



Ovation! USD 497 Talent Show

Sunday, February 1, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: lied.ku.edu

Valedictorian Level Sponsors

Truity Credit Union, Creative Planning, First Student, The Good Game, Feldmeyer Financial, Noller Auto Group

Master of Ceremonies

Julie Boyle

Performers/Acts (alphabetical order)

Ja'Liana Ayala, vocals

11th grade, Lawrence High School



Ja'Liana Ayala is excited about making her second appearance in Ovation! She is a junior at Lawrence High School, where she participates in band, theatre and choir. She began performing in 6th grade at Southwest Middle School, and she performed "My Future" by Billie Eilish at the schools foundation breakfast. In the future, she wants to be a singer and is considering attending KU. Ja'Liana would like to acknowledge all the performing arts teachers who have helped her through the years: Tiffany Bonnewell, Deborah Woodall Routledge, Dwayne Dunn, Rachel Naughtin and Mike Jones.

Ava Baranski, aerial lyra
6th grade, Billy Mills Middle School



Ava Baranski has been doing aerial arts for almost five years, with three of those years at Inspired Aerial Arts. Ava has been tumbling at Top Tumble for almost eight years and is doing competitive cheer at Top Tumble for the first time this year. Ava is also enjoying her first year of middle school. Science is currently her favorite subject, and she would love to operate a veterinarian clinic/animal shelter after college.

Dance Hues Studio's STAMPP Performance and Competition Company
Harriet Anderson – 6th grade, Liberty Memorial Central Middle School
Harper Childers – 6th grade, Perry-Lecompton Middle School
Abriella Davis – 7th grade, Pioneer Trail Middle School
Ariel Garcia – 3rd grade, Woodlawn Elementary School
Josie Gardner – 6th grade, Eudora Middle School
Kenzie Hall – 9th grade, Lawrence High School
Gabriella Hill-Skar – 2nd grade, Veritas
Lila Huebner – 6th, Bishop Seabury Academy
Olivia Kirkpatrick-Tripler – 6th grade, West Middle School
Natalie Kite – 2nd grade, Langston Hughes Elementary School
Amaya Nelson – 7th grade, West Middle School
Ava Nelson – 10th grade, Free State High School
Maggie Sharp – 2nd grade, Jefferson West Elementary School
Layla Simmons – 9th grade, Lawrence High School
Kaliyah Stallings – 6th grade, Billy Mills Middle School
Amora Taylor – 12th grade, Free State High School
Aria Taylor – 5th grade, Sunset Hill Elementary School
Ayana Taylor – 7th grade, West Middle School
Addison Turner – 6th grade, Liberty Memorial Central Middle School
Milena Turner – 8th grade, West Middle School
Evelin Vincent – 3rd grade, Prairie Park Elementary School
Camdyn Wright – 6th grade, Eudora Middle School



Dance Hues Studio's STAMPP Performance and Competition Company has many age groups and levels split into routines. Among those is their preprofessional group. These dancers train for over 10 hours per week, some of them closer to 20 hours per week. Not only are they some of our most talented and hardworking students, but the name STAMPP also stands for Shine Through Adversity Move Past Prejudice. These dancers embody the message and are an example to their peers.

The Galway Girls, Irish step dance

Aleisha Lohfeld – 12th Grade, Free State High School
Amelia Lohfeld – 10th Grade, Free State High School



The Galway Girls, Aleisha and Amelia Lohfeld, have both been competitive Irish dancers since the age of four starting in Galway, Ireland, following in the footsteps of their older sister Alannah. Born in Galway, they moved to Lawrence, KS, seven years ago and have continued their competitive dance training with the Dowds Irish Dance Academy in Kansas City. They are competing up to the National Championship level and travel all over the U.S. for competitions.

In addition to Irish dance, they are highly involved in cross country, track & field and all the summer and winter running programs. They also love any kind of outdoor activity, like swimming, hiking or biking. They have been a big part of the White Oak Horse Ranch for the last seven years, where they enjoy taking care of the horses and horseback riding. They have a big passion for cooking, baking and art —particularly ceramics, drawing and painting. The girls also love reading books every free minute they have as well as studying the five different languages they grew up with or have picked up in school. Their biggest joy is traveling, especially visiting family and friends in Germany and Ireland.

Lawrence Ballet Theatre

Photina Adrian, 11th grade, home school
Lauren Anderson, 8th grade, Southwest Middle School
Allie Gates, 11th grade, Free State High School
Isla Gnojek, 11th grade, Free State High School
Zoe Kaul, 11th grade, Free State High School
Annalise Lantz, 12th grade, home school
Marcella MacGonagle, 12th grade, Bishop Seabury
Belzimere Maletsky, 12th grade, Lawrence High School
Phoebe Morris, 12th grade, Free State High School
Maria Mosconi, 12th grade, Free State High School
Mattea Rasmussen, 10th grade, Free State High School
Mary Swartzlander, 9th grade, Free State High School
Sydney Tiemann, 10th grade, Free State High School
Nichole Weis, 9th grade, Free State High School
Genevieve Williams, 12th grade, Free State High School
Ruth Yang, 10th grade, Free State High School



In 2010, Lawrence Ballet Theatre (LBT) was founded by Cynthia Crews to meet the needs of the advanced students in the Lawrence Arts Center School of Dance. The mission of Lawrence Ballet Theatre is to provide extensive training, performance opportunities and artistic experience to dancers seeking to deepen their knowledge and develop advanced expertise in the art of dance.

Participation in the company helps

educate students by providing opportunities to study classical and original choreography with prestigious dance professionals in a setting tailored to advanced students. Each year, LBT presents a fall performance for a youth audience, a full-length spring concert and performs in *The Nutcracker: A Kansas Ballet*. Lawrence Ballet Theatre has proudly been a member of Regional Dance America/MidStates since 2011.

Harrison Leiszler, violin/loop station
10th grade, Free State High School



Harrison Leiszler is a sophomore at Free State High School and is involved in many activities, including football, soccer, track and field, orchestra, Hype Club, Crossword Club and Student Council. He has been playing the violin since the age of five and loves learning all musical genres from classical to country to pop music. During the holiday season, he can be found playing his violin on Mass Street and in the Kansas City area to raise money for Toys for Tots. Over the past 10 years, he and his brother have raised over \$20,000 to buy toys for local families.

This is Harrison's fifth time participating in Ovation! For his performance, he will be using a piece of equipment called a loop pedal. Everything he plays will be recorded live and looped back to create different parts of the song. He'll be performing a rendition of "Uptown Funk" by Bruno Mars.

O&Co. Jazz Trio

Owen Börk (piano), 12th Grade, Free State High School
Annah Steele (bass), 12th Grade, Free State High School
Anders Benson (drums), 12th Grade, Free State High School



O&Co. is a student jazz trio from Lawrence, KS. The group members consist of Owen Börk (piano), Anders Benson (drums) and Annah Steele (bass). They started playing together during their junior year of high school and quickly began performing publicly. They've now had multiple gigs inside and outside of Lawrence, and their favorite part of playing together is seeing the excitement their music brings to the community.

Ishaan Rao, violin

10th grade, Free State High School



Ishaan Rao started violin studies at the age of seven under Peter Chun and Gregory Sandomirsky. In addition, he has been mentored on several occasions by Ben Sayevich. Since April 2022, Ishaan has been studying violin full time with Gregory Sandomirsky. A student of the Music Academy of Kansas City, Ishaan (then 13) won a prize at the prestigious Kansas City Symphony's competition for Young Artists (age group 13-18) in March 2024. Earlier he had won the KC Music Teacher Association's concerto competition in 2023 and has been featured on Kansas Public Radio. He has been seriously studying Bach, Bruch, Mozart, Saint-Saëns and Paganini under the guidance of Gregory Sandomirsky.

Elizaveta Smirnov, ballet dance

8th grade, Lawrence Virtual School



Elizaveta Smirnov (also known as Elie) is an 8th grader at Lawrence Virtual School. She began taking classes at Kansas Ballet Academy at the age of two and has been dancing nonstop ever since. Elizaveta also enjoys painting, pottery and singing and is a member of the Kansas Youth Chorale in Topeka.

Sarah Song, Dunhuang dance
7th grade, West Middle School



Sarah Song, a seventh grader at West Middle School, started dancing when she was five years old. She learned tap, jazz, ballet and Chinese dance. She found Chinese dance was where she could express her creativity in choreography. She has danced in the Lawrence Art Center's productions of *The Nutcracker*, *SpongeBob*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Wonka*, *The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe* and *Alice in Wonderland*, and she also participates in the Lawrence Art Center's yearly Choreographer's Showcase. Other than dancing, Sarah competes in FLL robotics, plays piano and violin, and loves reading and doing math.

Alexus Walker, vocals
10th grade, Free State High School



From the moment Alexus Walker first stepped on stage as a young dancer, performing has been at the heart of her world. She has appeared in every school theatre production since 6th grade and has been training musically since the age of three, beginning with piano and later discovering a deep love for the flute in middle school. She is currently rehearsing for the lead role in *Silent Sky* at Free State High School, while also performing as a dedicated member of both the Free State Choir and the Honors Band as well as Meadowlark Flute Choir. Beyond the arts, she excels academically as a member of the English Honors Society and leads with character through her involvement in Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

With passion, discipline and years of performance experience behind her, she's excited to bring her voice to the stage and share her love of music with the world.