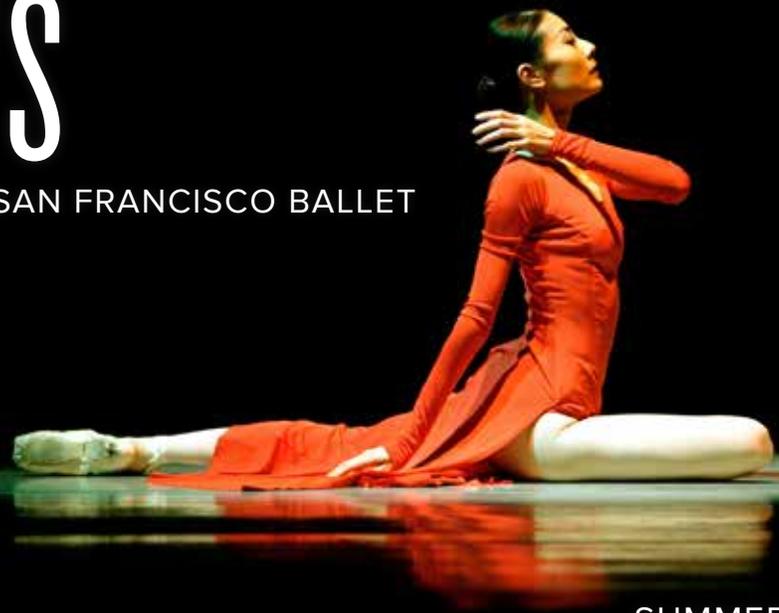


# LEGACY NEWS

ENSURE THE FUTURE OF DANCE AT SAN FRANCISCO BALLET



SUMMER 2021

Yuan Yuan Tan in Possokhov's *Magritomania* Photo © Erik Tomasson

## A LEGACY OF SERVICE

Legacy donor Jon Borset developed a love of the arts growing up in Detroit, Michigan. The emerging art scene in Detroit allowed Jon to have unique experiences, including acting as a supernumerary, or a silent actor, for the Michigan Opera Theatre. With the Opera, Jon experienced the magic of performance on-stage, but it was local ballet performances that allowed him to experience the magic of performance as a spectator.

After relocating to San Francisco, he quickly became involved with San Francisco Ballet as a volunteer for BRAVO (Ballet Resource and Volunteer Organization), where he was able to participate in and learn about all aspects of the Ballet. "Volunteering with BRAVO, I have worked as a chaperone, in the gift shop, at the annual Auxiliary Gala and helped with mailings."

His tenure with BRAVO further deepened his appreciation for the art form. Being behind-the-scenes helped Jon fully understand what it takes to put on performances like the ones that captivated him as a kid in Detroit. "I have always loved the performances, but it's really exciting to see the productions from backstage; it is a very different experience."

As a long-time friend of the Ballet, Jon has seen the ups and downs of the organization. He recalled a period of financial hardship in the 1970s that nearly forced the Ballet out of existence. SF Ballet



Jon Borset with Marie McNulty at a Legacy Circle Luncheon © Chris Hardy

*continued on Page 6*



# ARE YOU CONSIDERING GIVING THROUGH A GIFT ANNUITY?

A gift through a charitable gift annuity allows donors to continue to support San Francisco Ballet while meeting personal financial goals such as providing lifetime income for themselves or a loved one. For those considering this gift option, here are some commonly asked questions and answers about gift annuities:

**Q: How are charitable gift annuities funded?**

**A:** Many different assets can be used to fund a gift annuity for SF Ballet. For instance, you may want to consider using:

1. Cash or the proceeds from the maturity of bonds, certificates of deposit and other investments.
2. Stocks or mutual funds that are worth more than you paid for them but yield little or no dividends. These assets can provide additional tax benefits: Because capital gains tax is not due at the time you fund a gift annuity for yourself and/or a spouse, this can be

an effective way to make a gift while increasing your spendable income.

**Q: What if I outlive my life expectancy?**

**A:** The gift annuity agreement requires that payments will be made for as long as the recipient lives.

**Q: Can I establish multiple gift annuities?**

**A:** Yes. Some of our friends have been so pleased with their annuities that they have chosen to create additional annuities over time. This can be an attractive option as rates generally increase with age.

**Q: Will my gift annuity be considered part of my estate?**

**A:** Not generally. If payments are made to you only, none of the assets used to fund your gift annuity are included in your probate or taxable estate.

For more information about charitable gift annuities or for a gift illustration, contact Elizabeth Lani, Deputy Director of Development/Planned Giving.

# SPREADING THE JOY OF DANCE AND THE ARTS

Since 1979, San Francisco Ballet’s Dance in Schools and Communities (DISC) education program has been sharing the joy of dance with Bay Area students through free dance instructional programming. The program provides PreK–12 public schools with multi-week in-school dance residencies. The DISC curriculum introduces students to dance styles from around the world and builds creative expression and thinking skills. DISC was created to address the growing need for arts education in public schools while offering access to arts education to students of all backgrounds. The DISC residency program serves over 3,000 students in 47 San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) schools each year.

When schools nationwide were closed and shifted to virtual learning formats because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the DISC program had to adapt as well. In such uncertain times, it seemed more important than ever to provide students with an opportunity for joy and creative expression. As schools remained closed, our DISC residency program pivoted to offer weekly dance lessons to our partner schools via Zoom.

In addition to the virtual DISC program, SF Ballet partnered with SFUSD and KTVU Plus to create “SF Loves Learning,” an educational television program for PreK-2nd grade students. Much like the DISC curriculum, “SF Loves Learning” incorporates anti-racist, culturally-responsive, standards-based arts integrated lessons into interactive dance and music instruction. Now in its third season, “SF Loves Learning” airs Monday through Friday from 8:30-9:00 a.m. on KTVU Plus and on SFUSD’s YouTube Channel. The show helps address the digital divide

experienced by students and families who have struggled to adjust to distance learning due to limited or no access to the necessary tools and technology.

Transitioning our programming to these more accessible formats has allowed us to expand our reach beyond our partner schools and serve a wider audience of students across the Bay Area. Approximately 70% of DISC participants are students of color, and about 54% come from low socioeconomic status families. In its first two seasons, “SF Loves Learning” reached viewers in over 150,000 households. Viewership demographics for the first season were reported as 40% African American, 19% Asian, 8% Hispanic and 33% Caucasian.

Because of the generosity of our donors and community partners, we were able to adapt and expand our educational offerings. Donors and partners who are passionate about making dance and art available and accessible to everyone have been vital to the success of our education programs. Thank you for helping keep the DISC program going for over 40 years.



Scene from the San Francisco Ballet Student Matinee © Chris Hardy

## SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF DANCE

You can leave a lasting legacy by supporting our education and community programs with a gift through your estate plans. A gift through your will or trust can be a flexible way to make future gifts. You can:

- 1. Leave the residue.** This is a gift of whatever property is left after others have been provided for or in the event all others should predecease you.
- 2. Leave a percentage.** This is the most flexible way to give and allows your gift to automatically change with the size of your estate.
- 3. Give a fixed amount.** This is the most common type of bequest. The amount is certain and can be adjusted along with other terms of your will over time, if desired.
- 4. Donate specific property.** Securities, real estate and personal property can all be given. It is important, however, that plans be kept up to date as properties are acquired or sold over time.

These are just a few of the ways that you can make an impact on future generations of dancers and students with a gift to San Francisco Ballet. We are happy to discuss other options for giving or provide you and your advisors with more information. Please contact Elizabeth Lani or return the enclosed card for more information.

Julia Rowe and Isabella  
DeVivo in Tomasson/  
Possokhov's *Don Quixote*

© Erik Tomasson



## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

**Elizabeth Lani**

Deputy Director of Development/Planned Giving

San Francisco Ballet  
Chris Hellman Center for Dance

455 Franklin Street  
San Francisco California 94102

t 415-865-6623 e [elani@sfballet.org](mailto:elani@sfballet.org)

[www.sfballet.org](http://www.sfballet.org)

Dores André and Joseph Walsh  
in Robbins' *In The Night*

© Erik Tomasson





SAN FRANCISCO BALLET  
HELGI TOMASSON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Chris Hellman Center for Dance  
455 Franklin Street  
San Francisco, California 94102

# A LEGACY OF SERVICE

*continued from Page 1*

launched the “Save Our Ballet” campaign and was able to navigate through the financial difficulties to gradually get on track to greater financial stability. Jon witnessed how the generosity of others helped to save an organization that means so much to him.

That experience, as well as his experience as a San Franciscan during the AIDS crisis, sparked a passion to be of service to those who need assistance. “Helping others motivates anything that I do now. Out of something bad, something good can come.” Jon is also a committed supporter of Project Open Hand, an organization that delivers meals to our most vulnerable communities.

Jon’s desire to help others combined with his love for SF Ballet drove his decision to leave a percentage of his estate to the Ballet. He hopes his gift will help SF Ballet continue to move forward, innovate and nurture talented dancers, just as it has over the years under the leadership of Artistic Director Helgi Tomasson.

Jon also arranged a gift to SF Ballet through a charitable gift annuity, providing him with lifetime payments. “I read about the gift annuity program in the *Legacy News* newsletter, and I have since established three annuities with the Ballet. Right now, the gift annuities are a great income supplement for me. And I know my contribution will help this beautiful art to continue, evolve and thrive.”