

HUNTERDON HILLS BALLET

ELAINE MATTHEWS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



2026 SUMMER SCHEDULE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10-2:30 Junior/Senior Intensives	10-2:30 Junior/Senior Intensives 4:30-5:15 Mini Ballet AGE 3-4* (JS)	10-2:30 Junior/Senior Intensives 4:30-5:30 COMBO AGE 5-7* (CT) 5:30-6:30 Intro to Musical Theater/Broadway Jazz AGE 7-10* (CT) 6:30-7:15 TAP AGE 6-10 CT	10-2:30 Junior/Senior Intensives	Privates

SCHEDULE BREAKDOWN

Available Weeks and Themes for Junior/Senior Intensives:

DATES	JUNIOR	REGISTER JUNIOR	SENIOR	REGISTER SENIOR
7/6-7/9	Junior YAGP Intensive	REGISTER	Senior YAGP Intensive	REGISTER
7/13-7/16	Junior Nutcracker Intensive	REGISTER	Senior Nutcracker Intensive	REGISTER
7/20-7/23	Junior YAGP Intensive	REGISTER	Senior YAGP Intensive	REGISTER
7/27-7/30	Junior Nutcracker Intensive	REGISTER	Senior Nutcracker Intensive	REGISTER
8/3-8/6	Junior In-Studio Performance Intensive <i>*dancers will learn a group piece that will be performed in the studio on Thursday(8/6) at 2:30 pm</i>	REGISTER	Senior Performance Intensive* **dancers wishing to participate need to register for both 8/3-8/6 and 8/10-8/13 ***Performance Date 8/16 ****Info on the additional performance fee(\$115) and ticket fee(\$45) will be provided at a later date	REGISTER
8/10-8/13	Junior In-Studio Performance Intensive <i>*dancers will learn a group piece that will be performed in the studio on Thursday(8/13) at 2:30 pm</i>	REGISTER	Senior Performance Intensive* **dancers wishing to participate need to register for both 8/3-8/6 and 8/10-8/13 ***Performance Date 8/16 ****Info on the additional performance fee(\$115) and ticket fee(\$45) will be provided at a later date	REGISTER
8/16			Senior Performance Date	

Daily Breakdown, Monday-Thursday

TIME	Class
10-11	Stretch and Strength
11-12:30	Technique/Pointe
12:30-1	Lunch
1-2:30	YAGP, Nutcracker, or Performance Material

Theme Breakdown:

Theme	What	Who
YAGP	4.5 Hours: M-TH, Daily classes include stretch and strength, ballet technique, and a deep dive into learning and exploring the classical repertoire	All Dancers, especially those who plan to compete at YAGP or who are interested in learning classical ballet variations
Nutcracker	4.5 Hours: M-TH, Daily classes include stretch and strength, ballet technique, and the opportunity to learn HHB's Nutcracker Repertoire	All dancers interested in participating in <i>The Clinton Nutcracker</i> or dancers who are interested in learning and exploring this repertoire
In-Studio Performance	4.5 Hours: M-TH, Daily classes include stretch and strength, ballet technique, and learn a group piece that will be performed in the studio on Thursday(of that week) at 2:30 pm	Dancers wishing to practice performance skills and hone their technique
Performance	4.5 Hours: M-TH, Daily classes include stretch and strength, ballet technique, and a new piece that we are looking to perform at a venue(Performance Date 8/16)	Dancers looking for a summer performance opportunity

Level Breakdown:

Level	Age
Junior	Recommended 9-13 or based on ability
Senior	Recommended 13 & up or based on ability

Prorated Pricing for Intensives(based on how many weeks you attend):

***POLICY: Prorated pricing will only be applied if you register before 6/1/26. Any registrations received after will default to the regular 1 week pricing. DISCOUNTS WILL BE APPLIED AFTER YOU REGISTER.**

# of weeks	Price	Price Per Week
1	\$285	\$285
2	\$520	\$260
3	\$750	\$250
4	\$960	\$240
5	\$1150	\$230
6	\$1320	\$220 BEST PRICE!

Other Fees:

Type	Fee
Annual Registration Fee	\$45
Additional Senior Performance Intensive Fees	\$115 performance fee, plus \$45 per ticket
Combo Class, Mini Ballet, Intro to Musical Theater/Broadway Jazz (6 weeks)	\$180
Drop-In Per Hour	\$30

Combo Class-Designed for students ages 5-7 years old. Combo class will feature everything your young dancer needs: ballet, tap and acrobatics. In ballet, students will learn the basics of barre work, steps and turns across the floor, and brief combinations in center. Tap will be lots of fun! We'll work up to steps such as maxifolds and railroad time steps. Acro will focus on flexibility and strength, including gymnastics skills such as handstands, cartwheels, and backbends. Taught by Christen Tassin. This class will run at 4:30 on Wednesdays for 6 weeks, beginning July 1st and ending August 5th, 2026. Drop-ins are welcome. [REGISTER](#)

Intro to Musical Theater/Broadway Jazz-Calling students ages 7-10... Come explore the basics of beginner jazz and Broadway-style dancing in a fun summer class! Vocal training may be included; no prior experience necessary. This class will run at 5:30 on Wednesdays for 6 weeks, beginning July 1st and ending August 5th, 2026. [REGISTER](#)

Tap-For students ages 6-10, this class introduces young dancers to rhythm, timing, coordination, and musicality in a fun and encouraging environment. Students learn foundational tap techniques, basic steps, combinations, and beginner choreography while building confidence and performance skills. Perfect for beginners or dancers with some experience who want to make music with their feet and have fun moving. [REGISTER](#)

Mini Ballet-This 45 minute class designed for 3-4 year olds, is taught by the one and only Jessica Sims and will make your child fall in love with dance. It is structured but provides ample room for creativity and exploration. Diving deeper into focus and discipline, this class will be your child's weekly favorite! This class will run on Tuesdays at 4:30 for 6 weeks, beginning on June 30th and ending on August 4th. [REGISTER](#)

Faculty:

Elaine Matthews, Director: Elaine Matthews was an original member of The Pennsylvania Ballet II and after six months was asked to join The Pennsylvania Ballet, under the direction of Roy Kaiser, where she performed roles both in the corps and as a soloist. During her time there she was featured in the world premier of Christopher Wheeldon's *Swan Lake*, performed as a soloist in the world premier of Matthew Neenan's *Le Travail*, for which she was recognized by The New York Times, and was featured in Peter Martins' *Fearful Symmetries*, Paul Taylor's *Company B*, Ben Stevenson's *Cinderella*, and several works by George Balanchine, amongst others. She then went on to join The *Phantom of the Opera* Broadway National Tour where she performed in every major city in the U.S. In addition to several other regional credits, she appeared as Marilyn Monroe for the 2012 *Broadway Easter Bonnet*, performed at the Minskoff Theater on Broadway. She began her training at the Academy of Dance Arts in Red Bank, NJ, and went on to study at The School of American Ballet, American Ballet Theater Summer Intensive, Chautauqua, Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell, The Rock School, The Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, The Atlantic Theater School, and NYU's Tisch School of the Arts Dance Program. After the birth of her first son in 2013, Elaine traded in her performing career and has come full circle to teaching dance. She was a faculty member at Princeton University and was previously a member of the judges panel for *Starbound National Talent Competition*. She has taught master classes through *The Broadway Connection* in over ten major cities in the United States, including Los Angeles and New York City. Her students have gone on to train on scholarship at The School of American Ballet, ABT's JKO School, Miami City Ballet, Ellison Ballet, Boston Ballet and The Rock School. Additionally, students have received scholarships to Indiana University, Pace University Commercial Dance Program, The Boston Conservatory, Marymount College, University of Richmond and DeSales University. Her students have also received awards at The Youth America Grand Prix, amongst others.

Christen Tassin booked her first Broadway role at the age of ten, as the original Baby June in *Gypsy*, starring Tyne Daly. She also played the role of Young Cosette (Gavroche u/s) in *Les Miserables*, originated the role of Laura in the off-Broadway play *Trophies*, and was featured in the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* for two seasons. She has done numerous commercials and voiceovers, and has sung live on national television, at the Grand Olde Opry, and for President George Bush. She holds a BFA in Acting, and has taught dance and acting in schools and studios around New Jersey to students of all ages.

Michelle Quiner is a member of The American Repertory Ballet Second Company. She has been featured in Dance Spirit magazine as a Cover Model Search Finalist and as the You Should Know Dancer. She has danced as Clara for the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. She is a YAGP New York finalist, a final round participant at the World Ballet Competition and a bronze medalist at the Valentina Kozlova IBC Contemporary Competition. She has won 5 National Titles and top scholarships at various dance workshops. She has received full

scholarships to Washington Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Orlando Ballet, Joffrey New York, and Valentina Kozlova's summer programs.

Rachel Quiner was born and raised in Northern New Jersey and began her formal ballet training at the North Jersey School of Dance Arts under the direction of Christine Taylor and Luba Gulyaeva. She attended HHB from 2017-2020. From 2015-2018, she danced the role of Clara for the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. She is a ballet dancer in the movie *The Greatest Showman* Starring Hugh Jackman. In 2017, she placed second in classical and contemporary at the Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) Semifinals in Philadelphia and was a scholarship recipient at the YAGP Finals. She joined American Ballet Theatre's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School in 2020. Highlights from her time there included performances in Complexions Contemporary Ballet's Gala at the Joyce Theater in 2022, the International Rescue Committee Gala at Gotham Hall and ABT's Fall Gala at Lincoln Center in 2023. She has guested as the Sugar Plum Fairy for Hunterdon Hills Ballet, Strictly Ballet, and Washington Rock Dance. She has also danced the role of Clara for New Jersey Ballet's *Nutcracker* in 2023. This is her first full season with ARB as an Apprentice.

Savannah Quiner was born and raised in northern New Jersey and began her formal ballet training at the North Jersey School of Dance Arts at the age of five under the direction of Christine Taylor and Luba Gulyaeva. In 2017, she placed first in classical at the Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) Semifinals in Boston and was a scholarship recipient at the YAGP Finals. She has danced the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy for various studios in New Jersey from 2018-2020, including HHB, and in New York Theatre Ballet's *Nutcracker* in 2021. Prior to joining ARB, she trained at HHB from 2017-2019 before joining the American Ballet Theatre's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School for three years. She performed with American Ballet Theatre at Lincoln Center in *Swan Lake* (2019, 2022, & 2023), and in *Manon* (2019). At American Repertory Ballet, she has performed in *The Nutcracker* as Snow Queen and Dew Drop, Myrtha in Ethan Stiefel and Johan Kobborg's *Giselle*, Ryoko Tanaka's *Hindsight*, Amy Seiwert's *Sight Line*, Ethan Stiefel's *VARIANTS* and *Wood Work*, and Stephanie Martinez's *The Time That Runs Away*.

Jessica Sims is so excited to be teaching again this year at HHB! Prior to becoming a mom of two girls, Jessica performed professionally in many shows including the National tour of Trevor Nunn's Broadway Revival of *Oklahoma!* as Laurey, choreographed by Susan Stroman, Atlanta Theatre of the Stars (*Oklahoma!*), Walnut Street Theater (*Carousel*), Fulton Theater (Belle, *A Christmas Carol*), (*Oliver!*), Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival (*Antonia*, *Man of La Mancha*), (Ella, *Charley's Aunt*), PA Shakespeare WillPower tour (Bianca, *Taming of the Shrew*), Circa '21 Playhouse. She studied acting at Boston University School of the Arts, DeSales University (Irene Ryan Nominations for roles in *Steel Magnolias* and *Diary of Anne Frank*), Art of Acting, Peoples Improv Theatre, and NJ's Governor's School of the Arts for Acting. She is also a member of Actor's Equity. Jessica studied dance at Broadway Dance Center, Rock School of Dance, and New Jersey Ballet where she performed several years in the *Nutcracker* at Paper

Mill Playhouse and performed in excerpts on NBC's morning show. Jessica also currently teaches music at Acorn Montessori School and drama at Madison Montessori School.

Veronica Hanson, an HHB alumni, has trained at the School of American Ballet for the past five years and participated in performances with the New York City Ballet. Veronica is starting her professional career with Ballet Arizona as a company member this upcoming August. She has worked with a multitude of teachers including Justin Peck, Irina Dvoroenko, and Alexei Ratmansky. Veronica has trained in both the Balanchine and classical style of ballet. For the past three years she has worked as a teaching assistant at SAB.

Emma Dorrier is a ballet dancer currently training at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. Previously a member of HHB, she has performed roles such as the Sugarplum Fairy, Dewdrop Fairy, and Snow Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, *Odette/Odile* in *Swan Lake*, and *Titania* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. At IU, she has had the privilege of dancing in Lauren Lovette's *Le Jeune*, Mark Morris' *Sandpaper Ballet*, and Sasha Janes' *Nutcracker*. Emma's training includes prestigious programs such as the School of American Ballet Summer Intensive and Boston Ballet's Summer Dance Program, where she attended on a full tuition scholarship. She represented HHB at YAGP for six years, achieving Top 12 placements in both classical and contemporary categories and earning a spot at the 2023 finals. Earlier in her career, she reached the Top 10 in auditions for *Clara* in the Radio City Rockettes' Christmas Spectacular. Emma is thrilled to return to HHB this summer to share her artistry and passion with the next generation of dancers!

Emma Blake is a former dancer of HHB. She was accepted to Boston Ballet School's Professional Division under the direction of Margaret Tracey in 2018. Emma was named Boston Ballet School's Sydney Leonard Scholar and Cathryn Keith Scholar. During her time at Boston Ballet School she had the pleasure of performing the role of *Clara* in the company's professional production of Mikko Nissinen's *The Nutcracker* in 2018 and 2019. Upon graduation she accepted a traineeship with Charlotte Ballet under the direction of Patricia McBride, Laszlo Berdo, and Kati Mayo. A year later, Emma was offered a Second Company position with Kansas City Ballet, under the direction of Devon Carney. During her two years at KCB she performed in numerous company productions such as *Jekyll and Hyde*, *The Nutcracker*, *Peter Pan*, *Jewels*, *Alice (In Wonderland)*, *Don Quixote*, *New Moves*, and *Fusion*. Emma looks forward to joining Grand Rapids Ballet for the upcoming season. Her other training includes Suzanne Farrell's Cedar Island Summer Intensive, the School of American Ballet Summer Intensive, Boston Ballet's Summer Dance Program under full tuition scholarship, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater's Company Experience Workshop, Charlotte Ballet's Summer Intensive on scholarship, and Cincinnati Ballet's Summer Intensive on scholarship. Emma is excited to share her passion and experience with the dancers of Hunterdon Hills Ballet this summer.