

CDA STAFF



Sarah Pieper
Artistic Director

Sarah has had the joy of serving as Artistic Director of CDA for the past 13 years. She began her dance training at CDA in its debut year in 2001 and has continued dancing ever since. Sarah holds a B.A. in Dance from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point as well as her Pilates Mat training through Balanced Body. Sarah has performed professionally for over a decade with Concerto Dance by Jolene Konkell, Vivid Artistry Dance Co., Artistry Theatre, Eclectic Edge Ensemble, and Alternative Motion Project. Sarah serves as adjunct faculty at the University of Northwestern and choreographs the theatre season musicals. She seeks to use art as a way to create space for the Holy Spirit to bring about hope and healing. Globally, this has led Sarah to perform and teach dance in missions in Mexico, Costa Rica, India, and China. Beyond CDA, Sarah's choreography has been performed at Crown College, North Central University, the University of Northwestern St. Paul, YWAM school of dance, and a variety of high schools throughout MN. Her choreography has been showcased at the Hennepin Theatre Trust spotlight awards, and has received regional recognition through the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. She is continually inspired by the wonder of her children, the beauty of the outdoors, and a good cup of coffee. Sarah is grateful to embody joy through dance and for the opportunity to share that gift with the dancers at CDA!



Carrie Josephson
Financial Manager

Carrie has been working in the office since 2011 and brings so much to this studio with her detailed administration and serving heart! Her journey at Celebrate goes back to 2004 when her daughter began dancing. Her daughter danced at Celebrate from kindergarten all the way through high school graduation. Carrie holds a Bachelor's in Psychology from Bethel University and has served as an office administrator for many years. When Carrie is not busy keeping the office on track, she enjoys meeting up with her daughter or reading.



Mary Smith
Managing Director

Involved with Celebrate since its inaugural year in 2001, Mary is overjoyed to continue bringing instruction and discipleship to Celebrate dancers. With nearly 20 years of experience teaching dance, Mary believes that a love for movement and dance can be fostered at any age and works to make CDA accessible to everyone -regardless of ability level or background. Mary is especially passionate about our youngest dancers and absolutely loves introducing children to the joy of dancing! In addition to teaching many of CDA's children's classes, Mary also oversees the curriculum and instruction of non-level classes and leads the Teaching Assistant program.



Rachel Bonkougou
Instructor

Rachel, a native Minnesotan holds a B.A. in Dance from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She has performed with multiple dance companies including Bakersfield City Ballet, Eclectic Edge Ensemble, Rhythmically Speaking, Concerto Dance by Jolene Konkell as well as having produced four of her own evening length works. A ballerina turned jazz and modern dancer, she has also had the privilege of teaching dance to all ages and genres for the past 15 years and was the Artistic Director of Waconia Center for Dance Arts in Waconia for six years. Outside of dance, she has a growing family, a growing garden and a growing love of other creative projects including both videography and textile creations. She recently received her 200 hour yoga teacher certification and holds a level 1 certification in the Progressing Ballet Technique.

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Kelly Campbell
**Instructor and
Office Assistant**

Kelly started dancing at seven years old and grew up at Celebrate! Growing up at Celebrate she got the opportunity to student teach where she first fell in love with teaching dance. Having all of her dance training at Celebrate, she is happy to continue on her journey at the studio as an instructor. This is her fourth year teaching at Celebrate, and she is ecstatic to see what God has planned for her at Celebrate! As a teacher she hopes to not only help young dancers develop as dancers but also as people of God.



Mallory Dykema
Instructor

Mallory began her training in ballet, jazz, and modern at the Performing Arts Center in Waconia, MN. She went on to receive a BFA in Dance from the University of Minnesota where she performed notable works by modern pioneers. Mallory has choreographed musicals and taught dance classes at North Central University. At Prairie School of Dance in Eden Prairie, she taught sacred dance and created an evening length show for the students based on Psalm 139. Pursuing her first love of the stage, she has performed with various modern and jazz choreographers and was a member of the local theatrical jazz company, Eclectic Edge Ensemble, for over 10 years. Other fun facts about Mallory include: she dabbles in makeup artistry, enjoys interior design, homeschools, has five children, and has been married to Traivis for nearly 15 years. Mallory loves storytelling through music and dance and is excited to tell some stories with the lovely CDA dancers this year!



Siri Drontle
Instructor

Siri began her ballet training at age thirteen at Saint Anthony Park School of Dance. She received training in the Russian method of ballet, as well as jazz, character, and sacred dance under teachers including Wilor Bluege and Gabriela Komleva. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biblical Studies from the Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle, and a Master's of Education from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Siri has performed with Saint Anthony Sacred Dance, Saint Paul City Ballet, Continental Ballet, and Omaha Dance Project. In 2001 Siri taught and performed with Christian Outreach International's Performing Arts School in Czech Republic and England. In 2016 and 2021 she attended the Creative Dance Center's Summer Institute for teachers studying brain-compatible dance education and creative dance for all ages. Siri has taught the joy of dance to toddlers through adults since 1995, with an emphasis on preschool teaching and beginning levels. Siri is the lead teacher for Fusion Dance Academy. She lives in Saint Paul with her husband and daughter. Siri is excited to be teaching ballet classes at Celebrate Dance Academy.



Jess Gale
Instructor

Jess started dancing at 11 years old through Celebrate. She has participated in ballet, pointe, modern, jazz, contemporary, and musical theater. She has danced in the Mosaics Company for the past few years, and loves being on stage. This will be her third year of teaching at CDA. Jess is a recent graduate of the University of Northwestern, with a degree in Public Relations. Her goal is to go into PR and eventually run a business. Teaching dance has always inspired Jess to invest in younger dancers and help them grow! Being a part of Celebrate for so long has helped her gain deep relationships and she is excited to continue in this. Ballet has always been especially important to Jess since it was her first style, and the technique influenced how she danced in every other class.

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Lindsey Jacobson
Instructor

Lindsey has been dancing since the age of six and on into her college years from California to Minnesota and back! (Most recently in the kitchen with her kiddos). With decades of experience teaching children, she's excited to do so with her dancing shoes ON!! Lindsey is humbled and excited for this opportunity to join the Celebrate family, and cannot wait to show God's creativity through dancing and grow together!!

Outside of the studio Lindsey enjoys crafting and all things handmade, painting and photography, fruits of the spirit, homeschooling her crazy crew of 4, and has been married to Paul for over 10 years! She cannot wait to meet you all this upcoming season!!



Erin Wicks (Brady)
Instructor

Erin grew up dancing at Celebrate and continued her training at the University of Northwestern – St. Paul, graduating with a marketing major and theatre minor, before rounding out her academic studies with a law degree from the University of Minnesota. During her time at Northwestern, she was a company member with UNW Dance Theatre for three seasons and participated in a variety of theatrical productions with the UNW Theatre Department. Whenever she has the time, Erin sits in as a featured tap dancer with traditional jazz musicians from across the country, including pianist Jeff Barnhart and drummer Josh Duffee. Erin is happy to be back at Cebrate, sharing her passion for tap and love for the Lord with dancers!



Libby Johnson
Instructor
Mosaics Co-Artistic Director

Libby holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology from the University of MN with an emphasis in dance. She's been teaching dance for 20+ years and implemented modern dance and hip hop dance classes at Celebrate when she joined the staff in 2006. She is also co-founder and co-director of the Conservatory program and Mosaics Dance Co. here at CDA. Libby does free-lance choreography for local schools, universities and churches. She's been a guest choreographer for YWAM-University of the Nations in Kona and YWAM Lakeside Montana. Her work has been performed at the MN Fringe Festival, Project Dance NYC and YWAM School of Dance Studies. Also a singer/songwriter, Libby has released two albums of original music since 2016. Pursuing God's calling of encouraging artists at the intersection of art & faith, Libby founded the non-profit Vivid Artistry Co. for the purpose of gathering and connecting others in creative community through media, workshops, retreats and the professional dance company, Vivid Artistry Dance Co. In 2017 Libby launched the podcast "Art & Faith Conversations" which continues to be one of the leading podcasts for Christian artists all over the world. She recently completed an artist residency through the Brehm Center of Fuller Seminary where she continues to serve as a facilitator for other artists in residence. She resides in Woodbury with her husband, three daughters and their two crazy dogs, Sage and Dakota.



Myndi Lawrence
Acting Program
Lead

Myndi has been involved with Celebrate Dance Academy for nineteen years since her oldest daughter started taking classes here. Being a dancer herself from age three through high school, it has been a joy to watch all of her daughters carry on the dance tradition. With a Communications degree from Texas A&M University, Myndi has taught a variety of classes in the homeschool community over the past 15 years, including writing, communications, classic literature, art history, and theatre. As a part of that experience, she had the joy of writing and directing original plays with students from age 5 to 17. At CDA, Myndi's focus is on coaching students in acting, whether through summer musical theatre camps or the annual Christmas show, which she co-writes and co-directs with Sarah Pieper. In her free time, she likes to read, travel, and hang out with her incredibly supportive husband, Joel, their four amazing kids, and their mal-shi pup, Wicket.