



NORTHEAST MICHIGAN ARTS COUNCIL

3233 Grove Road, P.O. Box 238
Standish, Michigan 48658-0238
(989) 846-9331

Dear Dance Patrons:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for the Northeast Academy of Dance. The Arts Council that I represent is a multidisciplinary organization that presents and sponsors many facets of the arts. Several years ago I had the pleasure of attending a public performance of the Northeast Academy of Dance in Oscoda, Michigan and came away reeling from the experience; what a surprising and delightful evening it was.

The caliber of the NEAD dancers and their choreography was extraordinary. The professionalism of the production from the brilliant choreography and costumes, to sets and lighting, choice of music and printed programs was reminiscent of professional dance performances I attended while growing up in the Los Angeles area.

What makes the Academy such a success is the superb talent of its Directors, Giuseppe Canale and Scott Heinrich. This immense talent and dedication to classical ballet brings out the best in their students. While visiting master classes earlier this year, I could sense there was true caring and respect between instructor and student.

Since that eventful evening in 2005, my Arts Council has been a proud sponsor of NEAD performances on an annual basis for Standish-Sterling student assemblies and performances for the general public in a beautiful, state-of-the-art auditorium in Standish. Audience response has been overwhelming, as well as their comments that they find it hard to believe that the NEAD corps of dancers are of amateur status.

It is hard to fathom that this small, unassuming dance academy based in rural Oscoda can offer the type of artistic instruction that one can only find in a cosmopolitan area of this country. I highly recommend NEAD to anyone who wants to learn to dance, is already a dancer, or who aspires to pursue a professional career, the Northeast Academy of Dance should be your "school of choice".

Sincerely,

Gail P. Schmidt
Executive Director