

NEWS RELEASE

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INTERNATIONAL BALLET ENSEMBLE TO VISIT the GREATER LANSING AREA THIS SUMMER!

An announcement came today from Caroline de Mauriac, local Chairman for the international exchange project, that the Blue Lake International Ballet Ensemble will be performing a collection of contemporary dance pieces at the Holt High School on Tuesday, July 17th at 7:00 pm. The visiting group is made up of 37 young dancers (ages 13 – 19) from Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, a summer school of the arts located in Twin Lake, Michigan. The Blue Lake International Ballet Ensemble will depart on June 14 for a three week performance tour of Europe. Their goodwill tour will take them to Germany, Denmark, France and Belgium. Upon their return, a local performance by the ensemble will be sponsored by the Lansing based Children's Ballet Theatre of Michigan (CBT). The performance will be free with donations to benefit CBT.

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp's International Exchange Program was founded in 1969, and is dedicated to world-wide friendship through cultural exchange and the universal languages of music. Students are carefully chosen for the program on the basis of character, as well as artistic ability, to represent the finest example of American youth. The young ambassadors will be hosted by European ballet schools and their communities, where they will stay in private homes with local host families to enjoy the opportunity of making new friends and learning about the countries and people they visit. During their visit to the Lansing area July 16-18th the dancers will stay with host families from the surrounding area. Two local dancers are part of the 2012 International Ballet Ensemble; Sara Renee Harmon of Williamston and Liam Shaffer of Laingsburg,

The International Ballet Ensemble's midwest mini-tour performance in Holt will be hosted by the Children's Ballet Theatre of Michigan (CBT). The local group provides a youth-oriented, community-based ballet performance company. They perform The Nutcracker annually at the Wharton Center in addition to classic ballets such as Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella in their annual spring show. CBT hosts auditions in December after the close of the annual Nutcracker performance and in the spring. CBT also offers Dance Academy classes for all levels of dancers.

For more information about the two groups visit their websites at www.bluelake.org and www.cbtdance.org.

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