

Kristina Washchysyn - School Director
Jen Chapman - Parent Advisory Committee Chair

Sopilka News

www.sopilkadance.com

Welcome! Bitamo!

Dear Parents and Dancers,

Welcome to another year at Sopilka Ukrainian Dance School! I am so happy to see that we have several new families that have joined the school as well as many younger siblings in the Beginner class. We have a new teacher joining us to teach the Beginners as well as help out with many other classes. Her name is Carina Romangoli's and she is a dancer at Troyanda Ukrainian Dance Ensemble as well as a Grade 6 teacher. You can find out more about Carina in her biography later in the newsletter.

This past August, I travelled with Olena Czuba, Tianna Flett, Francesca Gibson, Olia Katchanovski, Karly McMillan, Avril and Hannah Suss, along with parents Christine Hur, Karen Klym and Roger Suss to Ukraine alongside Troyanda Ukrainian Dance Ensemble for an amazing two weeks of dance festivals, performances, workshops, site seeing and fun! Take a look at Hannah's account as a dancer on this trip later in the newsletter.

The theme for this year's recital will revolve around song as well as dance. Any parents who come from a vocal or musical background, let me know, as we are hoping that a Sopilka Choir will be an added element to the performance. Also, if there is a song that holds personal meaning to you, let me know! Perhaps it can make its way into our performance.

As always, please make sure you bring forward any questions or concerns you might have throughout the year. If you are interested in getting more involved with the school, extra hands are always required. Don't forget to familiarize yourself with our website at sopilkadance.com and like us on Facebook. Both of these resources will help you to stay up to date on the goings on of Sopilka.

Budmo to another fabulous year!

Sincerely,
Kristina Washchysyn
Sopilka School Director



Sopilka 2017-2018 Schedule

Monday		Wednesday	
Time	Level	Time	Level
5:30 - 6:30	Beginner – <i>Carina</i>	5:30-6:30	Level 1 – <i>Kristina and Kiersten</i>
5:30 – 6:45	Level 2/Kozak 1 – <i>Kristina</i>	5:30 – 6:45	Kozak 2 – <i>Makar</i>
	Level 3/Kozak 1 – <i>Emilia</i>		Junior Girls Technique - <i>Emilia</i>
6:45 – 8:00	Junior Girls – <i>Emilia</i>	6:45-8:30	Intermediate Ensemble – <i>Makar & Kiersten</i>
7:00 – 8:15	Intermediate Ensemble Technique – <i>Kristina</i>	7:45 – 9:45	Sopilka Performing Ensemble – <i>Kristina & Kiersten</i>
8:00 – 10:00	Adults – <i>Kristina</i>		
8:15 – 9:45	Sopilka Performing Ensemble Technique – <i>Emilia</i>		

Important Upcoming Dates

September 11/13	First lessons <u>(All registration payments are due!!)</u>
October 2	Monday classes in alternate location (TBA)
October 4	Wednesday classes CANCELLED
October 9	Monday classes CANCELLED (Thanksgiving)
October 11	Regular Wednesday classes as usual
December 18/20	Last Classes before Christmas Break
January 8/10	Classes Resume
February 10	3 rd Annual Family Zabava
February 19/21	NO LESSONS – Louis Riel Day
February/March (TBA)	Photo Day
March 16-18	Manitoba Ukrainian Dance Festival
Spring 2018	Cheese/Kolbassa/Perogy Fundraiser
March 26/28	NO LESSONS – Spring Break
Late April/Early May	Annual Recital at St. Mary's Academy

Sopilka's Dress Code

A school dress code will continue to be in place. All dancers are expected to follow these guidelines.

Girls:

Black bodysuit (tank, short or long sleeves)
Light pink tights
Dance skirts are acceptable
Hair pulled off the face

Boys:

Plain or "Sopilka" white or black fitted cotton T-shirt
Black fitted cotton pants or sweats without pockets

No jewelry is to be worn in class.

Dancers will be asked to sit out if the dress code is not followed on a regular basis.

Required Performance Footwear:

Beginner to Level 3: Black leather ballet slippers with black elastics

Junior & Intermediate Girls: Beige jazz shoes and red ballet-style character shoes (with elastic sewn on)

Kozak 2 & Intermediate Boys: Black jazz shoes

Performing Ensemble Ladies: Beige Jazz or Pedini shoes, red character shoes, Red Boots (to be ordered through the school)

Adult Ladies: Pink Ballet Slippers, Red Boots to be ordered through the school (if you don't already have)

Shoe Exchange

If anyone has dance shoes they would like to sell due to growing feet, please bring them in to the studio anytime. Place them in a Ziploc bag together with a note with your name, contact info and price. Similarly, anyone who is looking for new shoes will be welcome to search through the collection to see if they can find some that fit. In many cases there is no price, so take a pair and leave a pair!

Trip to Ukraine

By Hannah Suss

This past August, the Sopilka Performing Ensemble had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Ukraine along with our friends from Troyanda.

Our travels started in Lviv, where we participated in the 2nd annual International Ukrainian Dance & Culture Festival. We performed in one of the main squares in Lviv, in the

Shevchenkivsky Hai heritage village, and in the beautiful Lviv Opera House. It was truly a once in a lifetime experience!

From there we travelled to the Carpathian Mountains, where we tried our hand at ceramics and attended a re-enactment of a traditional Hutsul wedding.

The next stop was Chernivsti where we learned a lovely Buko dance from Leonid Sydorчук, a talented Bukovenian choreographer, and went to a performance by Gerdan Theatre, which brought the audience to tears.

We then took a day trip to Mamavtsi for a performance with local performers and musicians as well as the local dance school.

Next was a short visit to Zhytomyr, where choreographer Rafail Malinowski taught us a beautiful Polissian ladies dance.

The final stop on our tour was Kyiv, where it was all about Virsky! We attended a Virsky workshop, sat in on one of their rehearsals (with a full orchestra!) and went to see them live in the concert hall.

We had an amazing experience and learned so much about Ukrainian culture, music, and folklore (and food!). The only question we have left is: "When can we go back?!"



Farewell from Sacha

By Darcy Defries

It is with a heavy heart that Sacha Skirzyk shares the news that he will not be returning to Sopilka this year. As you all know, he has been student at Sopilka for 5 years and has assisted Kristina and Makar for the past 2 years.

While at Sopilka he has competed in group dances, performed a duet with Megan Hnatiuk and presented a solo choreographed by his mentor, Kristina.

A few years ago, Sacha took up kayaking. This summer he was on the Canada games team and won a bronze medal in a team boat event. He also competed at a national level in Welland Ontario and won a bronze in a solo boat. This race qualified him to be part of a team called Olympic Hopes - they will be travelling to the Czech Republic to race from Sept 15-17.

Because of this success, Sacha's training schedule has become more demanding and he just can't squeeze any extra energy or time for dance this year.

Sacha would like to thank his dance mates, his teachers and especially, Kristina for all the fun over these past years.



New Website

Over the summer months, Sopilka's website underwent a complete overhaul. Now you will find features such as an interactive calendar of events, contact info, and more. Check it out at www.sopilkadance.com!!

Sopilka's Artistic Team

Sopilka is blessed with a team of incredibly gifted instructors, who also happen to be amazing dancers. For those of you who don't know them, their bios are given below:

Kristina Washchyshyn LCSC, CICB (School Director) is a graduate of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Teacher Training program and holds her Licenciante teaching designation with the Cecchetti Society of Canada and Cecchetti International Classical Ballet. She currently teaches at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet in the Recreational School and the Professional School's Teacher's Training Program. She was a dancer with Verba Ukrainian Dance Company for a period of three years where she was able to be a part of exciting events such as a performance with Chai Folk Ensemble and perform Trepak in the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's "The Nutcracker". She is a Co -

Artistic Director of Troyanda Ukrainian Dance Ensemble with friend and past Sopilka instructor Paul Doroniuk and was the Technical Director and Ballet Mistress at Rusalka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble over a period of 8 years. Ms Washchyshyn has traveled to Ukraine to further her studies as a director, choreographer and dance educator as well as attended workshops for Ukrainian dance within Manitoba and Alberta. She is proud to be Director for Sopilka for the ninth consecutive year. She enjoys sharing her passion and knowledge of dance education to her artistic team and the many talented students that make the Sopilka family.

Makar Storoschuk is thrilled to be in his fifth season as a member of the Sopilka artistic team. He has been Ukrainian dancing for 22 years and has taken part in dance competitions throughout Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta, winning several awards and scholarships. He has danced in several groups, such as Radeest, Troyanda, and Rusalka, and is a current dancer with Verba Dance Company. Makar also has tap, jazz, and ballet training.

Kiersten Knysch has been Ukrainian dancing for 16 years, 8 years with Selkirk Zorya Ukrainian Dance School and 6 years with Troyanda Ukrainian Dance Ensemble. She is now a member of Verba Dance Company. She was also a competitive dancer with Ken Peter's Dance Express for 7 years, where she trained in ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, and pointe. Kiersten has been involved in dance for much of her life whether it was competition, conventions, or performances in various places across the world. She believes in the combination of hard work, dedication, and fun but also values the friendships and memories that dance has to offer. Kiersten has a strong love for The Great Gatsby, cupcakes, and country music. She is happy to be back for a fourth year of teaching at Sopilka.

Emilia Radawetz began dancing 18 years ago. She started at St. Anne Ukrainian Dance School, continued with Rozmai Ukrainian Dance Company, is a retired senior Sopilka dancer, and is now dancing with Verba Ukrainian Dance Company. Dancing with Sopilka has provided many competition experiences for her, two of which resulted in winning the Amateur Dance Competition at Canada's National Ukrainian Festival, and having the opportunity to perform the following year on the grandstand stage. In 2012, she also received an award for highest senior solo mark at the Troyanda Ukrainian Dance Competition. She has been training at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School since the age of five and has completed her Advanced I Cecchetti examination. She has teacher-assisted many classes at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and received an award for her efforts in 2012. She is in her second and final year in the Teacher Training Program at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Professional Division. Emilia is very excited to be returning to Sopilka this year!

Carina Romangoli - From a young age Carina began dancing at Rozmai School of Ukrainian Dance and later became a member of Troyanda Ukrainian Dance Ensemble where she

continues to dance today. Carina has had the privilege of learning from a number of esteemed dance professionals including Ms. Kristina Washchyshyn, Mr. Paul Doroniuk, Mr. Vincent Rees, Mr. Serhij Koroliuk and many others who have all challenged her and contributed to her love for Ukrainian culture and dance. While dancing with Troyanda, she has had the opportunity to tour, workshop, and perform internationally, most recently having returned from Ukraine. Outside of dancing, Carina is a teacher in St. James Assiniboia School Division. Carina is thrilled to be joining the Sopilka family, and hopes to inspire her students work hard, be proud of their roots, and fully embrace their culture.

Sopilka Parent Advisory Committee (SPAC)

The Sopilka Parent Advisory Committee is in place to assist Kristina in the day-to-day running of the school. The Committee includes:

Jen Chapman – SPAC Chair & School Administrator

Jayne Drul – Treasurer

Jen Miles – Secretary

Chrissy Werestiuk-Kucinic/Vacant Position – Fundraising Coordinator

Vacant Position – Costume Coordinator

Denise George – Member at Large

As you can see there are a few vacancies on our parent committee. Anyone interested in helping out with costumes should contact Kristina as soon as possible. This position does not require that you are able to sew! It mainly involves fitting the costumes for the students, helping take measurements and assisting Kristina in the preparation for performances. If you are interested in the Costume Coordinator position or in assisting Chrissy with the fundraising position, please contact Jen.

Communication

Two email addresses are available to assist in communication between the dance school and all members.

Administrative and general questions/inquiries can be directed to **Jen Chapman** (SPAC Committee Chair) at sopilkawinnipeg@gmail.com.

Dancer, instructor, rehearsal and costume inquiries can be directed to **Kristina Washchyshyn** (Sopilka School Director) at director@sopilkadance.com. Kristina can also be reached on the school phone number at **204-285-9530**.

Important dates and other information will always be posted on our website at www.sopilkadance.com. We are also on Facebook!

Finally...

On all cheques and other correspondence, please indicate your child's last name in the memo line (if different from your own). Thank you!