



On Pointe Newsletter

Jane Sheridan, Editor
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Meet Me at the Barre

Monday, October 15, 2018
FSU Center for the Performing Arts
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Showcase Luncheon Iain Webb Director, The Sarasota Ballet, 2018 – 2019 "A Season of Tributes"

Monday, November 5, 2018, Bird
Key Yacht Club, 11:30 AM

Showcase Luncheon Kate Honea, Principal Dancer, "Sarasota's Ballerina"

Monday, December 3, 2018, Bird
Key Yacht Club, 11:30 AM

"Winter Pop Up Party"

Plans being finalized

Showcase Luncheon "Our Dancers— The Boys From Brazil"

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

"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
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It is with great expectations that I address you at the beginning of my first year as your new President. Together, we can look forward to a year filled with outstanding programs presented by our much beloved Company. The Friends of The Sarasota Ballet (FSB) has a series of events planned that you will not want to miss. The Sarasota Ballet's theme this year is *A Season of Tributes*. At our many events throughout the Season we will be "paying tribute" to the artistic team led by Director Iain Webb, the dancers, the education program and other notables.

The opening event is *Meet Me at the Barre* (MMATB) on Monday, October 15th. This "can't miss" event is the first opportunity for us to meet this year's Company. It's always exciting to see who will be introduced on stage. I, for one, can't wait for the chance to meet and mingle with returning and new dancers. As a benefit to our members, this year we are introducing tiered pricing, with Friends paying slightly less than guests for events.

We plan to use MMATB as a "friend-raiser" this year. Since we want to increase our membership to a more sustainable level, we would like everyone to bring at least one friend to MMATB. If your guest becomes a member that night, he or she will receive a discount on the membership fee. This discount will equal the difference between the Friend and guest pricing. We will also be conducting a contest this year to see who can bring in the most new Friends. Look for further details in the next newsletter.

Shortly thereafter are the first performances of the season on October 26 - 28 at the FSU Center. A Company premiere of Martha Graham's *Appalachian Spring* will be performed along with two returning favorites, Ricardo Graziano's *Symphony of Sorrows* and Galina Samsova's *Paquita*. What a great way to start the Season!

From the Desk of the President (cont'd)

I'm sure you are aware that the majority of our membership, as well as the audience for our ballet, are women. Many men seem to be unwilling to give ballet a chance. Once they do, however, they are often inspired to return.

I have asked some men why they come back. While the answers vary, the athleticism and strength of the dancers are most often cited. Our dancers are athletes. They train as hard as athletes do. In fact, some sports teams have encouraged players to attend ballet class in order to improve their agility.

I hope you will do your best to encourage more men to give it a try! Help us put more men in the seats at the ballet and at our events. I speak to you from the heart; I am a man who at one time did not attend performances but was finally persuaded by my wife. I'm so glad I did.

One morning each week, I work in the box office where I was intrigued to find out that ticket sales account for about one-third of the operating

costs of The Sarasota Ballet. Where does the rest of the money come from?

A lot of it comes from donors who are often members of the Friends of The Sarasota Ballet. We hope you will keep that in mind when you consider making a donation to The Sarasota Ballet or, even better, increasing the amount of your donation.

As you know, one of the primary roles of FSB members is to serve as volunteers for various ballet activities. I call your attention to the article in this newsletter about helping the children enrolled in Dance – The Next Generation. Please read this article and consider becoming a volunteer. You will not regret it!

I look forward to being your President and to meeting and talking with all of you whenever possible. Feel free to contact me if there is anything you would like to discuss.



From the Desk of the Events Coordinator

Donna Maytham 941.351.5361
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Meet Me at The Barre

This year will be "A Season of Tributes." Help us start the Season off with a toast to the 2018-2019 Company. In an informal and entertaining program, Iain Webb, Director of The Sarasota Ballet, will introduce our dancers and staff. It is always exciting to watch the dancers take the stage – wearing his or her finest – rather than tutus and tights! Be there when Iain announces new dancers, returning favorites and who might have been promoted since last Season.

It's also the only time most of us get to meet the people behind the scenes who do the hard work that allows The Sarasota Ballet to put on such magnificent performances. Whether in the artistic, administrative or production staff, it takes a dedicated team working together for the "show to go on."

From the Desk of the Events Coordinator (cont'd)

Following the presentation there will be an opportunity to speak and mingle with the directors, dancers and staff while enjoying libations and a catered buffet.



Photo by Clifford Roles

Doors open at 5:30 with champagne served. The presentation will start at 6:00, followed by the reception. Reservations are required. Members should have received an invitation in the mail. If you have not or if you would like additional information, please contact me at the number listed above.

Ticket information is as follows:

Members – \$55 per person
Guests – \$65 per person
Patrons – \$125
Event Sponsors – \$250
Sponsor a Dancer – \$45

As the President mentioned in his article, the goal of this event is to introduce and encourage our friends to become “Friends” of The Sarasota Ballet. So, please bring one or more guests to this special evening. As mentioned, anyone who becomes a Friend that evening will receive a discount of \$10 from our membership rates of \$45 for individual and \$65 for couples.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Pointe of Fact

When The Sarasota Ballet performs at the Opera House, how do you think the dancers exit stage right and return stage left? Go behind the backdrop? No, they actually have to go down a flight of stairs, cross a hallway behind the orchestra pit and then go up another flight of stairs. We thought the dancing itself was challenging!

When they perform at The Joyce, it’s even more difficult. There are no wings in the theater. After going up and down stairs, they have to wait outside a door for their cues.

2018 - 2019 A Season of Tributes

ICONOGRAPHIC (Program 1)

26 - 28 October 2018

FSU Center for the Performing Arts

Martha Graham's
APPALACHIAN SPRING (company premiere)
Ricardo Graziano's
SYMPHONY OF SORROWS
Galina Samsova's
PAQUITA

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MASTERS OF DANCE (Program 2)

16 - 17 November 2018

Sarasota Opera House

performed with Live Music

Sir Frederick Ashton's RHAPSODY (company premiere)
Christopher Wheeldon's THERE WHERE SHE LOVED
Jerome Robbins' THE CONCERT (company premiere)

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VICTORIAN WINTERS (Program 3)

14 - 15 December 2018

Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

performed with Live Music

Sir Frederick Ashton's LES PATINEURS
Sir Frederick Ashton's ENIGMA VARIATIONS
George Balanchine's DIAMONDS

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TRANSCENDING MOVEMENT (Program 4)

25 - 28 January 2019

FSU Center for the Performing Arts

David Bintley's
FOUR SCOTTISH DANCES
Ricardo Graziano
WORLD PREMIERE
Sir Frederick Ashton's VARII CAPRICCI (company premiere)

**2018-2019 A Season of Tributes
(con'd)**

**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.

A Peek Behind the Curtain – The Sarasota Ballet at The Joyce

Jane Sheridan

Six days, seven performances, two programs. That's the challenge Director Iain Webb and 19 dancers faced when they performed at New York's famous Joyce Theater.

How does that all come together? It starts with an invitation from The Joyce. As you may recall, The Company was invited to perform there in 2016. It is very unusual for a company to be asked to perform again two years later. Maybe this has something to do with 2016's "meticulous, juicy performance" (*The New York Times*) of ballet classics!

In an interview for this article, Iain indicated that he never reads reviews. But, others do. Reviews like this enhance The Company's reputation, lead to invitations to perform and give our dancers the opportunity to grow as performers in front of a well-informed audience of balletomanes.

How is the program decided? To quote Iain, "The Sarasota Ballet's DNA is in history, the present and the future." This is the model he tries to follow in setting any program. This approach is obvious in the first program danced at The Joyce.

The past is represented in Sir Frederick Ashton's *Monotones I & II. There Where She Loved* by Christopher Wheeldon as a current choreographer reflects the present. Finally, the future is suggested by *Symphony of Sorrows* by Ricardo Graziano, our resident choreographer.

Normally, a visiting company performs a single program throughout its run at the theater. However, August 18th was the 30th anniversary of Sir Frederick Ashton's passing. So, it was agreed that a tribute would be performed in his honor at the Saturday and Sunday performances.

A Peek Behind the Curtain – The Sarasota Ballet at The Joyce (cont'd)

In addition to *There Where She Loved* and *Monotones I & II*, a series of *Divertissements* by Sir Frederick Ashton were featured including *La Chatte Metamorphosee en Femme*, *Pas de Trois* from *Les Patineurs*, *Meditation* from *Thais* and the *Final Pas de Deux* from *The Two Pigeons* (complete with live pigeons.)



Kate Honea in “*La Chatte*”

Costumes and required stage pieces, such as the chair from *The Two Pigeons*, were driven to New York. The venue’s lighting was supplemented by rented equipment necessary for staging.

The schedule was incredibly tight. The dancers flew to New York on Sunday. Arrangements were made for them to take class at Steps on Broadway on Monday. Although they conducted a technical rehearsal in Sarasota, they were only able to do the on-site rehearsal on Tuesday – mere hours before the first performance.

Since a piano was used for several pieces, rehearsals with the pianist were also done in Sarasota. The music was recorded and used for subsequent rehearsals. This pre-work allowed the pianist and dancers to be comfortable with each other in terms of tempo and choreography – before taking the Joyce stage.

There were two casts for each piece. However, other dancers must be able to step in in the event of a problem. Iain’s goal, which he achieved, was to give everyone the opportunity to dance in New

York. As we were meeting, Margaret Barbieri came in to discuss a scheduling issue. I was able to see first hand how complex the casting process actually is.

The benefits to the dancers and to Ricardo as an emerging choreographer are obvious. But, what are the benefits of touring to the base audience here in Sarasota? I was quite surprised by Iain’s reply, as these were things that I had never considered.

When TSB performed at The Joyce in 2016, Alexei Ratmansky from American Ballet Theater and Mark Morris were among the choreographers who were in attendance. In addition, dancers from major companies were also in the audience. This opens up potential opportunities for TSB to collaborate with new (to us) choreographers and dancers.

It also presents possibilities for new audiences and donors. For example, a woman from California who was at The Joyce in 2016 has made two donations to fund costumes for Ashton ballets. Our audiences get to enjoy and benefit from the richness of these new costumes.

Finally, the Ballet (and greater Sarasota) can benefit from new audience members. People who enjoy TSB’s performances in New York may choose to visit Sarasota during the Season. Ticket sales increase revenue and the local economy benefits from hotel and restaurant bookings, as well as shopping. These are real and substantial impacts that benefit all of us.

The Friends were well represented at the New York performances. Pat Golemme, Barbara Jacob, Dick Johnson, Donna Maytham, Laurie Feder and Jane Sheridan were among those who enjoyed seeing our fantastic Company shine in the Big Apple!

Dance luminaries including the choreographer, Edward Villella, and ABT Principal Dancer, Gillian Murphy, were in attendance on the nights I was there. It was a privilege to see our dancers shine in this fabulous setting!

Many ABT fans of Marcelo Gomes attended the Saturday evening performance. One said “The Sarasota Ballet is the Company of the future.” We know it’s The Company of the present!



Dance - The Next Generation
Bruce Ensinger

“And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in magic will never find it.”
- Roald Dahl

The Friends of The Sarasota Ballet would like volunteers to watch the glittering eyes of our students making magic with *Dance - The Next Generation* (DNG). This educational program meets Monday through Friday from 3:30 - 6:00 and serves children from five Title I schools. Most volunteers who help make this program such a success assist one afternoon a week.

Recently, I interviewed Raymond Morrissey who has enjoyed three years as a volunteer with DNG. Mr. Morrissey had great words of praise for Lisa Townsend who oversees the program. He said, “She holds it all together” and provides an environment where there is no friction.

Many of the arts organizations in Sarasota offer outreach programs. What makes this one special is that it is not a one-day activity or a program that lasts until a project is completed. DNG is a 10-year program and operates through the entire school year while providing adults the opportunity to see growth in the students academically, artistically and socially. If participants complete the program, they may apply to State College of Florida or USF Sarasota-Manatee for a special DNG scholarship that is provided by the individual school once they meet eligibility requirements.

Volunteers work with students on any school homework that they have. Most often, students need help with math and reading. Some of the volunteers have art or other projects that they

work on with them. All elementary school students spend time working on homework and receiving dance instruction each day.

I asked Raymond why he chose to give of his time and he was quick to respond with three reasons. His first response was that this is a program where one can see a direct impact on the life of a child.

Secondly, he knows that Lisa Townsend and David Eichlin are genuinely invested in DNG's success and that they provide a wonderful environment for students, staff and volunteers. Finally, he told me the impact DNG has on not only the students but also on their parents, many of whom work several jobs to support their families. They see the worth of the program and how it directly impacts their child.

To ensure its continued success, DNG needs additional volunteers for the 2018 –2019 school year. It only takes one afternoon a week! If you are interested in accepting this challenge, please contact Barbara Fischer Long at bflong@comcast.net for more information. As always, thank you for your continued support of The Sarasota Ballet.

Learn More about The Sarasota Ballet's 2018 - 2019 Season at Ringling College

Taught by Christopher Hird, Director of Education, The Sarasota Ballet

FA18 –Sarasota Ballet Season 2018-2019: Behind the Scenes

Wednesday at 9:00 AM (October 10 through November 14)

Dive into The Sarasota Ballet's exciting season showcasing acclaimed choreographers. We'll examine each ballet's history, music, original cast, as well as unique behind-the-scenes stories. Students will come away with a greater appreciation of the rich repertoire performed by The Sarasota Ballet. Lectures will be supported with video footage.

Tributes Are Coming

In a "Season of Tributes," you will be 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. Starting with the November "On Pointe Newsletter," you will be able to do just that!

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.

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:

October 12, 2018

December 14, 2018

February 15, 2019

March 29, 2019

For further information, please contact our editor, Jane Sheridan.

A Quartet Of Showcase Luncheons Discounted Price

In the 2018-2019 Friends Source Book, there will be a reservation form for Friends who want to take advantage of this new "Members Only" offer. In the coming season, Friends members may simultaneously purchase all four Showcase Luncheons at the price of \$125, a discount from the full price of \$140.

By reserving your luncheons at the beginning of the year, you will be guaranteed a seat at what is bound to be a full house this Season — given the exceptional list of guests.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Phyllis Myers by phone at 941.993.2170 or by email at pmyers6@aol.com.

From the Desk of the Volunteer Coordinator

Barbara Fischer Long 941.228.9899
bflong@comcast.net

Thank you to all of the volunteers who made the last year such a resounding success. During the last fiscal year (June 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018), Friends worked a total of 5,061 hours on behalf of The Sarasota Ballet. At the grant rate of \$22.00 per hour, this is the equivalent of a financial contribution of \$111,342—quite simply, an astonishing figure!

We need your help again this year. Additional volunteers are needed for Will Call, distribution of Rack Cards/Marketing Materials and staffing the Information Desk. If you are able to help, please contact me at your earliest convenience. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Calling All Cooks by Peggy Sweeney

The Dancers' Suppers program for the 2018 – 2019 Season is ready to roll. We will be providing four suppers to nourish our amazing dancers between matinee and evening performances—two at the Van Wezel and two at the FSU Center. As we did last year, we'll let the dancers take advantage of the downtown eateries when they perform at the Sarasota Opera House.

As always, Laurie Fitch and I depend on the incredible support that the Friends have provided in past years—both culinary and financial. The Friday suppers include sandwiches, salads (both pasta and green), dessert and fruit. The Saturday suppers include hot dishes as well. If you would like to be a part of the Dancers' Suppers team, please send an email to peggysweeney@verizon.net to place your name on the list. There's no obligation unless you decide to participate.

Backstage Tours Are Back

Under the leadership of **Andi Lieberman** and **Doug Endicott**, our backstage tour guides are eagerly looking forward to the coming season. Tours are conducted on select Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning at 9:30 at the Ballet's Stage Door (on the right side of the building at the FSU Center for the Performing Arts.) The tours last approximately 90 minutes. Please join us to see a ballet class, the wardrobe room and the education department. You will hear from ballet personnel as they share exciting stories about their positions.

The tours are **free of charge**, although reservations are required To reserve **your** guided tour, call today at **941.228.9899** or email [**SBCbackstagetours@gmail.com**](mailto:SBCbackstagetours@gmail.com).

Special Project - Help Our New Dancers Get Settled

We need your help! At least four dancers will be joining the Company this Season from abroad. Ed Lesveque has asked the Friends for assistance in furnishing their apartments. Melliss Swenson has graciously accepted this challenge—something that she has done in the past. These dancers will need everything including furniture, linens, dishes and utensils. A great deal of this can be sourced through thrift stores and other individual donations. However, the dancers will need new beds.

If you have household goods you would like to donate or if you are willing to sponsor new beds, please contact Melliss at 941.951.6319 or via email at melliss34239@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your always generous support.

Friends At Events!



Photos by Cliff Roles