

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Goh Ballet Keeps Wins Coming at International Ballet Grand Prix Vienna

Renowned event shines light on world's finest ballet dancers in toe-to-toe competition

Vancouver, B.C. (November 5, 2021) – The Goh Ballet Academy today shared the results of this year's International Ballet Grand Prix Vienna competition, with students from Goh's Vancouver- and Toronto-area studios representing Canada and placing in ten categories in the prestigious international event.

The International Ballet Grand Prix Vienna was one of the recent virtual competitions that have highlighted how the COVID-19 pandemic may have forced dancers to find new ways to keep going and compete. Fortunately, it did not stop Goh Ballet and its most driven students from working hard, overcoming barriers, and showcasing what they can do. Goh students have placed in many competitions over the last four decades, and recent virtual competitions, such as last year's Tanzolymp and this one; now, with two studios in major cities representing, and a virtual platform, Goh has seized the pandemic's silver lining: the opportunity to get more of the world-class dancers it trains in front of international judges.

With 193 competitors from 23 countries participating, the competition took place October 27 through 30, and was billed as the 9th International, first online edition of the event. The competition was open to professional dancers, and dance students, of all nationalities, ages 8-27. Participants had the choice of performing in classical ballet, contemporary dance, or both fields. Goh Ballet winners in the various categories, their performances, and cities of current residence include:

Classical Category, Private Schools, Junior I ages 14-16

Emma Tomlinson, 1st place - Coppélia - Swanhilda Act I Valse variation (Delta)

Anna Turkington, 1st place – Hebe Variation, Awakening of Flora (Markham)

Jayda Zhu, 3rd place – Awakening of Flora variation (Vancouver)

Grace Bianchin, 3rd place – Giselle Act I variation (Richmond)

Classical Category, Private Schools, Junior II ages 17-24

Nanaho Nakajima, 1st place – Coppélia - Swanhilda Act III variation (Vancouver; international student from Japan)

Contemporary Category, Private Schools, Junior ages 8 – 18

Emma Tomlinson, 2nd place – Waiting ... I Finally Fall (Delta)

Contemporary Category, Private Schools, Adults ages 19-27

Mackenzie Hebein, 1st place – Dystopia (Surrey)

Special Awards

Grace Bianchin, Outstanding Stage Performance for Giselle (Classical category, Junior I age group) (Richmond)

Emma Tomlinson, Outstanding Execution for Waiting ... I Finally Fall (Contemporary category, Junior age group) (Delta)

Grace Bianchin, Outstanding Courage for Through the Looking Glass (Contemporary category, Junior age group) (Richmond)

Winners were decided by 12 respected judges from different countries:

- Vladimir Malakhov, Jury President and World Ballet Star (Germany)
- Zhao Yifei, Director of Liaoning Ballet School (China)
- Mihail Sosnovschi, Principal Dancer and Guest Artist (Austria)
- Mike Loewenrosen, Founder of Sunrise Studio and Choreographer in Contemporary Dance (Austria)
- Sandra Castro-Mühlbauer, Principal Dancer, Choreographer, and Artistic Director of Mount Royal Ballet Academy (Canada)
- György Szakály, Former Director of the Hungarian Dance Academy (Hungary)
- Geung Soo Kim, Professor of Dance at Chung-Ang University (South Korea)
- Sawaka Haruyama, Director of Passion du Ballet a Kyoto Competition (Japan)
- Jacob Feyferlik, Principal Dancer at the Dutch National Ballet (Austria)
- Tomaž Rode, President of the Association of Ballet Artists of Slovenia (Slovenia)

Since 1996, the competition (formerly named ÖTR CONTEST, later WienWeltWettbewerb, and most recently rebranded as International Ballet Grand Prix Vienna), has continued its mission to encourage young generations in the art form of dance. Vienna, Austria is known as the “City of Music” as well as for its art, culture, and ballet, so it is fitting that this high-status competition usually be held there, though this year an exception was made; a statement from the competition explained that the global pandemic made it necessary to reschedule the event twice, and eventually organize it as the first online edition.

This first virtual competition proved enormously successful, despite all the challenges faced by the arts sectors during the COVID-19 pandemic; for the International Ballet Grand Prix Vienna organization, and especially for Goh Ballet, which can boast that it is still a force to be reckoned with in the world of dance, inspiring its students to keep going through the pandemic, and to never stop improving.

Pandemic or not, Goh Ballet has a proven track record for producing decorated graduates who now fill the ranks of esteemed professional companies globally. Opening a second location in Toronto in 2019, Goh Ballet continually expands its legacy of providing unrivaled opportunities for students to reach their goals and succeed on stage, as student and first place winner in the Classical category (Junior I ages 14-16) Anna Turkington can attest.

“Being back in a studio and having something to work toward felt amazing after so many months online,” she said.

“I am beyond grateful that I had the opportunity to compete, and to Goh Ballet’s Director, Chan Hon Goh, and my coach Ms. Titova for their support. Having my dedication and hard work recognized in this way has left me inspired, and glad that I never gave up through the struggles we all faced these past few years.”

Goh Ballet is proud to highlight the achievements of its students at this internationally celebrated competition as they continue to strive for excellence in the art of ballet.

About Goh Ballet

Since 1978, Vancouver, Canada has been home to Goh Ballet, a vibrant, innovative and diverse dance organization. In 2019, Goh opened the doors to Goh Ballet Bayview, expanding its reach to the Toronto area and beyond. Following the vision of its founders while expanding on current artistic aspirations, Goh Ballet pursues technical and artistic excellence while raising cultural awareness in our communities through dance instruction and performance productions. Under the Directorship of Chan Hon Goh, former Principal Dancer of The National Ballet of Canada since 2010, Goh Ballet is synonymous with excellence, training talent and fostering the presentation of classical ballet. It provides extraordinary opportunities for dancers to reach their full potential, while contributing to the artistic well-



being of our city and country. At the forefront of the arts community, Goh Ballet has been invited to perform around the world including tours to the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Japan, France and the US.

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