



**PRESENTS...**

**PRE PROFESSIONAL  
STUDENT SHOWCASE**

*Sunday, March 8, 2026*

*5:30pm*

*St. Louis Academy of Dance*

**2025-2026**  
**Pre-Professional Student Ensemble**

**Director:** Kelly Ging

Juliette Hilbert  
Derrick Johnson  
Becca Karon  
Josie Kopff  
Mia Leon  
Amelia Lewis  
Kayla Montgomery  
Sarah Nelson  
Adelaide Woerner

# **PROGRAM**

## **Introduction & Welcome:**

Pre-Professional Student Program Director,  
Kelly Ging

### ***Burning***

Music by: Cory Wong, Metropole Orkest, Jules Buckley

Choreography by: Maggie Dultz

Cast: Juliette Hilbert, Derrick Johnson, Becca Karon, Josie Kopff, Mia Leon, Amelia Lewis, Kayla MONTgomery, Sarah Nelson, Adelaide Woerner

### ***Where B's At***

Music by: Bernard Purdie

Choreographed & Performed by: Josie Kopff, Mia Leon, Kayla Montgomery

### ***Hot Sweat***

Music by: Bernard Purdie

Choreographed & Performed by: Becca Karon, Amelia Lewis, Sarah Nelson

### ***Something B Can Feel***

Music by: Bernard Purdie

Choreographed & Performed by: Juliette Hilbert, Derrick Johnson, Adelaide Woerner

# **PROGRAM**

## ***Cantloupe Island***

Music by: Herbie Hancock

Improvisation Solos by: STLRC's Pre-Professional Student Ensemble

Choreographed by: moSTLy TAP

## ***Dave's Shim Sham***

Music by: David Leonard

Historic Dances: Shim Sham Shimmy by Dr. Leonard Reed & Willie Bryant

Cast: Juliette Hilbert, Derrick Johnson, Becca Karon, Josie Kopff, Mia Leon, Amelia Lewis, Kayla Montgomery, Sarah Nelson, Adelaide Woerner



## MEET THE DIRECTOR



### **Kelly Ging (Pre-Professional Student Ensemble Director):**

Kelly Ging is a teacher, performer and arts administrator in St. Louis. She began her dance training in Washington, MO studying a variety of dance styles. To further explore tap dance, she commuted into St. Louis for training, which led her to attend the annual St. Louis Tap Festival, LA Tap Festival, Tradition in Tap (NY) and various other master classes and workshops. Kelly received a double major in Arts Management and Dance at Lindenwood University where she received the Lindy Award for the Dance Department and graduated magna cum laude. With over 16 years of experience as a teaching artist, Kelly has a knack for creating a high-energy, fun environment that challenges every level of student. Her passion for developing artists has kept her busy at COCA - Center of Creative Arts, Gateway Center for Performing Arts, STL Rhythm Collaborative, St. Louis Academy of Dance as well as guest teaching, setting choreography, and judging for FOX Teen Talent competition. Currently, Kelly works for the Performing Arts Department at WashU, teaches at SLAD, is the Director of STLRC's Pre-Professional Student Ensemble, and a founding company member of moSTLy Tap.

**2025 2026**  
**PRE PROFESSIONAL ENSEMBLE STUDENTS**



Juliette Hilbert



Derrick Johnson



Becca Karon



Josie Kopff



Mia Leon



Amelia Lewis



Kayla Montgomery



Sarah Nelson



Adelaide Woerner

# MEET OUR PRE PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ENSEMBLE

## **Juliette Hilbert**

Juliette Hilbert has been dancing with Miss Kim's Dance Class for 19 years. She has participated in many recitals and competitions, and in recent years, has been choreographing for those same events. This will be her first performance with STL Rhythm Collaborative, and she is excited to be on stage again.

## **Derrick Johnson**

Derrick Johnson is 13 years old and is homeschooled. He has always loved tap dancing. He was in the Munny kids troupe from 2023-2025. Derrick is currently studying dance at COCA and is part of COCA dance (pre-professional dance company). This is Derrick's second year with STLRC and their Pre-Professional Ensemble and he is excited to perform in *moSTLy Holidays*.

## **Becca Karon**

Becca Karon is currently getting her Bachelor's in Neuroscience at Washington University in St. Louis. After six years of tap dancing with the JaM Youth Project in Washington, D.C., she's thrilled to make her debut with the STLRC Pre-Pro Student Ensemble at *moSTLy Holidays*. She thanks her parents and sister, Abby, for their constant support through her dance & academic journeys.

## **Josie Kopff**

Josie Kopff earned her BA in Music from WashU in 2025 and is currently pursuing her MA from Webster University. Josie grew up singing and dancing but has recently been teaching (voice & musical theatre) much more than performing. She loves dancing with STLRC and is so excited for her first performance in their Pre-Professional Student Ensemble!

## **Amelia Lewis**

Amelia Lewis is a senior at Clayton High School who has been tapping for 4 years. This is her first year in STL Rhythm Collaborative's Pre-Professional Ensemble. Beyond dance, Amelia loves theater, performing with Clayton and STAGES, and she is Clayton's Speech and Debate and Mock Trial team's president. She thanks everyone for support and hopes you enjoy *moSTLy Holidays*!

# MEET OUR PRE PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ENSEMBLE

## **Mia Leon**

Mia Leon fell in love with tap dance as a child and her passion is still as strong as ever. This is her third year of Pre-Pro at STLRC. Mia has performed at The Muny, the Fox Theatre, TMP and traveled to many U.S. States for tap festivals and residencies. All of my love to my family and Savior!

## **Kayla Montgomery**

Kayla Montgomery is an 11th grader training at St. Louis Academy of Dance (SLAD) and is in her first year of STLRC's Pre-Professional Program. She loves to perform with credits including the Pazzaz Performers of SLAD, The Muny, Heat Force, and Heat Crew. She is so thankful and excited to perform with STLRC this season!

## **Sarah Nelson**

Sarah Nelson is a third year BFA in Musical Theatre student at Missouri Baptist University. Having never taken a dance class until college, she is especially grateful for the influential professors she's had through her journey so far, especially Maria Majors. Tap quickly became her favorite style, and she was blessed with the chance to share that passion on stage most recently as Judy Haynes in MBU's fall production of *White Christmas*. She is so happy to be a part of STLRC's Pre-Pro Ensemble this year and can't wait for more opportunities to come! Luke 1:45

## **Adelaide Woerner**

Adelaide Woerner is so excited to be part of *moSTLy Holidays* this weekend! Adelaide has been dancing for 13 years, 9 of which have been at M&M Dance Academy and 6 on their competition team. This is Adelaide's second year in STLRC's Pre-Professional Ensemble, and she thanks her family, friends, and dance teachers for their constant love and support.



# STL RHYTHM COLLABORATIVE

PRESENTS...



Pillsbury Chapel & Dale Williams Fine Arts Center at Missouri Baptist University



Our **Cover Stories** premiere performance features all-new works by STL Rhythm Collaborative's professional ensembles, moSTLY TAP and moSTLY JAZZ, along with special guest artists. This engaging, all-ages production features cover songs we all know and love—plus a few hidden gems that might become new favorites. Join us for an unforgettable mix of rhythm, melody, and movement.

**Learn more and get your tickets!**

Friday, April 10, 8:00pm  
Saturday, April 11, 8:00pm  
Sunday, April 12, 3:30pm



Follow-Us:



@stlrhythmcollaborative

# SAVE THE DATE!

## Pre-Professional Ensemble Auditions

2026-2027 Season

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026**



**STLRC Student Ensemble, ages 14-25**



**STLRC Youth Ensemble, ages 8+**

STLRC's Pre-Professional Ensembles are an elite community of young tap dancers from throughout the region, with a shared passion to learn, preserve, and support the art of tap dance and its history.

**Location: St. Louis Academy of Dance  
9656 Olive Boulevard, St. Louis, MO**

**STLRC Youth Ensemble, ages 8+  
Audition Sign-In: 2:45pm  
Audition: 3:00-4:00pm**

**STLRC Student Ensemble, ages 14-25  
Audition Sign-In: 4:15pm  
Audition: 4:30-6:00pm**



Learn More and  
RSVP to audition

[www.stlrhythmcollaborative.org/pre-pro](http://www.stlrhythmcollaborative.org/pre-pro)

# STL RHYTHM FEST



## July 30–August 2, 2026



**BRINGING LEADING ARTISTS FROM ACROSS THE NATION & OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY.**



**SHARING EXPERTISE & PASSION FOR MUSIC AND TAP DANCE.**



**CELEBRATING THE ARTISTS (PAST & PRESENT) WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO THE FORM.**

Our annual STL Rhythm Fest focuses on honoring the history and artistry of music and dance, with a focus on tap dance. The only one of its kind in our area, all activities connect our community to learn, celebrate, and inspire one another. Classes and activities are available for kids through adults, complete beginner through advanced/professional levels.

Full Activity Schedule coming soon!



*Drum Shoes Residency with  
Tommy Wasiuta & Scotti Iman*

*Learn more  
& get updates here!*





# WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Be the Connection, Education, & Inspiration  
in our community!



## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

### Name our performance floor. (\$875-\$35,000)

The only one of its kind in the Midwest, our performance floor is professionally crafted by O'Mara Sprung Floors. Sponsor our state-of-the-art performance floor & display your name or business for all future STLRC performances!

### Become a Performance Season Sponsor. (\$1,000-\$5,000)

- On-stage display recognition for every show.
- VIP tickets for all performances
- Playbill promotions
- STLRC website & social media feat.

### Make a donation. (Your choice)

100% goes to our programs.

**ALL SUPPORT IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE  
and every dollar matters!**



To make a donation,  
scan our QR code to the right.

To get involved through Sponsorship, or name  
our floor, contact: Maria Majors  
[majorsm@stlrhythmcollaborative.org](mailto:majorsm@stlrhythmcollaborative.org)



**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS  
AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Anonymous Donors

The Aries Company

Emily Edwards & Kacy Voskuil

Our Pre-Professional Program Students and Families

Our St. Louis Academy of Dance Family

Brian Tucker & Zone Ten Studio

**AND OUR STLRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Kathy Fowler, President**

**Lisa Steinhoff, Vice-President**

**Karen Davenport, Treasurer**

**Theresa Harms**

**Emily L. Hermann**

**Rachel Schneider**

# KEEP UP WITH STL RHYTHM COLLABORATIVE!

There are several ways to stay informed.  
Choose what works best for you!



## Join our mailing list!

You'll receive monthly emails and occasional announcements about upcoming opportunities.

Scan the QR code to the right and scroll to the bottom of the page!



## Check out our Events Page!

All of our free community events, upcoming classes, and performances are listed here.

[www.stlrhythmcollaborative.org/events](http://www.stlrhythmcollaborative.org/events)



## Follow us on social media!

You'll get the latest news, updates and behind the scenes footage.

@STLRhythmCollaborative

