

MARIN BALLET

July 7, 2008

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Welcome to Marin Ballet School Year 2008-09!

We are thrilled to be presenting Marin Ballet's 46th year of exceptional dance training, abundant performance opportunities, and the excitement of endless possibility that accompanies it all. New transitions this year - new faculty, new staff, new *Nutcracker*, new optional classes, new volunteerism, new students - all adding to the promise of a unique and community-building year ahead for Marin Ballet.

The enclosed packet is filled with a variety of important schedules, policies, and other information that will guide your planning for your child's dance training in the coming year. There are a few items we'd like to draw to your attention specifically:

- **Pre-Pointe Training** - Starting this year, students will get their pointe shoes in Level 5 instead of in the second half of Level 4. There will still be Pre-Pointe training in Level 4 in preparation for getting pointe shoes in Level 5. More information on this change will be available at our Back To School Open House at 5:00pm-7:00pm on Tuesday, September 23.
- **Optional Classes** - In an effort to allow students to increase the number of training days per week more gradually, we have included the opportunity for an additional optional class per week for students in Levels 1, 4, 5, 6, and 7.
- **Returning Faculty** - After a year away to teach in the dance department at University of San Francisco, Katie Faulkner will be returning to the Marin Ballet faculty to teach Modern this year.
- **New Faculty** - We welcome Malarie Whiting to the Pre-Ballet faculty. Malarie has been working at the front desk during the past year, and is thrilled to have the opportunity to get back into the studio to teach. We will be informing you about the changes in teaching staff for Level 4, Level 8, and Level 9 later in the summer. There are a number of exciting possibilities that we are sorting out.
- **Tuition Increase** - Consistent with increases in operating expenses - specifically, salaries and benefits for faculty, musicians, and staff, as well as the upkeep of our beloved but aging facility - the Board has approved a 5%-10% increase in tuition for 2008-09.
- **Volunteerism** - After much discussion and with much excitement, we have restructured the Volunteer Association to include specific assignments for each class level. This portion of the fall packet will be sent separately in the coming weeks.

Our registration deadline is Friday, August 22. Your prompt registration enables us to get classes off to a smooth start in September. Please be reminded that many classes fill up quickly, and that enrollment is done on a first come first served basis once all paperwork and tuition has been remitted. The year officially begins with *Welcome Week* from Tuesday, September 2 through Monday, September 8. Our *Back To School Open House* will be held on Tuesday, September 23 at 6:00pm. We hope to see you at these events.

Again, welcome to Marin Ballet. It's going to be a wonderful year!

Best Regards,

F. Lawrence Ewing
Executive Director

Cynthia Lucas
Artistic Director