



to the *Pointe* Midland Festival Ballet Newsletter

Volume XV, No. 3

Spring 2009

Page 2 'Peter' Dances
For Students

Page 3 Senior Dancers
To Be Honored

Page 7 Story of Dance
In the Permian Basin

"BRINGING THE BEAUTY OF BALLET TO THE BASIN"

Performances Scheduled April 25-26

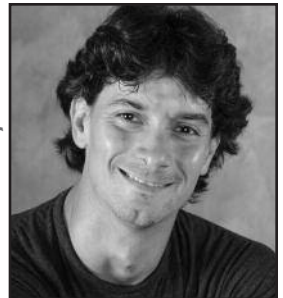
A Spring Gala of Dancers

Spring Gala 2009 is scheduled Saturday, April 25, and Sunday, April 26, in Wagner and Brown Auditorium at Allison Fine Arts Center on the Midland College campus. Performance times are 7:30 and 2:30 p.m. respectively. The program will feature "Giselle" Act II with guest artists **Jumelia Garcia** as Giselle, **Abdelazis Roque** as Albrecht, and **Joseph Goodman** as Hilarion.

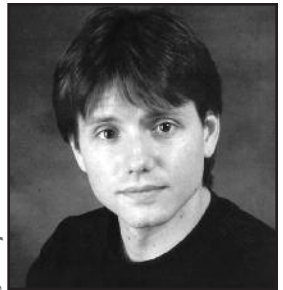
A native of Caracas, Venezuela, **Ms. Garcia** trained at the Fundacion Ballet Arte. She joined the National Ballet of Caracas at the age of 15 under the direction of Vincente Nebrada, who promoted her to soloist one year later. Arriving in the United States in 1991, Ms. Garcia danced with the Milwaukee Ballet 10 seasons as principal, soloist and corps de ballet. Her remarkable versatility has enabled Ms. Garcia to perform principal roles in such classics as "Don Quixote," "Carmen," "The Sleeping Beauty," "Swan Lake," and "Romeo and Juliet," as well as contemporary roles in pieces by Alonzo King, Choo San Goh, Mark Godden, Jimmy Gamonet, David Parsons, and Trey McIntyre.



Jumelia Garcia



Abdelazis Roque



Joseph Goodman

Roque trained at the Professional School of the Arts in Camaquey, Cuba. Following graduation in 1992, he began his dance career with Ballet de Camaquey Pro Danza in Havana, Cuba before beginning to dance with Miami City Ballet, Miami Hispanic Ballet, Southern Ballet Theatre (now Orlando Ballet) and Ballet Theatre of Chicago-Lexington, The Washington Ballet, Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico, Chicago Festival Ballet, and Chicago Lyric Opera, among others. Mr. Roque has danced several notable roles in "Le Corsaire," "Don Quixote," "La Fille Mal Gardee," "Coppelia," "Pas de Deux Classique," "La Bayadere," "Flower Festival of Gensano," "Carmen" (Don Jose), "The Nutcracker" (the Cavalier), "Swan Lake," and "Sleeping Beauty," as well as a variety of contemporary and modern works. After becoming a freelance dancer and teacher, Mr. Roque has been working as principal guest artist with different companies and teaching dance to students around the country.

Goodman began training at age 17 with director Thom Clower of Yuma Ballet Theatre in Arizona. After three years of training, he danced professionally with Greensboro Ballet, Fort Worth Dallas Ballet (now

Continued on Page 4

15TH
Anniversary
2008-2009 SEASON



Photo Credit: Richard Calmes, Hiawassee, GA

MFB Awarded Gala Status

MFB, a Performing Company with Regional Dance America/Southwest (RDA/SW) was awarded Gala status by Soili Arvola, the organization's adjudicator for the 2009 Festival held March 20-23 in Sugar Land, Texas.

A group of more than 30 MFB Company Members, parents, and board members, together with artistic and administrative staff, attended this year's Festival. While at the Festival, MFB Company members took classes with nationally acclaimed ballet instructors and enjoyed three evenings of performances by other ballet companies from throughout a five-state area.

As adjudicator, Ms. Arvola visited each of the 24 companies in the

Continued on Page 3

'Nutcracker' Review

Performances Enjoy Support

The 15th annual performances of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" were held December 13 and December 14 at Lee High School Auditorium. Both performances were nearly sold out with more than 2,000 total attendees.

Guest artists were **Amy Fote** and **Nicholas Leschke**, Principal Dancers with Houston Ballet, dancing the roles of Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier. **Johnny Simons** returned as Herr Drosselmeyer; **Christopher Fellows** danced as Snow Prince and Arabian, and **Joseph Goodman** as Soldier Doll and Candy Cane Soloist. More than 100 local performers of all ages danced beautifully, accompanied by the Midland-Odessa Symphony conducted by Diane Hilbert. Complimentary tickets were provided to local service agencies including Casa de Amigos, High Sky Children's Ranch, Midland Fair Havens, Midland Association for Retarded Citizens (MARC) and Safe Place of the Permian Basin. **THANK YOU TO ALL PARENTS AND VOLUNTEERS WHO WORKED ON THE COMMITTEES TO SUPPORT THE PERFORMANCES!**

THANKS also to all the studios whose students performed in "The Nutcracker" for 2008: Absolute Dance, Art and Soul, Bingham Dance Center, Dance Connection, Dee-Ann Studio of Dance, Gym Buddies, Legacy Elite Athletics, The Dance Gallery, and the School of Midland Festival Ballet.

And Thanks to Big Spring Symphony!

Midland Festival Ballet expresses appreciation to the Big Spring Symphony conducted by Dr. Keith Graumann for the opportunity to perform "The Nutcracker" on December 20 in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. Guest artists included **Erin Rivera-Brennand** as Sugar Plum Fairy, **Courtney Palomo** as Cavalier, **Christopher Fellows** as Snow Prince and Arabian, and **Joseph Goodman** as Soldier Doll and Candy Cane Soloist. **Johnny Simons** of Fort Worth performed as Herr Drosselmeyer.

Thanks to the many MFB and Big Spring Symphony Guild volunteers who assisted with the performance.

Reception Caps Event

A guest artist reception was held at the home of Terry and Ginny Rhoads on Saturday, December 13, following the evening performance of "The Nutcracker." Guests enjoyed a delicious array of food while visiting about the performance earlier in the evening and meeting the guest artists in person. Gifts were presented to each guest artist by Steve McLaughlin, Board of Directors President.

Performance On Replay

Pre-ordered DVD copies of "The Nutcracker" production, taped by TWiN Productions were made available for pickup at the School of MFB in January. There is still opportunity to order a copy (or copies) by contacting the MFB office at 686-0071.

'Peter' Dances Festival Fairytale for Students

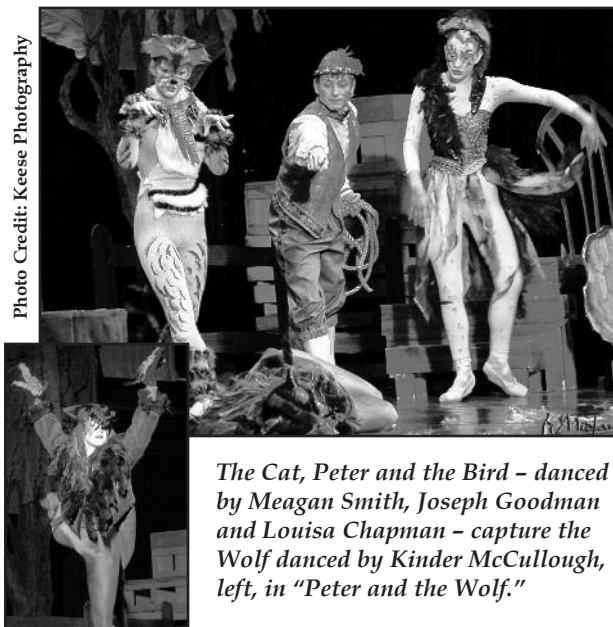


Photo Credit: Keese Photography

The Cat, Peter and the Bird – danced by Meagan Smith, Joseph Goodman and Louisa Chapman – capture the Wolf danced by Kinder McCullough, left, in "Peter and the Wolf."

MFB performed Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" as an arts education program for over 2,000 Midland ISD third grade students at 9 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. in the Midland High Auditorium on Friday, February 20, and for the general public at 7:30 p.m. that same evening. The performances were this year's selection for "A Festival Fairytale," the second production of the 2008-09 fifteenth anniversary season. **"The programs allow students – some who have never had the opportunity – to experience the arts,"** said Deb Shaw, Midland ISD Director of Fine Arts and MFB Board of Directors member. **"We are happy the opportunity was available for our students."**

Performing in the role of Peter was guest artist, Joseph Goodman. Company Members danced the following roles: **Bird** - Louisa Chapman; **Cat** - Meagan Smith; **Duck** - Pearl Pierce; **Wolf** - Kinder McCullough; **Head Hunter** - Stefany Brown; **Hunters** - Emily Abalos, Ruthanne Kerr, Lauren Laughlin, Victoria Orta, and Jennifer Runnfeldt; and **Grandfather** - Bob Cowdery.

"MFB was pleased to present the classical ballet to the students and show how music is an integral part of ballet," said Judy Coleman, Founding Director. The evening performance was followed by a reception in the MHS Bulldog Room with refreshments and an opportunity to take pictures with the characters. Thanks to Deanna Keese of Keese Photography for taking photos of the children with their chosen characters.



MISSION STATEMENT: *The mission of Midland Festival Ballet is to develop the skills and expand the artistic potential of young dancers, to provide quality performance opportunities for them, and to further public understanding and appreciation of the art of classical ballet as a vibrant part of the cultural mix of the community.*

Company News

Students Selected For Summer Schools

Auditions for the Milwaukee Ballet School were scheduled at the School of MFB on January 23, marking the fifth consecutive year that a national audition was held locally by the school. "Rolando Yanes, School Director, **acknowledges the strong training of dancers in Midland** and is willing to provide this opportunity for them," stated Susan Clark, MFB's Artistic Director who teaches at the school each summer. As few as two and as many as nine dancers from Midland have attended either the three- or six-week summer training in Milwaukee over the past decade.

This summer Autumn Adair, Rachel Hickman, Olivia Lerwick and Hanna Pierce will attend the three-week intensive, and Ba'leigh Burns and Lauren Laughlin will attend the six-week training. Rachel Malehorn, a former Midlander who attended a performing arts high school after her family moved to Pittsburgh, PA, is now a company member with Milwaukee Ballet.

Other planned summer intensive training for MFB Company members includes Joffrey Midwest in Flint, Michigan for *Louisa Chapman, Annie Gilmore and Victoria Gilmore*; Kaatsbaan in upstate New York for *Louisa Chapman* and Burkllyn Ballet Theatre for *Tyler Rhoads*.

MFB Gains Honors

Continued from Page 1

region and determined which piece or pieces they would perform at the Festival. Following her visit to Midland on Wednesday, January 21, she selected MFB to perform "Red Wagon" choreographed by Anthony Ferro on the Saturday evening Showcase program and a newly choreographed piece by Lauren Curry named "We Can't Have Nice Things" for the Emerging Choreography program on Friday evening. At the Gala closing banquet on Sunday evening, **Louisa**



Photo Credit: Richard Calmes, Hiawassee, GA

Chapman, MFB Company Member

received one of two RDA/SW scholarships for Summer Intensive study. Louisa plans to attend Joffrey Ballet Midwest in July and Kaatsbaan in upstate New York this summer.

Come Watch MFB Perform At Arts Event

MFB will perform at Celebration of the Arts the weekend of May 16 and 17. This annual event is sponsored by the Arts Assembly of Midland and attracts thousands of visitors. It offers people an opportunity to see MFB dancers in action.

Watch for the schedule of performances in the *Midland Reporter-Telegram* insert. Also plan to come by the MFB table in the foyer of Midland Center.

Dinner to Honor Senior Dancers

MFB Company Members will honor this year's graduating senior dancers at a dinner in May. They include:

- **Stefany Brown** who will graduate from Midland High School in May where she is President of the French Club and a member of the National Honor Society. She has also been a Big Sister with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program and a member of Pickwick Players. She will attend Midland College in the fall. She wants to study photojournalism and travel worldwide.

- **Kinder McCullough** will also graduate with honors from MHS. She has danced with Coleman Academy since moving to Midland from



Lubbock at age 5. She is the top Texas female recruit for the Armed Services and plans to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She

plans to be a fighter pilot.

- **Meagan Smith** will graduate from Lee High School where she is a member of both the National and Spanish National Honor Societies. She is listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students and is a Texas Scholar. Meagan is active in her church, Midland Bible. She plans to attend Texas Christian University and major in political science and minor in ballet while continuing to dance.

School of MFB News

June Classes Announced

Susan Clark, Artistic Director for the School of MFB, has announced summer classes for the month of June as follows:

Princess Ballet Camp (for ages 3 to 6): June 1-12, from 9 to 10:30 a.m.
Intermediate/Advanced Levels: June 1-12, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with Joseph Goodman, guest teacher (will include a contemporary class).
Beginner/Intermediate Levels: June 15-26, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Intermediate Level: June 15-26, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Printed information with class days and times plus fees will be available at the studio in late April and May. For more information, call the MFB office at 686-0071.

Spring Lecture Demo Planned

The School of MFB will hold the bi-annual Lecture Demonstration on Saturday, May 9, in the Wagner & Brown Auditorium of the Allison Fine Arts Center on the Midland College Campus. Little Ballet 2 and Ballet 1 and 2 are scheduled at 4:30 p.m., and Ballet 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m. There is no charge for parents and family members to attend the class presentations.

Get Geared Up For Next Year

Brochures for the 2009-2010 School of MFB classes during the school year will be printed and available in June. Classes will start on Monday, August 24.

Watch for ads in the Midland Reporter Telegram or the MFB website at www.midlandfestivalballet.org for more information.

Susan Clark is Artistic Director (School Director) with Judy Coleman, Founding Director, and teachers, Jennifer Runnfeldt, Karen Scarcelli and Lauren Curry. Lauren also teaches outreach classes at Casa de Amigos and the Martin Luther King Center during the year.

Joseph Goodman will teach as permanent guest faculty in the upcoming year.

*'Nutcracker' Dates
Scheduled for 2009*

**Saturday, December 12
7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 13
2:30 p.m.**

Lee High School Auditorium

'Giselle' Act II Highlight of Gala Event

Continued from Page 1

known as Texas Ballet Theatre) and Paradise Ballet. Goodman has danced with many civic and pre-professional companies across the United States, many of which are under the Regional Dance America umbrella. He has also choreographed, taught master classes and served as Ballet Master with several notable companies including Gwinnett Ballet Theater, Burklyn Ballet, North Central Ballet, and Paradise Ballet.

Other pieces to be performed include "Red Wagon" choreographed by Anthony Ferro, former Ballet Midland Co-Artistic Director with Susan Clark in 1984-87; "We Can't Have Nice Things," choreographed by Lauren Curry, newly hired MFB Dance Instructor and Technical Director; and "Going for Baroque," choreo-

graphed by Mark Bush. Together, Joseph Goodman and Michael Levine, formerly of the Joffrey Ballet, will perform as guest artists in "Red Wagon."

MFB Company members dancing in "Giselle" Act II include: Kinder McCullough as Myrta, Louisa Chapman as Moyna, and Meagan Smith as Zulma. The Wilis are: Emily Abalos, Autumn Adair, Stefany Brown, Ba'Leigh Burns, Annie Gilmore, Victoria Gilmore, Ruthanne Kerr, Breanna LaFoy, Lauren Laughlin, Victoria Orta, Pearl Pierce and Jennifer Runnfeldt.

Ticket prices are \$12 for adults and \$6 for senior citizens and youth. Groups of 15 or more receive a \$1 discount per ticket. Tickets may be purchased online at www.midlandfestivalballet.org or by calling the MFB office at 686-0071.

Business of Ballet

MFB Seeking Names for Board

Nominations of individuals willing to serve on the Board of Directors for MFB are currently being sought. The organization's Board oversees productions, community awareness and fundraising for MFB, a 501(c) (3) non-profit arts organization.

Board of Directors membership consists of a variety of dedicated business and community leaders, parents and dancers, along with arts supporters. Meetings are held monthly from July to June each season.

To submit a name for consideration, please contact Jan St. Hilaire, Executive Director at 686-0071. A Nominating Committee will make recommendations to the Board for approval at the May meeting.

Take a Chance to Win Trip

To celebrate MFB's 15th anniversary, the Board of Directors is sponsoring a trip for two to see one performance of Houston Ballet's "Swan Lake" between June 11-21 at Wortham Center in downtown Houston.

The package includes airfare for two, one night's lodging at the historic Lancaster Hotel (within walking distance of the downtown Wortham Center), a backstage tour with Amy Fote, Principal Dancer, and a pair of signed pointe shoes.

Ticket prices are \$10 for 1; \$50 for 6; or \$100 for 12 tickets. The drawing will be held at intermission of the Sunday, April 26, Spring Gala performance in the Wagner and Brown Auditorium in the Allison Fine Arts Center at Midland College.

Tickets may be purchased by calling the MFB office at 686-0071, or contact the parents and dancers of the School of MFB who are helping to sell the tickets. Ticket sale proceeds will go toward supporting Midland Festival Ballet.



Don't Lose This Note:

RECEPTION FOR CHAIR

Joanie Holt, Midland Festival Ballet's 2008-09 Honorary Sponsor Chair, will be honored at a reception following the Saturday, April 25, performance in the McCormick Gallery of Allison Fine Arts Center at Midland College. Thanks to Joanie for lending her support to MFB's 15th anniversary season.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Now is the time to volunteer for the 2009-10 season productions. Contact Shelley Wright-Hickman at 349-7046 (cell) or Jan St. Hilaire, Executive Director, at 686-0071 (office) to volunteer.

Notebooks for committee chairs will be available through the office.

2008-2009 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President

Steve McLaughlin

Immediate Past President

John Chapman

First Vice President

(Productions)

Bill McCullough

Second Vice President

(Public Awareness)

Carolyn Sutton

Third Vice President

(Fundraising)

Lael Cordes-Pitts

Secretary

Phyllis Peek

Treasurer

Reed Gilmore

President-Elect

David Kleinbeck

DIRECTORS

Roger Crawford

Robbyne Hocker-Fuller

Judy Lerwick (Past President)

Carl Moore

Dr. Praveen K. Reddy

Deb Shaw

Violet Singh

Holly Stroman

STAFF

Artistic Director

Susan Clark

Founding Director

Judy Coleman

Executive Director

Jan St. Hilaire

Administrative Assistant

Kacey Kreitz

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Pamela Hamm

Tatum Hubbard

Harris Kerr, Past President

Judi Lindquist, Past President

Joy Payton

Bill Warren, Past President

Honorary Sponsor Chair

Joanie Holt

Past Honorary

Sponsor Chairs

Frances Brown

Andrea and Richard Catania

Mary de Compiegne

The Late Harriet Herd

Patty Herd

Paul & Judy Lerwick

Board meetings are scheduled for 8 p.m. the fourth Tuesdays of April, May and June in the Community Board Room, Junior League of Midland headquarters, 902 W. Dengar Ave. MFB Executive Committee meetings are scheduled for 12 noon on the second Thursdays of each month in the MFB office, 401 N. Big Spring St., Suite 510.

The MFB offices are located at 401 N. Big Spring St., Suite 510. Phone number is 432-686-0071. Send e-mail to:

execdirect@midlandballet.com.

Spring Brings Change, New Experiences

Spring is here and with the season change so will Midland Festival Ballet. The organization is faced with challenges of many types, including opportunities for growth.

The Board of Directors approved my attendance at the Regional Dance America/Southwest in Sugar Land with my own private tour guide – Past President and Fundraising Vice President Lael Cordes-Pitts. My skills do not include the knowledge of Classical Ballet and Lael assisted in my education. During those four days I was in awe of MFB's Company and Apprentice Members who attended the Festival. I concluded that our MFB Company and Apprentices are on par with larger companies throughout the Southwest. The opportunities and education that Susan Clark, Artistic Director, and Judy Coleman, Founding Director of Midland Festival Ballet, provide are outstanding! The status of our Company being raised to "Gala" is to be applauded

by all involved with MFB!

The parents/volunteers who accompanied our MFB Company members and Apprentices are to be commended equally! The crew included Leslie Smith, Trip Coordinator, Anna Adair, Debbie Chapman, LuAnn Gilmore, Vicki Kerr, Judy Lerwick, and Shelly Hickman-Wright.

Regional Dance America/Southwest has shown us where Midland Festival Ballet has been, celebrated our organization's development and provided insight on ways to achieve for the future. By Fall 2009, planning of instructors, facilities, performances and volunteers for the upcoming season will allow continued growth and directions.

To the Pointe,

Jan St.Hilaire, Executive Director



Midland Festival Ballet 2008-09 Sponsors

(As of April 5, 2009)

Prima Ballerina Assoluta

Arts Assembly of Midland
Mr. & Mrs. John Chapman
EOG Resources, Inc.
Paul & Judy Lerwick
Texas Commission on the Arts

Prima Ballerina

Mr. & Mrs. Jack E. Brown/Communities
Foundation of Texas
Hahl Proctor Charitable Trust
Mr. & Mrs. Steve McLaughlin
Midland Reporter-Telegram
Mr. & Mrs. Cy Wagner/Communities
Foundation of Texas

Danseur Noble

Abell-Hanger Foundation
Chaparral Bolt & Supply
Community National Bank
John & Maureen Cox Foundation
The Helen Greathouse Charitable Trust
The Prairie Foundation

Premier Danseur

Mary de Compiegne
Cotton, Bledsoe, Tighe & Dawson
Mrs. Robert D. Fitting
Mary B. Kennedy
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Lyssy
Dr. & Mrs. Praveen K. Reddy
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Rusert

Soloist

CHEVRON
Drill Collar Inspection Services, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Gaylon Howard
Junior League of Midland
Kinder Morgan Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Bill McCullough

Mr. & Mrs. Greg McDonald/
UBS Financial Services
Mr. & Mrs. James D. McLaughlin
Midland Country Club Ladies Association
Dr. & Mrs. David Orr
Mr. & Mrs. David Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Weatherl

Demi-Soloist

Nancy R. Anguish
Mr. & Mrs. G.W. Brock
Ms. Michelle Brock
Karmen Hendrix Bryant
Mary Lou Cassidy
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Catania
Mr. & Mrs. George E. Clark
Mrs. Jaclyn Comola
ConocoPhillips
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Devenport
Mr. & Mrs. M. Scott Foster
Mr. & Mrs. Reed Gilmore
Mrs. Elizabeth Greaves
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Grella
Mr. & Mrs. Tevis Herd
Jack Hickman/Shelley Wright
Joanie Holt
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Horn
Dr. Pamela Howell
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Laughlin
Mr. & Mrs. William Marshall
Mineral Technologies, Inc.
Permian Basin Area Foundation
Bob & Phyllis Cowan Fund
Mr. & Mrs. Wes Perry, Jr.
Victoria Printz
Rainbow Press, Inc.
Charles W. Seltzer, Attorney at Law
Mr. & Mrs. Hughly Todd
Mr. & Mrs. Don Tyler
Mr. & Mrs. David Vaughn
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Venegas
Mr. & Mrs. James J. Woodcock

Corps de Ballet

Mr. & Mrs. Drew Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. John D. Anderson
Suzy Boldrick
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Boomer
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Borgen
Mr. & Mrs. Corky Bosworth
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Busby
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Kell Cahoon
Mr. & Mrs. Don Carruth
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Cozart
Mr. & Mrs. Max Curry
Mr. & Mrs. William Dingus
Mr. & Mrs. James Elliott
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Fields
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Ford
Dr. & Mrs. Keith Graumann
Ms. Paula Gutierrez
Mrs. Mary W. Hardie
Mr. & Mrs. Ramand Heeraman
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Hickey
Jim Hill Insurance
Mr. & Mrs. John F. Kennedy
Mr. & Mrs. David Kleinbeck
Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Kootz
Mats Lennerhagen/Donna Busky Lauher
Lorri Lyon
Ms. Suzanne Martin
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Oei
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis O'Neal
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Pitts
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Rhoads
Shull Properties, LTD
James Sidebottom/Debbie Woodcock
Dr. and Mrs. Tulsi Singh
Mr. & Mrs. James Small
Rev. & Mrs. Dale Stasney
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Stewart
Carolyn Sutton
Terry's Kids Shoes
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Max Wright

For sponsorship information, call 686-0071 or visit the MFB website at www.midlandballet.com



Photo Credit: Keese Photography

Photo Credit: Richard Calmes, Hiawassee, GA

BALLET HISTORY: A Story of Dance in Permian Basin

Ballet in Midland was first offered in 1932 when Georgia Goss Harston, Patsy Yeager's sister, began teaching classes at the downtown Scharbauer Hotel. After marrying and moving away in the 1940's, Georgia returned and taught classes in her home on Ohio Street until Robert Mann, director of the Midland-Odessa Symphony, helped form the Permian Civic Ballet in 1967. Over a 14-year period, the organization attracted more than 500 dancers with 5 to 10 percent pursuing professional and/or teaching careers.

Ballet Midland followed in the early 1980's and combined professional dancers with instruction for the local students. Both Midland College and Midland Community Theatre helped with hiring teachers and providing space for the program together with the Midland-Odessa Symphony & Chorale. The Board of Directors eventually chose to become a performing company and then decided to dissolve in the early 1990's.

FIRST 'NUTCRACKER'

Midland Festival Ballet was founded in 1993 by Judy Coleman, Founding Director. The first annual performance of "The Nutcracker" was held in 1994 at

the Wagner and Brown Auditorium in the Allison Fine Arts Center at Midland College. It included three sold-out performances with 50 performers representing two dance schools in the Permian Basin. In 1995, two performances were held at Lee High School Auditorium and included the Midland-Odessa Symphony Orchestra. A third performance was presented in Big Spring. Three guest soloists from New York City Ballet danced with 85 performers representing three dance schools. Both KMID and KOCV-TV televised the local performances.

AUDIENCES GROWING

Since 1996, two performances have been held each year with nearly 2,000 people in attendance. An average of five dance schools (ranging from four to eight per year) have participated, including over 100 performers annually.

Professional dancers continue to perform as guest artists in the lead roles. The Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale provides live music for the production.

The first Spring Gala performance in 1998 was entitled "Works in Progress" and included excerpts from "Swan Lake," "Coppelia," "The Fairy Doll,"

and "Pickin' and Kickin'." Guest soloists from the Metropolitan Opera Ballet in New York City also performed.

Since 2000, two annual performances have featured guest artists from Arizona Ballet, Houston Ballet, Louisville Ballet and Milwaukee Ballet dancing with MFB Company Members. They have performed excerpts of classic ballets such as "Giselle," "Les Sylphides," "Napoli," "Raymonda," and "Sleeping Beauty." Other pieces choreographed for the Company by Bobby Ball, Lee-Wei Chao, Yen Li-Chen, Jean-Paul Comelin, Andrea Comola, Rob Davidson, Anthony Ferro, Kevin Freeman, Elizabeth Gillasp, Kirt Hathaway, Karl von Rabeneau, and Donna Ross have been performed.

SEASON EXPANDS

In 2007, MFB initiated a third production, "A Festival Fairytale," with a Friday evening performance of "Cinderella" at the Midland High School Auditorium. "Beauty and the Beast" was performed in 2008 and "Peter and the Wolf" in 2009.

From a house to a theater stage, from a few dancers to a hundred, the art of ballet has expanded in its talent, its professionalism and its audiences in the Permian Basin.



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Midland, TX 79701
Permit No. 148

P.O. Box 52034
Midland, TX 79710

www.midlandballet.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

15TH
Anniversary
2008-2009 SEASON

Photo Credit: Richard Calmes, Hiawassee, GA



Spring Gala 2009

Saturday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 26, 2:30 p.m.

Wagner & Brown Auditorium, Midland College

For ticket information, call 686-0071 or visit www.midlandfestivalballet.org