

The HARID Conservatory

Year-End Performances Pay Tribute to HARID Founder and Benefactor



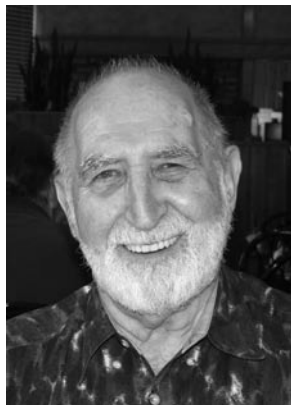
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Fred Lieberman

Last May 30, 31, and June 1, HARID honored its late founder and benefactor, Fred Lieberman, with a special tribute followed by an impressive program of ballets and modern dance.

Lieberman founded the Conservatory in 1987 and named it in honor of his beloved parents, Harry and Ida Lieberman. He funded

the construction of the facilities on Potomac Road, underwrote the school's operating expenses, and built an endowment fund to support the program in perpetuity. Sadly, he passed away in March of this year.

At the beginning of each May performance, HARID's faculty, staff, and students assembled on the stage beneath a large portrait of Lieberman. Director Gordon Wright spoke to the audience about Fred's (as he preferred to be called) extraordinary commitment to the school that spanned twenty years.

"What is equally remarkable," added Wright, "is the fact that (HARID's) founder and benefactor insisted—from the beginning—on remaining anonymous. He was adamant about this. The person who became known to us all simply as 'the Donor' felt no need or desire for recognition or thanks. He obviously felt blessed by the financial success he had enjoyed during his lifetime and felt compelled to give back by supporting the dreams and aspirations of young artists and students. He did this very simply... from the heart."

Following Wright's remarks, the lights dimmed and HARID's principal pianist Michael Lazzaro played a beautiful and reflective movement from Felix Mendelssohn's *Songs Without Words*. Wright then concluded by saying, "I know that, for the hundreds of students who have studied with us, HARID has been a dream-come-true. I also know that all those entrusted by Fred to oversee this unique and wonderful institution like to think it was a dream-come-true for him as well."

HARID will forever be grateful to Fred Lieberman for his vision, generosity, and commitment to the arts.

The dance performance began with an elegant production of the celebratory *Wedding Act* from *Raymonda*, staged by faculty member Victoria Schneider. The dancers were radiant in new costumes by Ines Lopez, and they performed beautifully before a gorgeous backdrop overhung by magnificent chandeliers.

Next, the students embarked on a symbolic life-journey in Tara Mitton Catao's modern dance piece, *The Eternal Pattern*. Created for HARID, the piece challenged the dancers with organic movements and intriguing patterns and groupings. Daniel Gordon's stage lighting and Catao's hand-painted and dyed costumes gave the dance an earthy appearance.

Following that, choreographer Mark Godden combined music by Igor Stravinski, Amon Tobin, Leonard Cohen, and Fat Boy Slim for his unusual but compelling new contemporary ballet, *Baffled Kings Composing*. His innovative steps and quick movements pushed the dancers forward through each movement, creating a variety of impressive images and moods. The "pedestrian" costumes and simple lighting kept the focus clearly on the dancers throughout the piece.

The finale of each performance was Svetlana Osiyeva's and Bertha Valentin's high-spirited staging of *Dances from Don Quixote, Act I*. The dancers playfully coaxed one another through a series of challenging solo and ensemble dances, bolstering Leon Minkus' rousing music with both tambourines and castanets. The gaily-colored costumes and whimsical scenery added to the festive atmosphere on stage. One could not help becoming caught up in the fun and excitement; the audience was elated!



Dances from Don Quixote, Act I

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Student Enrollment Hits a New High

This past summer, HARID was host to a record sixty-five young dancers. Russo Hall was filled to capacity with three students in each room! Following a busy and very successful four weeks of classes and activities, the students showcased the result of their efforts during a special class demonstration for friends and family members. More than one-hundred guests enjoyed the dancing, which included ballet, character, jazz, and modern.

On August 16, Russo Hall reopened for the new academic year. Seventeen returning students were joined by twenty-six new students selected from the Summer School. A record forty-three dancers are currently enrolled at HARID.

This year's students have traveled from as far away as Canada, Brazil, and China to study at the Conservatory; however, the majority is from various parts of the United States, including:

Sherman Oaks CA, Frisco TX, Dardenne Praire MO, Indiatlantic FL, Prospect KY, New Windsor NY, Tampa FL, Oneida NY, Tallahassee FL, Rutland VT, Atlantic Highland NJ, Leawood KS, Plumsteadville PA, Lugoff SC, Wilmington NC, Mantomedi MN, Austin TX, Marietta GA, Galloway NJ, Sarasota FL, Columbia SC, Windermere FL, Overland Park KS, Worcester MA, Alis Viejo CA, Davie FL, Plantation FL, Amherst NH, Overland Park KS, Virginia Beach VA, Naples FL, Palm Bay FL, Alpharetta GA, and Monroe MI.

Tickets Now Available for Holiday Dance Performances!

Rehearsals are well underway for HARID's Holiday Dance Performances, to be held Friday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 13 at 3:00 p.m.; and Sunday, December 14, also at 3:00 p.m.



This year's program will include the Pas de Trois from *Swan Lake*, staged by Olivier Pardina; a *Gypsy Dance* staged by character dance teacher Bertha Valentin; a new modern-dance piece, being created by Josée Garant; and HARID's holiday tradition, *Excerpts from The Nutcracker, Act II*, choreographed and staged by faculty members Victoria Schneider, Olivier Pardina, and Svetlana Osiyeva.

Tickets are now on sale at the HARID ticket office at 2285 Potomac Road in Boca Raton (9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. weekdays), or by telephone: 561-998-8038. Please join us at the Countess de Hoernle Theater (5100 Jog Road at Yamato Road in Boca Raton) in December—and bring a friend!

2009 Audition Schedule Already Finalized

Student recruitment is an ongoing concern at HARID and the auditions for next year's Summer School have already been finalized. During January and February, the faculty and director will recruit dancers in the following cities:

Atlanta GA, Boca Raton FL, Boston MA, Charlotte NC, Chicago IL, Columbus OH, Dallas TX, Denver CO, Los Angeles CA, Memphis TN, New York NY, Orlando FL, Phoenix AZ, Richmond VA, Salt Lake City UT, San Francisco CA, Tampa FL, Tulsa OK

(Audition locations and times are posted on HARID's website, www.harid.edu.)

HARID Welcomes New Faculty and Staff Members

Sadly, HARID's long-time modern-dance instructor and choreographer, Tara Mitton Catao, resigned from her teaching duties last May. Ms. Catao was an integral part of the faculty for many years, and HARID is grateful for her significant contribution to the school.

Director Gordon Wright has hired **Josée Garant**, a highly qualified and experienced modern-dance teacher, choreographer, and coach to replace Ms. Catao.

Josée has a BFA (honors) degree in Dance from York University and is a graduate of the National Ballet School's Teacher Training Program in Canada. She developed the modern-dance program at Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, established a choreographic workshop, and directed the RWB Company's apprentice program. Ms. Garant has won choreography awards at the Youth American Grand Prix competition and at the International Choreographic Competition in St.-Sauveur, Québec. In 1988, she was nominated by I ADISQ for Stage Direction and Scenographer of the Year for her work with singer songwriter Daniel Lavoie. Her choreography has been performed at the Olympia Theatre in Paris, the New York Joyce Soho Theater, the Festival of Women in the Arts in North Dakota, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's Du Maurier New Music Festival, and the 1999 Pan American Games. She has also created works for competitors at international dance competitions held in Tokyo, Jackson Mississippi, and New York City.

Adam DeRosa also recently joined HARID. Mr. DeRosa has replaced Heather Weeter in the position of Residence and Student Services Manager.

Adam received his Bachelor of Science degree in General Communication, cum laude, from Florida State University in Tallahassee. He then completed his Master of Science degree in Higher Education with a minor in Human Resource Development, also at FSU.

Most recently, Adam worked as the college advisor at the Sagemont School in Weston. Before that, he was director of student services at Everglades University where he was coordinator of programming in the Office of Student Development and Activities before being promoted to the position of director of new student orientation.

In addition to his new position at HARID, Adam is a student life skills instructor at both FAU and Broward Community College and serves as the board president of the South Florida Musical Guild in Fort Lauderdale.

HARID Senior Commended for Academic Achievement

Congratulations to Paige Nyman, a HARID senior from Overland Park, Kansas, who recently received a Letter of Commendation for outstanding academic performance from the National Merit Scholarship Program. Her 2007 scores on the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test placed her in the top 50,000 of more than 1.5 million participating students nationwide.

Paige is currently exploring various universities at which she can continue developing both her academic and artistic gifts.

Saturday Master Class Program Attracts Florida Dancers

This year's Saturday Master Class program attracted nearly thirty young dancers from as far away as Miami, Tampa, and Jacksonville! The program, which includes classes in ballet, pointe, partnering, jazz, and modern dance, took place over three Saturdays in September and early October. The master classes provide an open-house opportunity for students to study with HARID's renowned faculty members.

Members of HARID's Class of 2008 Pursuing Their Dreams

Morgana Cappellari returned home to Rio de Janeiro where she is dancing with a local ballet company. She hopes to audition for a company in Portugal later this year.

Koto Ishihara is a trainee with San Francisco Ballet.

Shannon Judge is dancing with New Jersey Ballet.

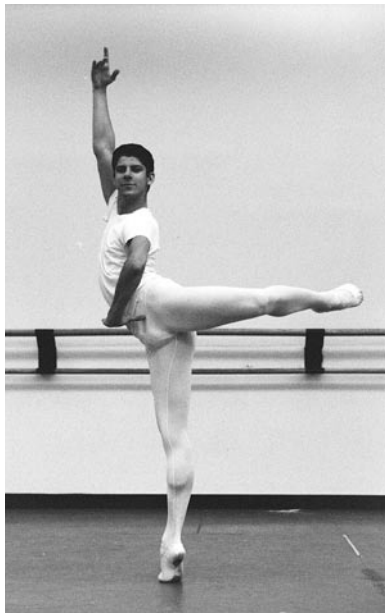
Francisco Preciado is a freshman in the Dance Division at The Juilliard School.

Tory Trowbridge is a freshman in Point Park University's Conservatory of the Arts.

Rachael Vrbancic is a freshman in Indiana University's Ballet Department.

Kevin Wilson is a member of Colorado Ballet's Studio Company in Denver.

We wish each of them continued success!



HARID Alumnus Receives Prize

American Ballet Theatre principal dancer Marcelo Gomes (HARID Class of 1996) was awarded the 2008 Benois de la Danse prize at a charity gala held at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow last May.

Gomes was recognized as best male dancer for his portrayal of the title role in Lar Lubovitch's *Othello*, as well as his performances in Jorma Elo's *C. to C. (Close to Chuck)* which premiered during American Ballet Theatre's fall season at New York City Center the previous October.

The Benois de la Danse Prize was established in 1992 by the International Dance Association (now the International Dance Union) and UNESCO. Nominees and awardees are selected by an international jury of dance luminaries including company directors, teachers and well-known artists in the world of ballet.

Student Financial Aid

Once again this year, HARID has received numerous requests for student financial aid. Despite not having to pay for tuition, many families struggle to pay the necessary room and board fees and the cost of transportation between home and Boca Raton. For female students, pointe shoes are another major expense. The dancers can easily go through several pairs a month at a cost of fifty to sixty dollars each.

The funds used to provide student financial aid are raised each year through HARID's annual-fund campaign. Unless otherwise restricted, all contributions from individuals, private foundations and corporations are used to provide student assistance.

During these uncertain and challenging economic times, it is difficult to ask HARID's friends and supporters to contribute to the annual-fund campaign. But the students continue to need your help. Please renew your commitment to HARID's talented young artists by giving whatever amount you can. Your tax-deductible contribution will be greatly valued and appreciated!