

Donna Marisa Bontrager **Artistic Director, Master Teacher, and Repetiteur**



Donna-Marisa has studied the eight levels of the internationally-recognized Russian Kirov training syllabus and performance of classical variations with Bernadine DeMike (Royale Dance Theatre New York) and Marvin Askew and Karl Singleterry (Buffalo City Ballet). She has also studied extensively with former New Yorker Howard Epstein, previous co-director of the Conservatory of Classical Dance and student of Vaganova expert John Barker. Donna-Marisa's performance résumé embraces work with New York companies, including Empire Ballet, Buffalo City Ballet, Royale Dance Theater, and Festival Choir Ballet. In addition, she was one of ten dancers invited to perform as part of the international Feast of the Tabernacles in Jerusalem, Israel. She has staged numerous full-length concerts and original ballets for Ballet Fantastique, including *Sleeping Beauty* and *Cakewalk Ballet*; several Hult Center productions, including *Danse Renaissance* and *Mosaico de Danza*; and innovative collaborations with musicians and organizations, including Eugene Symphony.

Hannah Joy Bontrager - Gwartney **Executive Director, Choreographer**



Hannah has studied the eight levels of the Vaganova Syllabus and Vaganova pedagogy with Donna Marisa Bontrager (Ballet Fantastique) while creating and performing works locally. In addition to spending two summers at the Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, D.C. under Artistic Director Oleg Vinogradov (also Artistic Director of the Kirov Ballet in Russia), she was one of five students invited internationally to join renowned Kirov prima ballerina Mme. Alla Sizova's advanced class. Hannah graduated in 2003 from the Academy of Colorado Ballet's professional division under St. Petersburg Vaganova Academy graduate Inessa Pakri-Plekhanova, while concurrently training and performing with the company's apprentices. Presently, Hannah is studying dance education, performance, and arts administration on full scholarship at the Robert D. Clark Honors College of the University of Oregon. Hannah has performed as a guest dancer and/or contributing choreographer with dozens of companies, including: Co-Art Dance Company, Traduza Dance Company, Rose Children's Theater, and the Staton Foundation. She is also a soloist with the Ballet Fantastique Chamber Performance Ensemble.

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