



FUSTA Footwork

March 2009

Planning the USIR

For the past 10 years my responsibilities at the New York State Assembly have included writing correspondence for the New York State Assembly Minority Leader, responding to letters from constituents who are concerned about the cuts to the Governor's proposed budget and how those cuts may affect them. At the Mid Winter Meeting in Houston earlier this year, the FUSTA Board of Directors talked about possible USIR budget cuts- ways to reduce the amount the regions are spending to host the USIR each year.

The cost of running the USIR has increased dramatically since the early years of FUSTA with each region trying to match what was done the previous year. The FUSTA funding for the USIR has certainly helped to cover the cost of running the Championship (stage, judges, pipers) and events associated with the USIR, but regional fundraising efforts are still necessary to cover the additional social activities and presents honoring the USIR Reps during the weekend.

If a region has funding or sponsors in abundance and can afford to add outings and special gifts for the reps and their families, they are always appreciated. However, if funds are short, the host should not feel obliged to add peripheral social events and treats. FUSTA considers it important to offer more opportunities to compete and participate for dancers who did not qualify for the USIR so that more dancers will be encouraged to attend and benefit from the overall event. During this economic downturn, we encourage USIR Organizers to look at ways to economize without compromising the prestige of the event.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the FUSTA Board of Directors.

Anne Donlan, FUSTA Vice President

Editor's Notes

The FUSTA Board of Directors have changed to release dates of our FUSTA Footwork newsletter. After much consideration about timing of events and important issues, we will now be having 3 issues per year: mid-March after FUSTA mid-winter meeting, mid-June - after regionals and mid-September - after USIR & Worlds, etc.

Our newsletter is written and designed to be shared with all in our FUSTA family - including our dancers parents. Please feel free to e-mail each issue out to your parents group or post within your studio. There is valuable information in each issue for all - judge, teacher, parent and even dancer!

It fosters a sense of national community and gets the word out about the USIR and other things that FUSTA does for Highland Dance in the U.S. and even worldwide.

The current newsletter and past issues may be enjoyed on the FUSTA website at www.fusta.us. Teachers, please inform your dance parents that each newsletter will be posted on a public page of the site so that they can make their decision ahead of time whether to either provide the information about their children or allow you as their teacher to submit news and/or photos of the child for inclusion in the FUSTA Footwork.

Please also remind parents that the names of past USIR winners are also included on the FUSTA website.

Here's to great year - and enjoy our March issue!

~ Bree Erin Brownlee, FUSTA Newsletter Editor

FUSTA Scholarship

\$1,000 College Scholarship

FUSTA is offering a scholarship to High School Seniors and College Bound Students residing in the United States.

Applications are now being accepted by the scholarship committee. Applications and information is available from the FUSTA website. This is a great opportunity for ALL high school seniors. Teachers - please pass the scholarship information on to any of your senior dancers - scholarship does not require them to be premier dancers! The deadline for the FUSTA scholarship is April 30. Applicants will be notified June 15.



USIR Update

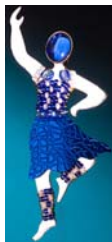


USIR 2010

Traverse City, MI



The Midwest region is holding a few fundraisers that you can participate in. **LizTech Pin** - for only \$40 (plus \$5 shipping), you can own one of only 250 specially designed LizTech pins.



Please contact Mindy Hamilton at thehighlandco@yahoo.com to place an order. Checks or money orders should be made payable to FUSTA-MW.

USIR 2009 -
Nashville, TN

USIR 2010 -
Traverse City, MI

USIR 2011 -
Spokane, WA

USIR 2012 -
TBD in East

USIR 2013 -
TBD in West

USIR 2014 -
TBD in Southwest



Regional News

Midwest

Jenny May-Caronchi and her husband Christian welcomed their first child, son Andrew Robert Caronchi, on Nov. 27 (a Thanksgiving baby!) Andrew weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz and seems to already love Scottish music as he kicks his legs whenever he hears it!



note: no news provided from the East, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest, or West

Letter to the Editor

Registration Information

Many teachers decide at the last minute to have their students compete, especially the first time competitor. Should you find that this is the case with one of your student's, please as the dancer's teacher, contact your area registrar (by email or phone) and let the registrar know this ahead of time. Although the paperwork may not arrive before the competition, official contact has been made with the registrar regarding the student. Paperwork should follow immediately.

Diane Mac Phee Krugh,
National Registrar

Thank You

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all the teachers, dancers and parent's across the country who have us sent us cards, emails, flowers, and contributions with the passing of our dear Mom. It has been overwhelming to read many of the beautiful and lovely words that described her so well. We are truly grateful for the many prayers over the past 6 months !

Diane, Donna and Donald

SOBHD Website

The SOBHD website www.sobhd.net has a Members Only section that anyone who is a member of an Examining Body or of the Judges' Panel can access using a password for which they must apply.

The procedure is to get your Examining Body membership number ready and go onto the website. Select Members Only. Apply for a password and follow the instructions. You will choose areas to access - for us it would be teachers and judges based on our affiliations. In a day or two, you will receive an email from the website committee giving you a username and a password. Then you can sign in and see the latest postings re technical and judging matters. I am using the password that was issued to me because I write all my passwords into a special book for reference. After you enter the Members Only, if you want to create a different password that you can remember readily, you can do that by selecting "accounts" in the top right hand corner of the screen and "edit" your password.

This is a very valuable resource, and I hope as many of you as possible will give it a try.

Sharon Farrar

Notes from the Judges Chairman

Judges Test

Pending final SOBHD approval, a North American Judges Test will be held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on September 24-25, 2009. All interested parties should contact John Hynd at JSHynd@aol.com for further details and to determine if there is sufficient interest from prospective candidates in the U.S. and Canada.

A test will be held in Paisley, Scotland on August 16, 2009. Contact the SOBHD office for details.
admin@sobhd.net

Information and an application for the Judges Test is located on www.fusta.us or www.sobhd.net



Notes to Judges

Clarification for 2009 set steps

The technique changes below dated 20 March 2009 from the SOBHD have recently been sent to all judges. Teachers will also find this information useful.

Seann Truibhas:

Intro for Adult Championship Intro

The Technical Committee would like to make an amendment to the pivot introduction. This should be danced as follows:

Pivot on ball of LF making 1/8 turn to
Right on count 5 Step RF to 4th Rear
Flat to finish with LF pointed in 4th
position on count 6

Reel of Tulloch:

1st Setting Step

2nd Pas de Basque finishes on set line
extend into 3rd Pas de Basque and there is
no travel in 3rd Pas de Basque. This differs
from Strathspey and Reel of Tulloch, where
the first 2 Pas de Basque are off the set line
and there is travel in 3rd Pas de Basque

Standing should be as diagram 56

Helen Ford
SOBHD, Director of Administration
20.03.09

FUSTA Footwork Advertising

Advertising space is still available in each issue. If you would like to submit an ad, please e-mail editor Bree Brownlee at QOSDA@hotmail.com by the 1st of the month prior to issue date (Feb 1st, May 1st, Aug 1st). Ads are \$35.00 per quarter page ad per issue or \$125.00 per year. Checks should be made out to FUSTA. All ads are quarter page in size and need to be of topics related to Highland Dance.

Letter to the Editor



National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts; youngARTS Week Scholarship Program

As a high school senior and a level II award winner for the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) youngARTS program, I fully encourage Scottish Highland dancers everywhere to apply for this amazing scholarship opportunity. Open to seventeen and eighteen year olds between their junior and senior years in high school, youngARTS is an intensive, nationwide competition in which only 140 contestants are chosen as finalists, about 20 of whom are dancers. Finalists attend a weeklong camp in Miami, Florida in January for master classes, workshops, exhibitions, and performances during which a panel of four judges per category judge them for final placings. YoungARTS week changed my life—it has been the highlight of my dance career and an experience that has helped me appreciate other forms of dance, develop my technique, and build my self confidence.

Dancers are some of the hardest working people I know, yet there are few scholarships available for them. That is why I was thrilled to discover a dance-related scholarship open to all forms of dance, even world dance. After carefully reading the guidelines listed on the NFAA website, I submitted my video application demonstrating my technique and a two minute solo (I chose to dance the Seann Triubhas). By December, I received a call notifying that I was a finalist—I became the first Scottish dancer to be selected as a finalist in the entire youngARTS twenty-seven year history. After that, the entire month of December blurred as I diligently practiced to prepare a second solo (a six step Sailors' Hornpipe), hurried to write two short essays about myself and dance, and of course went shopping. During this time, I even had the privilege to choose my own master teacher for youngARTS because Scottish dance was so new to the NFAA. With the help of my teacher and friends from home, I found someone who would be ready for the challenge and the new experience: Ms. Jo Moore Kalat from North Carolina. Everything happened so fast that right until the eve of my plane departure, my first plane ride ever, I hardly realized what was really happening.

Before youngARTS I had little faith in my ability to succeed in dance, and I was worried that I would not “fit in” with the other dancers. Now an alumni reflecting on my experience, I realize that my fears could not have been more unfounded. From the very first night when our diverse group of ballet, jazz, modern, tap, Classical Indian, African, and even Irish Step dancers gathered together to watch our audition tapes, I felt a deep connection with my peers. As each of us sat through our two minutes of embarrassment, we bonded and shared stories of our dancing. The entire week thereafter we danced in support of one another, and we performed our second solo in front of an audience of our friends, not our competitors. Every art discipline had one night to perform for all of the other youngARTS students, and the dancers' turn came on Thursday. After the show which we had each worked very hard to prepare for, we were greeted and congratulated for an amazing performance. My teachers and friends at youngARTS taught me to believe in myself and showed me how to be a true performer, not just a competitor.

I may have been the first Scottish Highland dancer to participate in youngARTS week, but I hope not to be the last. This is a rare and unique opportunity to earn scholarship money while sharing Scottish culture with other dancers and artists from across the nation. My advice is to apply early, during spring or summer when there is less stress and more time to practice. Most importantly, dance from the heart because dance, even Scottish Highland dance, is a form of artistic expression. Every dancer should apply for youngARTS—this unforgettable experience changed my life and my dancing forever, and it will certainly have a similarly profound impact on any dancer.

Good Luck,
Sarah Clark

See the NFAA website for more information:
<http://www.nfaa.org/Programs/youngARTS%20Program/>