Dear Friends,

The 2018-19 school year is off to an exciting start! The dedication event for the Justin Tranter Recording Studio was electrifying, with more than 100 guests in attendance to hear Justin speak and sing, and to witness the debut of The Academy’s Recording Arts and Commercial Music program. (You can watch the archived livestream here.) This program is an important step in ensuring that our students continue to be relevant in a rapidly evolving music industry.

You've no doubt seen the media coverage: with more than fifteen stories about Justin's gift, it is undoubtedly among the most-covered moments in The Academy's history. Our celebration of Justin Tranter will continue on May 18, when we honor him with The Academy's “Leadership and Legacy Award” at our annual Gala at the Palmer House Hotel.

And speaking of celebrations, we are thrilled to announce that we will present Dance Chair Randy Duncan with The Chicago Academy for the Arts Faculty Legacy Award at Showcase at the Athenaeum Theatre on Saturday, February 9. Randy is one of the most beloved, important, and influential people in the history of The Academy, and we invite everyone in the community to join us for this special night. See Page 5 for more information.

In just two months, Academy students have staged Sondheim’s legendary Sunday in the Park with George, curated two major visual arts exhibits, debuted college-level classical repertoire, raised more than $10,000 at the annual AIDS Benefit, produced I've Had Too Much to Dream (an evening of film, animation, and writing), and opened simultaneous theatrical runs of the critically acclaimed plays The Wolves and The Aliens. And in the weeks to come, our students will hit the Fall Jazz Concert at Winter’s Jazz Club and perform the Senior-Choreographed Dance Concert. Bravo, students: your work is masterful.

With much gratitude for your support,

Jason Patera
Head of School
Application for 2018-2019 School Year

The Chicago Academy for the Arts application deadline is January 11! We invite you to submit your application and schedule your audition for enrollment during the 2019-2020 school year. Click below to begin.

You will need to create a profile to begin the process. This will make it easy to save your application and continue later.

To learn more about The Academy, please consult our Admissions Calendar for visiting dates, including Academic Nights and department open houses. You can also register for our 2019 Summer Program.

Please note that the application is only open to students in the 8th, 9th, or 10th grades. For families outside of those grade levels interested in The Academy, please fill out our Request for Information, or contact the Admissions Office directly.

Congratulations on being one step closer to becoming an Academy student! We look forward to hearing from you.
Each year, The Academy identifies three elite-level freshman male dancers to receive the Rusty and Jeffrey Sanfilippo Young Men’s Dance Initiative scholarship. Selected dancers will receive financial aid for up to the entire cost of tuition.

Led by world-renowned choreographer Randy Duncan, The Academy’s Dance Department is one of the leading preparatory institutions for top colleges and dance companies in the country.

“At every performance, someone who has never seen the Dance Department before is astounded by the talent and execution. Someone always says, ‘It’s hard to believe they are teenagers.’”

- Kelly, Dance Parent
Each summer The Academy offers a week-long intensive for students entering the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. Students choose to focus on either Dance, Media Arts (film, animation, creative writing), Music, Theatre & Musical Theatre, or Visual Arts. This program is designed for students serious about the arts, and aims to provide practical instruction in a chosen discipline. We model our Summer Program after the curriculum current Academy students experience everyday, and therefore this is a special opportunity for young artists get to know The Academy. Feel free to contact Summer Program Coordinator Rose Colella at rcolella@chicagoartsacademy.org for more details.
All-School Showcase

The annual Academy Showcase is a community-wide celebration featuring top work from each of our arts departments, and we hope you — students, parents, alumni families, faculty and staff, prospective parents, supporters, and friends of any kind — will spend this special evening with us.

Each Showcase, The Academy recognizes a long-serving faculty member for their enormous contribution to our community and culture with The Faculty Legacy Award, and funds scholarships in their honor. **Randy Duncan** is one of the most beloved and important figures in the The Academy's history, and we look forward to honoring him at this year's event.

Read more about Randy Duncan below.

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**Randy Duncan: Faculty Legacy Award Recipient**

Please join us in honoring Randy Duncan, one of the most beloved, important, and influential people in the history of The Chicago Academy for the Arts. At Showcase, on February 9 at the Athenaeum Theatre, we will present Randy with The Academy's Faculty Legacy Award.

Randy has been a part of The Academy community since 1994, serving first as a teacher and — for the last 10 years — the Chair of the Dance Department. He oversees the school's legendary Senior, Faculty, and Guest-Choreographed Dance Concerts, and as a passionate advocate for young men in dance, he was instrumental in the development of The Rusty and Jeffrey Sanfilippo Young Men's Dance Initiative.
Through his teaching, mentorship, and leadership, Randy has transformed generations of young dancers. His students have gone on to study at all of the best conservatories in the world — from USC Kaufman to Juilliard — and many continue to make their mark on the world of dance on Broadway stages and in professional companies around the world today.

A critically acclaimed and award-winning figure in the local, national, and international dance community, Randy’s choreography has been featured in prominent dance companies, theatres, and films, from the Joffrey Ballet and Goodman Theatre, to Yale University and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and to Ballet Folklórico of Mexico City and Bat-Dor Dance Company of Israel.

Randy received the 2013 AIDS Foundation Chicago Civic Leadership Award, the Artistic Achievement Award from the Chicago National Association of Dance Masters, and is a three-time recipient of both Chicago’s prestigious Ruth Page Award for Outstanding Choreographer of the Year and the Black Theatre Alliance Award for theatre. Randy is a proud member of the Illinois State University’s Hall of Fame.

Showcase is The Academy’s premiere community event of the year, presenting world-class work from across the school to a massive audience of families, alums, friends, and arts leaders and lovers from Chicago and beyond. We hope you will join us on February 9 to celebrate Randy Duncan’s legacy at The Chicago Academy for the Arts. Click below for tickets!

**Jason Patera**  
*Head of School*

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**SHOWCASE**

**Honoring Randy Duncan**  
*2019 Faculty Legacy Award Recipient*

*February 9 • Athenaeum Theatre*
Fall Newsletter

Back to School

Teacher Parade

Click here to see the video!

Halloween
Welcome to the Justin Tranter Recording Studio at The Academy! This new, state-of-the-art recording facility was made possible from a generous gift from Academy alum and hit songwriter Justin Tranter (Musical Theatre ’98). In addition to the physical facility, Justin’s gift funds the The Academy’s new Recording Arts and Commercial Music program through 2021.

Recording technology has changed dramatically in the last two decades. Gone are the days when making a record required a giant mixing console, reel-to-reel tape machines, and racks filled with signal processors. (A free iPhone app has considerably more editing power than the Beatles ever had access to.)

The Justin Tranter Recording Studio features:

• a control room with top-of-the-line recording software, including ProTools and Ableton, the computing firepower to handle the processing, and all of the necessary hardware (including controllers, digital interfaces, and monitors)
• a tracking room with an extensive microphone collection, a vocal booth, and acoustic paneling (in addition to the school’s existing professional instrument collection)
• a lab featuring four state-of-the-art production workstations (computer, software, controllers, interfaces, and monitors) for classroom use and individual projects

Justin’s gift will have an enormous impact on The Academy’s students. Students will gain hand-on experience working with state-of-the-art tools to produce original music. But most importantly, the program will foster their abilities as artists. These students will have another avenue to develop and harness the power of their creative voices, just as Justin did at The Academy more than two decades ago.
AIDS Benefit

This year’s AIDS Benefit grossed nearly $14,000! On behalf of the entire Academy community, we congratulate Lillie Yokom, Grania McKirdie, Adam Chlebek, Declan Beyer, and the entire cast and crew for a beautiful and successful event. You’ve made us all so very proud.
Figure Drawing Exhibition
Sunday in the Park With George

Photos by Thomas Mohr Photography
Welcome to The Chicago Academy for the Arts podcast *Art at 1010!* The faculty and students of The Academy hope this podcast inspires engagement and trust in the arts. Each episode we will speak with educators, professionals, and one another about the importance of art in the world today and what motivates us to create.

Our first episode features Ben Dicke, Chair of the Theatre Department at The Academy, speaking with actor and singer Aisha Jackson about her role in *Frozen* on Broadway, sleeping on friends’ couches in New York City, and landing that first gig out of college. Aisha used her arts high school education to take her to the University of Colorado where she studied theatre and dance. Joining Ben and Aisha is Academy alum Paris Richardson (Musical Theatre ’18). Full podcast below!

[Click here to listen to Episode 1](#)
Music Department at The Academy

Adam Learns Chopin

Watch the video series featuring Academy piano instructor Rick Ferguson and Academy senior Adam Chlebek. Each installment will show more progress on the Ballade in F major!

Watch Part 1
Watch Part 2

Drums and Percussion at The Academy

Check out a behind-the-scenes look at drums and percussion instruction at The Academy! Featuring drum set and jazz combo instructor Jon Deitemyer and Academy junior Declan Beyer.

Check out the video

Bass at The Academy

Watch Academy Bass instructor Katie Ernst and Academy junior Matthew (Mateyko) Jazwinski work on parts of “Anthropology”.

Check out the video
Alumni Party 2018 Recap

Thank you all for a great alumni party last week! From the “Originals” (alums from the early 80’s) to the Class of 2018, alums from nearly every era of The Academy’s history came to catch up, see the building, and groove to Meagan Hickman’s great band.

Read more and see the photos here!

Dominic Flynn

Dominic Flynn graduated from The Academy Music Department in 2014 and went on to study classical music, jazz, and composition at the University of Southern California. He spent his senior year at USC writing a few projects, including a set of original compositions on classical nylon string guitar entitled “Unforeseen”, which he recently performed on a fully funded European tour. Additionally, he composed two sets of jazz influenced music for a sextet of guitar, piano, bass, drums, trumpet, and trombone that he debuted at the Blue Whale jazz club in Los Angeles. He is now moving into a new place in L.A. and beginning to promote “Unforeseen”, which he also recorded while in Berlin.

Read more about Dominic

Craig Hall

Craig Hall graduated from The Academy in 1997 and went on to dance at the New York City Ballet for 17 years. He was promoted to soloist in May 2007, and in 2016 he joined the company’s artistic staff as a ballet master. Currently, he is working with Justin Peck (NYCB’s resident choreographer) staging new ballets, as well as taking the choreography to other companies. Furthermore, Craig is now part of a four-person interim team leading the organization.

Read more about Craig
THE ACADEMY
IN THE PRESS

JASON PATERA

Academy Head of School Jason Patera wrote this great piece for National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) about his and Ben Dicke’s difficult decision to produce columbinus last spring.

Read more here

MORGAN CLUNE

“Morgan is an anointed dancer, a true gift to the world and the art of dance.” Read about Morgan Clune (Dance ‘18) in Country Magazine! She is now at The Juilliard School!

Read more here
“As long as I can remember, I’ve always loved singing,” she said. “It’s a feeling like nothing else I get. That’s when I’m the happiest.” Check out Music Department sophomore in the Chicago Tribune!

Read more here

“It’s such a positive place to learn and grow and get better at what you want to do.” Read about Johnny Rabe (Musical Theatre ‘18) in Glancer Magazine.

Read more here

“Never give up on your dreams, even if you feel like it’s too hard of a goal to reach. Whatever you do, keep working on it and don’t let anyone discourage you from your realizing your dream.”

Read more here