

thewashingtonballet

JULIE KENT, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Classical Ballet
Distance Learning Guide



Adelaide Clauss as Odette, The Washington Ballet's Swan Lake. Procopio Photography

Distance Learning Guide

This guide is designed to help you:

- Introduce the story and artistry of *Swan Lake* to students.
- Explore the art of classical ballet and music in a fun and engaging way.
- Prepare students to see a live ballet and reflect on the performance.

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Community Engagement Mission

Intrinsic to The Washington Ballet's mission to bring the joy and artistry of dance to the nation's capital, our community engagement programs provide a variety of opportunities to connect children and adults of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to the art of dance. We aspire to spark and enhance a love for dance, celebrate our cultural diversity and enrich the lives of our community members.

To learn more visit: **www.washingtonballet.org**

The Washington Ballet's Community Engagement programs are supported by:

DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation
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Julie Kent, artistic director

ARTISTIC & PRODUCTION TEAM

Julie Kent, Artistic Director



Victor Barbee, Associate Artistic Director

Elaine Kudo, *Ballet Master*

Rubén Martín Cintas, *Ballet Master*

Choreography after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov with additional staging & choreography by Julie Kent & Victor Barbee. *Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky featuring The Washington Ballet Orchestra.*

Artistic Operations

Andrés Holder, *General Manager*

Catherine Eby, *Company Manager*

Clayton Willis, *Artistic Coordinator*

Glenn Sales, *Music Supervisor*

Kyle Grant, *Production Manager*

Karen Storms, *Assistant Production Manager*

Susan Kilbourne, *Assistant Stage Manager*

Monica Leland, *Wardrobe Supervisor*

Carolynn Hawthorne, *Assistant Wardrobe Supervisor*

Noelle Greata, *Wardrobe Assistant*

Christopher R. M. Insley, *Production Carpenter*

C.C. Gould, *Production Electrician*

Noah Guthman, *Properties Manager*

The Company Dancers

Katherine Barkman, Nardia Boodoo, Adelaide Clauss, Kateryna Derechyna, Nicole Graniero, Esmiana Jani, Sona Kharatian, Ayano Kimura, Alex Kramer, Tamás Krizsa, Corey Landolt, Eun Won Lee, Olivia Lipnick, Ariel Martinez, Tamako Miyazaki, Javier Morera, Ashley Murphy-Wilson, Andile Ndlovu, Maki Onuki, Alexandros Pappajohn, Gian Carlo Perez, Daniel Roberge, Oscar Sanchez, Rolando Sarabia, Stephanie Sorota, Sarah Steele, Brittany Stone

Apprentices: Victoria Arrea, Kimberly Cilento, Gilles Delellio, Stephen Nakagawa, Lucy Nevin, Samara Rittinger, Masanori Takiguchi

The Studio Company Dancers

Andrea Allmon, Peyton Anderson, Rafael Bejarano, Nicholas Cowden, Jessy Dick, Abigail Granlund, Lope Lim, Audrey Malek, Aurora Mostacci, Helga Paris– Morales, Alexa Torres

The Story of Swan Lake

Act I - It is Prince Siegfried's 21st birthday and he is celebrating with friends. The Queen Mother arrives to give him his present, a crossbow, and reminds him that he must choose a bride at the ball the next evening. Siegfried, realizing that his carefree days are at an end, leaves the party at the height of the festivities to seek the solace of the woods. Benno, his friend, finds him and suggests they go hunting. Siegfried declines, preferring to be alone.

Act II - Prince Siegfried enters a moonlit clearing in the forest by a lake and sees a magnificent swan in flight. He carefully takes aim, but, to his astonishment, the bird transforms into a breathtakingly beautiful girl. Unable to resist his curiosity, he steps out, only to startle and frighten her. He assures her he will do her no harm and asks her to explain her magic. She tells him she is Princess Odette, who fell under the spell of an evil sorcerer, Von Rothbart, and now her fate is to be a swan by day and swim on this lake of tears. She can only become human at night.

She reveals she is condemned for eternity unless a young man swears eternal fidelity to her and marries her. Only then can the spell be broken.

But if he should forswear her, then she must remain a swan forever. Prince Siegfried falls in love with Odette, but before he has a chance to tell her, the evil sorcerer appears. The Prince, in his passion, reaches for his crossbow, but Odette immediately protects the sorcerer with her body, for she knows that if he is killed before the spell is broken, she too will die. The sorcerer disappears, and Odette slips away into the forest. Siegfried realizes his fate is now entwined with hers. Dawn approaches and Odette is compelled by the spell to turn back into a swan. Siegfried is left awestruck.

Act III - It's the night of the ball. Eligible young princesses from all over the world arrive and are presented to Prince Siegfried so that he may choose a bride. The prospective brides dance for the Prince and the Queen Mother. As Siegfried struggles with his responsibility to marry, he keeps thinking about Odette. Suddenly, an uninvited guest arrives. It is the evil sorcerer, Von Rothbart, in disguise. He has brought his daughter, Odile, on whom he has cast a spell to make her look like Odette. Siegfried is seduced by Odile, and announces his intention to marry her. Meanwhile, Odette, had been watching through the window. Von Rothbart asks Siegfried to swear fidelity to Odile, which he does, only to discover the real Odette in the window moments after. He realizes too late that he has been the victim of a terrible trick. Odette flees into the forest weeping and Siegfried rushes to the lakeside to find her.

Act IV - A great storm rages. Siegfried finds Odette and begs her forgiveness. Odette tells Siegfried she must kill herself, or she will be a swan forever. Von Rothbart appears and Siegfried declares he would rather die with Odette than marry Odile. The lovers leap into the lake together and are united in life after death.



*Misty Copeland and Brooklyn Mac as Odette and Prince Siegfried in The Washington Ballet's Swan Lake.
xmb photography*

Swan Lake Creators

The story of *Swan Lake* is believed to be inspired by German folk tale "The White Duck" and the Russian folk "The Stolen Veil" by Johann Karl August Musäus. While both tales differ significantly from the ballet, they utilize the swan as a symbol of strength, elegance and purity. The idea of a swan-princess is a common and recurring theme throughout much of Slavic and German literature.



The Composer—*A person who writes music.*

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840—1893) is one of the most popular Russian composers of all time. He lived and composed during the 19th century which is called the Romantic period because artists, writers and musicians focused on feelings and passions more than any other theme. It was popular during this time to compose music that told a story and Tchaikovsky's ballet's are often called story ballets. Tchaikovsky's compositions include 11 operas, 3 ballets and over 100 songs.

The original **Choreographer**— *A person who creates dance compositions by planning and arranging movements and patterns for dances, especially ballets.*

Julius Wentsel Reisinger (1828 – 1892) was a Czech ballet choreographer. He created more than twenty works on various European stages and directed the Moscow company of the Bolshoi Theatre. He was the choreographer the original production of *Swan Lake* in 1877.



Marius Petipa (1818–1910) was one of the most influential figures of classical ballet. Petipa was born in Marseilles, France. His father was a dancer, and Petipa began dancing in his father's travelling company when he nine years old. In 1847 he made his debut as principal dancer and ballet master of the Mariinsky Ballet in Russia. He became famous as a choreographer in 1859 with his production of *The Pharaoh's Daughter*. He went on to choreograph many world famous ballets that are still performed today. The Mariinsky Ballet Company and school became a model for all ballet around the globe throughout the 20th century. Petipa's successful production of *Swan Lake* in 1895 is the version most ballet company's base their staging's on.

Lev Ivanov (1834 -1901) was a Russian ballet dancer and choreographer. He studied with Marius Petipa and eventually became the Second Ballet Master of the Imperial Ballet. He worked along side Marius Petipa as his health declined.



Collaborators—*People who work together and cooperate to create a work of art.*

Tchaikovsky, Petipa and Ivanov, worked very closely to create *The Sleeping Beauty* Ballet in 1890, *The Nutcracker* in 1892 and *Swan Lake* in 1895. These ballet's are some of the best known classical ballets in the world.

The History of Swan Lake

Swan Lake, which tells the story of a princess turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer's curse, is one of the most popular ballets of all time. The music was composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky in 1875-76. Although the first production premiered in 1877 at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, most ballet companies base their staging's on Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov's choreography from their 1895 production for the Imperial Ballet at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia. Since ballet is not a written language, the choreography of famous ballet's is passed down from generation to generation through Ballet Masters, Répétiteurs and Dancers.

The original 1877 production of *Swan Lake* was a flop. The original choreography was created by Czech ballet choreographer Julius Reisinger (Václav Reisinger), who was also the director of the Bolshoi Ballet.

Throughout the production process Tchaikovsky and Reisinger had little to do with one another. Tchaikovsky preferred to write the score as he saw fit, rather than be dictated to by his colleague. This led to inevitable tensions between the two and meant that the score was subjected to numerous re-writes before it was deemed ready for performance in the spring of 1876. The first performance was not the critical success that Tchaikovsky and Reisinger would have hoped for. Audiences at the Bolshoi Theatre were left unimpressed by the choreography and the set design, and Tchaikovsky's score was considered heavy and oppressive.



Anna Sobeshchanskaya as Odette in Julius Reisinger's original production of Swan Lake,



Pavel Gerdt as Prince Siegfried and the Swan Maidens (1895) Source: Marius Petipa Society

The early criticisms led to several alterations being made to the score, and as the production became more polished and audiences became familiar with the music, *Swan Lake* soon became accepted as one of Tchaikovsky's finest achievements. Today *Swan Lake* is an ever-present feature in the repertoire of the Bolshoi Theatre, and is the most commonly performed ballet across the world.

The Washington Ballet's production will be curated and tailored to our dance company by Julie Kent, our Artistic Director and Victor Barbee, our Associate Artistic Director. They will be drawing on their years of experience as professional dancers at The American Ballet Theatre, the detailed Stepanov notations.

Production Design

The creation of theatrical, as well as film or television scenery and costumes.

Scenic designers design sets and scenery that aim to support the overall artistic goals of the production. They help the audience understand the setting of the story as well as the mood.

Costume designers design costumes that reflect the status and emotions of every character. A great costume should give the audience insight about a character.



Original Set Design by F. Gaanen for the décor of Act II of Swan Lake, Moscow, 1877

Swan Lake's Setting

The ballet takes place in two locations. Acts I and III take place in the ballroom and courtyard of Siegfried's Castle. Acts II and IV take place next to a lake in a forest. Both are represented by large painted backdrops. For the lake, smaller side backdrops of painted trees frame the stage to give the illusion of a bigger forest.



ACTIVITIES

- 1) Draw a picture of the ballroom and courtyard of Siegfried's castle.
- 2) Draw a picture of the mystical lake in the forest.
- 3) Create a set design using a shoe box and art supplies, based on your drawings.
- 4) Draw a picture of Odette, the Swan Princess.
- 5) Draw a picture of Prince Siegfried.
- 6) Draw a picture of the evil sorcerer, Von Rothbart
- 7) Draw of picture of Odile

Meet the Characters

Odette: Village girl who has been turned into a swan by the evil wizard Von Rothbart. Falls in love with Prince Siegfried.

Siegfried: Prince who has arrived at an age where he must choose a wife. While on a hunting trip into the woods meets and falls in love with the girl/swan named Odette.

Von Rothbart: Evil wizard who turns Odette into a swan.



Gian Carlo Pertierra and Adelaine Clauss as Odette and Siegfried, The Washington Ballet's Swan Lake. Procopio Photography

Odile: The evil Von Rothbart's daughter who tries to trick Prince Siegfried into thinking she is Odette by transforming herself to look like her .



Benno: Siegfried's best friend

The Queen: Siegfried's mother

Cygnets and Swans: Magical swans that inhabit the forest and protect it and their queen.



Writing Activities

What is a fairytale?



There are many different kinds of stories. We can sort stories into groups or categories with similar characteristics. These groups are called genres of literature. A fairy tale is a fictional story with magical beings and can take place in a magical or faraway land. Fairy tales come from oral tradition and were told by one generation to the next until someone finally wrote it down. Fairy tales have good and evil characters and usually royalty. Something magical always happens, such as a spell, and during the story a crazy problem has to be solved. Once the problem is solved, everyone lives “happily ever after”. A fairy tale often teaches the reader a lesson.

Writing Prompts:

1) Based on this description, do you think *Swan Lake* is a fairytale?

2) Many ballets over the centuries have changed the ending of this ballet. Below are a few examples.

How would you like to see the story end? Write a new ending to *Swan Lake*.

The original version, then called *The Lake of The Swans*, had a happy ending. Choreographed by Julius Reisinger for the Bolshoi Ballet in 1877, Prince Siegfried fought the evil sorcerer Von Rothbart, ripped off his wing, thereby destroying the spell he cast over Odette. Then Siegfried and Odette get married.

In the 1986 version choreographed by Rudolf Nureyev, Rothbart fights with Siegfried, who is overcome and dies, leaving Rothbart to take Odette triumphantly up to the heavens.

In a version danced by New York City Ballet in 2006, the Prince's declaration that he wishes to marry Odile constitutes a betrayal that condemns Odette to remain a swan forever. Odette is called away into swan form, and Siegfried is left alone in grief as the curtain falls.

Word Search

Swan Lake

E	E	C	R	B	C	L	E	C	L	O	O	O	R
V	E	A	B	A	A	Y	E	A	D	E	Y	W	D
O	E	C	U	R	S	E	G	L	I	C	K	S	N
L	C	L	R	O	Y	A	L	N	E	S	W	A	N
S	E	R	T	E	A	N	U	C	E	F	R	C	L
E	E	R	I	S	N	R	N	O	S	T	S	T	M
I	N	O	O	D	A	I	C	D	G	E	S	E	A
G	C	L	N	T	R	C	R	I	A	E	L	G	R
F	H	L	S	P	H	R	E	L	U	E	N	N	R
R	A	V	N	N	R	B	R	E	L	N	E	I	I
I	N	A	E	L	E	U	A	L	A	E	I	Y	A
E	T	L	T	W	E	F	G	R	U	T	D	A	G
D	E	N	I	L	L	A	B	Q	T	A	G	E	E
S	D	E	I	L	Y	N	O	D	E	T	T	E	G

PRINCE
 QUEEN
 CYGNETS
 CASTLE
 SEIGFRIED
 ODILE
 ODETTE
 MARRIAGE
 ENCHANTED
 LAKE
 ROTHBART
 LOVE
 ROYAL
 SWAN
 CURSE
 BALL

Play this puzzle online at : <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/54771/>



***Swan Lake* (1895)**

Choreographer: Marius Petipa; Composer: L. I. Ivanov

With hints of German legends, *Swan Lake* contains supernatural elements as well. Prince Siegfried sees a group of

swans—actually young girls enchanted by an evil magician—and falls in love with the Swan Queen, Odette.

Swan Lake's Most Famous Move!

Thirty-two fouettés en tournant

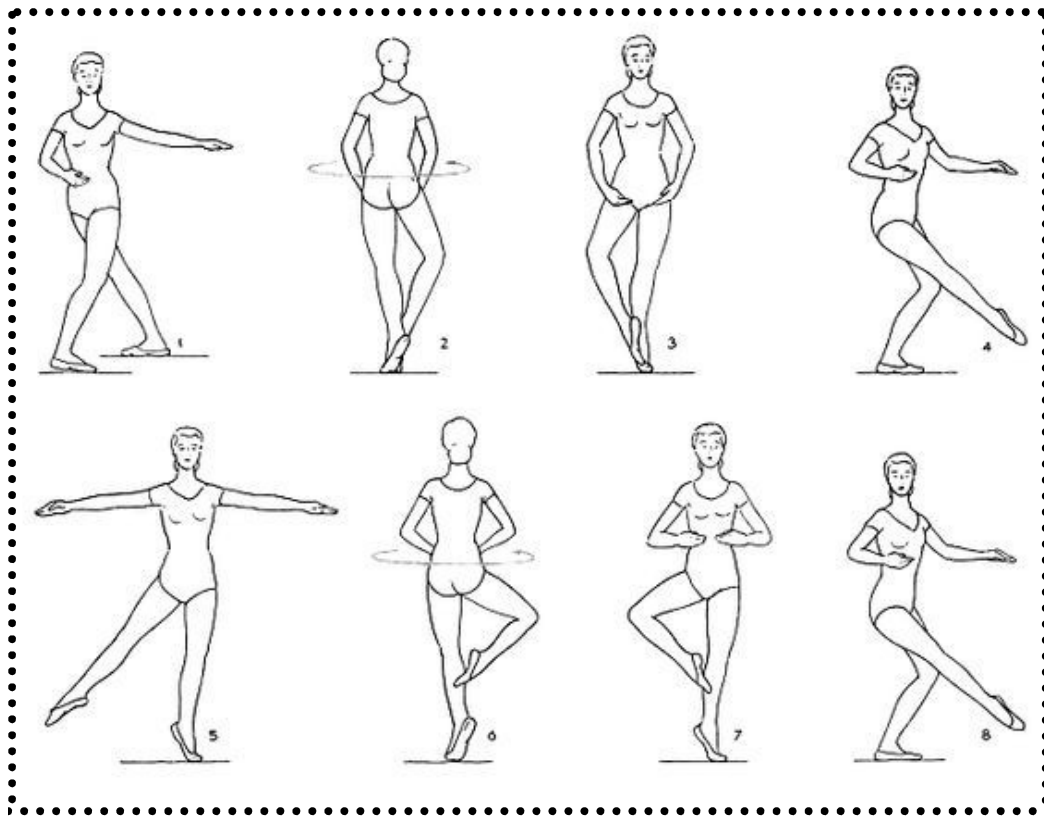
Fouetté: a classical ballet term meaning “whipping turn”

Pas de deux: a classical ballet term meaning “step of two” is a duet

Swan Lake is famous for the 32 fouettés en tournant in Act III. Fouetté is the name of the turn that the ballerina playing the role of the Black Swan, Odile, does in at the end of the “Black Swan” pas de deux. The dancer turns really fast by whipping one leg around her body, while with the other leg she rises up and down on pointe. The Black Swan is supposed to do 32 fouettés in a row! **To see this amazing move, check out this video** <https://youtu.be/XfmSv0z205s> of Marianela Nuñez as Odile and Vadim Muntagirov as Prince Siegfried in the Act III Black Swan Pas de deux of Liam Scarlett's production of Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov's Swan Lake at The Royal Opera House.



Learn to do a fouetté turn!



Recommended Books

Swan Lake: My First Ballet Book, by Jennifer Adams

Ella Bella Ballerina and Swan Lake, by James Mayhew

Swan Lake, by New York City Ballet

The Story Orchestra: The Swan Lake, by Katy Flint and Jessica Courtney Tickle

Swan Lake: Reimagining a Classic by Bill Cooper



National Arts Standards

Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work.

Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

Anchor Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

Anchor Standard 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

Anchor Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

Common Core ELA-Literacy Standards 3rd—5th

Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons. a. Introduce the topic or text they are writing.

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

Common Core ELA-Literacy Standards 6th—8th

Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes.

Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.

Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.

Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; assess the credibility of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources.

Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.