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Music Can Dance! Young musicians invited to perform with professionals in a full length production of a new ballet on the Eastside

“THE JEWEL HEART project involves young musicians in the creative process and offers real-life application of their musical training”, explains Emerald Ballet Theatre (EBT) music director Judy Huehn. “Performing in a fully-staged production along side professionals is such a rare and valuable opportunity.”

Intermediate/advanced musicians (solo, duo, or larger ensembles may include string, percussion, wind, brass, or voice) are invited to audition for EBT’s production of a new original ballet inspired by local author Barbara Helen Berger’s book. The entire ballet will be set to live music.

Kouki Tanaka, a gifted violinist studying at the University of Washington, will perform the lead. A video with excerpts of Tanaka playing and dancing is available at www.emeraldballet.org on the projects page.

Tanaka won many prestigious youth violin competitions and recently made his debut performance as a soloist at Benaroya Hall. His character Gemino uses a violin to communicate with his true love. Scherzo-Tarantella, Op. 16 by Henryk Wieniawski, is just one of the intricate pieces Tanaka plays. “Dancing and music have always worked together and made me a better artist in both disciplines,” confides Tanaka, who is also an accomplished ballet dancer.

This collaboration grew out of EBT’s popular Music Can Dance workshops – the joining of instrumental student accompanists with student dancers. THE JEWEL HEART elevates this artistry to a new level by pairing students with professional dancers and musicians, including world-renowned violinist Lenore Vardi, who has been featured with Placido Domingo, Tony Bennett, and other notable artists. Other artists who will perform include: EBT artistic director Viktoria Titova, formerly a ballerina with the Bolshoi Theatre Grigorovich Company, and the Redmond High School Choir and Orchestra (playing Mozart’s Requiem).

Music auditions will be held Saturday October 24th from 2-4pm at EBT’s studio 12368 Northup Way, Bellevue. Interested dancers and musicians contact judy@judyhuehn.com, (425)233-5506 or visit www.emeraldballet.org for additional information.

EBT is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to excellence in education, performance, and community outreach for the arts.