

En l'Air

News from
MASSACHUSETTS
ACADEMY of
BALLET
Educational Training
Association

SPRING
2012



Nutcracker Mice (left to right) Meghan, Amelia, Sallie, Emily, and Chloe. Photo: Theodore Paradise

Loomis Nutcracker

We were thrilled when Patricia Creaser from Loomis Village called and told us, "We got the grant for Nutcracker!" MABETA and MAB went on the road: Our first *Nutcracker and Sweets* tour!

The performance was a great success. The students conducted themselves like professionals; with only one spacing rehearsal, the show went forward. Loomis residents were a delight to perform for and to speak with following the show. It is exciting for our students to bring ballet to Loomis, and it is wonderful for the Loomis residents who attend each of our demonstrations and performances to watch our dancers grow and improve every year.

Pigs en Pointe?!

A pig is usually not the first thing that comes to mind when we think of ballet. Although they are delightful or delicious animals depending on your diet and philosophic bent, they do not lend themselves to the ballet aesthetic. USUALLY...

David Ira Rottenberg, a Massachusetts resident, has written a delightful, witty and socially relevant children's book about a pig with ballet ambitions, called *Gwendolyn the Graceful Pig*.

Rottenberg presents his book around the country with the help of local ballet studios. He has invited MAB to present two local performances. MABETA will provide the dancers and Charles Flachs will choreograph for these community events, on April 18 at 11:30 in South Hadley's library and at 1:30 in the Belchertown Town Hall.

It seems every dancer would like to portray "Gwendolyn" but the story is rich with other wonderful characters as well. We hope you can attend and spread the word about these events. And then get ready for the sequel: *Gwendolyn Goes to Hollywood...*

Spring Silent Auction and Performance

MABETA and MAB

June 9th

Holyoke High School
500 Beech St., Holyoke

Silent Auction 1:00 pm

Performance 2:00 pm

Purchase tickets at MAB:

Adults \$10, children 8 and younger free

PROGRAM:

Etudes by MAB students

Dances by the pre-ballet division

Excerpts from *Coppelia*

Premier by Charles Flachs

Choreography by Debra Vega

GUEST ARTISTS:

Connie Flachs, courtesy of the
Grand Rapids Ballet Company
Daniel Grzelak, courtesy of the
Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet



*MABETA members in Gwendolyn formation
Photo: Charles Flachs*

The Massachusetts Academy of Ballet

4 Open Square Way, Studio 403 • Holyoke, MA 01040 • 413.536.6200 • massacademyofballet.com





Dance To Stop Hunger
 Saturday, March 10 at 3:00 pm
 Massachusetts Academy of Ballet
 4 Open Square Way, Suite 403
 Holyoke, Massachusetts

MABETA members perform excerpts from *Coppelia*, *La Fille Mal Gardée*, *Giselle*, and *Fame* with choreography by faculty member Debra Vega and MAB Artistic Director Charles Flachs. Demonstration by Massachusetts Academy of Ballet intensive students.

Proceeds to benefit Kate's Soup Kitchen in Holyoke and MABETA.
 Check or Cash Donations Accepted.
 For more information: 413.536.6200
 or email rflachs@massacademyofballet.com

Kate's Kitchen

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Barnes & Noble Fundraiser

Many thanks to parents and supporters of MABETA for purchasing books and other items last November for our Barnes and Noble fundraiser. It was a wonderful success; we raised over \$500 dollars. A big THANK YOU!



They put the "barre" in Barnes & Noble. MABETA dancers warm up before their public performance in November, 2011. Photo: Theodore Paradise

Suzanne Farrell Ballet and ABT

On February 22nd, MAB students and their families attended a performance of Suzanne Farrell Ballet at the UMass Fine Arts Center, in a group outing organized by parent Deborah Haas. The all-Balanchine program included *Haieff Divertimento*, *Meditation*, *Diamonds pas de deux*, *from Jewels*, and *Agon*. It was exciting for the students to see professional dancers performing these well-known pieces.

Check your e-mail for other parent-organized group performance opportunities. Loran Saito is organizing a group to attend American Ballet Theater's *Romeo and Juliet* at New York's Lincoln Center on June 16 at 2:00 pm. A group of 15 (sitting anywhere in the theater) gets us a discounted rate. Contact Loran at ldsaito@comcast.net by March 12 for more information or to reserve your tickets.



MAB students (left to right) Evan, Emma Jane, Liam, Anna, Izzy, Emma, Louisa, Angela, Rebecca, Gabrielle, Emlyn, and Nolan . Photo: Loran Diehl Saito

Alumni Updates

RACHEL AYLWARD is studying Dance and Marketing at UMass Amherst. She has been in works by Adrienne Hawkins, Consuelo Atlas, Tom Vacanti, David Dorfman and Monica Bill Barnes. Now in her junior year, she will soon start auditioning for post-graduation jobs

KELSEY CHAMBERLAIN is a Junior at Mercyhurst College. She was moved up to level 3.1 the second highest level in the department and is also auditioning for companies (fingers crossed!) She is now currently working on the departments spring production. We enjoyed having Kelsey guest with MABETA for our Nutcracker Sweets.



Kelsey Chamberlain (Photo: Jessica Stachelrodt)



Rachel Aylward (Photo: Ron McKinney)

CONNIE FLACHS is having a wonderful year at Grand Rapids Ballet, dancing repertory from Balanchine to Taylor and Bourneville to Parsons. We have invited her back to guest for our Spring Performance. Congratulations Connie!

DAN GRZELAK is on scholarship at the Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet and is busy auditioning this spring. Stayed tuned to MAB's Facebook for the latest news! Good luck, Dan!



Dan Grzelak (Photo: Deborah Boardman)

Massachusetts Academy of Ballet Faculty

Rose and Charles Flachs,
Artistic Directors

Cathy Johnson, Pre-ballet Division
and Adult Ballet

Debra Vega, Jazz and Tap



Newsletter design: Loran Diehl Saito



Connie Flachs (Photo: Ron McKinney)

MABETA Board

Jennifer Cannon
Charles Flachs
Rose Marie Flachs
Deborah Gauthier
Deborah Haas
Cathy Johnson
Anne Lytle
Brittney Noble
Navae Fenwick Rodriguez
Loran Diehl Saito
MJ Wraga



Nutcracker @ Sweets 2011

Thank you MABETA donors!

Bruce and Cristine Rockwell

Women's League for the Arts,
Springfield MA

Elizabeth Odell and Nancy Maynard

R.R. Haas and M. Haas

MABETA was awarded a grant from the Holyoke Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency for our 2012 Nutcracker and Sweets Production, December 14-16.



*Photos:
Theodore Paradise*





Join us! MAB Summer Programs 2012

Faculty include Matisse Madden, Debra Vega, Paul Dennis, Cathy Johnson, Katherine Bervera, and Rose & Charles Flachs.

2012 summer registration form

STUDENT NAME: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

PARENT NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____

PREVIOUS TRAINING: _____

HOW REFERRED TO THE ACADEMY: _____

PROGRAM FOR WHICH YOU ARE REGISTERING:

adult open classes

Single Class \$17

Class card \$140 Student class card \$130

JUNE 19-AUGUST 17

Advanced-Intermediate

TUE & TH 9:30-11:00

Beginner-Intermediate

TUE 6:00-7:30

pre ballet workshop

Ages 6-7

1 wk \$175

JULY 16-20

M-F 9:00-12:00

primary ballet workshop

Ages 8-10

1 wk \$200 2 wk \$350

AUGUST 6-10

M-F 12:00-3:00

AUGUST 13-17

M-F 12:00-3:00

ballet intensive

for the young dancer

Ages 11-13

1 wk \$250 2 wk \$400 3 wk \$500 4 wk \$600

JULY 23-27

M-F 9:30-4:00

JULY 30-AUGUST 3

M-F 9:30-4:00

AUGUST 6-10

M-F 9:30-4:00

AUGUST 13-17

M-F 9:30-4:00

teen and pre-professional dancer

Ages 14 and older

1 wk \$275 2 wk \$425 3 wk \$525 4 wk \$625

JULY 23-27

M-F 9:30-5:00

JULY 30-AUGUST 3

M-F 9:30-5:00

AUGUST 6-10

M-F 9:30-5:00

AUGUST 13-17

M-F 9:30-5:00

Please make check(s) payable to "Massachusetts Academy of Ballet" and return to:

Massachusetts Academy of Ballet, 4 Open Square Way, Studio 403, Holyoke, MA 01040

For correct class placement, please attend a class at the Academy or send a DVD of one barre, one center, and one allegro combination. Students who register for the entire 4 weeks of the intensives may participate in the in-studio performance on August 17.

If more than one child from a family enrolls in pre-ballet workshops, tuition will be discounted to \$150 per child.

Out-of-town registrants should contact Rose Flachs at (413) 536-6200 to inquire about housing.

MABETA dancers at Youth America Grand Prix Competition 2012

MABETA students Izzy Luu Li Haas and Liam Saito participated in the Youth America Grand Prix in Torrington, CT on March 2nd. They competed in the Junior Division in both the contemporary (with solos choreographed by Charles Flachs) and classical categories, performing variations from *Giselle* (Izzy) and *La Fille Mal Gardée* (Liam). It was a great experience, both performing and taking master classes on the Sunday following the competition. Izzy and Liam both placed in the top 12 in contemporary, and Liam won 1st place in the same category. Liam also placed in the top 12 in classical. Congratulations to both dancers, and thanks to Rose & Charles and all their MAB friends for their support!



Photos: Siggul/Visual Arts Masters

Behind the Scenes at Our Wistariahurst Nutcracker

Photos: Loran Diebl Saito



(Left) Louisa finds her snow headpiece (Below) Dancers put on makeup at the studio (Right) May puts on pointe shoes (Below right) Costume Mistress Arlene inspects the party girl dresses (Far right) Angela gets a hug from her mom, Deb, in the costume room



(Far left) Eager mice are ready to go (Left) Chinese dancers Rebecca and Emmy get out their parasols (Above) Bonbons about to make their entrance

MABETA Calendar

March 10, 3:00 pm

Dance to Stop Hunger, Open Square, contributions encouraged

June 9, 1:00 pm

Spring Performance and Silent Auction, Holyoke War Memorial, \$10.00 Adults, \$5.00 Children

2012 Summer Program

Adult/Teen Open Classes:

June 19 - August 17

Summer Workshop:

July 16 - 20

Summer Intensive:

July 23 - August 17

2011-2012 MABETA Members

Gabrielle Engel

Emlyn Fenwick-Homstead

Angela Gauthier

Izzy Haas

Louisa Rader

Liam Saito



Photo: Ron McKinney

Dance with the professionals



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