

# Our Teachers

## About our Director

**CONNIE MURRAY** is a dancer, teacher, choreographer, actress, singer and founder of the Lake Harriet Dance Center. She began her training in dance at age 4. At the age of 16, she began dancing with a professional group of dancers doing convention and entertainment work for Don Stoltz at the Old Log Theater. She danced in Miami, Las Vegas, the Bahamas and New York in shows with such stars as Jimmy Durante, Norm Crosby, Louie Nye and the Smothers Brothers. Her work with theaters in the Twin City area includes over thirty shows either as a dancer, a choreographer or both. She has 46 years of experience in choreographing for high schools and community centers such as the St. Paul Jewish Community Center, Temple Aaron and Holy Angels Academy. She has donated her time as a choreographer for many civic and community events. Creating the Lake Harriet Dance Center was a pivotal point in her career since she felt her true purpose was helping young dancers discover their talent. She has continually further developed her skills as a dancer studying with Minnesota Jazz, Ozone, Zenon, and Pineapple Studios in London. Each summer she continues her pursuit of keeping up with the current styles of dance. Dancing is her life and teaching dance is her love.

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**ANNA GOODRICH**, *Our Ballet Mistress*, has been teaching ballet and jazz for over 30 years. She is currently on staff with St. Paul Ballet and is director of ballet at Lake Harriet Dance Center. Anna began her ballet training with Lorant and Anna Andahazy in St. Louis Park and her continued study includes master classes with a number of artists, including Gabriela Komleva of the Kirov Ballet. Anna has received extensive teacher training in the Vagonva syllabus, most recently studying with Carol Roderick, professor of ballet and pedagogy at Colorado State University.

**SHERRI DAHLMEIR** started dancing at age 5. During high school, she continued her dance education with a scholarship at Minnesota Jazz Company for four years where she learned her technique in ballet, jazz and tap. She furthered her ballet training, studying under Becky Stanchfield at Zenon Dance Company. Sherri has been teaching with her mother, Connie, at Lake Harriet Dance Center for 25 years. She thoroughly enjoys working with the children, helping them to become the best dancers they can be. She brings fresh ideas and vigor to the classes.

**STEPHANIE HARMON** is a Minneapolis theater professional who has worked both locally and internationally. Her work has been seen in the cities at settings such as Choreographers Evening, The Fringe Festival and Stages Theater Company, as well as throughout Europe and Asia with the USO and Sesame Street Live. She taught the tap program at Zenon for 16 years, and was the Co-Artistic Director of The American Variety Theater Company. She still manages to teach some around the area, as well as acting as an evaluator for the Hennepin Theater Trust's Spotlight Education program, and is currently working as the Technical Production Coordinator for VStar Entertainment, the producers of the current Paw Patrol Live tours.

**TASHA HOLIFIELD** started her dance training when she was 4, right here at Lake Harriet Dance Center. After high school, she attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, majoring in dance. During her time there, she was awarded the honor of bringing her senior project to the American College Dance Festival where it was chosen to be performed at the end of the festival in the Gala Concert with seven other pieces of the week. She is looking forward to starting her 3<sup>rd</sup> year teaching Contemporary Dance at LHDC. Her passion lies in working with children and dancing. We are thrilled to have her with us once again.

**CAITLYN ROSE BROWN** has over 26 years of dance experience after starting classes at the age of 3. She has been dancing with Lake Harriet Dance Center for over 17 years and has been teaching for us since 2004. She loves her LHDC family and is so happy to be a part of our team.

**SIRI DRONTLE** began her ballet training as a teenager at Saint Anthony Park School of Dance and danced at Lake Harriet Dance Center in high school! Siri has trained in the Russian method of ballet, as well as jazz, character, and sacred dance under teachers including Wilor Bluege and Gabriela Komleva. She has a BA in Biblical Studies from the Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle, and an M.Ed. from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Siri has performed with Saint Paul City Ballet, St. Anthony Sacred Dance, Continental Ballet, and other area groups. She has taught the joy of dance to toddlers through adults since 1995, with an emphasis on preschool teaching and beginning levels.



