



**CHAIRMAN OF FACULTY**

**SAB OVERVIEW**

The School of American Ballet (SAB) is the nation's premier ballet academy. Choreographer George Balanchine and the visionary arts patron Lincoln Kirstein founded the School in 1934 in New York City to train dancers for professional careers in classical ballet, and this mission continues today. SAB provides world-class ballet training to some 1,000 dancers ages 6 to 19 annually, and actively pursues increased diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the School and the ballet field. SAB is the official but independent school of New York City Ballet, and nearly all of the Company's dancers trained at SAB.

The SAB curriculum is rooted in the Russian classical tradition as brought forward by George Balanchine. Balanchine's aesthetic – speed, precision, expansiveness, musicality – is strongly emphasized in the training for Intermediate and Advanced students. SAB's Balanchine tradition is at the core of the School's training and informs and influences the artistic focus of the School.

The School of American Ballet is seeking to fill the position of Chairman of Faculty upon the retirement of current Chairman Kay Mazzo, who will conclude her long tenure as an artistic leader at SAB at the end of the 2021-22 Winter Term. Ms. Mazzo will remain on the School's faculty.

**POSITION OVERVIEW**

The Chairman of Faculty reports to the Artistic Director and is responsible for the day-to-day artistic functions of the School, overseeing the faculty, pianists, and artistic administrative staff to ensure the highest quality training program for SAB's students.

The Chairman of Faculty works collaboratively with the Artistic Director and Executive Director to fulfill SAB's mission to train young people in the Balanchine tradition for professional careers in classical ballet – for New York City Ballet as well as numerous companies across the country and abroad. (Currently, SAB alumni dance at more than 70 US and 12 international dance companies.) The Chairman of Faculty leads by example in ongoing diversity, equity, and inclusion learning, and oversees the execution of the artistic aspects of the current diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) strategic plan.



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The position reports to the Artistic Director on all artistic matters and collaborates with the Executive Director on diversity and inclusion, budget, human resource, student affairs, and administrative matters. In addition to the faculty and pianists, the Chairman of Faculty oversees an Artistic Manager and Artistic Assistant, as well as the Children's Division Program Manager.

The Chairman of Faculty also teaches a regular schedule of advanced classes.

### **KEY PRIORITIES**

- Develop strong partnership with Artistic Director and Executive Director.
- Sustain and refine the Preparatory and Children's Division curriculum; sustain the core Balanchine curriculum in the Intermediate and Advanced Divisions while strategically strengthening exposure to other contemporary and classical styles throughout the Advanced Division.
- Develop additional performance opportunities for Intermediate and Advanced students (children's division students are eligible to audition for children's roles in New York City Ballet productions).
- Collaborate with Student Life to expand awareness of and access to student wellness (PT, Pilates, Nutrition, Counseling), student support, as well as the Professional Placement Program.
- Communicate frequently and effectively with faculty and strengthen and encourage direct communication among faculty, and between faculty and students/parents.
- Evaluate and reconfigure, if needed, counseling out milestones and communication around evaluation and progression.
- Enhance faculty training and professional development opportunities.

### **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

*Faculty and Curriculum:* Together with Artistic Director, hire and evaluate all permanent faculty members, guest faculty, and pianists. Oversee student artistic training curriculum including all



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class offerings and performance opportunities. Manage faculty professional development and teaching practices.

*Student Recruitment:* Oversee faculty to identify and select students for all divisions of the School and to ensure the highest quality and diverse talent for the School. Collaborate with Recruiting and Outreach department to structure and staff local and national auditions. Serve on Scholarship Committee to review financial aid decisions for Winter Term and summer program students.

*Student Experience:* Collaborate with Dean of Students on student wellness program, professional placement program, and discipline matters. Hold regular conferences with students (intermediate/advanced) and parents (preparatory/children's).

*Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:* In collaboration with DEI Director, support programs and people (i.e., National Visiting Fellows, Alumni Advisory Committee for Diversity and Inclusion, Visiting Faculty Co-Chairs, #Ballet OpenHouse) that contribute to a more diverse and inclusive school community. Lead by example in ongoing DEI learning and oversee the execution of the artistic aspects of the current DEI strategic plan.

*Executive Management:* In collaboration with Artistic Director, attend SAB Board meetings, committee meetings, fundraising events, and all-employee meetings. Meet regularly with Artistic Director and Executive Director.

*Fundraising:* In collaboration with Executive Director and Director of Development, be a resource and enthusiastic participant, as needed, in the effort to secure ongoing support for SAB and its students.

### **KEY QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS**

- Alumna/us of SAB.
- Achievement of a professional ballet career.
- Demonstrated artistic leadership success of a ballet school or significant experience in educational or artistic ballet program management.
- Demonstrated teaching excellence.



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- An eye for talent; the ability to identify students with professional potential at all ages as well as the ability to select the best teachers and pianists and encourage their development.
- A commitment to embracing and championing diversity, equity, and inclusion at all levels, including faculty pipeline.
- Strong interpersonal, communication, and organizational skills.
- Impeccable character and values consistent with the highest level of responsibility and standard of care for the mental and physical health and well-being of children in an educational setting.

*To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to Becky Klein and Sarah James at [SAB@PhillipsOppenheim.com](mailto:SAB@PhillipsOppenheim.com).*

*The School of American Ballet is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The School of American Ballet is committed to an equitable and inclusive program and a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. Candidates from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.*

