



***Ovation!* USD 497 Talent Show**
Sunday, January 22, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Valedictorian Level Sponsors

- Truity Credit Union, Advanco, Edmonds Duncan Registered Investment Advisors

Performers (alphabetical order)

Kaelyn Bell – Dancer

- 8th grade, Lawrence Virtual School

Kansas native, Kaelyn Bell has been dancing since she first walked into Bri's Dance Studio, of Burlington, KS at age five. She fell in love with ballet after attending *The Nutcracker* at the Kansas City Ballet. After moving to the KC metro area, Kaelyn began attending Kansas City Ballet School. In 2019, she was invited to train in the pre-professional daytime program. This shift in dance caused a shift in her academic pursuits. She has danced alongside the Kansas City Ballet in Devon Carney's production of *The Nutcracker* as a Baby Mouse (2017), Canon Soldier (2018), Rifle Soldier (2019), Party Girl (2021), Tea Child (2021) and Reindeer (2022); and Septime Weber's *Wizard of Oz* as a Baby Ballerina (2022). Kaelyn has also competed with Bri's Dance Studio, winning various awards, and she has competed at Youth America Grand Prix in regional competitions as well as the 2022 YAGP Finals. She joined Lawrence Virtual School in 5th grade. When she is not performing, she enjoys other activities, such as National Junior Honor Society, choreographing pieces for her local church, reading murder mysteries and baking the best chocolate cakes! She lives in Ottawa, KS with her younger twin siblings and her mom and dad.

Members of Dance Hues Studio's STAMPP Performance and Competition Company

- Josi Gill, 8th grade, Perry Lecompton Middle School
- Aubrey Atherton, 8th grade, Southwest Middle School
- Amora Taylor, 9th grade, Free State High School
- Kira Shepard, 10th grade, Free State High School

These four performers in *Ovation!* are from Dance Hues Studio competition and performance company, STAMPP. STAMPP stands for Shine Through Adversity Move Past Prejudice. They are in our

preprofessional track which consists of ten or more training hours per week as well as opportunities to assist as an instructor in classes and choreograph for our programs. They are passionate, kind, respectful and encouraging students and community members. They love making BeReal and TikToks together!

The Galway Girls – Irish Step Dance

- Alannah Lohfeld, 11th grade, Free State High School
- Aleisha Lohfeld, 9th grade, Free State High School
- Amelia Lohfeld, 7th grade, West Middle School

Alannah, Aleisha and Amelia, The Galway Girls, are three sisters born and raised in Galway, Ireland by their German parents, Kathleen and Stefan. They moved to Lawrence, KS in 2018. They each started Irish Dance in Galway at the age of four and have danced competitively the last 11 years. All three are in the highest level of Irish Dancing. Alannah and Aleisha will dance the National Championships in Irish Dance in June in Nashville and Amelia is hoping to qualify for it soon, too, in the next couple months. Irish Dance plays a huge part of their life, with at least four days with double hours practice in KC all year round and competitions all over the U.S. But besides this, they love school sports, like cross country and track. Amelia also loves to play the oboe in the West Middle School band. They are all in love with books, art, cooking and spending time with their friends.

Rose Kennedy – Comedienne

- 11th grade, Lawrence High School

Rose Kennedy is a local eccentric and third-time performer in *Ovation!* She enjoys sidewalks and dry erase board markers. In addition to making people laugh on and off stage, she has also performed in plays and musicals at Billy Mills Middle School, Lawrence High School and the Lawrence Arts Center.

Anna Kober – Vocalist

- 12th grade, Free State High School

Anna is beyond excited to be performing at *Ovation!* She is senior at Free State High School and is hoping to major in forensic psychology in college. Anna has been singing since she could practically speak, and she is currently a member of Free State Chamber Choir & Free State Chamber Singers. She also writes her own music, performing around town at the Replay Lounge, among other community events. When not singing, Anna is an avid theatre participant, (most recently being seen as Ariel in Free State's *The Little Mermaid*) true crime podcast listener, lover of all things food, and she enjoys spending quality time with family and friends. She gives so much love to everyone who supports her in all her endeavors.

Elliott Koger – Clarinet

- 12th grade, Lawrence High School
- Accompanied by Joyce Jordan, piano

Elliott Koger, Lawrence High senior, has been studying the clarinet for seven years. He is a member of the LHS wind ensemble, jazz band, marching band and Lawrence Youth Symphony. He has been a member of NEKMEA district honor band for three years.

Lawrence Ballet Theatre

- Photina Adrian, 8th grade, home school
- Rhubarb Brubacher, 10th grade, Lawrence High School
- Odelia Colvin, 9th grade, St. Teresa's Academy
- Isla Gnojek, 8th grade, West Middle School
- Gracia Greenhoot, 12th grade, Free State High School
- Henry Horan, 12th grade, Bishop Seabury
- Zoe Kaul, 8th grade, West Middle School
- Zana Kennedy, 10th grade, Lawrence High School
- Nathan Kramer, 9th grade, Free State High School
- Annalise Lantz, 8th grade, St. Thomas Academy
- Finn Lotton-Barker, 11th grade, Lawrence High School
- Belzimere Maletsky, 9th grade, Lawrence High School
- Phoebe Morris, 9th grade, Free State High School
- Maria Mosconi, 9th grade, Free State High School
- Kellar Musser, 9th grade, Lawrence High School
- Madi Pierson, 9th grade, Free State High School
- Linnaea Radley, 12th grade, Lawrence High School
- Jahnava Sibilla, 10th grade, Maize Virtual Prep
- Celeste Stinson, 10th grade, Lawrence High School
- Mary Swartzlander, 6th grade, West Middle School
- Sydney Tiemann, 7th grade, West Middle School
- Genevieve Williams, 7th grade, Bishop Seabury
- Grace Xie, 12th grade, Free State High School

Lawrence Ballet Theatre (LBT) is the resident pre-professional ballet company of the Lawrence Arts Center. The mission of Lawrence Ballet Theatre is to provide extensive training, performance opportunities and artistic experience to dancers seeking to develop advanced experience in preparation for a professional career in dance. Led by Artistic Director Cynthia Crews, company members gain exposure and experience through numerous performances of classical ballet repertoire and original works. LBT dancers work directly with professional guest choreographers in addition to their work with

the artistic director. Lawrence Ballet Theatre is a member company of the prestigious Regional Dance America/MidStates. Each year, Lawrence Ballet Theatre attends the annual RDA/MidStates Festival held in various cities across the Midwest.

Harrison Leiszler – Violin

- 7th Grade, West Middle School

Harrison Leiszler is a 7th grader at West Middle School and has been playing violin for eight years under the guidance of Avery Parkhurst. He enjoys finding challenging songs of different genres and mastering new techniques. In addition to orchestra, he is involved in student council and multiple sports, including football, basketball, soccer, baseball and track & field. He's an avid reader and fantasy footballer, and he loves cheering on the Jayhawks and Chiefs.

Mary Ramirez – Vocalist

- 11th grade, Free State High School
- Accompanied by Janet Hart, piano

Mary is a junior at Free State High School, where she is currently in chamber choir. She is looking forward to performing the song "No One Else," an emotional, heartfelt song about love. Although this is Mary's first time performing in *Ovation!*, she has been singing this song for years and it truly means a lot to her.

Willow Lotus Sapp – Aerial Silks

- 12th grade, Lawrence Virtual School and Free State High School

Willow is a senior this year; dual-enrolled between Free State High School and Lawrence Virtual School. After high school, she plans to spend six months in Germany, teaching at a circus school through a gap-year program. She has been training in circus arts since she was five years old. Her other hobbies include rock climbing, reading, listening to music, crafts involving yarn and thread, playing dress-up, putting on make-up, roller skating, learning languages, going to concerts and spending time with her friends.

Southwest Middle School Junior Thespians

- Dara Adedipe, 6th grade
- Marley Doleman, 6th grade
- Avery Fox, 8th grade
- Tison Johnson, 7th grade

- Savanna Lynch, 7th grade
- Cadence Mayfield, 7th grade
- Bella Neuteboom, 8th grade
- Connor O'Neil, 8th grade
- Kinley O'Neil, 6th grade
- Penny Salb, 6th grade
- Tallulah Salb, 8th grade
- Quin Schroeder, 8th grade
- Layla Simmons, 6th grade
- Jensen Wallace, 6th grade
- Bodhi Williams, 7th grade
- Trish Neuteboom, director

Southwest Middle School Junior Thespians are an honor subgroup of the Southwest Theatre Program. Students must earn ten points to be an inducted member. Students earn points by participation in productions and service to the theatre community in school and around town. Within the program, they take leadership training and become the liaisons and leaders for their peers. They jumped at the chance to show their skills in *Ovation!* with the performance of their favorite number from Southwest's production of *Newsies JR*. From learning to tap dance to adapting the number for *Ovation!*, the kids have come together in a triumph of dance, singing and acting.

Unity Step Team

- Bri Brass, 10th grade, Lawrence High School
- Abby DeFoe, 11th grade, Lawrence High School
- Nomso Enyinnaya, 10th grade, Free State High School
- Joan Epian, 12th grade, Lawrence High School
- Maxx Krause, 11th grade, Lawrence High School
- Mia Purdue-Brown, 10th grade, Lawrence High School
- Jada Reed, 9th grade, Lawrence High School
- Kiana Sales, 11th grade, Lawrence High School
- Justyss Smith, 9th grade, Lawrence High School
- Honesty Starr, 9th grade, Lawrence High School
- AR'Myah Vance, 12th grade, Lawrence High School
- Addi Whitenight, 9th grade, Lawrence High School
- Audrey Trowbridge, coach, Lawrence High School/Free State High School

Unity Step Team is a step performance team assembled of students from both Free State and Lawrence High School. The team enters its sixth year and has performed at school and community events. The team represents and celebrates students of color, inclusivity and belonging and promotes self-confidence. The mission of Unity Step Team is "bringing folks together, building community and embracing being unique, unsilenced and unified."