



Happy Holidays to the SRB Community

We hope that the Society of Russian Ballet is not only a vehicle that provides a syllabus and examinations based on the Russian method, but provides guidance and support for the growth and development of our members and their students in all stages of their dance lives. We also hope that the Society provides you with a community for your work and creative practice. I know the Society has been my dancing community, a home base so to speak, for over 40 years. It's part of my dancing DNA.

The larger idea of 'community' becomes more evident and important as we get closer to the holiday season. All of us have many communities that we are part of and interact with. These communities can give us a support system and a purpose, shape our identities and can give us a sense of familiarity and shared values. I was struck by this idea recently when I realized that I currently have two students who received their fundamental training with Society members from other regions of the country. My studio in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia is now the dancing home for an advanced dancer and Associate teacher mentee who received her early training with Irina Egorova from Waterdown,

Ontario. The second student is a committed former student of Janie Lacelle's from Ottawa, who is now preparing for her Level Eight exam and is an enthusiastic demonstrator for our Saturday morning children's classes. Welcoming them into my studio and classes was so easy. We had a common language and methodology. They could immediately absorb the philosophy of my corrections, and of course they could, they grew up in the SRB community.
– Leica Hardy

***At this special time of year we would like to wish the SRB community a very happy and safe holiday season.
Enjoy your time cocooned in the warmth of family and friends!***

In This Issue

- The Creation of the Growth & Development Committee
- Webinar Survey Feedback – Please send your thoughts & ideas!
- Vaganova Quotes Now On The Website
- Congratulations To Our Award Winners
- Making Exam Paperwork More Efficient
- Upcoming December Exam Sessions
- Digital Exam Video Notes – Lighting Glare & Mirror Images
- Celebrating 50 Years of The Society of Russian Ballet – Seminar 2023
- SRB Email Address Reminder
- Database & Online Directory Updating Underway
- Back Issues of Musings Now On The Website
- Content For Our Next Newsletter

The Creation of the Growth & Development Committee

The Executive Committee is thrilled to announce the creation of the Growth and Development Committee. This new volunteer committee will undertake various tasks and projects to benefit the long-term direction and vision of the Society of Russian Ballet. The committee will assist the Executive with tasks such as, but not limited to: membership drives, marketing and social media,

workshops, seminars and events, and the development of teaching strategies, manuals and guides. The enthusiasm and dedication of the committee members will help forge a new and exciting future for the Society of Russian Ballet.

To facilitate these initiatives the Growth and Development Committees have been divided into a collection of sub-committees with specific areas of interest. We welcome Mandi Lines to the committee and extend our thanks to the following members who will be the spokesperson for each of the following sub-committees:

- Marketing, Advertising & Social Media – Katherine Clarke
- 50th Anniversary Celebrations – Janie Lacelle
- Seminars, Workshops & Conventions – Audra Grierson
- Community Outreach Programs – Elizabeth MacDonnell
- International Committee – Courtnae Bowman
- Teaching Resources – Heather Davies

Webinar Survey Feedback – Please send your thoughts & ideas!

On behalf of the Executive Committee, examiner Katherine Clarke is collecting anonymous survey feedback about our last two online webinars. We would like your honest opinions to help us to improve our future webinars/seminars. If you have any questions about the survey please contact Katherine directly at k4clarke@gmail.com. The link to the Google Forms survey can be found [here](#).

Vaganova Quotes Now On The Website

If anyone has been browsing through the website they will see that we now have a collection of quotes by Agrippina Vaganova on the website. We also have a collection of quotes about her from other authors. The idea for this project came from Examiner Merle Adam, who hopes this will connect us more to Vaganova's ideas and theories, and give us insights into her teaching philosophy. Merle poured through books and website articles to assemble the collection. Her quote "...keeping in touch with life and with art." is quite well

known, but finding others in English proved to be difficult. If any of our Russian speaking members have come across quotes in Russian language publications, please send the translations along and we will add them to our online collection. The quote below can be found on the [Membership](#) page of the website.

“The basic characteristic of classical ballet is built on croisé and effacé. It is from croisé and effacé that the richness of forms is drawn.”

– Agrippina Vaganova from Basic Principles of Classical Ballet page 21

Congratulations To Our Award Winners

A huge round of applause to our award winners for the past few years. We have not had the opportunity to congratulate those members and students in person for the past few years. In these difficult times your efforts and commitment have been exemplary. A full list of all the award winners to date can be found on the [Society of Russian Ballet Awards](#) page of the website.

Year	Name	Award	Teacher
2021	Zoë Mitchell	Marijan Bayer	Victoria Carter
2021	Tatyana Meijor	Marijan Bayer	Victoria Carter
2021	Bryce Cooper	Marijan Bayer	Irina Egorova
2020	Asia Aiken	Nesta Toumine	Loni Kenny
2020	Ken Greenough	Ann	Janie Lacelle
2020	Ashlyn Walton	Marijan Bayer	Victoria Carter
2019	Emily Berlinghoff	Marijan Bayer	Irina Egorova
2019	Sydney Demmings	Ann Verderheyden	Courtney Earle
2019	Presley Little	Marijan Bayer	Natalie Sebastian

Making Exam Paperwork More Efficient

The Society is in the process of developing a new comprehensive examination document. This new document for in-person and digital examinations will combine the content of the old *Candidate Entry Form* and *Mark Results Sheet*. It details the exam and break lengths for each level of the syllabus, permitting everyone to use it as a cut and paste template for the creation of standardized exam session schedules. Sharing the document between the Society's office, examiners and host studios will all be done digitally. It will be available in both Excel and Numbers formats.

Our hope is that the document will reduce paperwork time, and hard copy storage for members, examiners and the office. Host studios will use it as a cut and paste template for entering exam day contact information, creating the day's schedule, entering your candidates in exam order, listing members beside their exam groups and relaying any important notes about candidates to examiners. It will provide examiners with consolidated schedule and candidate information, and will be used by them to record mark results. The office will use it to create certificates and transfer mark results to our mark history databases.

Special thanks to members, Katherine Clarke, Kim Hurley and Holley Muncey for using the document to give it a test-drive in their upcoming exam sessions. We plan to have the document fully functional no later than Fall 2022. Stay tuned for photos and instructions how to use it in upcoming issues of *Musings*.

Upcoming December Exam Sessions

We would like to wish all the best to the following members' and their students in their upcoming exam sessions:

- 10-11: Exisdance, Lethbridge, AB c/o Janielle Scott
- 16: Pemberton Dance Studio, Pemberton, BC c/o Anna Kroupina
- 17: Dancemakerz, Waterdown, ON, c/o Irina Egorova
- 21: Arise Dance Ministry, Bradford, ON, c/o Holly Muncey

Digital Exam Video Notes – Lighting Glare and ‘Mirror Images’

The past couple of years have created challenges that require adaptation, creativity and unique solutions! With that in mind we applaud everyone for being determined to continue offering exams for their students over the past year. To present your students in the best possible way, examiners would like to pass on some technical notes for video recordings:

Lighting Glare – Please make sure students are not backlit and that there is no lighting glare in your recordings. Backlight can turn people in the foreground into silhouettes, making it very difficult to observe the your students clearly. Lighting glare also affects video clarity. The best solution is to either make sure that any strong lighting is behind the camera operator or cover your windows.

Mirror Image Recordings – Please make sure that your recordings are not accidentally submitted in ‘mirror image’. The lowest number candidate should always been on the left of the video screen, which would correspond to stage right for the student. The highest number should be on the right side of the screen/stage left. If you are recording your barre with the students in profile these instructions also apply. Although not ideal in this circumstance, if you must record your barre with the students in a line from downstage to upstage, please have candidate number one on the downstage end of the row. It is probable best to make sure that the camera is positioned on a diagonal to the students and that the diagonal line is strong enough to permit clear viewing of all candidates on both sides of the work.

Test Runs With Examiners – If you are in doubt about any aspect of your set-up, please contact your assigned examiner to arrange a time for a test-run.

Celebrating 50 Years of The Society of Russian Ballet – Seminar 2023

The executive has started investigating dates and facilities for our 50th anniversary seminar in August, 2023. We will keep you informed about specific dates and location once we have those details confirmed.

SRB Email Address Reminder

Please make sure to add the new office email addresses to your contact lists.

- **Jane Pound** – affiliatecoordinator@societyofrussianballet.org
- **Deanna Stewart** – info@societyofrussianballet.org
- **Leica Hardy** – operations@societyofrussianballet.org

Database & Online Directory Updating Underway

Due to the extension of the payment due date for annual membership to November 31st, our master database and online directory updating was postponed until this timeframe was complete. Starting December 1st we began updating our database and website directory. Please check to make sure you are correctly listed on the website. If you have any contact information changes please send a Directory Update form to [Deanna Stewart](#). The form is available for download from the website. Note that only members in good standing will be included the updates.

Back Issues of *Musings* Now On The Website

You can now view back issues of *Musings* on the Member New page of the website. Simply click on the links in the right hand column to download a copy.

Content For Our Next Newsletter

If you have any content or questions you would like to include in our next newsletter, please send that information directly to [Leica Hardy](#). Share your studio, student and alumni successes, performance dates, ask questions about vocabulary or exam processes, send us information about teaching opportunities for members.

Happy dancing!

The Society of Russian Ballet

P.O. Box 13046

140 Holland Street West

Bradford, ON

L3Z 2Y5

info@societyofrussianballet.org

www.societyofrussianballet.org