

# En l'Air

News from  
MASSACHUSETTS  
ACADEMY of  
BALLET  
Educational Training  
Association

## SPRING 2013



**N**utcracker and Sweets 2012 was the most successful collaboration in our five years with Wistariahurst Museum. MABETA and students from MAB performed five shows. We had 425 adults and 112 youth attend. It is quickly becoming a Holyoke tradition!

This year, we added theatrical lighting to the production and the consensus was that the added value to the performance was well worth the extra expense. Our production uses over 30 volunteers from the school and Wistariahurst. Our heartfelt thanks to all who helped out. A performance of this scale could not be accomplished without your participation.

Arlene Kowal, with help from Katherine Bervera and Loran Saito, did a masterful job with the costumes. Once again, Andrew Butler was flawless as the musical director. Crystal

Menninga and Ian Soares did a great job with the lighting design and light board operation. Navae Rodriguez and Claudette Peterson were an integral part of the production as stage managers with help from Evan Saito as assistant stage manager. Deb Haas expertly managed the Nutcracker table of gifts while other volunteers helped with the reception, signing in performers, and directing students to dressing rooms. Finally, Cathy Johnson, Nancy Lacey and many parent volunteers kept the mice and soldiers from continuing the battle scene during long breaks! Seriously though, the younger MAB students were the best ever, acting with a very professional theatrical department.

We are extremely happy to be working with Wistariahurst as our partner in this production and would like to thank Melissa Bois-

selle and Marjorie Latham for their generous hosting and organizational skills.

This production has fantastic benefits on several levels. *Nutcracker and Sweets* stimulates the arts in the City of Holyoke and surrounding communities by allowing audiences to attend a quality production at a reasonable price. At the same time, Wistariahurst and MABETA generate non-profit revenue to use in their respective institutions and most importantly, our students get an opportunity to perform in front of a live, appreciative audience to whom they can show off their hard work and honed skills.

Next year's plans are to continue this Holyoke tradition by increasing the number of performances while keeping the production to one weekend, December 13-15.

### Spring Dance!

**M**ABETA and MAB students return to Holyoke High School for our Spring Performance June 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Back by popular demand are *Études* performed by all students of our regular division and *light vignettes* by students of our pre-ballet division. Debra Vega's jazz classes perform excerpts from Broadway shows; MABETA members and MAB advanced level students perform classical repertoire and a new ballet premiere choreographed by Charles Flachs. Raffle prizes available will include tuition discounts, a gift certificate from Fancy Feet Plus, a Kindle and more! A reception will follow the performance.

Tickets will go on sale at MAB for the performance and for the raffles beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>.



Saturday, April 6 • 2 pm  
Massachusetts Academy of Ballet  
4 Open Square Way, Suite 403, Holyoke

## dance TO STOP HUNGER

MABETA members and MAB students perform classical and contemporary repertoire with choreography by Artistic Director Charles Flachs.

Proceeds to benefit Holyoke's Kate's Soup Kitchen and MABETA. Check or cash donations accepted.  
More info: 413.536.6200 | [massacademyofballet.com](http://massacademyofballet.com)

PHOTO: MODEL MABETA DANCER IZZY BOU LATHAM

## The Massachusetts Academy of Ballet

4 Open Square Way, Studio 403 • Holyoke, MA 01040 • 413.536.6200 • [massacademyofballet.com](http://massacademyofballet.com)



## Summer at MAB

See [massacademyofballet.com](http://massacademyofballet.com) SUMMER tab for detailed information.

Register by downloading the registration form on MAB's home page (scroll down on the left side.) Mail to MAB with deposit to register.



- **Adult Open Classes**  
June 18<sup>th</sup>-August 9<sup>th</sup>
- **Summer Intensive** for Levels 1-5  
July 15<sup>th</sup>-August 9<sup>th</sup>
- **Summer camp FUN** for ages 5-8! July 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>



*Thank you to everyone who participated and bought books at the MABETA Barnes and Noble Book Fair November 11, 2012. The event raised nearly \$670.00!!*

*Photo: Charles Flachs*

**M**assachusetts Academy of Ballet Educational Training Association, MABETA, is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to educating the residents of Holyoke, MA and the surrounding communities about the art of classical ballet through performances and lecture demonstrations at schools, senior centers, and other community venues.

MABETA Board Members:  
Andrew Butler, Charles Flachs, Rose Marie Flachs, Deborah Haas, Cathy Johnson, Brittany Noble, Navae Fenwick Rodriguez, Loran Saito, and MJ Wraga

### **Thank you MABETA Donors!**

Susan and Ralph Chamberlain  
Dan Czitrom and Meryl Fingrut  
Roland and Mary Haas  
Elizabeth Odell & Nancy Maynard  
Bruce & Cristine Rockwell  
Springfield Women's League for the Arts  
Holyoke Cultural Council  
Massachusetts Cultural Council

### **MABETA Members**

Emlyn Fenwick-Homstead, Izzy Luu Li Haas, Anastasia Lusnia, Erica Maillet, Louisa Rader

# Gwendolyn, the Graceful Pig



written by David Ira Rottenberg

illustrated by Lesley Anderson

MABETA will perform "Gwendolyn the Graceful Pig"

**Thursday, April 18th**

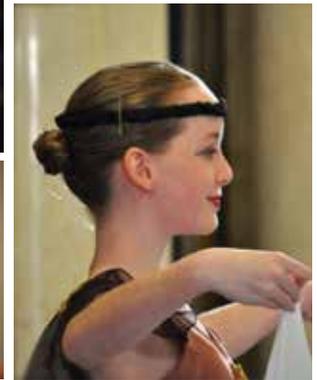
11 am at Westfield Athenaeum Library  
2 pm at Northampton Forbes Library

**Saturday, April 20th**

11 am at Amherst Jones Library  
1:30 pm at Chicopee Public Library

Photos: Kerry Homstead, Kyle Homstead, Loran Saito

# Nutcracker & Sweets 2012



## MABETA at Loomis

Charles Flachs returned to Loomis Village in South Hadley on February 26. The last time he was there, he gave a lecture on George Balanchine in preparation for residents of Loomis attending the Suzanne Farrell Ballet performance.

Although MABETA has often done lecture demonstrations at Loomis, when Charles goes alone his lectures are more related to Dance History and are

often tied in to a performance scheduled at the UMASS Fine Arts Center. In this case, the performance will be the Joffrey Ballet on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

Charles says, "When I go to Loomis Village for a talk I need to be very well prepared, as this group of people are very well educated and knowledgeable about the arts and dance in particular. I spend about an hour lecturing, talking and answering questions and I always leave surprised with something I have learned!"



Register now!

July 8-12

## Pre-Ballet CAMP

ages 5-8

directed by Cathy Johnson

Dance

Crafts

Stories

...and Fun!

