*Performers:* Ali Dix, Alex Dolph, Kayla Rush, Ellie Smith

*Music:* “Experience (Starkey Remix)” by Ludovico Einaudi

*Program Note:* This is a rhythm tap piece; there is no storyline motivating the movement. Instead, there is a focus on musicality, allowing the dancers the opportunity to present their skills as tap performers and to explore rhythm through time and space. *Odyssey* pushes syncopation and tempo with and against the music to find its journey to the end. As the choreographer, I encourage you, the audience, to be aware of how rhythm and sense of time affects your perception of performance.

### **My, What an Adventure**

*Choreographer:* Brielle DeCarolis

*Performers:* Marcos Crespo, Grace Frye, Alyssa Head, Hannah Moore, and Arie Sanders

*Lighting Designer:* Ami Hartshorne

*Music:* “Healing” by In Love With a Ghost

*Program Note:* I’d like to imagine this piece as a reminder for everyone to have fun. Let go and be young no matter how old you are. Life can get so crazy and when it comes to dancing I am often reminded of being a kid and just messing around on the playground. This is where a lot of my inspiration came from. There are moments in the piece that speak to the dancers and what they love and enjoy! So please enjoy and take a moment to remember how fun the chaos of life can be!

### **Freedom to Individuality**

*Choreographer:* Ali Dix

*Performers:* Maria Colatruglio, Alex Dolph, Kayla Rush, Ellie Smith

*Lighting Designer:* Daniel Smith

*Music:* “Oh Well” by Fleetwood Mac

*Program Note:* This piece is created to allow each dancer the chance to express their individuality through dance. Dancers move throughout the space in quirky, energetic, and freeing movements together but also in the way their body feels is natural. I hope as you watch this piece you feel the individuality and personalities that each of the dancers hold. I inspire you to express your own individuality!

### **An Inquiry**

*Choreographer:* Kayla Rush

*Lighting Designer:* Ran Ye

*Performer:* Alison Dix

*Music:* “Wings 3” by Michael Wall

*Program Note:* This piece is a part of my senior project, titled “Choreography as a Research Lab.” In each rehearsal, a research question was posed to help create and develop movement material and our favorite of those explorations were put together to create this piece. The project will culminate with a final research paper and presentation. This project is rooted in my desire to combine ideas and methodologies from my two majors. While biology and dance may seem entirely unconnected, there are many things that can be applied from one to the other and my experiences in each discipline help to inform the work that I do.

*\*This year’s poster design comes from something created during my choreographic process\**

**This Place Will Outlive You**

*Choreographer:* Isabelle Tinti-Kane

*Lighting Designer:* Sam Miller

*Performers:* Kaylen Brandt, Brielle Decarolis, Alex Dolph, Bella Hintzman

*Music:* “Flowers On The Grave (Orchestral Version)” by The Maine

*Program Note:* This place will outlive you. Countless dancers have walked this stage before tonight—what did they leave behind? What will we leave behind, when we go? Even as our names lapse from memory and our voices are forgotten, perhaps some part of us lingers on. We were here, and we cared, and we danced, like the ones before us did, like the ones after us will. This place will outlive us. But, tonight, we are alive, and so we dance.

**boogie. groove.**

*Choreographer:* Janet Schroeder

*Performers:* Orchesis Dance Company

*Lighting Designer:* Ami Hartshorne

*Music:* “Enter Galactic” by Kid Cudi

*Program Note:* Dancing in the studio with this cast of dancers throughout the Orchesis process has brought so much joy to fall semester. Our time together inspired this dance party.

# Cast and Crew Biographies

**Kaylen Brandt** (Dancer) is a freshman double majoring in Politics and Government and Communication. She is from Chicago, Illinois. This is her first year in Orchesis, but has danced for 13 years at multiple other studios back home. She is extremely excited to be joining Orchesis this year, and hopes you continue to support Ohio Wesleyan's Dance Program!

**Maria Colatruglio** (Dancer) is a freshman International Business major and Finance and Dance minor from Tiffin, Ohio. This is her first year in orchesis, but previously danced for 15 years and competed for 10 years. She is very thankful for the opportunity to do Orchesis and continue my dance career into college.

**Marcos Crespo** (Dancer) is a senior double majoring in Theatre and Communications from San Juan, Puerto Rico. This is his first year in Orchesis and his first time dancing on stage. He previously has been involved in productions taking place at OWU such as *Twelfth Night* (Protestor/Father Topaz), *One Acts, Scenes! 2019*, *Daughters of Leda* (Sky/Swan), *She Kills Monsters* (props head) and the stage reading of *Only Reason* (Jackie). He hopes that everyone will enjoy the show and to keep supporting the Theatre and Dance department!

**Brielle DeCarolis** (Choreographer, Dancer) is a sophomore Zoology major and Dance minor from Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania. This is her second year in orchesis and first as a choreographer. She has participated in "Orchesis 21/22" (Dancer) and "Terpsicorps 21/22" (Dancer). She has also participated in *Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill* (Run Crew). She is Secretary of OWU Rhythms and a Representative of Terpsicorps. She is very excited to showcase all of the work that has been put into this year's show and really hope you have a fun experience with our interactive show!

**Ali Dix** (Assistant to Artistic Director, Choreographer, Dancer) is a junior Dance major with a minor in Theatre from Marion, Ohio. This is her third year in Orchesis and her second year choreographing. This year she will be presenting "Freedom to Individuality", a piece designed to allow dancers to express their own individuality through dance. Previously she has been seen in *She Kills Monsters* (Farrah, Various Monsters) and "Terpsicorps 21/22" (Choreographer, Dancer). Ali is also the President of OWU Rhythms, OWU's student run tap club, and Vice President of Terpsicorps, OWU's student run dance organization. Ali would like to thank you all for coming and to enjoy your chances at individuality!

**Alex Dolph** (Dancer) is a senior Theatre, Dance, and Psychology triple major from Middletown, OH. She has previously been involved in *Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill* (Joni), the staged reading of *Only Reason* (Kerrienne), *She Kills Monsters* (Stage Manager), “We Barely Talk: A Festival of One-Acts” (Director/Light Designer/Sound Designer for “Waiting for a Train”; Robin in “Tornado Warning”), “Orchesis 21/22” (Choreographer/Dancer/Light Designer), *Daughters of Leda* (Persephone), “Twelfth Night, 2020” (Viola/Cesario), “Woyzeck, INC.” (The Doctor), “Orchesis 20/21” (Choreographer/Dancer), *Eurydice* (Loud Stone), and “Orchesis 19/20” (Dancer). She is also the president for Theta Alpha Phi. This is her fourth and final year in Orchesis. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**Johnathan Ellis** (Stage Manager) is a Junior from Columbus, OH. He is double majoring in theatre and communication with a minor in SO/AN. Johnathan serves on the communication student board and works at Boar's Head in the Science Center. He loved stage managing “Orchesis 21/22” so much last year he had to do it again!

**Emerson Freas** (Dancer) is a freshman from Oberlin, Ohio. While at Ohio Wesleyan, she is planning to study Education and Spanish. Emerson is a member of the Choral Arts Society and will be performing in this year’s production of Musical Theatre Scenes. She was a student at the school of Ohio Dance Theatre, performed in professional productions of *The Nutcracker*, and was a member of the Ballet Cleveland Youth Company. She has performed in and choreographed shows such as *Frozen Jr.* (Elsa) and *Legally Blonde Jr.* (Paulette), among others. She would like to thank Janet and the company of Orchesis for this amazing experience!

**Grace Frye** (Choreographer, Dancer) is a sophomore Social Justice major with a dance minor from Newark, Ohio. This is her second year in Orchesis and her first time choreographing. Grace currently holds office as vice president of OWU Rhythms. Her previous involvement in the Performing Arts Department includes, “Orchesis 21/22” (Dancer, Outreach) and “Terpsicorps 21/22” (Dancer, OWU Rhythms Secretary). Grace can’t wait for you to see what the company has put together for the show! Also, Orchesis will always be on the “in list”.

**Emma Hall** (Crew Member) is a freshman zoology pre-professional major and business minor from Ironton, Ohio. This is her first year in Orchesis and her third year as a crew member in a production. She is excited to start her first year with such an amazing production and team and hopes to continue with it for the rest of her years to come.



**Ami Hartshorne** (Lighting Designer, Light Board Op) is a sophomore majoring in Theatre from Columbus, Ohio. This is her first year designing lights for a show. This is her second year operating the lights board for Orchesis. She has also taken part in *Daughters of Leda* (Lights Crew, Light Board Op), “Orchesis 21/22” (Lights Crew, Light Board Op), *She Kills Monsters* (Assistant Master Electrician) and *FILL FILL FILL FILL FILL FILL FILL FILL* (Master Electrician). She is very excited to take part in this year’s show and hopes you all enjoy!

**Alyssa Head** (Dancer) is a junior majoring in Preprofessional Zoology with a minor in Religion from Houston, Texas. She has participated in “Orchesis 21/22” (Dancer) and “Terpsicorps 21/22” (Dancer). She is currently a member of the SAGE house on campus and is conducting research with the GLARE lab on campus. She hopes that you enjoy the show, and thanks you for supporting the arts on Ohio Wesleyan’s campus!

**Bella Campos Hintzman** (Dancer) (she/they/ella/elle) is a senior Theatre and History double major with a minor in Spanish from Fremont, California. This is her third year participating in Orchesis, having previously been a dancer and a light board operator. She feels grateful to have had this opportunity to create and perform with friends during her last semester.

**Sam Miller** (Lighting Designer) is a senior from Dayton, Ohio with a double major in History and Religion and a minor in Theatre. Sam has been involved in lighting since freshman year, having been variously member of lights crew, Master Electrician, or lighting designer for *The Country House*, *Eurydice*, *Flowers for Algernon*, *The Dumbwaiter*, *She Kills Monsters*, *Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill*, Orchesis 20/21, Orchesis 21/22, and now Orchesis 22/23. Sam has also been seen on stage in “Woyzeck, Inc.” (The Director), *Daughters of Leda* (Measure), and One Acts 2019, Spring 2021, and Fall 2021. Sam has loved the opportunity to be a part of this year’s Orchesis show, and is very proud of all the work that the dancers and fellow lighting designers have done!

**Hannah Moore** (Dancer) is a sophomore Fine Arts and Communications double major from Cincinnati, Ohio. This is her first year in Orchesis and danced for 13 years and was in colorguard for 3 years. She is glad to be dancing again and is thankful for all the friends made this year. Hannah hopes you all enjoy the show and appreciates you for coming!

**Aninditha Nair** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman from Mumbai, India. She is majoring in Computer Science major and double minoring in Dance and Environmental Science. This is her first year in Orchesis but she has been an Indian Classical Dancer for 12 years. She is thankful to be a part of Orchesis and hopes you enjoy the show!

**Simone Ntezinde** (Costume Crew) is a freshman from Virginia Beach, Virginia, and she is double majoring in Pre-Law with politics and government as well as having a minor in dance. This is her first year being a part of a production and she hopes to gain more experience for her following years.

**Kayla Rush** (Choreographer, Dancer) is a senior biology and dance double major from Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. This is her fourth year in Orchesis and her third year as a choreographer. This year she will be presenting part of her senior project, "Choreography as a Research Lab" as a piece in Orchesis, the rest of her project entails a research paper that details her choreographic process. Previously she has been seen in *She Kills Monsters* (Narrator, Student, Various Monsters). She is the President of Terpsicorps, OWU's student run dance organization. She is excited and sad for her final Orchesis and hopes you enjoy the show!

**Arieona Sanders** (Dancer) is a freshman from Springfield, Ohio, with a major in nursing. This is Arieona's first year in Orchesis, but she has danced for 16 years at a previous dance studio. She is very thankful for the opportunity to meet new people and to continue dancing throughout college. Arieona would like to thank everyone for coming to the show and she hopes you enjoy it!

**Daniel Smith** (Costume Head/Lighting Designer) is a sophomore from Columbus, Ohio. Daniel is a Theatre Education major. He has been involved in a few things here at OWU including "Twelfth Night 2020" (Sebastian), "Astronomer Dreaming" (Ensemble/Lighting Crew), *Daughters Of Leda* (Assistant Stage Manager), Orchesis '21 (Dancer) "We Barely Talk: A Festival of One-Acts" (Writer/Costume Design). Some of his favorite roles he has done have been in the Original productions that he did with Riots Behind Curtains which include *It Isn't Real* (Milo), *As it Always Was* (Noken) and *Long Before Wendy* (Peter). Daniel would like to thank his friends and family for their endless support and his director for all of their hard work! He hopes you enjoy the show!

**Ellie Smith** (Dancer) is a freshman undecided major and a Dance minor from Marion, Ohio. This is her first year in Orchesis, but previously danced for 16 years at her hometown studio. She is grateful she gets to continue dancing and hopes you enjoy the show!

**Isabelle Tinti-Kane** (Choreographer, Dancer) is a junior from Marblehead, Massachusetts. She is majoring in Theatre and Creative Writing, and minoring in Dance. She will be presenting “This Place Will Outlive You” as her choreographic debut! Favorite OWU credits include *She Kills Monsters* (Agnes), *Daughters of Leda* (Iphigenia/Girl), “Orchesis 21/22” (Assistant Stage Manager), *Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill* (Stage Manager), and the staged reading of *Only Reason* (Assistant Dramaturg). She also serves as the Historian of Theta Alpha Phi. In her free time, Isabelle enjoys roller-skating and writing plays. She is so excited for everyone to see the hard work that’s gone into Orchesis 22/23!

**Chloe Williams** (Choreographer) is a junior Theatre major from Wilmington, OH. This is her first year in Orchesis and her first time as a choreographer. She will be presenting her piece “Kingdom by the Sea” as her choreographic debut. Chloe currently serves as Vice President of Theta Alpha Phi and the Student Board Representative for Theatre. Some past OWU credits include *Daughters of Leda* (Stage Manager), *She Kills Monsters* (Lilith/Lily), “Scenes! 2022” (Director), and “Terpsicorps 21/22” (Dancer). She would like to thank the entire company of Orchesis for their support and encouragement and the supply of band-aids she carries at all times.

**Jazzy Valenzuela** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Sophomore from Stamford, CT. She is majoring in Sociology and Anthropology. This is her second year in Orchesis, and she is very excited to be a part of this amazing production once again!

**Ran Ye** (Lighting Designer) is a senior double major student. This is her fourth year participating in Orchesis. She is so excited for everyone to see the wonderful show and hopes you enjoy the show.

## Artistic Staff

**Janet Schroeder** (Director) is a percussive dance artist, scholar, and teacher, with particular interests in rhythm tap dance, Appalachian step dance, and body percussion. From 2005–2010, Janet toured the U.S. with music and dance company Rhythm in Shoes. Today she is a performer and choreographer with Movement Afoot and a freelance clogger. Janet has served on faculty in theatre and dance departments at University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of Maryland-College Park, University at Buffalo, Ohio Wesleyan University, Syracuse University, and SUNY Brockport. She is also Scholar-in-Residence at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. Janet has a Ph.D. in dance studies from The Ohio State University, an M.F.A. in dance from SUNY Brockport, and a B.F.A. in musical theatre from Ohio Northern University.

**Isaiah L. Harris** (Faculty Choreographer) is an African-American dancer with a background in West African diasporic dance, ballet, modern, and hip-hop. Isaiah holds a BFA in Dance from The College at Brockport, SUNY, and an MFA in Dance at The Ohio State University. His current research investigates social dance as medicine and its ability to combat type-2 diabetes, hypertension, and stroke. Isaiah's goal is to figure out how West African, Caribbean, and Black social dance can be factors to prevent these diseases in the Black community. Lastly, he is interested in the dancing spirit and how it manifests itself in the black body, using West African, Caribbean, Black social dance, and classical modern as vehicles to engage with the spiritual energy to coexist together both in the studio and on the stage.

**Rashana Perks Smith** (Choreographic Coach) is a dance artist and educator creating and facilitating performances in the greater Columbus, Ohio area. Her research straddles choreography and curation within the realms of neighborhood art projects and higher educational institutions. Collaboratively, Smith creates work with artists from a range of disciplines and facilitates projects that reflect human connections and community with an emphasis on non-traditional performance spaces. As the artistic director of Motor Dance, she has produced and performed original choreography and conducted workshops and master classes nationwide. Smith's work has been funded by the Coca Cola Critical Difference for Women Award, the OSU Alumni Grants for Graduate Research and Scholarship, and by the Greater Columbus Arts Commission. She holds a BFA in dance from University of Texas at Austin and an MFA in Dance at The Ohio State University with a focus on Choreography and Technology. At Ohio Wesleyan University, she teaches performance practices, dance

composition; dance history; dance film studies; and contemporary, jazz, and social dance practices.

**Justin A. Miller** (Technical Director) is excited to be rejoining the Bishops this year as the Interim Technical Director. Justin received his MFA in Scene Design from The Ohio State University in 2018. He has worked professionally as a designer, scenic artist, carpenter, and technical director in Houston, Columbus, Montana as well as Washington D.C. Some of his favorite designs include: *Antigone*, *Bonnie and Clyde*, *All Shook Up!*, *Urinetown*, *Stupid F\*\*\*ing Bird*, and *The Diviners*. When not actively involved in theatre, Justin enjoys the outdoors, playing/learning board games, movies, a good burger, and spending time with friends and loved ones.

# Upcoming Performing Arts Events

Choral Arts Society/Chamber Choir	November 13, Gray Chapel
Park Avenue Jazz Ensemble	November 15, Gray Chapel
Chamber Orchestra	November 17, Jemison Auditorium
Ucelli	November 29, Jemison Auditorium
Directing Class One Acts	December 2, Chappellear Drama Center
Departmental Student Recital	December 4, Jemison Auditorium
“Lessons & Carols” Holiday Concert	December 5, Gray Chapel

More information at [www.owu.edu/performingarts](http://www.owu.edu/performingarts)