

Studio **NEWS**

DATES TO RECORD:

Feb 15 - 19 - Winter Break -
Closed

March 1-6 - Dress Down Week
(any color leotard and tights)

March 27 - Summer Camp
Registrations Due

April 5 - Easter - Closed

April 25 - Lancaster School of
Ballet Dance Company
performance at Masonic
Village Elizabethtown, 2pm.

May 1-2 - Cecchetti Exams.

May 1 - NO CLASSES -
EXAMS.

May 3-8 - Dress Down Week
(any color leotard and tights)

May 31 - Memorial Day - Closed.

June 5 - In House Recital

June 21-25 - LSB Summer
School.

ADULT BALLET CLASS

Any interest in an adult class in the AM while the children are in school? Classes are on Tuesdays from 10:00a-11:00a in Neffsville with Mrs. Trythall. Please call the office if you want to join this group.

NY CITY BUS TRIP

Another successful trip was had by all - 50 people enjoyed the opportunity and went to see The New York City Ballet perform *Midsummer's Night Dream*. Mrs. T, Molly, and about 6 others went on an excursion through the Metropolitan Museum of Art while they were there. Some took a class at Steps on Broadway and others took in a day of shopping to add to their experience in New York City. You don't want to miss next year's trip, so keep your eyes open for the info in next year's Studio News.

Website Updates

Don't forget to check out our website for updated info.
lancasterschoolofballet.com

SUMMER CAMPS

In the Garden Junior Dance Camp

- Creative Movement through Primary III
June 14-18 9:00am - 12pm at the Neffsville studio

Mermaids & Butterflies Junior Dance Camp

- Creative Movement through Primary III
June 21-25 9:00a-12:00p at the Neffsville studio
Faculty: Molly Carey

Professional Fine Arts Dance Camp

- Grades I -VII June 21-25 - 9:00a-2:00p
at the Grant St. studio
Faculty: Paul Sutherland, Bruni Ruiz, Emily Borthwick, Priscilla Kaufhold, Victoria Coble, and Marian West.

Announcing

Mrs. T has formed a new dance company, Lancaster School of Ballet Dance Company. This year's company is made up of the 12 young ladies who have been a part of the Tuesday Performance Class since September. Mrs. T and the company would like to invite you all to come see them perform at Masonic Village in Elizabethtown on Sunday, April 25th at 2pm. This is a free performance.



Lancaster School of Ballet

Studio News is a newsletter for the Lancaster School of Ballet. The Director of the School is Carolyn Trythall, 2690 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601. You can reach her by calling 717-569-0955. The Lancaster School of Ballet promotes the life-long love of dance in an atmosphere of nurturing and fun.



Think Snow



ATTENTION

Not sure if your dance classes are canceled? To find out log on to WGAL.COM (Channel 8) and listen to radio station [WLAN-FM 97 \(96.9\)](http://WLAN-FM 97 (96.9)). We will follow the Manheim Township weather cancellations. Whatever they do regarding cancellations for weather issues, LSB will also do.

New York Alumni

This fall, we had two of our ranks head to New York City to further their educational opportunities (just imagine, both of them coming from our small school in Lancaster County):

- **Sonia Jones** is in a new Master of Arts degree in Teaching Dance in Higher Education and the Professions with a concentration in American Ballet Theatre Ballet Pedagogy at NYU. This newly designed concentration is for students intending to teach in private studios, conservatories, as teaching-artists and community outreach. The dance teaching aspect of this curriculum is taught by American Ballet Theatre master teachers who emphasize the development of the ballet dancer. Pedagogy and research are complemented with an arts management course, helping to prepare the graduate for employment in multiple settings. ABT faculty for this unique program are: Raymond Lukens, Artistic Associate, ABT/NYU Masters Program and faculty at ABT's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School; Franco De Vita, Principal of ABT's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School; and Julie Daugherty, ABT Physical Therapist. Based on Raymond and Franco's training, this is a Cecchetti based curriculum. Both of these men have been guest teachers at Lancaster School of Ballet multiple times.
- **Skyler Maxey-Wert** is currently enrolled in American Ballet Theatre's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School. This is also a Cecchetti based curriculum. Perhaps one of the most well-known of Skyler's fellow students is Tony Award winner David Alvarez, one of the first to play the role of Billy on Broadway in *Billy Elliot*. Tresca Weinstein had this to say about the school in *Pointe Magazine's* April/May 2007 issue :

American Ballet Theatre's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School has one overarching goal: to produce students who will make ideal ABT dancers. That's a tall order. According to faculty member Nancy Raffa, who also directs ABT's Summer Intensive program, the perfect ABT dancer is versatile and resilient, with strong classical training, an open mind, an ability to learn quickly and both artistic and technical proficiency. But with a specialized syllabus and an impressive teacher-student ratio, JKO-as it's affectionately referred to among students and faculty-is up to the job.

Launched in January 2004 as the Studio Company Associate Program, the school was quickly renamed for ABT's one time honorary chairman and 25-year member of the company's board of trustees (Onassis's daughter, Caroline Kennedy, has served as honorary chairman since 1995). The first year-round school at ABT since 1981, JKO has crafted an approach to dance education that's both forward thinking and solidly grounded in tradition.

"Our philosophy is to train dancers in a very classical way with no stylistic affection," says JKO Principal Franco De Vita, "Because a company like ABT and most companies in the world are now doing such a vast repertory, from classical to modern to contemporary, that they need to be able to switch from one to another."

The Cecchetti Method of Classical Ballet has been developed to educate and prepare dancers from the very first class as a pre-ballet child to the professional level performer who is ready to audition for a company. Good ballet training is not the exclusive property of the Cecchetti Method. What makes this method so unique and effective is its syllabus and the fact that the dancers are not only trained to dance but educated, as well.

Consisting of three pre-ballet levels, four student grades, three professional grades, and the Maestro Cecchetti Diploma, the syllabus is designed; 1) to apply appropriately to the student's age and advancement level, 2) to train dancers to be disciplined, 3) to effectively use the concepts and theories of ballet, 4) to value the repetition of the exercises as both strength and stamina building as well as to develop muscle memory, 5) to gradually develop dancers through material that builds carefully from one level to the next, 6) to benefit from nonsyllabus exercises to promote quick retention of material, 7) to learn a nucleus of material from the romantic and classical ballets, 8) to provide an examination system for both students and teachers, and 9) to offer an opportunity for continuing education.

Age and Advancement Level

- The syllabus is developed and organized to be age and advancement specific
- Students are taught material that is appropriate to their growing bodies
- The syllabus is scientifically planned to avoid injury
- The syllabus has a steady progression of advancement built into it

Discipline

- Dancers learn to focus
- Dancers learn to work diligently
- Dancers learn to apply personal corrections, and to listen to and absorb general corrections
- Dancers learn to be attentive to the details of technique and style
- Dancers learn to use appropriate energy for each movement
- Dancers learn the use of arms and head which provide the style and line of the material

Concepts and Theories

- Dancers are required to learn specific movement patterns for each grade level
- Dancers are required to learn concepts and theories of movements
- Dancers learn how those concepts and theories apply to movements
- Dancers learn from where a movement originates anatomically
- Dancers learn why what they are doing is significant in the scope of their dance education

Repetition

- Performing the syllabus material repeatedly over a period of time helps the students to develop muscle memory
- The technique of specific steps becomes ingrained
- The dancer learns to concentrate more fully on the quality of movement
- The dancer develops the strength and stamina required for increasingly more advanced work

Gradual Development

- The syllabus builds on a constant thread from the lowest to the highest levels and assures that every type of ballet movement is included
- The syllabus gradually develops the dancer in a clear and concise manner with nothing left to chance in the dancer's education
- The syllabus does not rely on a teacher's favorite steps or whims that sometimes emphasize one area of study while neglecting another

Quick Retention

- Patterns of steps are taught that are not included in the syllabus patterns
- This practice helps dancers to learn material quickly and to respond
- This practice helps the dancers to use the technique and styling that is becoming a part of their muscle memory.

Romantic and Classical Ballets

- Most professional ballet companies have in their repertoires romantic and classical ballets
- Material in the professional syllabus of the Cecchetti Method is derived largely from romantic and classical ballets
- Dancers who know the Cecchetti professional syllabus are well prepared for a career in ballet

Examination System

- Examinations at every level provide a standard by which a dancer's progress and expertise may be measured
- Examinations provide goals for students and tangible evidence of achievement
- Teachers' examinations assure that a teacher is competent and qualified to teach specific levels of material

Continuing Education

- Regional seminars and workshops are available for study and camaraderie
- An annual International Cecchetti Ballet Seminar is held each July
- Members are required to attend a minimum of one regional workshop every two years or one International Ballet Seminar every three years