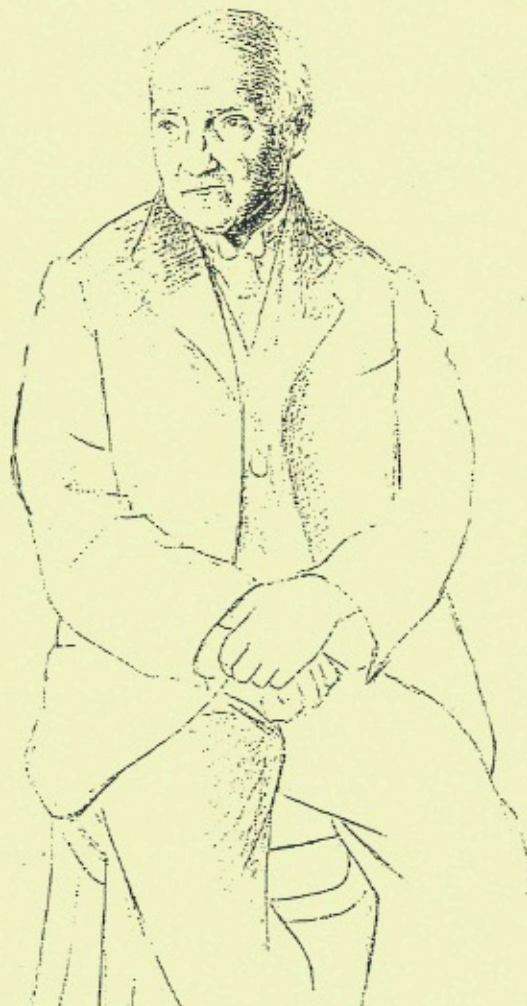


Cecchetti International Classical Ballet

**INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER NO. 4
October 1998**



participating organisations:

*CECCHETTI COUNCIL OF AMERICA ❖ THE CECCHETTI SOCIETY OF
AUSTRALIA INC ❖ THE CECCHETTI SOCIETY OF CANADA ❖
THE CECCHETTI SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN ❖ A.N.C.E.C. ITALY ❖
CECCHETTI SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND ❖ CECCHETTI SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA ❖ THE CECCHETTI SOCIETY INC. U.S.A.*

NEWS FROM CECCHETTI COUNCIL OF AMERICA

Another year has passed with more dancing events, more examinations and an eagerness for continuing education. Throughout the United States successful workshops and seminars were presented by the National Executive Board and the 15 area committees of the Cecchetti Council of America. There were opportunities to study the Cecchetti method on the East Coast, the West Coast, Midwest as well as the Northern and Southern areas of the United States.

The 48th International Summer School of the CCA was attended by teachers and students from the United States, Jamaica, Canada and England with 90 teachers and approximately 200 students attending. It is always a pleasure to renew old friendships and being new ones with fellow Cecchetti teachers. The CCA teacher faculty included our President - Bethany Lenhart, Enid Ricardeau, a charter member, and Rose Marie Floyd, Betty Bandyk, Eleanore Brown, Gail Chaote-Pettit, Sandra Glenn, Jean Newell, Karla Harris, Pirkko Lawlor and Dr. Kathleen Tidwell. In addition to Cara Drower, guest faculty included Chris and Lynn Tabor, Mark Otloski, Kimmary Williams, Dawnell Dryja, Betsy Carr, and Viktor Yeliohin. Also offered for teachers was an introduction to liturgical dance presented by Kathryn Cooke and Leslie Parreco. Many of the student classes were also taught by CCA teachers.

Because of the current requirements of dancers today, other subjects offered in the course were warm-up exercises, Pilates body conditioning, dance injury prevention, character, jazz, improvisation, pas de deux and mime. It was a privilege to have Marian Horosko, Education Editor of *Dance Magazine*, the international dance Ms. Publication present. Ms. Horosko presented informative lectures and gave insight into today's world of dance. The next two weeks culminated with a student and teacher banquet that was followed the next day by a beautiful performance which featured all 200 students in choreographic pieces set by the guest faculty. It was an inspirational year renewing the realization that continuing education is a means to success.

Professional dancers who grew up in the method are now being invited to teach at our CCA workshops and seminars. Some of these include - Anthony Randazzo (National Ballet of Canada, San Francisco Ballet), Kimmary Williams (Twyla Tharp, Connecticut Ballet), Lynn Tabor (Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Cleveland Ballet), Mark Otloski (Cleveland Ballet), Dawnell Dryja (Cincinnati, Dayton Ballet), Jan Hanniford (Joffrey Ballet, Netherlands Dance Theatre)

For approximately fifty years, the CCA has had a close liaison with the Cecchetti Society ISTD of England. Since that time we have been honoured to have Rita Emmerson, Laura Wilson, Margaret Marsh, Carol Hill, Margaret Saul, Mary Skeaping, Pat Hardy, Eve Pettinger, Margaret Craske, Mary Jane Duckworth, Anita Young, Diane van Schoor, Brenda Hamlin and Cara Drower. This past summer at our CCA International Summer School at Hope College, Cara Drower

presented the Cecchetti Advanced and Diploma with clarity and great enthusiasm. She was warmly received by teachers and students alike.

The CCA National Executive Board offers over thirty scholarships each year to dedicated teachers and students from many areas of the United States and abroad. The recipient of the Margaret Marsh International Exchange Scholarship was Susan Handy, a Cecchetti teacher from England. The Sylvia Hamer Scholarship was presented to Gail Choate-Pettit, who attended the Cecchetti Society Summer School held in Chichester, England. Diane Guest-Hoff of California received the Virgiline Simmons Teachers Scholarship award to the annual CCA International Summer School. Numerous matching grant scholarships offered by the National Executive Board were presented to CCA teachers from many of our area committees. Auditions were held throughout the country by individual committees to send their advanced dancers to Hope College. Students in the intermediate and advanced levels at Hope College were also auditioned and given scholarships for demonstrating talent and potential.

Each year the enthusiasm for taking exams has increased. We had over 3,000 candidates presented in the student graded levels and 155 student candidates presented in the major exams. Thirty three major exams were taken by teacher candidates. This year there were 100 candidates preparing for the major levels by taking teacher oriented exams in the CCA grades.

In October, the CCA Board of Examiners, chaired by Rose Marie Floyd, met at the Detroit Hilton Airport Hotel for a three day conference. All CCA examiners contributed to the re-structuring of the Board of Examiners. Subjects addressed were Exams, Education, Music, History, Anatomy, Syllabus, Ethics, and New Examiner Training.

We are interested in the development of Cecchetti International and are presently investigating the procedures for incorporation and tax exempt status. This joint venture of seven Cecchetti Organisations hopefully will promote the Cecchetti Method of teaching ballet through publicity and major events.

Presented by Gail Choate-Pettit, Rose Marie Floyd, and Lee Ann King.

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

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1997/1998 have, as usual, been very busy in the land down-under.

1997 Congress

In July 1997 our annual Congress was held in Melbourne, Victoria which is our home state, and it was a magnificent Congress, held in the Australian Ballet School studios. We were able to watch teachers from the School teaching classes to the second and third year students, and the standard of the dancers is very high *Sandra Allan* conducted a class with some delightful pre-primary and primary children which made us all realise what fun ballet can be "in the beginning". We also saw some wonderful young Cecchetti students demonstrating the Cecchetti elementary. One of our most enduring ballet professionals, *Mr. Bill Akers* who was stage director for the Australian Ballet for many years, and indeed, who still designs lighting - gave a wonderful talk entitled "Two Pegs and a Bob". This was full of very funny anecdotes about (can you guess?) *Dame Margot Fonteyn - Peggy Hookham, Dame Peggy Van Praagh*, and of course *Robert Helpmann* during their times with the ballet company over the years.

The wardrobe mistress from the Australian Ballet brought in some of the wonderful costumes in her care, showing how they are constructed and maintained, including headresses and jewellery specially designed for ballet.

Many congress delegates stay in a residential college in Melbourne University-Ormond College - and after dinner, evenings are spent with cheese and wine discussing the days program, sharing and solving problems and laughing at lot.

Summer and Vactions Schools

The Victorian Branch runs a very successful residential Summer School each January, at Ormond College, where students from all over Australia, and from New Zealand attend five days of classes in Cecchetti Ballet, Contemporary Dance, Repetoire, Jazz and Drama, with a grand concert being the final event of the week.

NSW has been conducting a Summer School also, because the Victorian one is always filled up very quickly. This one is not residential, and students take classes in Ballet, Repetoire, Contemporary, Jazz, National, Drama, and the extremely popular "Make-Up" At the mid-week fancy dress parade, the success of the make-up class is obvious as cats, and clowns, princesses and pixies suddenly appear.

Queensland conducts a residential dance camp each year, during winter school holidays, so you can see that the Australian Cecchetti students have plenty of opportunities to experience many different styles of dance and many different teachers.

We are looking forward to the time when our International partners will be joining us at these events, and we will be attending their special courses etc.

Canadian Conference

Our two international delegates Carole Hall and Robina Beard returned from the historic Canada Conference very excited to have finally been able to meet with so many like-minded Cecchetti professionals, and anxious to let the Australian members know all that had happened. Robina, as the editor of the Cecchetti Newsletter collated all the addresses of the International delegates to include in a special edition, also conferring with Carole and giving a report of all that was discussed and decided. There are many fabulous photographs of this trip - most taken by Carole Hall who must be able to wall-paper her house with them.

Australian Examiners

Our Examiner faculty continues to change and grow. We have on-going examiner up-grading, with trainees examiners "sitting-in", and Category 1 and 2 examiners moving up through to their next levels. This year we welcome two new trainee examiners from South Australia - Jenny Pollard and Denise Fisher-Gruber, and one from NSW - Robyn Ross. Robyn, originally from South Africa has now been in Australia for 11 years.

Sadly, one of our most respected examiners - Dorothy Noye FISTD from South Australia retired from examining this year, due to ill health. Dorothy has been a visionary for the Cecchetti Society in Australia, instigating our Australian Constitution, and being instrumental in ensuring that the National Council in Australia included members from each state. Her career in dance, as a performer, a teacher, an examiner and an administrator was long and fruitful and we wish her happiness in her retirement.

Athol Willoughby, one of our two category 4 examiners, also retired in 1998 but only from "full-time" teaching. He entrusted his ballet school to one of his qualified students who is continuing his excellent teaching methods. He now teaches on a free-lance basis, and is enjoying a little more leisure than is afforded by running your own school.

Congress 1998

Australia has embraced the new Intermediate syllabus, and Carole Hall has been visiting various Cecchetti centres to give-out the new work. At the 1998 Congress held in July in Sydney, this new work was demonstrated and the reaction has been very positive.

This 1998 Congress was opened with a specially choreographed piece entitled "*Pas Past and Present*" showing the meeting of the romantic style with the neo-classical style. It was choreographed by Valrene Tweedie OAM and Diane Garcia.

Other items of interest at the Sydney Congress were a lecture in "Child Development" by Associate Professor Wendy Schiller, a session entitled "Tools for Composition" by Diane Garcia FISTD who recently achieved her Masters Degree in Performance - Dance, a practical pilates class with many delegates taking part, and a wonderful session where attending teachers shared their teaching "tricks" and hints for some of the difficult steps that confront us all. One of my favourites was using the McDonalds M to explain how to make echappe saute - (think about it).

The dancers who perform with our National Operal Company came to Congress and performed three pas de deux from *The Judgement of Paris* from the opera *Adriana Le Couvreur*, a most interesting period piece. Congress 1998 finished with a Mad Hat Party, which also celebrated Cecchetti's birthday with a big cake.

Medal Awards Performances.

Each State branch in Australia conducts a Medal Awards presentation in some form every year, and in preparation for the International Competition which will now be held here in Melbourne in July 2001, we are holding a National Medal Award in 1999 at Congress in Queensland. The Winners and Runner-up from each state will be taking part in this inaugural National Award in Queensland.

Looking Forward

Here in Australia, as I am sure it does in many other countries, Cecchetti Classical Ballet has to compete with such activities as netball, swimming, gymnastics, tennis, drama, piano etc. etc and with many other methods and systems - some of which do not have International credentials. We are attempting to "hold our own" in the face of all this, and intend to encourage our Associates to continue with their training, and to begin to teach, as well as providing extra classes and courses for senior students, Associates and student members.

Australia has decided to appoint a special technical panel to look at the Grades and Standard syllabi with a view to aligning the levels, and making them more accessible.

We are also concerned about some loss of memberships, due in no small part to the large increases in subscriptions which we have experienced in the last two years. and we will be working hard to maintain our member numbers.

International Competition - 2001.

Finally, we want to tell you all that the International Competition will now be held in the millenium year 2001, in July in Melbourne. Australia is united in its intention to present a wonderful event, and we hope that the extra year will give everyone time to prepare, and to save up the fare. Entry conditions will be sent out very soon, and we will finalise all the details at the next Cecchetti International meeting, in April. So.... we are looking forward to you all coming down here and enjoying some Aussie hospitality, participating in our first Cecchetti International Competition, and seeing some of this big country.

NEWS FROM CANADA

Examinations and workshops – 1997/98 has been a very active year for examinations at all levels in Canada, our entries have risen almost as fast as our dollar has dropped. We welcomed examiners from the U.S.A. Betty Seibert and Jacqueline Anderson, and from South Africa Diane van Schoor to enable us to meet the demand. Five Licentiates and three Fellowships were successfully completed. Several of our examiners have been guest teaching in other countries. The more we are stimulated by the exchange of ideas, the more vital our art will be. With the untiring efforts of our Provincial Committees these thoughts have been shared with as many of our teachers as possible across Canada. Namely, Edmonton, AB; Vancouver, Port Coquitlam, Nanaimo, BC; Winnipeg, MB; Thunder Bay, Toronto, Windsor, ON; Montreal, PQ; and Middleton, NB. Workshops have covered Standard Class Examinations, Grades, Syllabi Enrichment, National, Jazz, Majors, and Free classes. The 13th annual Cecchetti Classical Ballet Awards was held in February in Burnaby, BC with Lynette Fry–Abra teaching and adjudicating.

Related Subjects – Two candidates [Canada & USA] from our Applied Anatomy and Physiology correspondence course successfully wrote the ISTD Part One examination in November. Researching material for a Canadian section in Dance History is proving time-taking, but it will be valuable.

Summer Course 1998 – A highlight in our year was the Summer Course held in Edmonton, Alberta in June. This was made possible in part by the 1998 Margaret Saul Scholarship. Special guest teachers were Diane van Schoor and Roland Thompson who gave a most inspiring course on music for accompanists and dance teachers. The musical emphasis was carried on through free classwork and major syllabi. The newly Revised Intermediate was introduced and well received. It was a great opportunity for teachers from Newfoundland, Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta and BC to get together.

Patron – We are delighted that Veronica Tennant O.C., LL.D. eminent Canadian performer, author, lecturer and broadcaster has agreed to become our Honorary Patron. She was prima ballerina of the National Ballet Company of Canada from 1964–1989. She speaks eloquently of the adaptability of the Cecchetti trained dancer: *"The Cecchetti technique was my ABC of the ballet. Instilled in me was a vocabulary that made it possible to be, not only a literate dancer, but also an articulate one, capable of and curious to learn all the languages of the Dance. When I think of my early days in training to be a ballet dancer, I am grateful that the choices of 'style', 'form', 'lyricism', and 'attack', came from such an authentic and classical base as the one formulated by Maestro Cecchetti. When I think of the classical roles I cherished the most: Giselle, Les Sylphides, and Swan Lake, I realise that my schooling enabled me to dance them with pride. Yet it also gave me the technical confidence to embrace and interpret them as a creative dancer of the twentieth century. And then; to explore all techniques, all choreographic styles of dance, and, in particular, my love of dramatic roles, the Cranko repertoire and working with choreographers on fresh and uncharted works."*

Cecchetti International – We thank Robina Beard, Australia, for agreeing to be co-ordinator and appreciate her work to continue, by fax and phone, the groundwork initiated at the August 1997 International Conference. Three reports have been circulated and a fourth one will follow soon. Canada welcomes the postponement of the Competition, to be held in Melbourne, until July 2001; also the extended age limit to 21.

1999 – 50th Anniversary – As we look ahead to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cecchetti Society in Canada, plans are getting underway for the 3rd Cecchetti Society of Canada/BC / Cecchetti Society Inc. USA Summer Course to be held at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, August 8–14, 1999, and an Ontario Cecchetti Summer Course, AGM and Celebration will be held at the beginning of July, 1999.

NEWS FROM GREAT BRITAIN

The International Conference in Canada in August 1997 attended by Mary-Jane Duckworth and Richard Glasstone from the UK was a very positive and exciting starting point for the year and has resulted in the setting up of Cecchetti International membership for teachers in the UK. Enrolments are progressing steadily and we hope to increase our numbers even more by promoting this at every opportunity.

Examinations have been high on the agenda this year and the various Sub-Committees have been working very hard to finalise all the many facets involved in producing new work. Top of the list has been the revised Intermediate syllabus agreed at the International conference. The detailed technical notes have now been printed as well as the music, and the recording has been made for the cassette and CD. All these are now on sale. The next step is the video and arrangements are progressing well for this to be filmed in September using two dancers from Birmingham Royal Ballet.

At the other end of the scale there is now a new **Grade 1** syllabus. This was undertaken as a result of a very strongly voiced and supported motion at the annual meeting held on Cecchetti Day 1997 for a simpler beginning to the Grade syllabi to bring us into line with other examination boards in this country. The work has now been completed and the technical notes and music are available. The new syllabus comes into operation this September in the UK but not before September 1999 for Europe and overseas. There are no changes to the present Grades, they simply become Grades 11 to V1, or to the Class examinations which become Primary to Standard V1. The new Grade 1 may be taken from the age of 7 and it is envisaged that it will come in after Standard 1 (previously Primary)

We are also introducing **Performance Awards** for children at Bronze, Silver, Gold and Gold Star levels.

All this new work has been tried and tested and has been welcomed with a great deal of enthusiasm at Regional Courses.

The Mabel Ryan Awards in London were extended this year to include the new Barbara Geoghegan Award for students holding at least an Elementary. This was open to those in full time training at professional schools as well as those in part time training. The Award was named after Barbara Geoghegan who had previously been responsible for organising the Mabel Ryan Awards for 47 years. The standard of the students entering was good and was a most encouraging start to this new venture.

The Cecchetti Junior and Senior Associate Classes are now well established and the enormous number of children applying for audition this year confirms their success. It is hoped that in the coming year it will be possible to have a class for boys. The classes are very well organised and run by the Cecchetti Group under the Chairmanship of Susan Handy.

The Cecchetti Centre classes continue as usual on Saturdays at London Studio Centre, providing a valuable opportunity to learn and check on Major work for students and teachers in the UK as well as those from abroad who may be in London for a short time. Courses are also arranged at Easter and during the late Summer.

Cecchetti Day London, 26th July, 1998 . We were very pleased to welcome many visitors from abroad as well as teachers from the UK on this very special day in the Cecchetti year. The day covered many aspects and levels of the Cecchetti work. The new work for children was demonstrated, and there was the opportunity to see a class for Senior Associates, and the winners of various awards. Two ballets had been specially choreographed for the Scholars. There was also a demonstration of Major work and an exciting lecture/demonstration by members of the Spanish Dance Society presented by Dame Marina Keet. The variety and scope of the day was much appreciated by all those members present.

Summer Schools were held at Tring (26th July - 1st August) for children and students. The Students' course was a new venture and has made a successful start. The teachers' course at Chichester (1st-7th August) was very well attended and was a most exciting week. The teaching faculty was a truly international one which included Diane van Schoor, Franco De Vita and Raymond Lukens. As Rose Marie Floyd, Carole Hall, and Yvonne Barker also attended the course it was possible to take advantage of this opportunity to have a small Cecchetti International meeting.

NEWS FROM A.N.C.E.C. - ITALY

The last year has been a very busy one for A.N.C.E.C. with many changes within the Association. Unfortunately Franco De Vita and Raymond Lukens have resigned as, respectively President and member of the directive committee. Their responsibilities in America are now preventing them from spending time in Italy. As founding members and the inspirational as well as the practical force behind A.N.C.E.C. for so many years, their experience and example will be greatly missed.

A.N.C.E.C. is fortunate the Patrizia Comini, former ballerina with Aterballetto and International Guest Artist in Europe has accepted the position of President. The directive committee now consists of Susan Brooker (Vice President), Tessa Adriani (Secretary), Stefania Landi, Alessandra Ricci, Stefania Sansavini and Laura Valenzuela.

The yearly A.N.C.E.C. Festival for Cecchetti schools 'Una Serata per Enrico Cecchetti' was held at Grassina (Tuscany) in May together with the competition for students of the Cecchetti method, 'Rye Terese Legniani'. We are pleased to announce that the winner of this year's senior section, Lucia Solari (Scuola Hamlyn) has also been awarded the Proselli prize for outstanding talent in Italy - 'Giovani Promesse della Danza'

This July the second A.N.C.E.C. International Summer School was held in the beautiful Byzantine town of Ravenna, on the Adriatic coast. Once again we were lucky enough to have a faculty of exceptional class;- Ross Alley, Franco de Vita, Richard Glasstone, Raymond Lukens, Bella Ratchinskaya and Carla Vannucchi. Both students and teachers had an instructive and enjoyable nine days of not only classical technique, but Cecchetti, Vaganova, character and contemporary classes as well as music, history of dance, anatomy and guided teaching practice. We were particularly pleased to welcome Joy Cooper from South Africa with a large group of very enthusiastic students as well as representatives from England, Scotland, America and of course Italy.

As well as offering to host the next meeting of Cecchetti International in April 1999, the city of Civitanova Marche has offered the city theatre for a performance by students and dancers trained in the method and also competitions for Italian students of the method. It is interesting to think that members of the Cecchetti family will probably be seeing the Cecchetti work for the first time.

Prepared by Susan Brooker.

NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

The Cecchetti Society in New Zealand is small but enthusiastic, and are very interested in sending some candidates to the International Competition in 2001.

They have recently had their annual examination session, with Mr. William Carse, senior Australian Category 4 examiner, who travelled from Adelaide to New Zealand to examine this year.

He examined in Auckland, in the North Island, where Jill George, who recently attained her Licentiate status, has a thriving school. He then travelled down to the South Island, where he examined in Christchurch, Dunedin and then across to Greymouth. The New Zealand organiser, Charmaine Quaid said that they were delighted to have Mr. Carse in New Zealand, and that their examination results were pleasing.

Whilst in New Zealand, Mr. Carse gave teachers' classes, as they do sometimes feel a little cut-off, although teachers from New Zealand were able to attend the 1998 Congress in Sydney this year.

The New Zealand ballet is currently in "audition" mode, travelling around the country and looking at potential young dancers for the Company. Pieter Symonds, an ex-pupil of Christine McDonald is currently a member of the New Zealand Ballet Company.

The New Zealand Cecchetti Society is planning a push for more status candidates and consequently more teachers in the future.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

1998 marks the 70th Birthday of The Cecchetti Society of Southern Africa

The year got underway with a series of events in celebration of this great occasion. Perhaps the most important was Council's indulgence in a four-day examiners' meeting which saw all examiners but two, and this due to ill health, participate in the activities.

The meeting was opened by the artistic director Diane van Schoor and after a short silence as a mark of respect on the passing of Mrs. Pam Anderson, the very full menu was dished up

A most fruitful session which embraced all levels of the Cecchetti examination work was commenced with the Test (Standards) through Grades, Majors and qualifying levels were dealt with, as well as Student Teacher (B) category and evaluation of the mature candidates.

The sessions were conducted via lengthy discussions on the standard and level of the various pass marks and incorporated "mock" examinations" presided over by a selection of examiners. Pointe work and the necessary criteria enjoyed special attention and candidates were viewed and evaluated. Report-writing was discussed and examiners shared thoughts on their "eye" and their tried and tested remarks.

The first day ended with a cocktail reception and Ms. Eileen Keegan in her usual elegant fashion, proposed a toast to the Maestro and the Cecchetti Family.

Running concurrently with the Examiners' meeting was the Cyril Beaumont Award - a R20,000 bursary intended for further dance education. The audition classes and award was adjudicated by guest adjudicator Mr. Martin Raistrick, ex soloist with the Australian Ballet and past principal with PACT Ballet in South Africa, with Mrs. Yvonne Barker and Ms. Diane van Schoor representing the Society.

There were eight girls and one male dancer competing and the award was won by Durrell Hammond, the male student trained by the Pro Alphen Park High School and Ms. Joy Cooper. It was exciting to have Ms. Angela Malan, a principal dancer with the State Theatre Ballet, herself a past Cyril Beaumont Award Winner (when Mary Jane Duckworth, Vicky Chappell and Raymond Lukens visited S.A in 1988) conduct the class.

South Africa applied to the Cecchetti Committee in London for consideration of the Pat Hardy Scholarship to mark their 70th birthday. The scholarship was awarded to South Africa and the Council of Management unanimously nominated Minette de Klerk, a member from the KwaZulu Natal branch as the recipient.

The scholarship provided tuition and board at the Teachers International Summer School held in Chichester and Minette's branch sponsored her airfare. In the light

of the 70th birthday it was wonderful to have a representative “on the floor” and also to have our two Cecchetti International Delegates at the course. Diane van Schoor was on the guest teacher faculty, and Yvonne Barker a participating teacher.

Other activities which South Africa sees as being part of their 70th celebrations include international interaction around the world:

A study tour to the Italian Summer School by Joy Cooper with a contingent of students from the Pro Arts School and an examining tour undertaken by Diane van Schoor to Edmonton, Alberta and Belleville, Kingston and Toronto Ontario in Canada. In Edmonton she also taught the new Intermediate syllabus and later joined by her husband, they presented a course for dance teachers and accompanists.

Ms. Jennifer Louw, senior examiner and council member, recently attained the Maestro Cecchetti Diploma (coached by her old pupil Diane van Schoor). Jennifer feels that this is really poetic justice, and Diane feels that as they’ve both come full circle it is a good time for them both to retire. They both declare this to be a major event in the 70th year of the Cecchetti Society in South Africa.

A recent survey reveals that there are currently many registered Cecchetti International Members. In accordance with the mission statement of that organisation, the Cecchetti Society of SA plans to also improve its public image and awareness by dedicating funds to advertising and promotion.

The new revised Intermediate syllabus will be taught via a country-wide promotional course where the work will be taught by a single source to all members. The council has found this to be the most successful way to reach its members and to impart the work with the most uniform results. The syllabus will be examined for the first time during 1999.

Funds willing, forward planning hopes to stage an Easter school in the year 2000 - details to be announced.

Eastern Committee Hosts International Summer School in Boca Raton, Florida

1998 is the year for the Eastern Committee to host the International Summer School. The site they have chosen is the beautiful facility at Harid Conservatory in Boca Raton, Florida. Harid Conservatory is a state-of-the-art school with three large and well-appointed studios, luxurious housing for students and their chaperons. The adult teachers attending are quartered at Lynn University a short walk to the Conservatory. The dates of the Summer School are August 2nd through the 8th. The International staff include:

- **Richard Glasstone**, FISTD, Enrico Cecchetti Diploma, International Examiner. He is the recipient of the Cyril Beaumont, Enrico Cecchetti Medal. Mr. Glasstone presents the Cecchetti work with great knowledge and understanding of what the method offers for today's performers.
- **Trinette Singleton**, former Principal dancer and Ballet Mistress for Joffrey Ballet, New York. Ms. Singleton imparts her knowledge with a theatrical approach which is always welcome and needed for both young students and their teachers.
- **Ross Alley**, Bachelor of Music RSA certificate, TEFL. Mr. Alley brings to the course his wealth of knowledge on music for ballet classes. His presentations are always informative and presented with humor and style.

Others appearing on staff include Jacqueline Anderson, Louanne Davies, Shiela Darby, Jean Fulton, Marnell Himes, Denise Rinaldi, Betty Seibert, Janice Smith, Deborah Vinton, Heidi Wright.

Betty Seibert, FISTD, Enrico Cecchetti Diploma, US Examiner and Administrator of the Cecchetti Society Inc. USA, Director of Cheshire Dance Centre in Cheshire, Connecticut and of Barrington Ballet in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Ms. Seibert is also actively engaged performing administrative work for the Society and serving as its Examinations Organizer. The Cecchetti Students Ballet Company, a not-for-profit corporation established by Betty Seibert, presented its first full-length *Nutcracker* this year, performing at Yale University in New Haven, CT and in the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts. The first act had two different casts with twenty-two Cecchetti trained dancers making up the body of the company. Four sold-out performances were hailed as a success for this young company. *[An interesting side note—all the Company dancers hold their Major Certificates in the Cecchetti Society, with both the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier holding their Advanced Cecchetti certificates; the Cavalier is the youngest American currently holding the Associate ISTD teaching degree, and the Sugar Plum Fairy will be attending the BFA dance program at the Hartt School (University of Hartford) this fall.]* Ms. Seibert, Artistic Director of the Company, was pleased to present a check for \$500.00 to the Olga Fricker Scholarship fund based on the financially successful season. The Cecchetti Society is grateful for this generous donation.

Also from the Eastern Committee comes news of **Richard Sias's** appointment as Professor of Dance at Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida. Congratulations Richard! During the year he produced three new ballets and staged Act II from *Giselle* for the Dance Department. Mr. Sias has founded the Council of Organized Researchers of Pedagogical Studies (CORPS). Its mission is to serve the University and College teachers of ballet, fostering excellence in ballet teaching, creativity, performing and research. With Mr. Sias's new responsibilities he has resigned from the Eastern Committee. We are sorry to lose him, but understand his need to devote his attention to the new responsibilities. In the last two years as

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- Eastern Committee:* Jacqueline Anderson, Tina Certo, Janice Smith, Deborah Vinton,
Heidi Wright
- Western Committee:* Louanne Davies, Jean Fulton, Carol Garland, Marnell Himes,
Denise Rinaldi

IT IS WITH GREAT SORROW THAT WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE DEATH OF OLGA FRICKER, THE FOUNDER OF THE CECCHETTI SOCIETY INC. USA. Ms. FRICKER, WHO DIED ON NOV. 20, 1997, PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE STRUGGLE TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF CLASSICAL BALLET TEACHING IN THE USA. BORN IN CANADA ON JULY 19, 1902, SHE STARTED HER TRAINING IN TORONTO WITH AMY STERNBERG BEFORE MOVING TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE 1920'S. IN DETROIT, Ms. FRICKER WORKED WITH VICTORIA CASSAN, WHO HAD BEEN WITH THE PAVLOVA COMPANY DURING ENRICO CECCHETTI'S TENURE. LATER, IN THE 1930'S, Ms. FRICKER TOOK OVER THE SCHOOL OF DANCE AT THE CIVIC THEATRE AND ALSO DEVELOPED THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL CONCERT GROUP WHICH PERFORMED WITH THE DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, UNDER VICTOR KOLAR. Ms. FRICKER WAS A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE CECCHETTI COUNCIL OF AMERICA AND LATER, IN THE 1970'S, ESTABLISHED CLOSER TIES WITH THE IMPERIAL SOCIETY OF TEACHERS OF DANCING, LONDON, WHEN SHE FOUNDED THE CECCHETTI SOCIETY INC. USA. IN THE MID-FIFTIES Ms. FRICKER MOVED TO LOS ANGELES WHERE SHE DEVELOPED MANY YOUNG DANCERS, BOTH AS PERFORMERS AND TEACHERS. THE OLGA FRICKER SCHOLARSHIP FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO HELP YOUNG TEACHERS STUDYING FOR THEIR LICENTIATE AND FELLOWSHIP QUALIFICATIONS. THIS FUND WILL BE A FITTING TRIBUTE TO Ms. FRICKER, FOR SHE WAS ALWAYS READY TO GIVE TIME AND KNOWLEDGE TO HELP THE YOUNG ATTAIN GOALS THEY HAD SET FOR THEMSELVES. SHE INSPIRED US TO DO MORE THAN WE THOUGHT POSSIBLE.

Cecchetti Society, Inc., USA Hosts Highly Successful Examination Tour

This season's examination tour was organized with an eye to using more examiners rather than having one or two examiners do a major tour. Jacqueline Anderson traveled to Sarasota, FL, St. Croix, USVI, Huntington Beach, CA, San Diego, CA, and Buffalo, NY. Sheila Darby examined in Whittier, CA. Marnell Himes went to Santa Barbara, CA. Audrey King journeyed to Cheshire, CT and to Roseville, CA. Betty Seibert also went to Santa Barbara, as well as to Sacramento and Elk Grove, CA and to Denver, CO. Deborah Vinton examined in Mentor, OH and Plattsburgh, NY. At the International Summer School in Boca Raton, FL. Richard Glasstone and Audrey King will examine teachers for their qualifying degrees. In addition, Sheila Kennedy, Examinations Organizer for the Cecchetti Society of Canada, extended invitations to both Jacqueline Anderson and Betty Seibert to cross the border and examine for them.

Committee member he was press secretary making sure the Cecchetti Society Inc. USA was represented in national dance publications. Thank you Richard for your past help. We sincerely hope you will remain an active member of the Cecchetti Society Inc. USA.

Janice and Ray Smith both hold FISTD and Enrico Cecchetti Diploma. They are Directors of Dance at the School of Fine Arts, Willoughby, Ohio, where they presented the Cecchetti syllabi work as part of the School of Fine Arts' end-of-year performance. Always a welcome bit of news. The more the work is presented theatrically the better the general public understands its value. They currently have five former students attending major Universities as dance majors, and Jill Schema was recently awarded her BFA in dance from the University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music and Dance.

Deborah Vinton, FISTD, Enrico Cecchetti Diploma and US Examiner has assumed the position of School Director, Sarasota Ballet of Florida, Robert de Warren Artistic Director. The merger of Ms. Vinton's Dance Center and the school of Sarasota Ballet will take place in August of 1998. Her responsibilities will include implementing the Cecchetti syllabi and teacher training. She will maintain her Apprentice and Advanced performing groups as Deborah Vinton Dance Ensemble and continue to teach part-time in the Sarasota Visual and Performing Arts Center at Booker High School. The Deborah Vinton Dance Ensemble and parent group organization held a benefit performance and other fund-raisers throughout the year to support eight students who will attend the International Summer School at Harid Conservatory. Having organized and established the first summer school at Harid in 1994, Deborah is finalizing arrangements for this year's summer school.

In May, 1998 Deborah and her artist husband, Peter McGinn, were guests of Princeton Ballet Society in New Jersey to present a formal portrait by McGinn of Audrey and Bud Estey, founders of Princeton Ballet—now American Repertory Theater. Peter's painting portrays Diane Partington (a former student of Audrey Estey), who is now Principal Dancer with Sarasota Ballet. Diane is currently studying the Cecchetti syllabi with Deborah Vinton and planning to pursue teaching qualifications.

Heidi Wright, FISTD, Enrico Cecchetti Diploma and **Sonja Dickerson**, AISTD, Co-Directors of Pointe Dance Academy. The Cecchetti Society Inc. USA wishes to extend an apology to Ms. Wright and Ms. Dickerson for omitting their names from last year's newsletter. They have been strong supporters since they joined the Society, and they deserve full recognition! This year has been full of activity. Ms. Wright attained her Fellowship (Congratulations Heidi!). Pointe Dance Academy performs often, raising funds for their advanced dancers to attend summer schools in the US. Audiences have included the Governors of the Virgin Islands as well as philanthropic productions. During the past two years Ms. Dickerson has lectured in the out-reach program in the schools of St. Croix, introducing the art of dance to many of the island's children. One of the success stories is a young dancer who came to the Pointe Dance Academy after hearing these lectures. She has now been accepted at Rutgers College, majoring in Dance. Several of the Academy's students have been accepted on scholarship to well-known schools such as Alvin Ailey, Joffrey Ballet, Aspen Ballet, and Ballet Concerto de Puerto Rico. Ms. Wright has been involved in introducing the dances of the Baroque period to young music students, helping them to understand that period and its requirements better.

Western Committee Continues to Foster Growth

The Western Committee has three work shop days a year. The locations change between Northern and Southern California, allowing all the teachers and their students to have ample opportunity to attend. Jean Fulton hosted the Sacramento workshop, which was very well attended. Marnell Himes hosted the Huntington Beach day. It too was well attended with several new teachers seeing the work for the first time. Sylvia Palmer hosted the session in San Diego, with many teachers and their students coming from

long distances to attend. We are very grateful to those who come to teach at these work shops. They come at their own expense, which can be considerable when air fares are so costly today. It is this kind of dedication that makes the Cecchetti work continue to grow. The Society has voted that 10% of the funds raised in all these work shops will fund the Olga Fricker Scholarship Fund to help young teachers gain their upper degrees.

Shiela Darby, FISTD, Enrico Cecchetti Diploma, International Examiner continues the preparation of teachers for the qualifying examinations. This year will see several new Associates, an Associate Diploma, one Licentiate, and two Fellowships. In addition, several teachers will be taking their Grades and Majors in preparation for taking the Qualifying examinations. The northern California area has seen the development of five new Cecchetti Schools in the last six years.

Louanne Davies, FISTD, Enrico Cecchetti Diploma, Director of Imperial Academy of Dance. Ms. Davies has recently moved to the University of Denver, CO to establish the first youth Dance Program with the possibility of later organizing a Dance Department at the University level using the Cecchetti Syllabi as a base. Ms. Davies' performing group has entertained for the University several times since her move. Each time was well received with enthusiastic recognition of the Cecchetti training.

Jean Fulton, AISTD, Director, Sierra Dance Academy. A very large thank you to Ms. Fulton for establishing a web site for the Cecchetti Society Inc., USA. She has covered all the bases, including entering any US teacher's name and address who is a paid up member. She must have your permission in writing before she will place your name on the web site. Our address is: <http://www.cecchettiusa.org>.

The Sierra Dance Academy is dedicating its performance of "Hansel & Gretel" to the memory of Olga Fricker. Ms. Fulton has re-staged the 1964 version of this ballet originally created by Ms. Fricker. Donations will be solicited for the Olga Fricker Scholarship Fund at this performance. The Sierra Dance Academy has raised the funds to send advanced students to the Summer School in Boca Raton, FL. All are looking forward to a week of intensive work and training.

Marnell Himes, FISTD, Enrico Cecchetti Diploma, US examiner, Director, Huntington Beach Academy of Dance. 1998 saw the beginning of the new, not-for-profit, youth company called Ballet Etudes. All the dancers are under the age of 17 years, and the company is focusing on the link between ballet school and professional company. Although this was their first year they have already garnered an impressive list of performance achievements. They produced a full-length *Nutcracker* in December. This spring they successfully auditioned to perform at the Orange County Performing Arts Center in its annual "Imagination Celebration." In June, they presented a short concert at the Huntington Beach Library Theatre dancing excerpts from "Flower Festival," "Esmeralda," and Gershwin's "Divertissements," choreographed by Muriel Joyce. They also performed at the Pier Plaza Celebration which opened the new Amphitheater.

The Academy has raised funds to send eight dancers and three teachers to the International Summer School in Boca Raton. Students from the advanced classes have been awarded scholarships for summer school at Pennsylvania Ballet, Boston Ballet, and Houston Ballet. The Academy will be holding summer workshops for Elementary Ballet level and for the Ballet Production Workshop, where students plan, design, choreograph, and present their own short ballet.

Denise Rinaldi, LISTD, Santa Barbara Ballet Center. With the move into their new building Directors Denise Rinaldi and Michelle Andersen have been busy with performances of the Santa Barbara Festival

Ballet. Productions have included a full-length *Nutcracker* performed with Santa Barbara Symphony Orchestra, which is now a yearly event. Other performances included excerpts from "Paquita" for the Santa Barbara Dance Alliance and a collaborative ballet concert called "Dance in Full Bloom," where the Santa Barbara Festival Ballet presented the full-length "Paquita" and Valerie Huston's contemporary ballet "Eastern Suite." The annual local competition for dancers from Santa Barbara found entries from the Santa Barbara Ballet Center taking first place in every category—Senior Girls, Junior Girls, Senior Boys, and Junior Boys. Congratulations to all!

An interesting students project was participation in a Giving Tree at Christmas which benefited the Storyteller Preschool for homeless children. Homeless children write their wishes on cards and shoppers in the city donate these gifts. In turn, Santa Barbara Festival Ballet donates two tickets to each donor. The dancers from the school and company wrapped, tagged, and delivered the gifts near Christmas day. The news media gave great coverage to the Santa Barbara Festival Ballet, in the newspapers, on television, and in the malls around the city.

Former students include Chauncey Hildestad, on a full time scholarship at the Bolshoi Academy in Washington DC and several other students from the school on summer scholarships with Boston Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet, and Houston Ballet. Former student Katherine Ullom is now performing with Sarasota Ballet in Sarasota, Florida.