



Etudes *Classical Ballet*

presents

Marushka & the Seasons

An original
story ballet
adapted from
the traditional Czech
folktale
Marushka &
the Twelve Months

Free!

*Donations
gratefully
accepted*

WITH

POLKA

A Classroom Etude

Saturday
June 13, 2026
1:00pm

Skyline Middle School
240 Luray Ave, Front Royal, VA 22630.

www.EtudesClassicalBallet.com



THANK YOU

Ballet Guild

*Crafts, Sewing, Construction, Gluing,
Proofreading...you name it!*

Serra Ann Fonte
Karen Bodenschatz
Jennie Tisch
Helena Romano
Claire Herring
Cassandra Morrell
Liz Hickman
Adrienne O'Brien
Billie Jean Miller
Lisa Davis
Felicity Fonte
Jon and Marie Fidero
Diana Vieira
Kiko Simon
Irene Schwartz
St. John's Drama Club
Jaime Gorman

Backstage Crew:

Abigail Adams, Therese Davis,
Anastasia Marmalejo, Clara
Schumann, Irene Schwartz, Lily
Schwartz, Eva Shunk, Maria Simon

Classroom Helpers

Thérèse Vieira, Greta Schwartz, and
all unofficial student helpers

Website:

Jon Schwartz & Heidi Negrete

NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY SILENCE CELL PHONES

Thank you to Rosie Hill with
Peregrine Farms for providing the
beautiful floral bouquets

Visual Color & Design

Serra Ann Fonte
The Place She Made

Lights

Omar Khan

Sound

Joey Mata

Photography:

Mary Fran Cherry

Dear Families,

I am deeply grateful to the Ballet
Guild and the parents who stepped
in at the last minute to lend a helping
hand—it made all the difference.
Special Thanks to my husband, Jon,
and daughter, Irene, and all my
children who covered for me and
supported this project in countless
ways!

To all the parents, siblings, carpools,
and supporters who make it possible
for these dancers to pursue their
passion— your time, effort, and
encouragement do not go unnoticed.
This performance is a reflection of
the dedication of everyone behind
the scenes. Thank you.

-Mrs. Schwartz

ABOUT & STUDIES

An **étude** (French for "study") is a short piece of choreography, that is beautiful or enjoyable on its own merit, and designed to help a dancer practice and perfect a specific technical skill.



**"Providing an authentic ballet experience fosters appreciation of the arts, bodily self-awareness, and discipline that can persist for a lifetime."
-Mrs. Schwartz**

Etudes Classical Ballet was founded by Mrs. Susan Schwartz, proud wife of Jon, mother of 9 and grandmother!

Susan, "Mrs. Schwartz," trained at the Phoenix School of Ballet. She danced professionally with Ballet Arizona under Jean Paul Comelin and then with regional companies in North Carolina, where she began teaching professionally.

She became the co-director of the ballet department at Plumb Performing Arts Center where she founded the Youth Ballet Ensemble for children and young adults. She staged and produced several original ballets including *The Little Match Girl*.

A certified instructor of the Vaganova Technique, Susan has been teaching now for 40 years.

"My pedagogy takes inspiration from the Vaganova Method and modern methods of increasing strength and flexibility. Beginning students start with floor exercises where every future technical challenge can be mastered without the hindrance of gravity and lack of balance. Beginning students also spend time moving across the floor to encourage more coordination and mobility.

Every exercise in every level is carefully chosen and designed to strengthen the foundation for the next phase in the student's training.

All along the way, an appreciation and foundation of musicality is a priority."

CAST

Pre-Ballet

Mon 3:15 Class:

Alena Gaetano
Amelia Thomas
Anna Herning
Aurora Reil
Colleen Gossin
Holly Gossin
Joan Deardurff
Josie Davis
Kathleen Fidero
Lily O'Brien
Novalee Rager
Phoebe Ginski
Remington Updike
Siena Ginski
Siena Romano
Genevieve Niles

Pre-Ballet

Wed 3:15 Class:

Annabelle Salomon
Aubrey Bosnyak
Charlotte Urankar
Edith Sponsler
Grace Weigand
Isabella Alonzo-Baldovino
Josephine Evans
Judith Sponsler
Magdalena Nelson
Olivet Waggener

Pre-Ballet

Sat. 10:00 Class:

Belle O'Donnell
Briar-Rose Lockhart
Caroline Tisch
Emilia Storey
Gianna Wong
Guadalupe Moran
Kendall Crozier
Kynlee Thomasson
Myla Tapia
Rosalie Snyder
Rosie Davies

Pre-Ballet

Wed 5:15 Class:

Agnes McShurley
Caroline Tisch
Christine Johnson
Dorothy Anderson
Eliza Settle
Emilia Noguez
Emma Lancaster
Faustina Morrell
Juliet Johnson
Kathleen Belk
Kiara Price
Lucy Clough
Nourie DeLaFleur
Olivia Miller
Theabella Asper
Zelie Belk

Level I Monday

Allison Aguilar
Blaise Medina
Charlotte Thomas
Diana Asper
Edith Hill
Elizabeth Heselton
Ella Thomas
Jimena Aguilar
Kailye Aguilar
Lillian Asper
Lucia Mata
Lucy Hill
River Grace Jenkins

Level I Saturday

Anne Woods
Eliza Beltinov
Emma O'Brien
Felicity Burns
Keira Osvatics
Leialohamalunani
Kamehameha "Aloha"
Mariana Dhanagom
Octavia Poulsen
Tabitha Lester
Tamara Beltinov
Therese O'Donnell

Level I/II Teen

Anabelle Gossin
Anna Hodge
Avery Philpot
Cecilia Hill
Christiana Charbonneau
Elizabeth Hill
Eve Ferri
Joan Charbonneau
Juliet Gossin
Philomena Hickman
Vivian Hipp
Zelie Dhanagom

Level II M/W

Amelia Murphy
Charlotte Tyler
Chiara MacDonald
Clare Lancaster
Julia Tyler
Kensli Bodenschatz
Maeve O'Donnell
Maribelle Fonte
Martina Davis
Marysia MacDonald
Ondine Gorman
Penelope Nelson
Ruby Nelson

Level III

Addison Limato
Aibhilin Gorman
Greta Schwartz
Irelia Asper
Lucy Vieira
Lydia Wunsch
Thérèse Vieira
Zoe Jansen

Adv. Adult Ballet

Dr. Laura Bergmann
*(Representing Etudes'
vibrant and welcoming
Adult Ballet Community)*

POLKA

A Classroom Étude

The Fairy Doll Polka - Josef Bayer

All PreBallet with "Pique Girl" Dr. Laura Bergman
Level II M/W

Bachus Polka - Johann Strauss II

Level I/II Mon
Saturday Level 1

Laura Polka - Lumbye

Thursday I/II Teens

Angelica Polka - Josef Strauss

Level III & Dr. Laura Bergman

Music Credits in Order of Appearance

POLKA

- *Selections from *The Fairy Doll*, Bayer, Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, Andrew Mogrelia
- *Bachus-Polka, Op.38, Johann Strauss II, Polish State Philharmonic Orchestra, Oliver Dohnanyi
- *Angelica-Polka française, Op. 123, Josef Strauss, Budapest Strauss Symphony Orchestra, Alfred Walter

MARUSHKA and the SEASONS

- *Selections from *The Fairy Doll*, Bayer, Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, Andrew Mogrelia
- *Selections from the ballet *Sylvia*, Leo Delibes, Razumovsky Symphony Orchestra, Andrew Mogrelia
- *Selections from *The Seasons*, Glazunov, Zagreb Philharmonic, Dmitri Kitayenko;
also-Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Wilfred Lehmann
- *"Ballet Suite No. 1: Waltz-scherzo (The Bolt)", Shostakovich, Russian Philharmonic Orchestra, Dmitri Yablonsky
- *Selections from *Raymonda*, Glazunov, Kirov Orchestra of St. Petersburg, Victor Fedotov
- **Symphony No.4 in F Minor*, Op. 36: IV. Finale. "Allegro con fuoco." Tchaikowsky, Wiener Philharmonic, Herbert von Karajan

Marushka & the Seasons

An Original Ballet Adapted from the Czech Folktale

Marushka and the Twelve Months

Marushka and the Seasons is a magical ballet about kindness, humility, patience, and the beauty of nature's rhythm. Marushka, a gentle and hardworking orphan, lives with her caretaker and the caretaker's spoiled daughter, Holena. When Holena demands violets in the middle of winter for her birthday, Marushka is sent into the snowy forest in search of the impossible.

There she encounters the Four Seasons gathered around a fire. Recognizing her from her months of faithful work in the garden, and moved by Marushka's humility, they choose to help her. As Marushka is continually sent out to meet Holena's impossible demands, the Seasons briefly set aside the natural order, allowing Spring Violets, Summer Strawberries, and Autumn Apples to appear in the depths of winter.

Marushka responds with gratitude to the Seasons' generosity, but when Autumn allows her to bring only two Apples home, Holena, angry with what she sees to be Marushka's incompetence, decides to venture into the forest herself, where she learns that the gifts of the Seasons cannot be claimed through pride and selfishness.

In the end, it is not magic, but mercy, that restores harmony. Through Marushka's compassion, forgiveness, and steadfast kindness, all of the Seasons, flowers, fruits, and snowflakes come together in a joyful celebration of the virtues that make every season beautiful.

This charming story reminds us that gratitude, humility, generosity, and mercy are treasures far greater than anything we can possess.



CAST

Marushka & the Seasons

MARUSHKA Marysia MacDonald

MOTHER Laura Bergmann

HOLENA Maribelle Fonte

WINTER

Addison Limato

WINTER ENSEMBLE: Level I Monday

SPRING

Irelia Asper, Greta Schwartz, & Thérèse Vieira

SPRING ENSEMBLE: Level II M/W

BUTTERFLIES: PreBallet Wed 5:15

VIOLETS: PreBallet Wed 3:15

BUMBLEBEE: Penelope Nelson

SUMMER: Aibhilin Gorman & Lucy Vieira

SUMMER ENSEMBLE: Level I/II Teens

STRAWBERRIES: PreBallet Mon 3:15

AUTUMN: Zoé Jansen & Lydia Wunsch

AUTUMN ENSEMBLE: Level I Saturday

APPLES: PreBallet Saturday

BLIZZARD: Levels I & II Monday

OUR SPONSORS

Has your child been wanting to TRY ballet?
One Week Camps for Ages 7-14
Beginning Ballet *June 22-26* and/or *July 6 - 10*
EtudesClassicalBallet.com

Ready for MORE?

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Ballet Day!

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DANCE CLASS**

**MUSICAL
Theatre**

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*Dance+Theology of the Body
Camp for Teens*

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M.S., CES, LMT, PhD

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Researcher, Author, NCBTMB provider

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Classical Ballet*

Fall
Session
Begins
August 31st

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Week 1: June 22nd - 27th

Week 2: June 29th - July 4th

Week 3: July 6th - 11th

Week 4: July 13th - 18th

Week 5: July 20th - 25th

Week 6: July 27th - August 1st

Week 7: August 3rd - 8th

Week 8: August 10th - 15th

www.etudesclassicalballet.com

Save me a Dance, Dad?



**YOU'RE INVITED: A Father's Day
Bring your Dad to Ballet Class Day!**

A special Father-Daughter Ballet Class—
a fun, lighthearted date you'll remember forever.
Get ready to stretch, leap and laugh.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026

*No tights. No Tutus. No experience required.
Just a good attitude, a sense of humor, and
a willingness to be lovingly corrected by a six-year-old.

Limited spots available...
Register at www.EtudesClassicalBallet.com



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**MUSICAL
Theatre
& Camp!**
Boys & Girls!
Camp for Ages 7-14
June 29 - July 3
Monday - Friday 5:00 - 6:00

Immerse yourself in musical theatre for a week! Acting games, singing lessons, dancing while you sing.
Learn a production number to perform for your family at week's end.

Your Instructor will be Maria Simon, a gifted performer and teacher who has helped direct both music and choreography with Mrs. Schwartz, St. John's Drama Club, and Christendom College among others. Maria is on the direction team for St. John's upcoming Fall production.

**\$75 Register at
etudesclassicalballet.com**



THE ART OF SOCIAL DANCE

This class introduces adolescents to the foundations of social dance in a fun, structured, and respectful environment. Alongside learning cha-cha basics, students will develop confidence, body awareness, and an understanding of how to welcome and connect thoughtfully with others.

Each class includes movement instruction and partner work, incorporating age-appropriate reflections inspired by themes in John Paul II's Theology of the Body—helping students grow not just as dancers, but as persons.

TUESDAYS 6:30-7:30 PM
JULY 28, AUGUST 4, 11, 18, 25

**Teen
Camp!**

Ages 13-17

**accepting 15 ladies
& 15 gents!**

\$75

SIGN UP TODAY

etudesclassicalballet.com

**A relaxed, beginner-
friendly cha-cha class for
couples to move, connect,
and enjoy time together
*no experience needed***

**Simple Steps. Real Connection...
JOIN THE SUMMER FUN!**

DATE NIGHT DANCE CLASS

FRIDAYS

7:30-8:30 PM

JULY 31, AUGUST 7, 14, 21, 28

Chai-Chai
for couples!

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\$125 per couple etudesclassicalballet.com

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venmo



zelle

Tonight's performance is offered with *free admission* so that family, friends, and community members can enjoy and celebrate the hard work and dedication of our dancers.

The arts enrich our community, inspire our children, and bring beauty into our lives.

If you have been moved by this performance and would like to help sustain future productions, costumes, and opportunities for young dancers, please consider making a donation in the lobby or via Venmo or Zelle!

Every gift—large or small—helps make future performances possible and supports a tradition of artistic excellence for years to come.

THANK YOU for supporting these beautiful dancers and helping the arts flourish in our community.

*Ballerina artwork used with permission by:
Ewa Gawlik @ EwArtStudio
Check out her work on Etsy!