



Home of Nutcracker at the Arlington
Formerly Santa Barbara Ballet Center

Dear Families:

The Board of Directors of Santa Barbara Festival Ballet is pleased to announce a merger between the Santa Barbara Ballet Center and the Festival Ballet. The performance company (Festival Ballet) is the non-profit organization that provides performing experiences for students of the school, most notably Nutcracker at the Arlington. The Santa Barbara Ballet Center has been a privately owned enterprise owned and operated by Denise Rinaldi. The school and company will become one non-profit entity beginning on August 23, 2010.

For most of you this transition will be transparent. The staff will remain the same and Denise Rinaldi will continue to direct both the school and the company. Tuition remains the same and the policies and paperwork you received at the recital remains in force. The advantage to this transition will be our ability to fundraise for the organization as a whole, build our program with support from the community and serve our community in a different manner.

The goal of the Festival ballet has always been to provide a challenging and rewarding performing experience while the school strives to provide the best instruction in the art of classical ballet. Neither of these goals has changed. There are two key reasons to consolidate our goals under one non-profit center for education and performance of ballet. First is to enhance our ability to raise funds for our scholarship program, as a non-profit we will be able to apply for grants and donations directly for school activities and programs as well as performance experiences. Our second goal is to create an obvious name connection to the Nutcracker at the Arlington that has a solid 35-year track record.

We believe that this reorganization as a non-profit will set the foundation for the next 35 years and beyond. We are available if you have any concerns or questions. We hope you will want to become more involved with building Santa Barbara Festival Ballet into the community's premiere performing and training facility. The strength of our volunteer program will increase our capacity to provide increasing opportunities for our students.

Sincerely,

Denise Rinaldi
Artistic Director, Santa Barbara Festival Ballet

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