



January 18, 2012

Dear Students and Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome to the Goh Ballet's second term. There is much on the horizon in the coming months, but before I elaborate on all that we have planned, let me first congratulate all the students who participated in *The Nutcracker*. Here's what the critics had to say: "Goh Ballet's Nutcracker is family fun... a gleaming ornament..." states Janet Smith of the Georgia Straight, "(it) still stands up against any touring productions." Karen Fitzgibbon of Review Vancouver raved "...hugely entertaining, fast flowing, elaborate and a remarkable voyage into Fantasyland" and Tessa Parkins of Press + 1 said "I'm glad that the Goh Ballet has given Vancouver a gorgeous professional production to call our own. With stunning dancing, delightful props and set pieces, and unique touches, this is a great show for young and old alike."

I am extremely proud of the many debuts and individual accomplishments seen during the run of our 3rd annual production of *The Nutcracker*. It goes without saying that much of all our achievements are a culmination of strong family support and the caring cultivation of talent from the entire artistic staff. Thank you for making our 2011 production a resounding success.

"Goh Ballet's The Nutcracker is outstanding family entertainment... a one-of-a-kind production promoting opportunities for dancers and performers in communities around Vancouver."
Hon. Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Our new term sprints ahead with many students from the senior professional school preparing for international competitions. This year, we will be represented at the Prix de Lausanne, National Ballet Competition in Tokyo, Tanzolymp Berlin, Youth America Grand Prix, Helsinki International Competition, Seoul International Competition, Korea International Competition and Varna International Competition. I am mindful and approach competitions with different objectives for different candidates. Also, it is not the only way to unveil hidden potential or strengthen a student's development. For our entire academy, we will be participating in the Royal Academy of Dance Examinations this year as well as involving some students with participation at local festivals. Most of all, I am very enthused by our two new productions coming up in June. For pre-school to A1 level students, our theme will center on the imaginative Mad Hatter's Tea Party and for A2 up to senior professional school students, we will be mounting *Coppelia*.

The dancers in our Youth Company will be touring the province of BC in February and March with diverse repertoire which will prove to be a source of educational outreach to promote the appreciation of various genres of dance to many communities.

Once again, I would like to encourage parents to sign up for our various committees and offer feedback so that we can build your child's future together with the most positive and nurturing approach. Please contact Beth Liang – admin@gohballet.com to find out more about our committees and opportunities.

On behalf of the Principal, Artistic Director and all staff of the Academy, I would like to bid a very fond farewell to Mr. Jian Rong Sheng, who, after being an instructor with the academy for over 20 years, has decided to retire and spend more time with his family. We would also like to congratulate him and his family on the arrival of his granddaughter. Mr. Sheng, we thank you for all your creative energy and artistry which has fostered generations of dancers who have been privileged to have studied under your tutelage.

Can it be too soon to think about the summer? I know it is very important to many families to manage their summer plans and I would like to make sure that ballet classes continue to be an important part. For children ages 4 to 7 we are excited to introduce our fairytale inspired [Summer Dance Workshops](#). Our coveted [International Summer Intensive](#), [Performance Workshop](#) and [Special Coaching Sessions](#) all taught by internationally renowned guest instructors will further infuse a love of dance. Please be sure to register early, as class size is limited. Please visit www.gohballet.com for more information.

As always, our administrative staff is ready to answer or assist with any questions.

- Beth Liang, *Administrative Assistant* Email: admin@gohballet.com Tel: 604-872-4014 ext 127
- Kimberly Streichert, *Administrative and Communications Intern* Email: info@gohballet.com Tel: 604.872.4014 ext. 216
- Alaina Kedans, *Communications and Administrative Intern* Email: reception@gohballet.com 604-872-4014 ext 126
- Paul Lee, *Accountant* Email: accountant@gohballet.com Tel: 604-872-4014 ext 218
- Katie Weber, *Communications Associate and Personal Assistant to Chan Hon Goh* Email: kweber@gohballet.com Tel: 604-872-4014 ext 217

Thank you and I look forward to much continued progress.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chan Hon Goh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chan Hon Goh
Director, Goh Ballet Academy and Youth Company