

NEWSLETTER 1998

Zurich, December 1998

Dear Friends and Trustees,

The year will once again soon be over and we look back on twelve months packed with interesting and successful activities. We were able again in 1998 to offer many young people a grant towards their education in the artistic field or to provide support for projects through financial contributions.

To give you an insight into our work, we have drawn up a summary of the main events of 1998.

We wish to express our warmest thanks to the Trustees and all our many friends for their valuable assistance and their active support. In the hope of yet more valuable co-operation we wish you and your families a happy and peaceful festive season and a good and successful New Year 1999.

PIERINO AMBROSOLI FOUNDATION

Daniela Marcacci Ambrosoli - President

Dance Events of 1998

It is a great honour for us that Heinz Spoerli, Director of the Zurich Ballet, has agreed to assume the function of artistic adviser for the Dance Sector on the Board of Trustees. I consider myself most fortunate to have won over a personality of the calibre of Heinz Spoerli to address the issues of my Foundation.

After receiving his dancer's diploma, Ivan Urban (*1975) of Minsk obtained his first engagement in 1995, with the Hamburg Ballet. Very soon he rose to the position of soloist and this year was appointed as first soloist with the Hamburg Ballet. To our great pleasure our former scholarship holder is now already able to look back on an outstanding career. The PIERINO AMBROSOLI FOUNDATION financed his studies at the Hamburg Ballet School John Neumeier in full.

For the Prix de Lausanne in January 1999 the PIERINO AMBROSOLI FOUNDATION donated the Prix du Meilleur Suisse, whose award conditions have been extended to give as many talented young dancers as possible access to

a prize. In 1998 our prize was awarded to Ekaterina Menshish (*1982) as the Special Prize of the Jury. To promote exchange between students and teachers at the National Ballet School Toronto and the Ballet School of the Hamburg Ballet John Neumeier, we once again supported the "Yondering Exchange" Project. This summer, four students from the Hamburg Ballet School and six students from Toronto were able to benefit from the exchange programme by taking part in the lessons of the other school and getting to know country and people. The PIERINO AMBROSOLI FOUNDATION has expressed its thanks for Hans Schmidig's many years of unremunerated work as auditor with a substantial grant for his loyal and meticulous work. The grant was handed over to the Swiss Professional Ballet School SBBS.

The financing of a one-year dancer's contract has enabled Compagnie LINGA to realise new projects, with the engagement of the dancer Laurent Coderch (*1975). The ensemble, based in Pully, Switzerland, performs all over the world and has a number of remarkable successes to its name. It was founded by the former soloist of the Béjart Ballet Lausanne, Katarzyna Gdaniec, who now runs this promising company together with the former Béjart dancer Marco Cantalupo.

This year again we made a contribution to the staging of the 2nd Swiss Advanced Training Course in Choreography (SIWIC) in Zurich, from July 19 to August 1.

For the second time, we have supported the activities of the Swiss Ballet Teachers Association in organising the Ballet Vocational Guidance Event 98.

The Académie de Danse Princesse Grace, Monaco, received a contribution towards the participation of one of its talented students, Magdalena Dziegielewska (*1978), in the competition in Jackson, USA.

We were also able to fund a contribution to the choreographer Jochen Heckmann, who runs the "Looping" dance company, for the "International Choreography Competition" at the Danish Royal Theatre in Copenhagen. His duet "Every Which Way" went on to claim First Prize.

Switzerland's Freddie Rutz qualified for the third time for the "3rd Japan International Ballet & Modern Dance Competition '99" in Nagoya. Once again he received a contribution subsidy to help finance his participation.

I felt very honoured to be invited as jury member for the Concorso Giovanissimi Talenti/International Competition of Young Dancers" in Turin, Italy, in May 1998, an event organised by the renowned "Fondazione Teatro Nuovo". The organisation was founded in 1987 at the initiative of Germana Erba and is fully committed to promoting all

areas of dance. One of its special merits has been the construction of the "Liceo Artistico Coreutico", a secondary grammar school for professional dance and acting students, the "Accademia Regionale di Danza", and a Teachers' Training College.

In May/June the Ballet School of the Hamburg Ballet celebrated its 20th anniversary. I was thoroughly impressed by the quality of the School performance, which gave the students the opportunity to perform to the best of their ability. I found the interpretation of the ballet "Sacre" by John Neumeier particularly exciting. At the Hamburg Ballet Event, which took place at the same time I was delighted by the high level of dance and artistic skills shown by the Hamburg Ballet Company.

The 20th anniversary of Vignale Danza was also organised by Germana Erba and the Fondazione Teatro Nuovo. I was astonished yet again by the vast choice of courses, the international teaching body and the many different events put on by the summer course of dance. I was in Vignale in June 1998.

The school performance by the Académie de Danse Classique Princesse Grace in Monaco in July 98 was again a great success and I was full of admiration for the untiring work produced by Marika Besobrasova, who is now 80.

List of Grants 1998/99 and News from Former Scholarship Holders

Name	School
Carvalho Catarina *06.01.1982, CD	École Supérieure de Danse de Cannes - Rosella Hightower
Dayanova Kora *12.05.1984, CD	École du ballet de l'Opéra de Paris
Figueroa Paloma *12.03.1985, CD	HAMBURG BALLETT Ballet School - John Neumeier
Kivelä Mia *09.05.1983, CD	SBBS Swiss Professional Ballet School, Zurich
Siegfried Laura *19.02.1978, MD	Rotterdam Dance Academy, Netherlands
Pête Mona *28.02.1981, CA	School for Artistry, Berlin

We have the following to report on our former scholarship holders:

Luminita Popescu (*1977) has moved from the **National Ballet of Canada** to the **Munich State Opera**

Ballet.

Ilana Werner (*1983) has received a scholarship from the **Académie de Danse Classique Princesse Grace in Monaco**, where she will continue her classical dance training.

Lotte Rudhart (*1979) has successfully completed her training at the John Neumeier Ballet School after two years of study with the graduation diploma.

Music Events – 1998

This year we were involved once again the field of music. We were able to award a scholarship to:

Öberg Lisa, *24.04.1982, CA

Yehudi Menuhin School, London

We were able to make an exceptional contribution towards the acquisition of an instrument for our former scholarship holder **Mattia Zappa**. As a result he is now able to delight his audiences by performing on a cello made by G. B. Gabrielli in 1758.

Mattia received his **soloist diploma** in June 1998 under Walter Demenga at the Basle Music Academy.

At an open-air concert of CAMPING-DELTA, in Locarno, in September, we enjoyed his performance on this superb instrument, as well as that of his charming sister **Daria Zappa** (violin), who produced a convincing display of her abilities.

We also gave our spontaneous support to **Isabel Mederos Castro** (*20.07.1981), a Cuban violin student at the City of Zurich Conservatory. In particular we were able to help in the area of human relations by financing the air ticket from Cuba for her mother as well as the costs of Isabel Mederos' English language course and her new accommodation.

The musician **André Desponds** and his ensemble "Gershwin Piano Quartet" received funding for his project to

record a CD to mark the 100th anniversary of George Gershwin's birth, with arrangements of his most famous melodies performed on four pianos. The PIERINO AMBROSOLINO FOUNDATION will be pleased to send you a free copy on request.

Trip to Russia in 1997

At the invitation of Mr Philippe Braunschweig and his wife Elvire, I travelled to Russia in October 1997; it proved to be one of the most outstanding experiences ever. Once again I would like to express my thanks to them for giving me the opportunity to take part in their wide and varied experience.

This year we were able to carry out the translation of my interview with the leading **specialist magazine "Ballet"**, Moscow. Here a few excerpts from the interview:

Meeting at the Editorial Office

... WITH ELVIRE AND PHILIPPE BRAUNSCHWEIG AND DANIELA MARCACCI

"... Together with Elvire and Philippe Braunschweig, their friend Daniela Marcacci, the President of the "Ambrosoli" Foundation, which has continually provided financial support for the "Prix de Lausanne" competition, was also present at the Editorial Office. We also asked our guest to report on her activities. We are publishing below the interview she granted our correspondent in which it is made clear yet again that culture should prevail everywhere.

- Ms Marcacci, please tell us a little about the "Ambrosoli" Foundation.

"The Foundation was founded in Switzerland, in Zurich, in 1990, in memory of my mother who, in the twenties, was an interpretative dancer. She trained under Mary Wigman. But the Foundation itself is named after my father Pierino Ambrosoli, as it was set up on the basis of the funds he bequeathed to me. My mother's stage name was Sonja Bragowa although she was German by origin.

Initially, the purpose of our Foundation was to help young people who had decided to make a career in various artistic fields. But relatively soon our attention began to focus essentially on people who had dedicated themselves to ballet."

- Your daughter had also chosen a career in ballet?

"Yes. It was also through my daughter that I got closer to ballet, that I saw how she and her friends studied, how

they lived. And I came to realise that while my daughter had everything she needed for her studies, many of her classmates had to do without so many of these things.

In its activities the Foundation worked together with Elvire and Philippe Braunschweig. Philippe has worked on our Board of Trustees from the very beginning.

We created a special scholarship for the Lausanne Competition: as a rule we take over the payment of a bonus to the best competition participant from Switzerland, under the condition that he or she reaches at least the semi-finals.

We also act as sponsors for modern stage productions by individual ballet companies. In Switzerland, for example, there is a company that calls itself "Nomades", and it is made up of former soloists from Maurice Béjart's company. We have also helped other Swiss troupes, most of which work in the modern genre. In some cases we take charge of the fee for a young dancer who has just started out with a troupe."

- Who is your Foundation for?

"Anyone who needs help can turn to us, even in person, and present his or her situation to us. We will then send the applicant a questionnaire which he or she should fill out by answering all the questions it contains."

- Could you tell us a little more about yourself?

"At the time I was working in ultrasound medicine for gynaecology. After my father died, I inherited his business and continued to run it. It was a trading company."

- How many years have you now been involved with the Competition?

"Seven years."

- Ms Marcacci, do you find your work morally satisfying from a personal point of view?

"I'm just so happy when I see someone on stage whom we were able to help with a scholarship from our Foundation."

- You yourself have three children. Do you think your children will continue your work?

"I certainly hope so. Even if it's hard to say right now. But we have a rule in place according to which the money handed over to the Foundation cannot be taken back by anyone. Even after I have died, the Foundation will continue to exist with the funds that have been paid into it. Under Swiss law not even I am entitled to withdraw funds from the Foundation..."

[(The text was processed by A. Michalewa Translated from the article "Wstretschy w readkzii..." from Russian into German by Wilma Krätz.)]

News in the administrative sector

Michael Jürgens has been appointed to the General Secretariat's Office as of June 1, 1998.

Mr Jürgens looks back on a long career as stage dancer. As head of coaching, teacher and assistant for various theatre productions he has gathered a wealth experience. After re-training in the commercial and business management sector and further training in cultural management he is now able to make his knowledge and experience available to the PIERINO AMBROSOLI FOUNDATION.

PIERINO AMBROSOLI FOUNDATION

Daniela Marcacci Ambrosoli - President