CLEVELAND BALLET

With the arrival of a new year, Cleveland Ballet is proud to reflect on the progress that has shaped our present and future. Originally released to media in October 2025, the following press release details a period of significant growth that continues to guide the company into the year ahead.

CLEVELAND BALLET CONTINUES GROWTH TRAJECTORY

CLEVELAND, October 1, 2025 – When Larry Goodman, president and CEO of Cleveland Ballet, and Timour Bourtasenkov, artistic director, stepped into their leadership roles in January 2024, they recognized the company's potential for artistic excellence and its position in Cleveland's cultural landscape.

Now, close to two years into their tenure, Goodman and Bourtasenkov have realized some ambitious goals for Cleveland Ballet, including a robust performance schedule and expansion into more studio and office space.

"We like to say that we are Cleveland's Ballet. It's a deeply rooted responsibility that we share in bringing world-class ballet to a world-class city and transporting our audiences through dance," said Goodman. "In the last two years, we have performed to more people in more locations. We have collaborated with such venerable cultural institutions as The Cleveland Museum of Art, Akron Art Museum, The Cleveland Orchestra, and Cleveland Pops to name just a few recent presenting partners."

During its 2024-2025 season, Cleveland Ballet reached more than 35,000 patrons throughout Northeast Ohio in 35 different performances. "We are proud and honored to be a resident company of Playhouse Square, but we also seek deeper connections with the community by presenting at different venues where we can engage with new patrons or be more accessible to our loyal audiences," said Bourtasenkov.

Under the new leadership team, Cleveland Ballet has recommitted to its role as part of Cleveland's cultural landscape and created several initiatives to reach new audiences and to make ballet available to anyone. Starting with their popular *Pay What You Can* program that is offered during the Friday morning performance of its Playhouse Square main stage program, Cleveland Ballet strives to expose audiences to a world of unlimited potential. Behind the Curtain artists talks before performances and the new LEAP program (Learn, Experience, Appreciate, and Perform) remove barriers to appreciating and understanding this classical form of dance.

CLEVELAND BALLET

In January 2024, the company formed The Academy of Cleveland Ballet with professional dancers providing instruction with proper technique and opportunities to dance alongside Cleveland Ballet at Playhouse Square. In preparation for its classic *The Nutcracker*, more than 85 young dancers will be part of the spectacular holiday performance.

Understandably, this growth and transformation require space and resources. To provide much needed studio and office space, Cleveland Ballet will be expanding at its current location and gaining an additional 7,300 sq ft. This expansion will allow the academy to offer more classes and the company to optimize rehearsals for performances with additional studio space.

“In a relatively short time, we have solidified our operations – Cleveland Ballet is here to stay,” said Goodman. “We pledge to continue broadening our reach and promoting a cultural understanding to enhance the artistic experience equally for dancers and our patrons.”