

From the Desk of the Director of Examinations~2.5.17

Dear Friends,

At the recent Annual Examiners' Retreat held every January in Connecticut, my fellow colleagues and I had our usual review of the past year of examining across the country and, as always, discussed how best we can serve our member teachers, as well as their students. This year, a full day of "mock exams" were scheduled, where all examiners had the opportunity to view Standard 3, Grade 3, Standard 5, Grade 5, Grade 6, and Standard 7 students (generously supplied and prepared by Karyn O'Toole). This is a very good exercise, as we rarely get to sit in with one another to compare our marks. After our discussion, I was happy to announce that our marks were very much aligned with each other!

I am pleased to make the following announcements:

- CUSA Board of Examiners is proud to appoint **Norine Brown** as our newest First Tier Examiner! This qualifies Mrs. Brown to examine through Grade 7. Mrs. Brown is from the Sacramento area, and will soon embark upon a full examining tour in 2017.
- **Judith Hawkesworth** has been upgraded to Second Tier Examiner. This qualifies Mrs. Hawkesworth to examine through Grade 8.

In case you did not know, CUSA has a very extensive, as well as intensive, learning process for Examiner Trainees. After the initial acceptance as a First Tier Examiner, each level beyond Grade 7 requires every examiner to do additional training, per level, in order to be upgraded.

- And finally, we are proud to announce our newest Maestro Enrico Cecchetti Final Diploma success: **Alison Miriam Phillips Durham**. Congratulations to both Alison, CUSA Associate and Membership Chair, and her teacher, Betty Seibert.

Already there are many requests for exams for our Spring Session. Our newest examiner, **Norine Brown**, will start the exam season by going to Santa Barbara, CA and Cheshire, CT, and **Louanne Davies** will go to Santa Ana, CA in March. In April, **Judith Hawkesworth** will go to Huntington Beach, CA with exams also scheduled in Plattsburgh, NY.

May is already heavily booked for exams in Burnaby, BC; Whittier and San Diego, CA; Camden, SC, and Denver, CO! Niagara Falls, NY and Cheshire, CT round out the exam season at the end of June and July, respectively.

If you have not yet booked your exam session, please use the **NEW 2017 Examination Spreadsheet** attached to this email to make your preliminary timetable, and send it back to me as soon as possible. All of our examiners are willing to go out, but are not always available on the date(s) requested due to their own studio responsibilities. The more notice you give me, the better chance I have of fulfilling your request.

Attached to this email is the electronic copy of the **NEW 2017 Examinations Spreadsheet, 2017 Examinations Procedures Handbook**, as well as the **2017 Syllabi for Teaching Examinations**, with all revisions or additions clearly marked in **bold red**. Previous directives that were in bold red will now be **unbolded red**, then changed to **bold black**, and finally unbolded black.

For the upcoming sessions, please note the following comments from the examiners, giving further clarification for TC candidates entering students for the Teaching Certification 1 and/or 2:

- **Candidates should play their own music. No one other than the candidate, the students, and the examiner should be in the room.**
- **Children must wear numbers, and be presented to the examiner by first name and age.**
- **The students do not have to have passed any previous exams in order to participate as a “guinea pig” for the TC candidate.**
- **If the TC candidate, and/or any of the students being used in the class, are taking any other examinations within the same session, they must have done so prior to being seen in this exam.**

And permit me to remind you of the following notations from last year:

- Please notice the specification of ages, and wearing of pointe shoes, for B Candidates
- The clarification between Traditional vs. Additional Pliés in Grade 8
- Improvisation music brought by the examiner will be an eclectic variety of styles. Please encourage your students to respond and react organically to the music. This is not for choreographic purposes, but rather to allow their “inner dancer” to come out!

As always, it is imperative that you throw out any previous hard copies, and/or delete any previous electronic copies, so that there is no chance of you not using the most current and up-to-date information!

Be sure to check that the syllabi material you are using is current as you prepare for your next exam sessions, especially involving Grades 6-10! These syllabi materials are available for purchase from the CUSA Bookstore – www.cecchettiusa.org

Please remember that your 2017 CUSA Membership Dues must be received by the Membership Chair, Alison Durham, in order to request exams. If you do not get them in on time, you may still be allowed to host exams, but the reports and certificates will be held back until notice has been received that you are current and up-to-date. This includes any late fees that may have been incurred! Contact Alison at cusamembership@yahoo.com

We encourage you to always include the Ballet Scholar Membership Form (available on our website under “Join CUSA”) when you deliver your reports and certificates to all of your successful candidates! Your invitation for your students to become Ballet Scholars will help the organization grow and, in turn, they will have more opportunities to be awarded summer course and regional scholarships!

As you will have noticed by now, this year there will not be a Residential Summer Course. However, plans are underway for there to be mini-courses and intensives offered by members of the organization. Stay tuned for details! **Anyone wishing to take a summer exam should make their desire known as soon as possible.**

Due to the rising costs of air travel, the Board of Directors made a small increase in exam fees for the Standards and Grades which went into effect July 1, 2016. Also, at the same time, the **host per diem was increased up to \$125.00 per day for hotel expenses.** **There are no new increases to any exam fees for 2017.** You will find the exam fees posted on the electronic Excel spreadsheet under the tab entitled “Summary of Entries”. There you will see the charges for each exam level.

Again, we remind everyone that the **“Essential Anatomy: A Multimedia Anatomy Course”** is the required anatomy component for anyone wishing to attain their Licentiate status. Please contact the Director of Examinations if you are interested in purchasing the CD of Deborah Vogel’s “Essential Anatomy” which, in fact, is the cost for the exam (whether or not you decide to take it)!

To inquire about hosting an exam session, or for any questions regarding the syllabi or exams, or that arise from reading the Handbooks, please contact me at bseibert@cheshiredancecentre.com, or cell phone 203.710.8372.

You may also consider requesting student workshops, or private coaching, with members of our Examining Board.

We are looking forward to the 5th Cecchetti International – Classical Ballet Competition to be held in Florence, Italy, in August 2017! CUSA will be announcing the dancers selected for Team CUSA soon!

Here's to a Sparkling new year!
CHEERS!

Betty B. Seibert

Betty Seibert, Fellow CUSA/ISTD;
Director of Examinations, CUSA;
Chair, Cecchetti International - Classical Ballet;
Senior International Examiner; Final Diploma