HARID Trustees Elect New President

John M. Wargo has been elected to serve as the new President of The HARID Conservatory.

Wargo has served as a HARID trustee since 1996 when he chaired the school's 10th-anniversary gala at Old School Square in Delray Beach. He grew up in Boca Raton and graduated from St. Andrew's School. Wargo then earned his undergraduate degree from Rollins College before completing an MBA in real estate and finance at the University of Texas in Austin. He is now President of Wargo Property Company in Boca Raton.

“I look forward to continuing to serve HARID as a trustee, and in my new capacity as President,” commented Wargo. “I remain committed to the vision of the school’s founder Fred Lieberman who established HARID in 1987 with the goal of providing aspiring young dancers with the best possible training so that they might become successful professional dancers.”

Wargo succeeds HARID’s founding President, James M. Hankins, a local real-estate attorney, who oversaw the school’s establishment and operation for more than two decades.

The Conservatory’s staff, faculty, students, and alumni welcome John Wargo to his new position as President. In addition, they acknowledge and thank James Hankins for the steadfast leadership and support he provided from 1987 through 2011.

HARID Winter Performances Enjoyed by All

This past December 17 and 18, HARID's dancers presented a varied, entertaining program that featured classical ballet, jazz dance, and character dance.

Swan Lake Pas de Trois, staged by Olivier Pardina, opened the matinee performances. Each cast of three dancers performed brilliantly in both the partnered sections and solos. Beautiful costumes on loan from Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet added a dash of courtly magnificence to the piece.

In Suite from The Golden Age of Hollywood, choreographer Maria Konrad treated the audience to a collection of jazz dances set to music by Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, and others from that golden era of music, dance, and film. The suite offered the dancers exciting new challenges and gave many audience members a nostalgic look back to happy times gone by.

Venzelya, a traditional Russian dance, closed the first part of the program. Bertha Valentin staged the dance for HARID and brightly colored costumes were provided by Mark Spivak. The playful dance began slowly, almost seductively, and then built steadily toward an energetic, quick-paced climax. The dancers’ aplomb was captivating and their technical feats were thrilling to watch.

Following intermission, two “Silver Drops” crossed the stage and opened the curtain for HARID's holiday tradition, Divertissements from The Nutcracker, Act II. Spanish Chocolates was followed by Arabian Coffee, Chinese Tea, Dance of the Mirlitons, and Waltz of the Flowers. The Grand Pas de Six was then elegantly performed before a rousing finale—complete with falling snow—concluded the program.
Distinguished Alumna Retires From the Stage

After a successful sixteen-year career as a performing artist, HARID alumna Riolama Lorenzo has retired from dancing.

Riolama was born in Cuba, but moved to Miami as a child. She began studying dance with her mother, a well-known ballet teacher. Riolama enrolled at HARID in 1991, at age fourteen. After receiving a Princess Grace Award in 1993 she moved to New York City to complete her studies. She was invited to join New York City Ballet in 1995 where she danced for five years.

In 2002, Riolama joined the Pennsylvania Ballet where she quickly rose through the ranks. She was promoted to soloist in 2003 and to principal dancer in 2005. Despite a busy rehearsal and performance schedule, Riolama earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. In 2007, she became mother of a baby boy and, in 2011, gave birth to a baby girl.

HARID wishes Riolama much continued happiness and success!

Spring Performances Just Around the Corner

Save the dates: Friday, May 25 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 26 at 3:00 p.m.; and Sunday, May 27 at 3:00 p.m. HARID’s Spring Performances are just around the corner. This year’s program will include Glitter Pas de Deux, staged by Olivier Pardina, Excerpts from Le Corsaire, staged by Svetlana Osiyeva, Victoria Schneider, and Bertha Valentin; and an exciting new work by choreographer Mark Godden.

The Spring Performances will be held at the Countess de Hoernle Theater in Boca Raton. Remaining tickets are available for $28 and $22. Please call 561-998-8038 or visit HARID’s ticket office at 2285 Potomac Road (Boca Raton). Ticket office hours are 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m., Monday—Friday.

Please join us for another exciting program of classical ballet and contemporary dance.

Student Outreach Program Once More Filled to Capacity

Again this year, more than 3,200 fourth- and fifth-grade students from South Palm Beach County schools were treated to performances of HARID’s Divertissements from The Nutcracker, Act II. The performances at the Countess de Hoernle Theater—presented at 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on two consecutive days in December—were received with great enthusiasm by the children. HARID underwrites the entire cost of the annual program, including bus transportation to and from the theater, for public-school students and their teachers.

(If you would like to help fund this valuable cultural experience for Palm Beach County children, please contact Annabel Russell at HARID, 561-997-2677.)
Rudolf Nureyev Dance Foundation Renews Support

HARID is pleased to announce that the Rudolf Nureyev Dance Foundation has renewed funding for the Conservatory’s Rudolf Nureyev Education Fellowships. Two $5,000 Fellowships will be awarded for the 2012—13 academic year. The awards will assist the recipients with their living expenses at the school. The Nureyev Foundation has partnered with HARID since 2001. Previous Fellowship recipients include:

2001:
Bridgett Zehr, principal dancer, English National Ballet
Jonathan Dummar, Smuin Ballet

2002:
Amanda Green, soloist, Royal Winnipeg Ballet
Matthew Adamczyk, Joffrey Ballet Chicago

2003:
Megan Gray, Dutch National Ballet
James Clark, Royal Danish Ballet

2004:
Gleidson Vasconcelos, soloist, Ballet Arizona

2005:
Isadora Loyola, American Ballet Theatre
Adam Still, Colorado Ballet

2006:
Morgana Cappellari, Sao Paulo Companhia de Danca, Brazil
Beth Ann Maslinoff, principal dancer, Dance Alive National Ballet

2007:
Christophor Moulton, Colorado Ballet
Francisco Preciado, Ballet San Jose

2008:
José Pereira, Columbia Classical Ballet
Mahallia Ward, Joffrey Ballet Chicago

2010:
Alexandre Barros, Atlanta Ballet
Cavan Conley, HARID Class of 2012

Following Nureyev’s death in Paris in January 1993, the Rudolf Nureyev Dance Foundation was established to preserve and protect the history and tradition of dance while, at the same time, encouraging its progress and development. The Foundation aims to perpetuate Nureyev’s name and to advance his vision and work by supporting the study, performance, and appreciation of dance.

HARID’s Class of 2012

Eleven seniors will graduate from The HARID Conservatory on May 29. With their diplomas in hand, some will prepare to continue their education at a university while others will anticipate beginning their performance careers with a dance company. No matter the path they choose, HARID will follow them with interest and continued support.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Class of 2012:

Asia Bui, Florida
Cavan Conley, Rhode Island
Amanda Prates Dos Santos, Brazil
Diogo da Silva, Brazil
Alef Rodrigues de Sousa, Brazil
Diana Figueroa, Florida
Itzel Hernandez, Florida
Jiani Li, China
Kristen Patrick, Florida
Ransom Wilkes-Davis, South Carolina
Jason Yeung, Texas

2012 Summer School Enrollment Nearly Complete

Following auditions in twenty-one cities across the United States, HARID’s faculty and director have invited sixty young dancers to attend the Conservatory’s 2012 Summer School, June 25—July 20. A number of dancers have been accepted from outside the U.S. as well, including Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, and Italy.
Alumna Recognized

Mehri Paydar (Class of 2004) danced professionally with Colorado Ballet and Tulsa Ballet before hanging up her pointe shoes and enrolling in the McCormick School of Engineering at Northwestern University. Just as she excelled as a dancer, Mehri apparently excels as an engineer. Recently, she was named a 2012 New Face of Civil Engineering by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Each year, as an integral part of the society’s National Engineers Week initiatives, a diverse group of young engineers, age thirty or younger, are selected as the New Faces of Civil Engineering. The group represents not only those who have made an impact in their fields, but also in their own communities and in communities around the world through their volunteerism and community service.

Congratulations, Mehri. HARID is very proud and happy for you.

Coral Lakes Outreach a Success

On March 22, faculty member Victoria Schneider, principal pianist Michael Lazzaro, and dancers Amanda Dos Santos, Jenna Gooden, John Abenanty, and Cavan Conley provided an informative and entertaining presentation at Coral Lakes Theater in Boynton Beach. The lecture-demonstration was hosted by former New York City Ballet dancer and renowned dance photographer Steven Caras.

Caras opened the program by providing an overview of HARID and its founding benefactor, Fred Lieberman. He then introduced Victoria Schneider, with whom he discussed the challenges and rewards of preparing dancers for professional careers. Schneider then led the students through a series of barre and center exercises, describing the work as it progressed from plies, tendus, and ronds de jambes to pirouettes and various jumps. Caras then asked the dancers to demonstrate their partnering skills, after which they changed into costume and performed several excerpts from the classical ballet *Raymonda*. The program’s success was made clearly evident by the audience’s enthusiastic participation in a question and answer session that followed.

Our Students Need Your Support

HARID remains North America’s only tuition-free professional-training school for dancers. Nevertheless, the families of many students cannot afford the fees for housing and food. The funds used to provide financial assistance for such families are raised each year through HARID’s Annual Fund Campaign.

This year, we once again seek to raise $75,000 from individuals, private foundations, and corporations. While we are well on our way, we need your help to successfully achieve our fund-raising goal by June 30.

PLEASE support HARID’s talented young students by contributing generously to our Annual Fund Campaign. Each and every dollar will be used to offset the fees for student housing and food. The dancers and their families—along with the faculty and staff—will be grateful for your help.

Ensure the success of our Annual Fund Campaign by making a generous, tax-deductible contribution today.

So Dança, the Preferred Shoe of The HARID Conservatory

HARID has been very fortunate to garner the support of So Dança, a leading manufacturer and retailer of dance shoes and clothing. Located in Deerfield Beach, So Dança provides HARID with ballet slippers and other shoes for its students. In addition, the company generously offers its pointe shoes to the school’s female dancers at wholesale, saving their families hundreds of dollars each year. HARID is proud and grateful to be partnered with So Dança.

We hope you have enjoyed reading HARID’s Spring Newsletter. The next issue will be published in November.