

# Charlotte School of Ballet

## Student Handbook



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Charlotte, North Carolina, 28211  
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[www.CharlotteBallet.com](http://www.CharlotteBallet.com)

# **Staff of the Charlotte School of Ballet**

## **Gay Porter**

Gay was trained in London, England at the Arts Educational School. Her classmates included Ben Stevenson, former Artistic Director of the Houston Ballet and David Howard known as "Teacher of the Stars" in New York and London. After an extensive career in England, Spain, France and Germany Gay came to the United States where she danced in California before coming to North Carolina. As a choreographer Gay has worked with the Charlotte Symphony, the Charlotte Opera, the Singing Christmas Tree, Central Piedmont Opera and Theatre, Actors Theatre and the Charlotte Youth Ballet. Gay is a full teaching member of the Royal Academy of Dance, London, England and holds the Advanced Teachers Certificate of the Cecchetti Council of America. North Carolina School of the Arts honored Gay as: "Teacher of the Year" in 1994. Gay is the founder and Artistic Director of the Charlotte Youth Ballet. It is the premier performing company for young dancers in the area. Gay has directed and choreographed full length productions of *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, *Nutcracker* and *Coppelia* for the company. She has also created original ballets such as *The Wizard of Oz*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Thumbelina*, and *Pinocchio* which she had also set on companies throughout the United States.

## **Bridget Porter Young**

As a child Bridget was selected to dance with New York city Ballet and Baryshnikov for the Washington Season. During this time she was invited to perform at the White House for President Carter. She has danced with Louisville Ballet, North Carolina Dance Theatre and Ocala Ballet. She toured the United States performing industrial shows and spent many summers perform in summer stock including such as Jeannie in *Brigadoon*, and Dream Laurie in *Oklahoma*. She also appeared on *All My Children* and *Guiding Light* while living in New York. Bridget has choreographed many short works, ballets and musicals including *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Barnum* and *Big River*. She also choreographed and directed *The Nutcracker* for Pueblo Ballet. Bridget holds the Teaching Certificate of the Royal Academy of Dance, London, England and is a Licentiate of the Cecchetti Council of America. She is the Ballet Mistress for the Charlotte Youth Ballet, on the board of Queen City Jazz Company and the President of the Cecchetti Council of America, Southeast Committee.

## **Ben Kubie**

Mr. Kubie trained in New York City with Joffery Ballet, School of American Ballet and the David Howard School on full scholarship. He was a member of the Hartford Ballet and a principal dancer for North Carolina Dance Theatre. He has been a guest performer for many companies throughout the United States.

## **Alyce Vallejo Moran**

Alyce Cristina Vallejo Moran graduated Cum Laude from Florida State University with a BFA in Dance. She has worked with and performed under the direction of Suzanne Farrell, Alonzo King, Moving Poets Dance Theater, Phlava Dance Company and the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, Performance Company. Now residing in Charlotte, Alyce is a professional freelance dancer specializing in ballet and modern. She is in her fourth season with Martha Connerton/Kinetic Works Dance Company as a principle dancer, public relations assistant, and rehearsal assistant. She also is a teaching artist for the Charlotte Symphony and MCKW, doing dance residencies throughout North and South Carolina. Alyce is a former student of the Charlotte School of Ballet and is thrilled to now be a part of the faculty.

## **Rachel Franchi**

A native of Ocala, F, Rachel has devoted most of her life to the art of ballet. She is known for her compassion and dedication as a teacher along with her ability to bring out the extraordinarily graceful style of each of her students. Rachel received her early training at Jeanne Benson-Smith Dance Academy. She has also studied with world-renown teachers Sasha Baderinko of the Bolshoi Ballet and Gladissa Guatalupe of Cleveland School of Ballet. Her performance repertoire includes The Nutcracker, Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, Giselle, and Carmina Burana. In 2004, she became an instructor for the prestigious Otto M. Budig Academy of Cincinnati Ballet and Ballet Theatre Midwest. In 2005, as an effort to reach out and give others the love and joy of dance, she founded the Vineyard Christian Church Dance Program, offering classes to underprivileged children and teens. From 2007 to 2010, Rachel was a ballet instructor with Miller Street Dance Academy in Charlotte, NC. where she founded the Miller Street Ballet Company, working as Artistic Director and Choreographer in their annual performance of The Nutcracker.

## **Melanie Sullivan Coyle**

As a young dancer Melanie was a scholarship student at the Washington National School of Ballet where she studied under Mary Day. Her choreography has been recognized regionally and nationally. In August of 2007 her choreography was featured at Gus Gioriano's World Dance Congress in Chicago, Illinois. Melanie is the Artistic Director of Sullivan Dance Center. In 2002 she founded Queen City Jazz Company, a professional concert jazz company and in 2005 formed QCJC II an apprentice company that brings together talented young dancers from the area to perform with the Queen City Jazz Company. Currently Melanie has students in the Broadway casts of "*Legally Blonde*" and "*Wicked*".

## **Morning Star Allen**

Morning Star Allen is a graduate of the Sullivan Dance Centre. During her time as a senior member of the Sullivan Youth Ensemble her performance credits included: Gus Giordano's Jazz Dance World Congress (Buffalo, NY, Monterey, Mexico) and Festival of North Carolina Dance. Ms. Allen was an honored guest performer in Kenya, East Africa where she delighted young African audiences with her special style of lyrical dance. She has performed all over the world, through mission work, bringing the Western world of dance to underprivileged countries. In 2005 Morning Star was selected as a full company member with the Queen City Jazz Company. Her unique style of classical jazz will excite and energize our young students!

## **Ryan Tiernan**

Ryan began her Pilates work in 1997 due to a knee injury. A former dancer since age 3, and a graduate from Radford University with a BFA in Dance. Ryan continued to practice Pilates after graduating, and decided to pursue a certification in Pilates mat work and apparatus in September 2001 from the Physical Mind Institute, NY. Her training was completed at the Orchid Pagoda Pilates studio in Fairfax, VA and the Body College in Washington, DC. During this time, Ryan also explored several different styles of yoga and body work before deciding to pursue a Classical Hatha yoga certification through the Yoga Alliance with Pat Joslyn in Charlotte, NC in 2007. Ryan says her reward in teaching Pilates and yoga is she gets to offer a type of movement experience she truly believes is beneficial for the mind and body. She has seen amazing results in the way people have responded to the work, and truly enjoys opening the door to those who seek a safe and lifestyle-changing way to exercise and to develop an internal awareness that reflects to the outside.

## **Dominique Anderson**

Dominique Anderson has trained and performed with the In Motion School of Dance and Company, performing in annual showcases and company shows as well as various community events until her departure for University in 2005. Dominique has an extensive and varied background in dance. She has been the recipient of many scholarships and awards from The Bermuda Ballet Association, National Dance Foundation, Dance Bermuda, Ross Blackie Talbot Foundation, The Peter Leitner Arts Scholarship, The Bank of Bermuda Foundation and Dean College. She has participated in summer intensives with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, The American Ballet Theatre and David Parsons Dance Company. She is a 2009 Magna Cum Laude graduate of the Dean College School of Dance in Franklin MA, where she received a dual degree in Dance and Business Administration and gave the 2009 Commencement Address. While at Dean Dominique was a member of the Dean College Ballet, Modern and Hip Hop dance companies, President of the Black Student Union, Vice President of "Break tha Silence HipHop Dance Team" and was also a member of the "In the Makin" Dance Team and Step Squad based out of Lynn, Mass. Dominique has worked directly with choreographers such as hip-hop phenomenon's Kelly Peters and the dynamic duo Nu-Styles, as well as modern dance legends SLAM and David Parsons. Most recently she was a part of David Parsons; Choreography Workshop in New York City. Dominique moved to North Carolina in January 2010 with her family to perform with Martha Connerton Kinetic Works and recently joined Caroline Calouche and Co. Dominique is very excited to be teaching with us this season.

## **Guest Faculty**

Mel Tomlinson, Mia Cunningham,  
Joe Curry, Sarah Emery, Skyla Caldwell



## About the Syllabus

The Royal Academy of Dance is a training method beginning with children at age 3 and takes students through a graded syllabus to the professional level. The Children's Syllabus includes classical work, free movement and character dance. The Vocational Syllabus is for the student who desires a career in ballet. It takes much dedication on the part of the dancer to achieve the required level of training to progress at this level. Both the Children's and Vocational syllabi are examined in seventy five countries throughout the world. It is an extremely high level of training.

The Cecchetti Council of America is a training method which begins with five year old students and progresses to the Diploma Level. The Cecchetti syllabus is based on the teachings of Enrico Cecchetti who taught in London, Russia and throughout Europe. As students progress they may take examinations in this syllabus as well.

Examinations produce wonderful results. Students who work for exams excel in their training. Having a goal encourages students to focus in class, build strength quicker and requires correctly demonstrated technique. It prevents dancers from only learning to do tricks and makes for a more versatile dancer. Please schedule a conference with your teacher if you would like to know more about examinations

## Classes

**Pre Ballet and Tap** is for 3 and 4 year old children, this class introduces children to the joy of movement and creative expression through music and use of imagination. Students will learn basic ballet positions and steps in addition to developing coordination, listening skills and rhythm.

**Pre- Primary Ballet and Tap** is for students 5 years of age. This class introduces the Royal Academy of Dance's Pre- Primary in Dance syllabus in addition to basic tap skills. Goals include developing coordination, listening skills, and motor skills required for dance. Students will participate in exercises to increase flexibility and strength.

**Primary Ballet** is for students ages 6 – 7. This class follows the syllabus of the the Royal Academy of Dance Primary curriculum as well as the Cecchetti Primary work. Students work to maintain correct posture, placement and body alignment throughout movements. Additionally dancers learn to tell a story through movement and use of expression. Students may take exams in this level.

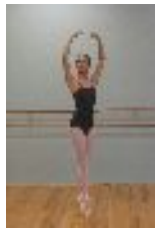
**R.A.D. Grade 1 - Grade 7 Ballet** is for students age 7 and above. These classes follow the Royal Academy of Dance Syllabi, which includes classical, character and free movement work. Dancers develop technical strength, placement, proper posture and artistic expression. Students who wish to take the RAD Exam must attend classes a minimum of twice a week in the level being examined. Extra rehearsals with the pianist and examination fees will be required of those students taking exams. These classes also cater to students who wish to progress through the Syllabus but not enter into the exams.

**R.A.D. Vocational and Cecchetti Professional Exams**

These examinations are for the serious ballet student. Students must take at least 6 hours of ballet and pointe classes per week to be successful in these levels of examination. It is not possible to offer every level each year. If the level your student is working toward is not currently offered please speak with the office to make arrangements to be coached.

**Cecchetti Classes** Developed by Maestro Enrico Cecchetti, the Cecchetti method of ballet breaks the technique of ballet down to a science. Precise exercises are practiced in a set order each class, each building on the next. This method builds solid foundations in technique while instilling a lovely quality of movement at the same time. When ready, students are entered for examinations and must pass each level before moving on to the next level of study. Students are eligible to begin Cecchetti Grade 1 at age 9 and work through to Grade 7.

**Intermediate, Advanced and Honors Classes** dancers who have technically attained the level required are permitted to enroll in these classes. These levels are designed to provide an increase in a dancer's challenges, and represents the progression in a dancer's achievements and commitment to dance. All levels emphasize correct postural alignment, principals of turn out, balance, control and barre and center exercises that become more complex and challenging at each level. The principles taught in each level build upon one another to create a solid foundation for technical strength and proficiency. Dancers in the levels are required to take at least 3 technique and 2 pointe classes per week.



**Pointe Classes** Students begin pointe only with the permission from instructors. Pointe is for serious ballet students, In order to dance on pointe proficiently students who study en pointe are required to take a minimum of 3 technique classes a week in addition to pointe classes. Maintaining as well as improving technique is essential to progress with pointe work. The Charlotte School of Ballet only allows students to begin pointe in the summer. All student on pointe must study a minimum of 3 weeks during the summer. Please see the pointe policies sheet for more information.

**Jazz** All Jazz classes combine traditional classical and Broadway jazz with the ever changing styles of today. These classes are full of energy and fun and at the same time challenging. These classes are always age appropriate in style, music and if applicable costumes.

**Modern** Students are introduced to basic contemporary techniques including contractions, oppositional energy and improvisation. Students will explore dynamics in time and space and build understanding of rhythm, gestures and shapes.

**Tap** All tap classes focus on the development of a sharpened sense of rhythm, coordination, and clarity of sounds incorporating warm-up, rhythm sequences, across the floor, and combination.

**Hip-Hop** Hip-Hop is a relaxed, freestyle form of street dance that is set in a high-energy, fun, and fast paced environment. Dancers will incorporate their own personal rhythm with the latest dance moves.



# **Policies and Procedures**

## **Registration**

**The registration fee and tuition payments 1 & 10 are due upon the registration of each student.** Enrollment in the Charlotte School of

Ballet is for the 2010-11 school year beginning August 23, 2010.

Students will be charged for classes as registered whether or not classes have been attended until a Registration Change form is submitted to the business office. All withdrawals require a

Registration Change form to be submitted 30 days prior to withdrawals.

## **Class Attendance**

Attending class is the responsibility of each student. It is important to attend all classes in order to progress with training. Classes missed due to sickness, school holidays and other obligations may be made up in another class. Classes missed due to ballet examinations, rehearsals, performances or other unavoidable events will be rescheduled. Please inform us if you will be missing a lesson. Students are expected to arrive at the studio in time for the start of their class. In the interest of injury prevention, the school reserves the right to have students who are tardy to observe class. Credit or refunds will not be given for classes not attended. Pointe students must take a technique class prior to a pointe class unless the class is designated as a pointe technique class. Student on pointe must take at least 3 technique classes per week in addition to pointe classes in order to dance on pointe. Student with excesses absence or tardiness may be taken off pointe.

## **Make Up Classes**

We encourage students to make up missed lessons. We ask that you call or email the office if you plan to attend a make up lesson. Classes must be made up within in 30 days of the missed lesson. In the case of inclement weather call the studio, there will be a message stating if we will be holding classes. We do not necessarily follow the school systems. Classes missed due to weather will not be rescheduled, but you are welcome to make it up in another class.

## **Parent Teacher Communication**

Teachers are always happy to speak with you! You may call or email the office to schedule a convenient time for a conference. We kindly ask that you not stop teachers between classes to talk as this delays the start of the next class.

The studio newsletter *To The Pointe* is sent home several times a year to inform you of upcoming events. Email reminders will also be sent.

Please make sure we have a current email for you. Notices will be posted on the bulletin board in the studio please check frequently.

## Facilities

We ask students and families to please respect the facilities. No Food or Drink allowed in the studio. Please pick up after yourselves and throw away trash. Adequate supervision should be provided for siblings. Please check that you have all of your belongings before you leave. Clothes left for more a few weeks will be taken to a donation center.

## Volunteers

The Charlotte School of Ballet is a very active studio. We could use your help! We are the home studio for The Charlotte Youth Ballet, the host studio for examinations of The Royal Academy of Dance, London England as well as for the Cecchetti Council of America. Additionally dancers attend the North Carolina School of the Arts Dance Festival in Winston Salem each year. We also have an extensive costume collection which frequently needs organizing and often times costumes are in need of repairs. If you would like to help us we would greatly appreciate your assistance.

## Class Attire

Students are required to be properly dress for **all** classes. **Failure to comply with the dress code may result in having to sit out of class.** Student's name should be in all shoes leotards and tights. Street clothes should be worn over ballet attire when coming to and from class. Dance shoes should never be worn outside as this brings dirt onto the dance floor as well as wearing out shoes quicker.

All female ballet students are required to wear the appropriate leotard for the class level, ballet pink tights and pink ballet shoes. Hair should be neatly tied back into a bun. Short hair can be pulled back off the face with a headband. Please provide your child the necessary items to put hair up.

### **No skirts except by permission of teacher.**

The Royal Academy of Dance syllabus includes character work which requires a black character skirts and black character shoes. This applies to students in Grade I and above.

Tap students should wear black tap shoes, a solid color leotard and black jazz pants.  
Jazz students should wear black jazz shoes, black jazz pants and a solid color leotard.

Boys wear navy or black shorts, white t shirt and socks, black shoes.

**Please respect the traditions and art of dance and follow the dress codes.**

Official uniform leotards, tights and shoes can be purchased in  
*The Ballet Boutique.*

## Tuition

Tuition is based on an annual fee.

There are 3 payment options

One yearly payment in full by August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Two semester payments due by August 30<sup>th</sup> and January 10<sup>th</sup>.

10 equal payments due according to the schedule below.

Yearly and semester payments reflect a discount on the annual tuition.

Should you choose to pay in 10 equal payments tuition is

**due on or before the first class of the payment session.**

**First and last month's tuition due upon registration.**

A late fee of \$25.00 will be added after the first week of the payment session.

Tuition is non refundable.

**Statement are generated only for past due accounts please mark the following dates on your calender.**

<b>Payment 1 &amp; 10</b>	<b>August 23, 2010 or upon registration</b>
Payment 2	September 19, 2010
Payment 3	October 17, 2010
Payment 4	November 14, 2010
Payment 5	December 12 2010
Payment 6	January 16, 2011
Payment 7	February 13, 2011
Payment 8	March 13 2011
Payment 9	April 10, 2011

**Visa, Mastercard, Check and Cash accepted.**

**Questions concerning payments should be directed to the [businessoffice@Charlotteballet.com](mailto:businessoffice@Charlotteballet.com)**

## Recital

The Recital is the end of the year performance which highlights all of our students. Participation is encouraged. We assume you will be participating in the recital unless written notice is given to the office prior to October 1, 2010.

### Costume and Recital Fees

Costume deposit \$50.00 per costume	due October 1 2010
Costume balance ( to be announced)	due February 15, 2011
Performance fees:	
\$ 85.00 per student	due October 1, 2010
\$160.00 per family	

### **These fees are non refundable**

Costumes will not be given out until all fees for the year are paid in full. Costumes cannot be returned.

## Fee Schedule

*Annual Registration Fee \$40.00 per student*

*Tuition fees are per student based on an annual fee.*

*You are responsible for tuition for the entire year, should you choose to pay by 10 equal payments **the first and last payment is due in advance of your first lesson.***

*Yearly or semester payments reflect a **discount if paid by stated dates.***

### First Steps Division

Pre - Ballet & Tap through Primary level

	Year	Semester	Monthly
1 class per week	\$ 650.00	\$325.00	\$70.00
2 classes per week	\$ 1000.00	\$525.00	\$110.00

### Children's Division

R.A.D. Grade I through IV, Cecchetti I & II

	Year	Semester	Monthly
1 class per week	\$ 650.00	\$325.00	\$70.00
2 classes per week	\$ 1000.00	\$525.00	\$110.00
3 classes per week	\$ 1300.00	\$ 650.00	\$135.00
4 classes per week	\$ 1600.00	\$810.00	\$165.00
5 classes per week	\$ 1900.00	\$ 975.00	\$200.00
Unlimited	\$ 2400.00	\$1225.00	\$250.00

### Intermediate / Advance Division

R.A.D. Grade V and up, Cecchetti Grade III and up,

Intermediate, Advanced Technique, Pointe, Variations, Choreography,

Honors classes, Intermediate & Advance Jazz and Tap, Adult classes.

1½ and two hour classes count as two lessons.

	Year	Semester	Monthly
1 class per week	\$ 650.00	\$325.00	\$75.00
2 classes per week	\$ 1000.00	\$525.00	\$110.00
3 classes per week	\$ 1300.00	\$ 650.00	\$135.00
4 classes per week	\$ 1600.00	\$810.00	\$165.00
5 classes per week	\$ 1900.00	\$ 975.00	\$200.00
Unlimited	\$ 2400.00	\$1225.00	\$250.00

Individual Class \$20.00

Tuition is non refundable.

There is a charge of \$25.00 for all returned checks.

## Charlotte School of Ballet Calendar and Important Dates

July and August	Registration
<b>August 23, 2010</b>	<b>Classes begin</b>
September 6, 2010	Labor Day no classes
September 18, 2010	Charlotte Youth Ballet Auditions
September 24, 2010	CYB performance Stowe Botanical Gardens
October 1, 2010	<i>Nutcracker</i> rehearsals begin
October 1, 2010	Recital Deposits due
Nov. 24- 27, 2010	Thanksgiving Holiday no classes
Dec. 3- 5, 2010	Charlotte Youth Ballet performances of <i>The Nutcracker</i> - Halton
Dec. 20- January 2	Christmas Break no classes
January 3, 2011	Classes Resume
January 10, 2011	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester payment due
January 22, 2011	NCSA Festival Adjudication
February 18 – 20, 2011	NCSA Festival of Dance
Spring 2011	R.A.D. Examinations
March 25- 27, 2011	Charlotte Youth Ballet Production of <i>Coppelia</i> ,Halton Theatre
April 18- 23 2011	Spring Break no classes
May 20- 22, 2011	Spring Recital Halton Theatre

