

LEARN MORE ABOUT SARA HOLTON



When Sara came to the Quinte Ballet School of Canada (QBSC) in Grade 7, it was immediately clear that *'... this was a young girl, smitten with ballet, she loved to move and to dance.'* says QBSC's Artistic Director, Catherine Taylor. *'With every year in her training at QBSC, we saw steady and excellent progression in Sara's dancing. It seemed the more she learned, the more she desired to learn more, and the more she realized how much there was to continue learning about her body, technique and the myriad of details required to become a dancer, the more determined she was to do so.'*

Sara in QBSC's 2018 Dance of Spring Showcase performance of 'Paquita'.

Although petite in stature, Sara had a big heart and an even bigger smile. She was always open and interested. Sara always had time to help and encourage her fellow colleagues and used every minute of her time to work in the studio to do conditioning, stretching or reviewing of choreography. She in many ways mentored through example.

With special permission from Artistic Director, Catherine Taylor, in her final two summers at QBSC, she was able to experience a few different Intensives, the most recent was attending the Summer Intensive at the Royal Danish Ballet. She described this experience as the most positive and supportive program she had ever attended. These Intensives gave her the chance to try new things, meet new people and explore different opportunities to help expand and enhance the training she received at QBSC. It also helped her better understand her own strengths and the abilities that she had developed through her core training at QBSC.

Sara flourished in an environment where a career in ballet is felt to be not only attainable, but as respectable and admirable as any other profession. In North America it is uncommon for those in the Arts to achieve the same level of recognition or support as is commonly found in Europe and many other countries.

Sara loved the city of Copenhagen as much as she loved the ballet program and hoped one day to audition for the Royal Danish Ballet. She was never able to achieve this goal as she died on September 23, 2018, at the age of 17, just a few short weeks after returning from her summer dancing in Europe.



Sara in QBSC's 2016 Spring Showcase performance of 'Sleeping Beauty' as one of her favourite characters - Red Riding Hood, with classmate Stephen Allan as the Wolf.



Alexander Staeger, Artistic Director of The Royal Danish Ballet Summer Intensive said, *'I found Sara to be curious, kind, hard-hardworking, funny, and undeniably talented. Her joy was highly contagious, and she made so many friends in her three weeks in Copenhagen. She was thriving in our varied and demanding program. In many ways, she was the epitome of the summer school spirit we wish to encourage in our students.'*

Sara pictured with Alexander Staeger at the RDB in Copenhagen, July 2018.

Sara appreciated every new experience she had. She loved to dance, to travel, to meet new people and to spend time with her friends and family. Sara's love of travel was shared with her extended family and in particular her grandfather, Dr. G. Rolfe Morrison, who was able to join her on a number of her adventures and in particular, sweltered through the heatwave in Copenhagen during her time there.

He was able to see first-hand how much she thrived during these times and how important it was for her to be able to attend these international programs.

As a result, Dr. Morrison immediately decided to create a fund in Sara's name to help assist other QBSC students to attend this program and to experience this type of Intensive.



Sara in QBSC's 2018 Spring Showcase Jazz work 'Love' with level B2/C classmates.



Sara in QBSC's 2018 Spring Showcase Modern work 'Journey' with level B2/C classmates.



We will remember Sara for her amazing work ethic, passion and determination, her light and her smile and her performances. She has set the 'barre' high for future QBSC students to follow.

Sara with parents Kristin Morrison and Gordon Holton after the QBSC 2017 'Holiday Dance' performance.