

From the Desk of the Director of Examinations~ January 17, 2023

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The CUSA Examining Board recently met in a hybrid version this year for our Annual Retreat. **Norine Brown, Judith Hawkesworth, Sylvia Palmer** and I were in person in CT, with **Louanne Davies, Denise Rinaldi and Heidi Zolty** joining via Zoom. Here is a recap from 2022, plus exciting new information for 2023!

In 2022, CUSA provided the opportunity for our members to host exams sessions either virtually via Zoom or in person. I am pleased to say that from the 22 teachers presenting, 13 chose to host exams in person, and a total of 598 students were examined in all.

We congratulate the following 6 teachers, shown in (), on their successful candidates for Qualifying and Certifying Teaching Exams, and Grade 10:

Licentiate

Odea Maeve Crawley (Zolty)
Shan Harte (Zolty)

Licentiate Anatomy Exam

Odea Maeve Crawley
Shan Harte

Associate

Blair D'Amico (Seidman)
Alisa Walton (Seibert)

TC 1

Jessica Austin (McEachern)
Ava Capuano (O'Toole/Seibert)
Alina Sage (Seidman)

TC 1A

Elise Conlay (McEachern)
Grace Hager (McEachern)
Janessa White (O'Toole/Seibert)
Laini Kendall Wilkerson (Felmlee)

Grade 10

Tamar Cohen (Seibert)

We wish to remind everyone preparing for the Licentiate Teaching Exam that the ***Essential Anatomy: A Multimedia Anatomy Course*** is required prior to taking that qualifying exam. Please contact the Director of Examinations if you are interested in purchasing the CD of Deborah Vogel's "Essential Anatomy" which, in fact, includes the cost of taking the exam (whether you ever take it or not)!

The main topic for the Examiners' focus was how best to bring inclusivity into our CUSA experience. With the help from members Jennifer Forcucci-Marzluf, Felicia Fry, Kathy Koester and Debbi Miller many additions were added to our Examinations Procedures Handbook (some shown below), and a FAQs document (Adaptive Exam Practices) is attached with this letter.

DIV – For Grade 7 - 10 Exams - place f (female), m (male), or n (non-binary) followed by A (showing pointework in pointe shoes) or B (not wearing pointe shoes). Example: f A, f B, m A, m B, n A, n B.

For candidates who identify as transgender or non-binary, the teacher should submit a photo of their candidate's chosen attire for approval to the Director of Examinations 4 weeks prior to exam date.

Entering teachers who have candidates who identify as transgender or non-binary who wish to present either Virtuosity or Pointe work, previously known as "men's" and "women's" work, should contact the Director of Examinations. Upon choosing which work they will demonstrate, the candidate must be capable of performing all exercises as set in the syllabus.

There were no changes made to the Syllabi for Teaching Exams.
There are no increases to the Exam Fees at this time!

Anyone interested in presenting candidates in 2023 should contact the Director of Examinations to receive the new 2023 Examination Spreadsheet.

Please remember that your 2023 CUSA Membership Dues must be received by the Membership Chair, **Judith Hawkesworth**, in order to request exams. The application is on our website, and you can pay via PayPal at the same time.

We would also like to suggest that your Membership Dues goes beyond the presentation of exams. It gives you discounted rates for workshops as well as other courses, and let's not forget that you are supporting the organization that supports you!

Contact Judith at membership@cecchettiusa.org

As always, we encourage you to include the Ballet Scholar Membership Form (available on our website under "Join CUSA") when you deliver your reports and certificates to all successful candidates! Your invitation for your students to become Ballet Scholars will help grow the organization and in turn allow for more opportunities for scholarships.

This past October, a Cecchetti Day for Students Regional Workshop was held again in Cheshire CT, hosted by **Betty Seibert** with guest teachers **Brittney Bishop, Odea Crawley, Alison Durham, Shan Harte and Kathy Koester**. At the end of the day's demonstration for parents, Caitlin Hodgdon (from Cheshire Dance Centre) was awarded a full tuition scholarship to the Classical Ballet Intensive to be held in July in Maryland and Raelyn Costa (from Dancestep) was awarded a scholarship to the next Regional Workshop. Congratulations!

Speaking of CBI – we are so happy to host a summer course again, not having been able to do so since 2019! We are thrilled to announce our Guest Master Teacher is **Jennet Zerbe**, former dancer with American Ballet Theatre, holder of Maestro Enrico Cecchetti Final Diploma, and currently on the faculty of University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Ms. Zerbe brings a wealth of professional experience with her - as a performer as well as a coach, teacher, and repetiteur for many ballet dancers.

We always have the great pleasure of welcoming **Ross Alley** as our principal pianist for our course. His musicianship is inspiring for both students and teachers alike. CUSA is blessed to have this wonderful association with Mr. Alley as we continue to use his music for our Standard Examinations.

To find out more about our **Classical Ballet Intensive, July 23-29, University of Maryland, College Park** please visit our website cecchettiusa.org where you can register online. We always consider it our good fortune to make direct contact with our membership – to renew old acquaintances and establish new ones! We look forward to seeing you there!

For any questions regarding the syllabi or exams please contact the Director of Examinations at exams@cecchettiusa.org, or call my cell phone **203.710.8372**. My job is to help you get the most, and best, out of every exam experience!

Here's to a Sparkling, yet Simpler, new year!
CHEERS!

Betty B. Seibert

Betty Seibert, Fellow CUSA & ISTD;
Director of Examinations, CUSA;
Senior International Examiner; Final Diploma;
Co-Delegate and Treasurer, Cecchetti International-Classical Ballet