



Talking Pointes

Jane Sheridan, Editor
508.367.4949 jes02655@comcast.net

Showcase Luncheon

"Our Dancers – The Boys From Brazil"

Monday, February 11, 2019, Bird Key Yacht Club, 11:30 AM

Carnival at Mardi Gras

Monday, February 25, 2019, The Boathouse at the Hyatt Regency, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

"Spring Fling"

Sunday, March 31, 2019, The Sarasota Garden Club, 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Showcase Luncheon

Margaret Barbieri, Assistant Director, The Sarasota Ballet, "Giselle: Setting An Iconic Work"

Monday, April 15, 2019, Michael's On East, 11:30 AM

From the Desk of the President

Richard March 941.343.7117

rjmhkm@aol.com

I'm excited for you to read about our winter party – *Carnival at Mardi Gras* – elsewhere in this newsletter. It will be at the Hyatt Boathouse on February 25th. This is a chance to have fun with other Friends and dancers from the Company. It is also an opportunity to help us raise funds for the Ballet.

We need help in preparing a number of themed baskets that will be auctioned at the event. In the past, we've had French, Italian, wine, and chocolate baskets, among others. Those who prepare baskets are asked to spend no more than \$50 in preparing them. However, you can add an unlimited number of gift certificates or donations that will increase the appeal. If you would like to pitch in to support this effort, please contact Phyllis Myers for information at FSBReservations@gmail.com. And, please come to the party. I am certain you will have fun!

Were you able to see the performance of our dancers from the Studio Company and the Margaret Barbieri Conservatory at the Opera House? Together with the Key Chorale, they took part in a program called *Misatango*. It was an excellent opportunity to showcase the talent The Sarasota Ballet is developing.

The Conservatory has been growing its student numbers this year and we have a great amount of interest in joining the program. In order to help bring these dancers in we are always looking for more financial support to provide these talented students with scholarships.

Pointe of Fact

November was a record-setting month for the Friends of The Sarasota Ballet. A total of 45 Friends volunteered over 700 hours of their time supporting the work of the Ballet.

Congratulations to each person who donated time and energy. At the grant rate of \$24.00 per hour, this is equal to almost \$17,000. Thank you all.

From the Desk of the President (cont'd)

Tuition for the Conservatory is between \$5,000 and \$7,500. As Friends, we would love to find donors to provide scholarships for deserving students. If you would like to help, please contact Christopher Hird, Director of Education, at chird@sarasotaballet.org.



Christopher Hird



Richard March and Donna Maytham

Our hard-working Events Committee, under the leadership of Donna Maytham, and with the collaboration of the Ballet, has put together some fine programs for this Season. We hope that you enjoy them. Since we always try to improve what we offer, we need your feedback. What would you like to see or do? How can we make the Friends of The Sarasota Ballet even better? Please feel free to contact me or Donna by e-mail or phone. Your input is the key to our success.

From the Desk of the Events Coordinator

Donna Maytham 941.351.5361
pavlova03@comcast.net

December Showcase Luncheon

It was a magical day at Bird Key Yacht Club where Jean Volpe interviewed Kate Honea, Principal Dancer and Assistant Ballet Mistress of The Sarasota Ballet (TSB). The theme of the luncheon was “Sarasota’s Ballerina.” I, for one, had no clue how true this statement was.



Joe Volpe, Kate Honea, Dick Johnson

All photos courtesy of Shirley Blair.

December Showcase Luncheon (cont'd)

The room looked like a fantasy shop, with whimsical floral arrangements donated by Lauren Walsh. From tall “ice cream sodas” – complete with straws – to decorative pots and vases, the atmosphere captured Kate’s spirit in floral form!



Jane Sheridan with an “Ice Cream Soda”



“Ice Cream Confections” set the table

Jean began by asking what was Kate’s first inspiration to dance. Her response was immediate – seeing the Miami City Ballet’s production of *The Nutcracker* in St. Pete. She was hooked and knew that this was what she wanted to do, although I’m not sure she had any idea of where this would take her.

2018 - 2019 A Season of Tributes

**TRANSCENDING MOVEMENT
(Program 4)**

25 - 28 January 2019

FSU Center for the Performing Arts

David Bintley's

FOUR SCOTTISH DANCES

Sir Frederick Ashton's

MEDITATION FROM THAI'S

Ricardo Graziano

WORLD PREMIERE

Sir Frederick Ashton's VARII

CAPRICCI (company premiere)

**The Sarasota Ballet Presents Martha
Graham Dance Company (Program 5)**

15 - 17 February 2019

FSU Center for the Performing Arts

“one of the great dance companies of the world” - The New York Times

“one of the seven wonders of the artistic universe” - The Washington Post.

POETRY AND LIBERTY (Program 6)
8 - 9 March 2019

**Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall
performed with Live Music**

Sir Frederick Ashton's APPARITIONS
(company premiere)

George Balanchine's STARS AND
STRIPES

GISELLE (Program 7)

26 - 27 April 2019

**Sarasota Opera House
performed with Live Music**

Production and Choreography by Sir
Peter Wright

Tickets to all performances are now on sale on the website at www.sarasotaballet.org or by calling the Box Office at 941.359.0099.

December Showcase Luncheon (cont'd)

Her older sister, Emily, was taking lessons and Kate began as well. The next year, she auditioned and got the role of an angel – learning how to shuffle across the stage in a hooped skirt.



Lauren Walsh (standing) with Erik and Mafalda Neikrug and Karol Foss

The following season at age 9, she tried out again, hoping to be a party girl and not wanting to be a soldier. She progressed through a series of auditions and ultimately was one of the last three dancers.



Laurie Feder, Kate Honea, Laurie Fitch, Peggy Sweeney

In this production, the role we traditionally know as “Clara” was called “Marie.” The director wrote Marie on her number. When Kate brought it out to her mother, she didn’t believe it until someone from the company confirmed that Kate was indeed Marie.

At this time, she was taking lessons in St. Pete. On weekends, she participated in Florida West Youth Ballet and was taught by Robert de Warren, the past Director of TSB, and Pavel Fomin, Ballet Master. Kate’s initiation with the Company began when she was nine or 10 years old!



Barbara Epperson, Pat Fennessy and daughter (standing)

To broaden her experience, she attended different summer camps including the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, the School of American Ballet, and the American Ballet Theater.

The attendees were surprised to learn that Kate went on pointe at age 10 or 11, which is quite young. As she said, “I had strong feet and ankles.” At age 12, her family moved to Longboat Key and she began attending The Sarasota Ballet School.

December Showcase Luncheon (cont'd)

After training at the Pittsburgh Ballet Theater for three years, Kate re-auditioned and returned to Sarasota for good – as a paid apprentice. She danced various roles in *Nutcracker* and *Cinderella*, before having her first solo in a six-dancer piece set to music by Dvorak.



Festive Friends

When Iain Webb came to Sarasota, Kate wasn't really familiar with Sir Frederick Ashton's choreography. However, she quickly connected with his style when she was taught the role of the gypsy in *Two Pigeons*. As she said, this was a great first ballet to learn.

Kate was asked about her most memorable role. She quickly replied Marguerite in *Marguerite and Armand*. When the ballet was first performed in Sarasota, she was dancing other roles and Victoria Hulland, Danielle Brown, and Ellen Overstreet learned it.

When it was being reprised a couple of years later, both Danielle and Ellen were injured.

Victoria was scheduled to dance all performances. However, Iain asked Kate to quickly learn the role as Victoria's understudy. As her first dramatic role, she researched the role. At the first in studio run-through, she just went for it. As a result, she was given one of the performances to dance. Jean Volpe commented on how moving and powerful her dancing was.



New Friends enjoying the luncheon

Kate was asked about her new role as Assistant Ballet Mistress. She admitted that it is a challenge – balancing her role as a dancer with leading her peers.

Kate used the example that after the luncheon, she would be returning to rehearse her own role in *Les Patineurs*. She would then be running a rehearsal for the *Two Red Girls* selection. At this point, her main focus is on dancing but she is thrilled at the opportunity to learn from Iain and Maggie. As she is getting older, she doesn't picture herself anywhere else but Sarasota.

A question followed about partnering. She admitted that partnering can sometimes be

December Showcase Luncheon (cont'd)

challenging for her, as she can have a tendency to over-partner – particularly with a shorter dancer.

Kate started dancing with Ricardo Graziano who has great hands and is so strong. She trusts him completely. Using the example of *La Fille Mal Gardée*, she explained that Ricardo knows both the male and female parts. So, that if something goes wrong, he is able to seamlessly adjust.

With respect to Ricky Rhodes, Kate discussed how he has matured as a partner. He is so strong that in a piece like *Rhapsody*, he makes the press into the air seem effortless.



More festive Friends!

Kate became emotional when talking about dancing with Logan Learned whom she called “my partner.” She explained that Logan never gave himself credit as a partner. While it can sometimes be difficult to dance with a shorter partner, this was never a problem with him. Dancing with him in *Tarantella*, she had to match his energy level and charisma to be successful.

Kate ended this part of the discussion by saying that all of her partners have made her a better dancer.

In closing, her personal goal would be able to dance for three more years – so that she could hit the 20-year mark. Currently, she’s happy, healthy, and dancing to her heart’s content. She can envisage a day when she will probably slow down. We can see a bright future for “Miss Kate,” as the younger dancers call her when they ask for advice. Whether as a dancer or behind the scenes, Kate Honea will always be “Sarasota’s Ballerina!”

Breaking News – Sarasota Ballet School’s New Studios

Christopher Hird, Director of Education
chird@sarasotaballet.org
941.225.6524

There will be two state of the art studios with sprung floors, new barres, new audio/visual equipment, and a waiting area for parents. The studios are designed to allow maximum visibility from the outside-in. People passing by will be able to stop and watch our students hard at work. The location of the studios at 1400 Boulevard of the Arts in the heart of the Rosemary District will allow us to be part of the local community. We plan special events to garner interest in The Sarasota Ballet.

We will be having an Open House on Saturday, January 12 for parents and students and an official opening sometime in February or March to which Friends will be invited.

This is an important next step in developing our Education programs and we are excited for these new studios and how they will impact the future of The Sarasota Ballet.

**“Carnival at Mardi Gras”
Monday, February 25, 2019
5:30 - 7:30 PM
The Hyatt Regency Boathouse**

You are invited to a special party. Join us in celebrating a New Orleans tradition. Mix and mingle with Friends, guests and dancers from The Sarasota Ballet.

We will have festive food, wine and music by “Skip’s Dixie Mix”. There will be beads galore and Mardi Gras masks available for purchase.

- Members - \$85 per person
- Guests - \$95
- Sponsors - \$150
- Patrons - \$250
- Sponsor a dancer - \$70

Fair market value for this event is \$70 per person. As you will see in the related article, the portion of your contribution that exceeds the fair market value is deductible for federal income tax purposes.

There will be a silent auction that includes themed gift baskets and autographed pointe shoes of The Sarasota Ballet’s leading dancers.

Reservations are required by Monday, February 18, 2019. Please make checks payable to The Friends of The Sarasota Ballet and mail to:

Phyllis Myers
6728 Curzon Terrace
University Park, FL 34201

For credit card reservations, please call 941.360.0046 or 941.993.2170.

Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler (let the good times roll!)

Welcome to Our New Friends

We are pleased to introduce the most recent additions to the Friends of The Sarasota Ballet (FSB). Since the November Newsletter was published, these wonderful people have become Friends as of December 12, 2018.

Members:

Susan K. Johnson, Cynthia Larson & Gary Westerberg, Rachel Rivlin & Manuel Goldberg, Audrey Robbins & Harry Leopold, and Jean Simon.

As you know, we are in the midst of a drive to increase membership levels to a long-term, sustainable level. We currently have almost 350 members. We need your help to continue to grow!

Please introduce yourself to our newest Friends if you see them at the next Showcase Luncheon, special event or at the Ballet. We look forward to their becoming active members of FSB – sharing the passion for our wonderful Company.

.....

Save the Date - On Pointe Luncheon

The *On Pointe Luncheon* to benefit *Dance – The Next Generation* (DNG) will be held on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 11:30 AM at Michael’s on East. DNG is a wonderful drop-out prevention program. Last year, Friends hosted 18 tables to support DNG. This year, we hope to have even more!

Important News - Federal Income Tax Deductions for Charitable Deductions

Did you know that some of what you pay to The Friends of The Sarasota Ballet (“Friends”) may be tax deductible for federal income tax purposes as charitable contributions? We’ve put together this guideline to help you (and your accountant) understand how this works. Please save a copy for your easy reference.

“Friends” is a Committee of the Board of Directors of The Sarasota Ballet, a nonprofit organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Funds received by the "Friends" are therefore donations that may be **fully** or **partially eligible** as federal income tax deductions to you as charitable contributions.

Fully deductible cash donations – you **do not** receive any goods or services in exchange for the donation. These include:

1. Donations to Dancers' Suppers
2. General donations including for tributes and to underwrite events
3. Membership Dues to the "Friends"

Partially deductible cash donations – you **do** receive goods or services in exchange for the donation. These include:

1. Luncheon reservations
2. Event reservations

The "Friends" Events Committee determines the fair market value of the goods or services received in exchange for each reservation to a luncheon or event. The **difference** between the amount you pay for the reservation and the fair market value is what you can deduct as a charitable contribution.

For the 2018/19 fiscal year, the events committee has established the **following fair market values** of the goods and services received for the following luncheons/events:

1. Luncheon: \$28 per luncheon reservation
2. Meet Me at the Barre: \$45 per MMATB reservation
3. Carnival at Mardi Gras: \$70 per Mardi Gras reservation

You will receive a written letter if your donation meets certain criteria as established by IRS regulations and guidelines established by The Sarasota Ballet. If your donation to “Friends” **falls below the threshold**, you are still eligible to claim this as a federal income tax deduction according to the guidelines above. So, please keep track of your contributions and this quick guideline when preparing your income taxes. In the future, the fair market value of all events will be included in promotional materials and in the newsletter.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Elaine Foster, Treasurer, Friends of the Sarasota Ballet
941.922.8498
rfoster010@aol.com

Tributes Are Here

In a "Season of Tributes," you are able to pay tribute to someone meaningful in your life – recognize a favorite dancer; honor a friend or family member on a special occasion; or remember someone who has passed away. We've had a Tributes in the November Newsletter as well as in this current issue. We would love to see more.

In addition to the name of the honoree and your name, individual tributes will be limited to 30 words. A minimum donation to The Friends of The Sarasota Ballet in the amount of \$25 is required. Please note that if you prefer, a Tribute may be made anonymously.

You may submit your text by email to jes02655@comcast.net or by phone to Jane Sheridan at 508.367.4949. Please include your name, address and phone number with your submission. You will be contacted by Jane or our Treasurer, Elaine Foster, to arrange for your donation.

Submission dates for the 2018-2019 season are:

February 15, 2019

March 29, 2019

Tributes

To **Kate Honea**

You are an exceptional dancer and a marvelous person who is always warm and caring. "Sarasota's Ballerina" is an asset to the Ballet and to our Community.

With deep affection,
Richard and Helen March

Bits and Pieces

Peggy Sweeney offers her special thanks to the many volunteers who brought food to nourish the dancers in December at the Van Wezel. Her "merry band" of cooks really stepped up to make the "spirit bright" before the Victorian Winter evening performances. There are too many people to mention by name. You know who you are. I hope you'll be pleased to hear that the new members of the Company, who aren't used to this treat, were thrilled that supper was served on both Friday and Saturday evenings. From them to you, please accept their heartfelt thanks.

With the significant increase in the number of Friends, Barbara Fischer Long is continuing to match new members with volunteer opportunities. The Board of the Friends is thrilled to see the enthusiasm with which our new members are ready to hit the ground running!

The number of volunteers who help out each month is a tangible benefit to the Ballet when it comes to submitting grant proposals. This is something donors factor into their decision-making and is of great importance to The Sarasota Ballet.

There will be some exciting new volunteer opportunities opening up in the New Year. Stand by for updates!

Barbara also stressed the importance of talking about the ballet and its programs when you are out in the community. She recruited a potential DNG volunteer while working out, and I encountered a likely new Friend while walking the dogs. Who knew?

Calendar at a Glance

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 <i>Backstage at the Ballet Tour</i> FSU Center for the Performing Arts 9:30 AM	4	5
6 <i>The Sarasota Ballet Gala</i> Sarasota Opera House 5:00 PM	7	8	9	10 <i>Backstage at the Ballet Tour</i> FSU Center for the Performing Arts 9:30 AM	11	12
13	14	15	16 <i>Inside the Studio – World Premiere</i> FSU Center for the Performing Arts 6:00 PM	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 <i>Transcending Movement</i> FSU Center for the Performing Arts 7:30 PM	26 <i>Transcending Movement</i> FSU Center for the Performing Arts 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
27 <i>Transcending Movement</i> FSU Center for the Performing Arts 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM	28 <i>Transcending Movement</i> FSU Center for the Performing Arts 7:30 PM	29	30	31		

Calendar at a Glance

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 <i>Principal Film Series – Martha Graham</i> FSU Center for the Performing Arts 6:00 PM	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 <i>Showcase Luncheon – The Boys from Brazil</i> Bird Key Yacht Club 11:30 AM	12	13	14	15 <i>Martha Graham Dance Company</i> FSU Center for the Performing Arts 7:30 PM	16 <i>Martha Graham Dance Company</i> FSU Center for the Performing Arts 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
17 <i>Martha Graham Dance Company</i> FSU Center for the Performing Arts 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 <i>Carnival at Mardi Gras</i> The Hyatt Regency Boathouse 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM	26	27 <i>Inside the Studio – Apparitions</i> FSU Center for the Performing Arts 6:00 PM	28		

Calendar at a Glance

March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 <i>Poetry and Liberty</i> Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall 7:30 PM	9 <i>Poetry and Liberty</i> Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
10	11 <i>On Pointe Luncheon</i> Michael's on East 11:30 AM	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 <i>Backstage at the Ballet Tour</i> FSU Center for the Performing Arts 9:30 AM	20	21	22	23
24	25 <i>Principal Film Series – Dame Margot Fonteyn</i> FSU Center for the Performing Arts 6:00 PM	26	27	28	29	30
31 <i>The Spring Fling</i> Sarasota Garden Club 4:00 PM –6:30 PM						

