

Continental Ballet Company

Board of Directors

Riet Velthuisen

Riet is the founder and director of the Company and serves on the board of directors.

Mary Vasaly

Mary has been a member of the board of Continental Ballet Company for more than 20 years. She has served Minnesota as a trial court judge. Before her appointment to the bench, she practiced law for more than 25 years with Maslon Edelman Borman & Brand, LLP, in Minneapolis, where she was a partner in the litigation group. She is also a long-time participant in Continental's dance classes and has danced with the Company in several of Continental's professional productions. As a board member, Mary has worked to preserve Continental's tradition of bringing classical ballet to the community and Bloomington and throughout the state.

Genevieve Spooner

Genevieve is the Assistant Director for Continental Ballet Company. On the board she serves as treasurer.

Anne Burns

Anne has had the privilege of serving on the Continental Ballet board of directors since June 2004. She has had the opportunity to watch the company grow and establish a strong presence in the community. Anne has enjoyed helping with fundraisers for the company including the annual Nutcracker Tea and the Taste of Chocolate. A lifelong love of classical ballet has led Anne to being involved continually with ballet. The Minnesota Dance Theater was the first exposure she had to ballet classes; she then danced with the Branitski Ballet Company for several years. Anne also had the opportunity to choreograph high school musical productions; she found it great fun to teach young people who had never danced to learn to waltz in "Oklahoma" or skip down the "yellow brickroad". In the 1990's Anne and her three children continued their training with Continental Ballet. Her two daughters performed with the company for many Nutcracker seasons. Not only is Anne interested in dance but also in other art forms. Currently enjoying her retirement, she is also a member of the Edina Art Center and has been enrolled in pottery classes for many years. The challenge of always learning and creating is a wonderful thing for the mind and body.

Kimberly Kirby

Dancing from the age of two, Kim's mother instilled a love of ballet at an early age. She trained in Michigan, Florida and was a member of Continental's ballet company when it began in 1988. Kim has danced in the Nutcracker, Giselle, Coppelia, Peter and the Wolf and other various original works choreographed by Riet. While not in the Company any longer, Kim still takes classes at Continental. At age 12, Kim started Figure Skating and skated through college at the University of Minnesota, picking the sport back up in 1995. She is presently skating with the Minnetonka Figure Skating Club working on her Adult Gold FS test. Currently a member of the Bloomington Medalist Concert Band and the professional flute ensemble Silver Strings, Kim has been playing flute since the age of 11. She brings her love of music and dance experience to the Continental Board where she has been serving since 2002. Kim currently works at Park Nicollet Health Services as an HR Information System's Team Lead and resides in Crystal with her husband Steve Belzer.

Heather Shafland

Heather has had the honor of serving on the Continental Ballet board of directors since June 2015. Along with being the board secretary, she has also been emceeing at various performances the company has held since joining. She is currently the eCommerce Data Catalog Manager for Cyber Power Systems (USA), Inc. in Shakopee, MN. In her free time, she enjoys supporting all the arts within the community. From classical music to ballet, she longs to keep the traditions alive and growing within our local community and throughout the state.

Lori Barnd

Lori is currently employed at Hennepin County, where she has worked for the last 28 years. She is a program manager for the Health and Human Services Department in Long Term Services and Support and Adult Protection. She holds a Master of Social Work Degree (MSW) and is licensed as a Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) in the State of Minnesota. Most recently, Lori was deployed with Hennepin County's COVID-19 Incident Command Team and lead the Long-Term Services and Supports Team in the Disease Mitigation Branch. She worked with the State of Minnesota to develop a Statewide Electronic Staffing System due to staffing shortages in care facilities across the state.

Lori has been married to her husband Tom for 27 years, and she is a mother of two. Her son Ben is attending the University of Madison's School of Chemical Engineering. Her daughter, Kelly attends Edina High School and has been dancing with the Continental Ballet Company for the past six years. During this time, Lori has been actively involved in volunteering and fundraising efforts for the Continental Ballet Company. Lori has assisted backstage during Nutcracker performances and has assisted with several fundraising efforts such as the on-line apparel store, silent auctions, Beer and Ballet, and the online auction.

Beth Buteyn Van Hoever

Beth is a Financial Advisor, employed as a Financial Manager for a private financial services firm in St. Paul, where she has worked for twenty-four years. She has a CPA license, although she has never worked in public accounting, and earned her CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification in 2009. She has a major in Business Administration and German from Calvin University, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Beth is a lifelong Bloomington resident, except for four years of townhouse ownership in Burnsville. She and her husband Dean have had their home in Bloomington since 1998. They have a son in college in Illinois and a high school aged daughter who has participated in ballet at CBC for around ten years.