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**Cecchetti International Classical Ballet Competition**  
**and**  
**Summer Course 2008**  
**By Joyce Shietze, Chairman**

This past year seems to have been totally consumed with the creation of the Cecchetti International Classical Ballet Competition and Summer Course. If you enjoyed your time in Calgary, it is thanks to yet another incredible team, our Planning Committee, consisting of Judy Chan, Maggie Dalwood, Janet Hagisavas, Sheila Kennedy, Millie Kim, Murray Kilgour and Linda Pellis. They all did a Herculean job of organizing a fabulous 10 day event of which we can all take great pride. Each member of this team put in countless hours of research, writing, telephone calls and emails to make this wonderful event a reality. Each member of this team brought his or her special talents to the group and each worked well beyond what might be reasonably expected. There are two non-members of the Cecchetti Society who deserve my special gratitude. They are Millie Kim, a Board Member of Alberta Ballet and Murray Kilgour, Principal of the School of Alberta Ballet. I think after this, we should give you honorary membership.

CICB, CSC and School of AB have truly been in partnership to bring this project to fruition. The co-operation of Robina Beard, Chair of CICB and the monetary support from CICB funds, the Provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec who all gave money from their provincial accounts – some more than once! -, and especially the School of AB and Murray Kilgour, who has enabled the use of the School of Alberta Ballet as a beautiful venue and gained the support of Alberta Ballet Board members in this venture – all are equally to be thanked! Also with the partnership of Alberta Ballet Company we received a grant from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts for \$17,000, and for that we need to thank the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit, Mr. Lindsay Blackett.

Special thanks go to Jane Wooding, Glenn Gilmour, and Deb Hess who vetted all the Canadian applicants for us. The standard of the competitors was excellent and we were proud of our Canadians who competed. Congratulations to Garrett Groat, who was awarded a full year's tuition to the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, American Ballet Theatre; and to his coach Maggie Dalwood! We are very proud of you both!

Out of the summer course music classes will be coming a CD of possible alternative classroom music for the Advanced 2 and Diploma. Ross Alley, Nina Pinzarrone, Lorel Plett and Susan Koybasi all contributed great suggestions that were discussed and tried out by the examiners and teachers from around the world. Susan Koybasi is working on getting

this music recorded for all of us to try in the classroom. We have also put together the DVD and a blueprint for the next International Competition slated for 2011. If you were not able to attend the competition, you can still see it for yourself by ordering the DVD from Louise Clatney at [cecchetti\\_society@rogers.com](mailto:cecchetti_society@rogers.com) You can find information on ordering this in the order form link.

We received private donations, anonymous private donations and several faculty members even donated back their fees. Without the generosity of all these people, the Competition and Summer Course would never have happened.

Last but not least is my personal gratitude to Robina Beard, Chairman of CICB, for her inspiration and to our illustrious faculty : Ross Alley, Jean Freebury, Sharon Fox, Sheila Kennedy, Murray and Nancy Kilgour, Susan Koybasi, Raymund Lukens, Patricia Maybury, Aram Manukyan, Beverley Miller, Lorel Plett, Nina Pinzarrone, Marijka Stanowich, Edmund Stripe, Janet Tait and Diane van Schoor and adjudicators Desmond Kelly, Anthony Randazzo, and Diane van Schoor who juggled their busy schedules to participate and make this a superb international event. This thank-you includes the International Delegates who in the International Forum will explore how the Cecchetti Method will enable our teachers and dancers to navigate the future successfully.

I am very proud of our accomplishment and of our being able to welcome teachers and dancers from around the world to Calgary and western Canada. I hope that all of us here will have made new friends from other countries and will be able to take home many happy memories along with the inspired insight and knowledge we gained this summer.