



The Friends of The Sarasota Ballet President's Letter

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through summer! I hope you are enjoying your summer, wherever you may be.

Many of us have returned from an exceptional week in London as we witnessed our beloved Sarasota Ballet perform for the first time in the Linbury Theater at the Royal Opera House. No doubt you have read all the rave reviews and articles that were generously shared with our Ballet community.

I thought I would share a few highlights of our Patron Experience with the Friends.

On our first full day, we boarded a luxury coach to tour the Royal Ballet's School, White Lodge, which is an hour's drive outside of Covent Garden where the Royal Opera House is located. White Lodge is situated in Richmond Park, formerly a royal residence, used as a hunting lodge. It now houses the Royal Ballet Lower School for students aged 11-16.

We were treated to observing a class of 11-year-old students. Due to privacy issues, photos were not allowed of the students. Approximately, 125 girls and boys attend and reside at The Royal Ballet School at White Lodge. The campus is just beautiful!



The next day, we boarded our luxury coach for a tour of Winfield House and Gardens, which is the official residence of the United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom. The grounds are 12 acres, the largest private garden in London, except for the garden of

Buckingham Palace. The Ambassador was not there during our visit. We were given a tour by the head Landscaper who has been tending to the gardens for 20 years. He personally creates all the floral arrangements on display throughout the residence.



Daniel Pratt, Macarena Gimenez, and Ricardo Graziano in *The Walk to the Paradise Garden*; Photo Credit: © Foteini Christofilopoulou

All the performances in the Linbury Theater were amazing, up close and personal in this intimate theater. The final Gala performance was held in this theater, where two dancers from The Royal Ballet performed with The Sarasota Ballet. For me, the highlight of all the performances was on Friday evening when Ricardo Graziano, Macarena Gimenez,

and Daniel Pratt performed on the Main Stage of The Royal Opera House in *The Walk to the Paradise Garden*.

Our Ballet Marketing Department did an outstanding job communicating via email with all the press releases and highlights of the week in London. Congratulations to our Director, Iain Webb, who was presented 'the premier lifetime award, the DeVilois Award for Outstanding Achievement.' We are so proud of Iain, Maggie, and our illustrious company.



I will leave you with a few fun facts:

- The Royal Ballet has a drying chamber to dry sweat from the dancers' costumes to prevent sweat bacteria from eating the fabric.
- Royal Ballet Principal dancers are given their own costumes, not to be shared with other dancers.
- The curtains on the Main Stage of the Royal Opera House weigh 2 1/2 tons and will continue to bear the initials of Queen Elizabeth, as requested by King Charles.

I am looking forward to seeing you back in the theater and at our luncheons in the fall. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Warm Regards,

Pat Golemme
President
Friends of The Sarasota Ballet

Find Out More About the Friends of The Sarasota Ballet!



The Friends of The Sarasota Ballet | 5555 N. Tamiami Trail | Sarasota, FL 34243 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!