



VICTORIA
ACADEMY
of BALLET

TO THE POINTE - April 2017



Coming up: DanceWorks Performance Festival

DanceWorks Performance Festival is coming up! Dates run from April 21 to 26th with our

mandatory spacing rehearsal on April 13th at the Charlie White Theatre in Sidney.

Classes involved:

- Ballet Level 3
- Ballet Level 4/5
- Ballet Level 6
- Senior GP Ballet
- Jazz Level 3 /4
- Jazz Level 5/ 6
- Jazz SN GP
- Jazz Trio
- Contemporary 4/5
- Contemporary 6
- Contemporary SN GP
- Julia Choreography

Spacing rehearsal, Festival info and dates, costuming, makeup and hair details have been distributed to you by the VAB Office via email already but you can also find it [here under Important Notices.](#)



Can you Believe It? Recital is Fast Approaching.

Tickets to May 19th Recital are now on sale through the Royal McPherson box office. Buy yours now so that you can get great seats!

[Get Tickets](#)

Remember:

- If you've offered to volunteer for the evening, you will not need to purchase a ticket for yourself.
- If your dancer is in kinder, pre-primary, primary, or Boys Can Dance, you can purchase a discounted ticket for them to sit with you for Act 2 and Act 3. Students from these levels will need to be picked up from the stage door at intermission after Act 1 (childcare will not be provided). Use promo code **PERFPRIMARY**
- All other levels will be backstage for the entire performance. Do not buy a ticket for your dancer unless they are in the levels mentioned above.

Festival Recap: Upper Island Music Festival and Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival



Thank you to our students for wonderful performances at the recent festivals in Nanaimo and Victoria. Congratulations to the following for receiving awards:

Upper Island Music Festival - Nanaimo

Ballet 3 Provincial Representative - Rin Nagakura

Awards/Bursaries to the following

- Luke Wilton
- Jianna Neufeld
- Rin Nagakura
- Charlotte Battigelli

Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival - Victoria

- Ballet 2 Provincial Representative - Hazuki Kishida
- Ballet 3 Provincial Representative - Anri Hirota
- Modern 3 Provincial Representative - Paula Cobo Botello

- Ballet 2 Observer - Abigail Bowering
- Modern 2 Observer - Anna Lawrance

Awards to the following:

Julia Sloan
Paula Cobo Botello
Charlotte Battigelli
Huzuki Kishida
Yuka Otsuki
Anri Hirota
Paquita Ensemble

We are so proud of all our VAB students who performed in the Ballet and Contemporary sections - Such strong performances!



VAB Took Flight

VAB Senior Students from the General Program, Professional Training Program, Bridge Post-Secondary Program and VAB Dance Theatre Company, along with special guests Lamondance from Vancouver, performed to a packed house at the Oak Bay Theatre on Saturday April 8th.

Thank you to all who attended!



Staff Spotlight:
Get to know our VAB staff.

This month: Luba Ellis, Principal Pianist

Luba Ellis is a principal pianist for Victoria Academy of Ballet. She comes from Khabarovsk, Russia, and holds Bachelor and Masters degree in Music and education.

Luba is a highly qualified and experienced pianist. She plays for workshops, master classes and has worked with Karen Kain, Evelyn Hart, Jean Grand-Maitre and many others. She plays for all the Cecchetti exams not just here, in Victoria, but around Vancouver Island. Luba is truly committed to our school which she started working for in a year of 2000. She also works for the College of Performing Arts in the Dance Department.

Her positive personality adds to a creative, artistic environment both in open class work and academic syllables!



Company Spotlight:

We asked VAB Dance Theatre Company's Sumika Naito to share a few things about what inspires her and what it's like to dance at VAB

Full Name: Sumika Naito

Where I'm from: Japan Saitama

Trained In: Classical ballet, Contemporary, Jazz, Japanese traditional dance, Character dance

Favorite role/production I was part of: Don Quixote, Kitri Variation

Dream Job: Teacher

Favorite dancer/choreographer or company: Maria Kochetkova (San Francisco Ballet)/ San Francisco Ballet

Favourite post-class meal: Sharing coffee with my friends.

What inspires my training: I'm thinking about my family and friends when I am training. Because I feel their support.

Favourite moment at VAB:

The Lamondance Gala in Vancouver this past February!



Victoria Academy of Ballet Scholarship Society - April Report

- Students/Parents wishing to **apply for Grants, Scholarships and Bursaries** for summer programs and/or programs for the school year 2017-18 should check the [application forms](#) ASAP. Deadlines for some awards are mid May.

- This school year **the Society has given over \$14,000 in financial assistance to students.** We

initiated the creation of the BOYS CAN DANCE program which is generously financially supported by the CIBC Children's Foundation. As well, we sponsored the Candy Cane Xmas show, donated to Dance Victoria's Nutcracker Kids program and sponsored a special show for two academic schools at the Metro. We are sponsoring an Up Island Elementary School Tour to Cowichan District and the Comox Valley District in late April. Finally some of the awards given at Recital are also sponsored by the Society.

To finance these activities, we depend on fund raising initiatives and donations which are tax deductible. **The Society would like to thank you for your contributions.** We are always looking for volunteers for grant research and writing, stocking the concession, helping at events etc.

- VABSS supports the tradition of giving flowers to students at the annual recital in May to show your appreciation for their dedication and pursuit of excellence. By purchasing the **VABSS recital bouquets**, you will be supporting arts education. It's convenient and saves you time - Fill in your order form with attached payment and your flowers will be ready to pick up in the lobby of the McPherson Theatre at recital. All bouquets are from Eurosa Farms in Saanich which generously supports this VABSS fundraiser each year.

Many families wish to have a **keepsake DVD of the yearly May Recital**. You can order a standard DVD or Blue Ray. Orders are ready by mid June and make a thoughtful gift for family members who are not able to attend the performance.

Order forms will be available in your Recital Info Package (coming from the VAB Office shortly) and should be returned with payment by Saturday, May 6.

VAB Important Dates

April 8, 2017	"Take Flight" performance at Oak Bay High School Theatre	Level 6, Sn GP/PTP/Bridge
April 13, 2017	DanceWorks Spacing Rehearsal	General/PTP/Bridge
April 14-17, 2017	Easter - No Classes	Whole School
April 21-26, 2017	DanceWorks Performance Festival	General/PTP/Bridge
April 21, 2017	GVPAF Highlights Concert	PTP/Bridge
May 13, 2017	Mandatory Recital Rehearsal @ VAB	Whole School
May 14, 2017	DanceWorks Highlights Concert	General/PTP/Bridge
May 18, 2017	Mandatory Recital Dress Rehearsal	Whole School
May 19, 2017	Year End Recital Performance	Whole School
May 20, 2017	Bridge Graduation	Bridge
May 22, 2017	Victoria Day - No Classes	Whole School

See the important dates for the remainder of the year [here](#).

Despite the Weather....

It's time to start thinking about Summer.

Summer program registration has now arrived at the VAB website for the following programs:



**2017
Children's
Summer
Camps**

Kinder Camps
July 4-7
July 24-28
Ages 4-6

Children's Camps
July 10-14
July 17-21
Ages 6-10

-Storybook Children's Camps: Come and explore ballet's most beautiful and imaginative tales in our Storybook Ballet Camps. From dancing in Aurora's castle to traveling to the Land of Sweets, students ages 4 to 10 will explore the exciting, dramatic and energetic world of Storybook Ballets.

-Kinder: Ages 4-6 (VAB current levels Kinder, Pre-Primary)

-Children's: Ages 6-10 (VAB current levels, Primary, Level 1)



The graphic features a green vertical bar on the left. In the center, two young girls in white tutus are dancing. To the right, the text reads: "2017 Junior Summer Intensive", "July 10 - 21", "Ages 9-13", "No Audition Required", and a list of dance styles: Ballet, Contemporary, Jazz, Pointe Prep, Character, and Conditioning.

-Junior Summer Intensive: Ages 9-13 (VAB current levels 2,3,4)

A two week, full day, intensive program with classes in ballet, jazz, character, contemporary and preparation for pointe. The Junior Summer Intensive is for students with previous dance experience who wish to take their technique to a new level in this fun and action packed Intensive! The program culminates with an in-studio demonstration for family and friends.



The graphic features an orange vertical bar on the left. In the center, a male and female dancer are performing a lift. To the right, the text reads: "2017 Senior Summer Intensive", "General Program", "July 31 - Aug 18", "Ages 13+", "No Audition Required", "Professional Training Program", "July 31 - Aug 25", "Ages 12+", and "By Audition Only".

-General Program Summer Intensive: Ages 13+

A three week, full day, intensive program that does not require an audition. Classes are offered in ballet, repertoire, pointe, contemporary and strength/conditioning. The General Program Intensive is for students with at least 3 years of ballet training who wish to take their technique and artistic development to the next level. The program culminates with a performance for family and friends.

-Professional Training Program Summer Intensive: Ages 12+ (By Audition)

A four week, full day, intensive program for students interested in a career in professional dance. Entry into the PTP Intensive is by audition only. Classes are offered in ballet, pointe, repertoire, contemporary, pas de deux, and strength/conditioning. The program includes a performance for family and friends.

[Find out more about Summer Programs here](#)

Follow VAB on Social Media

Victoria Academy of Ballet is on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter! Follow [@victoriaacademyofballet](#) and [@vaballet](#) for the latest updates, information and behind the scenes pics!

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