

"Music Can Dance" Workshop Press Release March 7th, 2008

Can Music Dance?

"Music is in the air and dancing feet drum the earth everywhere. Spring is the season for festivals, competitions and performances. The Music Can Dance Workshop on March 15th at Emerald Ballet Theatre in Bellevue celebrates youth from Seattle to Preson. The Music Can Dance Workshop is an educational event fostering collaboration between the arts. Co-sponsored by the Lake Washington Music Teachers Association (LWMTA) and Emerald Ballet Theatre (EBT), both non-profit organizations share goals of providing education in areas of music, dance, art and culture, and providing performance opportunities for their students. The workshop will be led by Viktoria Titova and Sarah Jacobsen of EBT; and Judy Huehn, LWMTA member, pianist and teacher. The workshop will be presented in 3 parts. All events are open to the public for a nominal fee. First, from 12:30-2:00 p.m., a hands-on lecture demonstration emphasizing musical interpretation, rhythm, phrasing, articulation, tempo changes, and terminology of classical dance and music. Second, from 2:00-3:30 p.m., rehearsal sessions between music students who have recorded a piece of Classical music for the dance students who have spent the last few weeks choreographing their original dance to the music. Third, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., a performance of all the ensembles with live music and dance, 15 ensembles altogether, with a variety of instruments including piano, flute, violin, voice and guitar. "As a ballet accompanist in my younger years, I enjoyed watching the dancers while I was playing the piano. I would rush home and try out the steps on my kitchen floor. When I teach piano today, I talk a lot about dance steps and rhythms. It helps my students visualize what the music might be telling them. Some of them will even get up from the piano and start dancing!"

exclaims Judy Huehn, piano teacher in Redmond. Speaking from the dance perspective, EBT artistic director and former Bolshoi (Grigorovich Company) ballerina, Viktoria Titova agrees, "Choreography and music go hand in hand. Dancers need to understand music in order to express it." Students from EBT's choreography class eagerly anticipate the workshop. "The flute is beautiful. We've spent lots of time listening and choreographing. It will be amazing to actually meet the musicians and perform live with them" says Madeline Kenney, a 16 year old from Sammamish, "I actually want to be a choreographer so the class and workshop are a great opportunity." Madeline and friend, Sydney McBride of Bothell will be dancing to Ave Maria played by Sher-min Yang on flute, a junior at Redmond High School and accompanied by Rachel Kahn on piano playing Bach's Prelude in C, a 7th grader at Evergreen Jr. High School. This rare occasion brings music and dance students together. Dancers range from as young as 7 years old to adults. Most musicians are in junior high or high school with a high level of performance skills. EBT's motto, "where dancing hearts are nurtured and bodies honed into instruments of strength and beauty". On March 15th beautiful and diverse instruments unite to show that Music Can Dance. For more information www.judyhuehn.com or www.emeraldballet.org or (425) 883-3405 Emerald Ballet Theatre located at 12368 Northup Way, Bellevue, WA. 98005