



THE PARIS OPERA BALLET SCHOOL SUMMER INTENSIVE 2019 REPORT



2019 Paris Opera Ballet School Summer Intensive, Nanterre

The 2019 Grants were made possible by the generous contribution of
Dr. & Mrs. Heiner Sussner;
the General Atlantic Foundation/ Mr. & Mrs. René Kern;
and the Angel Shine Foundation/ Ms. Allyson Tang & Mr. Thomas Widmann

THE PARIS OPERA BALLET SCHOOL SUMMER INTENSIVE: A RENOWN, PRESTIGIOUS & HIGHLY ANTICIPATED PROGRAM

"I am beyond grateful to have had the opportunity to have danced amongst incredible talent and learn from the POBS world renown teachers. I would like to thank everyone at the AFPOB for helping me be a part of the program."

Aviva Gelfer-Mund, American Exchange Scholar, "Superieur Pro" Level

Launched at the Paris Opera Ballet School in 2013, on the 300th Anniversary of the School, the *Summer Intensive Program* has been enjoying an increasing interest and success over the years.

Since 2016, a reciprocal program allowing for young dancers from the Paris Opera Ballet School to participate in the Summer Program in schools all over the world including in the United States, at the San Francisco Ballet School and since 2017, at the Boston Ballet School, the Houston Ballet School and Northwest Pacific School.

From its creation, the American Friends of the Paris Opera & Ballet has been willing to be involved and support this program by providing scholarships to French and American students. Based on the enthusiastic testimonies from the candidates it has become one of AFPOB's permanent programs.



A FEW KEY FIGURES

2013 206 Participants	2019 295 Selected Students	+ 43% participants within in 5 years
More than 50% foreign students every year	More than 50 different nationalities	30% of them are Americans

Presentation of the Paris Opera Ballet School Summer Intensive Program

The students are between 10 and 19 years old (from 6 different levels: *Junior, Elementaire 1 and 2, Intermediaire, Moyen 1 et 2, Avance, Superieur and Superieur PRO*) and are divided into nine to ten different levels according to age and abilities.

Girls and boys of the same level take the same classes, except for sex-specific disciplines (pointe shoes technique and boys' technique).

Tuitions depend on the length of the summer intensive (1 or 2 weeks), the level and the residential option (meals and accommodation), can cost up to 1,932 euros for 2 weeks.

The Summer School faculty includes teachers and pianists from the Paris Opera School and dancers from the Paris Opera Company.

At the end of the Summer School, parents and guardians are invited to the *Démonstrations* (final performance) to have an insight of the progressions made by the students.

A more and more selective program

The growing success of this Summer Intensive implies that the selection has to be more and more demanding and strict.

Ms. Elisabeth Platel – The Paris Opera Ballet School Director – is doing the selections.

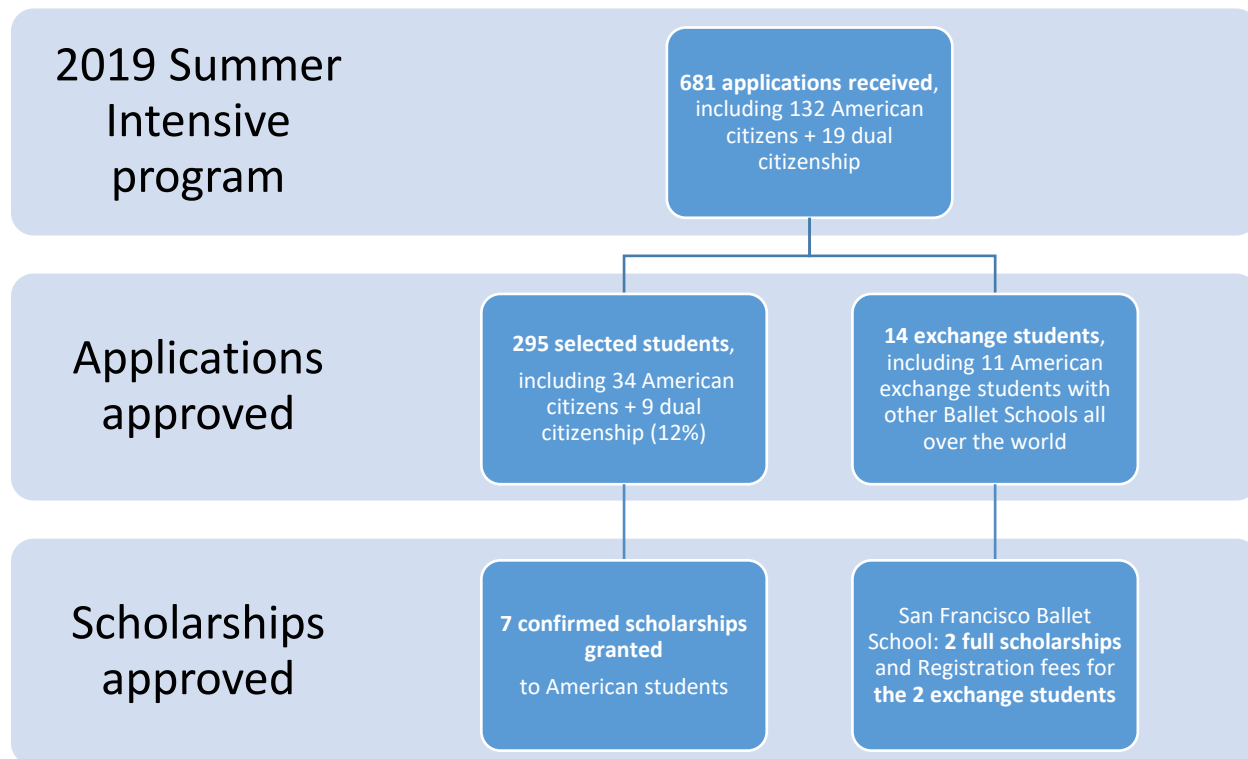
There are 3 steps of selection:

1. 1st application to be selected to participate to the Summer Intensive Program on videos
2. 2nd application to apply to a Scholarship
3. Selection made by AFPOB – depending on Elisabeth Platel's recommendations and support



1. The PARIS OPERA BALLET SCHOOL SUMMER INTENSIVE in 2019

In 2019, the Paris Opera Ballet School received:



2019 SELECTED SCHOLARSHIPS TO AMERICAN DANCERS

Thanks to the generous gifts of individuals & foundations, the American Friends of the Paris Opera & Ballet have been able to provide a scholarship to **the following American students chosen to the Paris Opera Ballet School Summer Intensive:**

First Name	LAST NAME	Ballet School	State	Level at POBS Summer School
Siena	APODACA	Amirian Ballet Academy & Nazgul Ryskulova Shinn	CA	Intermédiaire
Lydia	ENGLAND	Texas Ballet Theater	TX	Supérieur PRO
Aviva	GELFER-MUNDL	Vaganova Ballet Academy, St. Petersburg, Russia	RU	Supérieur PRO
Django	MASON	Boston Ballet School	MA	Supérieur PRO
Cyrus	SHASKAN	Colburn Dance Academy, Los Angeles	CA	Supérieur PRO
Alexa	STIRLING-JULIAN	Carmel Academy of Performing Arts	CA	Avancé
Natalie	YU	Los Angeles Ballet Academy	CA	Moyen 2

NB: Nationality is taken into account, not the student/school's location

A crucial financial help

The scholarships granted to American students are essential to financially help families cover the expenses of such an experience.

It appears that most of the Scholarship applicants and thus recipients are coming from the West Coast as the Summer Intensive in Paris is even further and becomes a more expensive trip. Thus, it allows them to offer their children to dream overseas.

"It is such a privilege for Natalie to attend summer school at Opéra national de Paris Ecole de Danse, but also to receive a scholarship from American Friends of the Paris Opera & Ballet, it is an honor.

Thank you Ms. Melite de Foucaud, the scholarship will help our family immensely and financially make Natalie's summer travel plans to Paris plausible.

Once again, thank you.

Warmest regards,

Nicole Kim
(Natalie Yu's Mom from America)

An extraordinary human, social and professional experience

For 2 weeks, the Summer Intensive Program offers a unique opportunity to train, be exposed to and benefit from, the technics of the Paris Opera Ballet, studying French ballet at the oldest ballet school in the world. In this program students learn techniques handed down over generations of dancers. They get the opportunity to work with some of the best instructors and performers of the Paris Opera Ballet, and develop skills and techniques they carry on into professional careers.

Not only the young students grow as a dancer but also as a human, for they get to discover the French culture, Paris and also meet with dancers coming from all over the world, sharing each one's culture, passion and get a common experience that will create strong bonds between them.

"I'm writing you about the incredible experience I had in Paris, France!

Over the two weeks of training that followed, I made connections with the teachers and several international friends! My new friends are from South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, Israel, England, Greece, and Russia! I learned how to further my technique, adapt the French style, and become a stronger dancer overall. I will never forget the corrections I received from the phenomenal teachers, and the memories I made with my diverse friends! Thank you again for the financial support. I'm eternally grateful for this opportunity and I will never forget the experience I had in Paris."

ALEXA JULIAN Carmel Academy of Performing Arts, "Avancé"
Level

2. THE EXCHANGE SUMMER INTENSIVE PROGRAM IN THE US

In 2019, the Paris Opera Ballet School renewed its exchange program partnerships with the following American Ballet schools in order to reinforce the links with:

- **The San Francisco Ballet School** (3 weeks) - 4 US students vs 2 French students (duration)
- **The Pacific Northwest Ballet School in Seattle** (2 weeks) - 2 US students vs 2 French students
- **The Houston Ballet Academy** (2 weeks) - 3 US students vs 1 French student
- **The Boston Ballet School** (2weeks) - 2 US students vs 2 French students

The **selection of the students** chosen to participate to the 2019 Summer Intensive was based on the following criteria:

- **Wishing list:** The 4 students were particularly interested in the Trainee Program offered by the SFBS (including a possibility to audition at the end of the summer intensive)
- **Teachers appreciations and assessments:** a merit-based selection
- **Age and career plan:** 3 students already passed their state diploma and are starting their professional career.

2019 SELECTED FRENCH DANCERS – TO GO TO US BALLET SCHOOLS

Schools	Dates	# of Students	POBS students' names
San Francisco Ballet School	07/15- 08/02 3 weeks	4	MESLIER Benjamin KATOCH Maïlène* ANQUETIL Apolline** TILAGONE Kylian**
Boston Ballet School	07/11- 07 /26 2 weeks	2	LEBLANC François SAUGAR Enzo
Houston Ballet Academy	07/11 - 07/27 2 weeks	1	TREVINAL Tanguï
Pacific Northwest Ballet School (Seattle)	07/29- 08/09 2 weeks	2	CANDELORO Maya PAJTLER Hortense

* *Maïlène Katoch had to cancel her participation due to a very last minute injury.*

***Received a full scholarship*

The **San Francisco Ballet School** has a special training that can lead students to be hired in the Company as Apprentice so many dancers in First Division (Final Year at School) are very interested in joining the Summer Intensive Program, as it can be determinant in their professional future.

Therefore, Ms. Elisabeth Platel selected 2 additional dancers (from the partnership) to have the opportunity to participate to the San Francisco Ballet School Program:

- **Miss Apolline ANQUETIL**
- **Mr. Kylian TILAGONE**

Where are they now?

The participation to the Summer Intensive Program in the US has strengthened their training and helped them join a renowned Ballet Company. Indeed, after participating to the San Francisco Ballet School Summer Intensive, the Students joined the following Ballet Companies:

- **APOLLINE ANQUETIL** auditioned successfully and joined the **Paris Opera** Corps de Ballet as Quadrille, in September 2019
- **BENJAMIN MESLIER** is now dancing in **Stockholm** with **Nicolas Le Riche**
- **KYLIAN TILAGONE** has joined the **Dance Company of Bordeaux**
- **MAÏLÈNE KATOCH** will be this year in first division of the **Paris Opera Ballet School**

*"Dear Misses Tang,
I am very blessed to know that you are supporting me from across the ocean for my future adventure at the Paris Opera Ballet! (...) And above all, as I said to Melite, I thank you a lot for having financed these wonderful three weeks that I just spent in San Francisco. It enriched me a lot and will help me for sure for my future experience with the Paris Opera Ballet."*

Apolline Anquetil – who received a full scholarship thanks to the support of the Angel Shine Foundation /Allyson Tang and Thomas Widmann



San Francisco Ballet School Summer Intensive – August 2019

IN 2020, TO BE CONTINUED

The Paris Opera Ballet School is an experience that transcends far beyond a two-week program. Many alumni of these programs, who received support through the AFPOB Scholarship Program, have continued into professional positions as dancers.

Our commitment to supporting talented young dancers regardless of their background or financial circumstances means that nothing stands in the way of a student's dream of a professional career in dance.

Once again, the American Friends of the Paris Opera & Ballet would like to express its gratitude to the generous and dedicated Patrons allowing to fund these scholarships in 2019 - with a total grant of almost \$30,000- and helping support all the talented French and American young dancers. A heartfelt thank you to:

Resa & Heiner Sussner
The General Atlantic Foundation/ Marie-France & René Kern
The Angel Shine Foundation/ Ms. Allyson Tang & Mr. Thomas Widmann

Looking ahead, AFPOB plans on continuing its mission to support the French American cultural exchange by providing scholarships to these young dancers offering them the opportunity of a lifetime and opening their horizons to multiple future prospective.

The 2020 Summer Intensive will be held at the Paris Opera Ballet School from July 6th to July 18th, 2020.



TESTIMONIES

We received numerous enthusiastic and grateful notes from the French and American students who got a scholarship from the American Friends of the Paris Opera & Ballet:

1. THANK YOU NOTES – BEFORE THE SUMMER INTENSIVE PROGRAM

- **FROM THE AMERICAN STUDENTS WHO ARE PARTICIPATING TO THE PARIS OPERA BALLET SCHOOL SUMMER INTENSIVE**
-

LYDIA ENGLAND

Texas Ballet Theater, “Superieur Pro” Level

Chère Madame,

Merci pour la bourse généreuse. J'ai toujours rêvé d'assister au cours intensif d'été de l'Opera Ballet de Paris, non seulement pour apprendre des meilleurs professeurs de danse du monde, mais aussi pour pratiquer le français.

Merci d'avoir rendu tout cela possible.

*Cordialement,
Lydia England*

SIENA APODACA

Amirian Ballet Academy & Nazgul Ryskulova Shinn, California, “Intermediaire” Level

Dear Ms de Foucaud,

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generous scholarship for our daughter to attend the prestigious Paris Opera Ballet School this Summer.

Our Daughter Siena, is so passionate about her art and we as parents are so blessed to see our 12 year old so focussed and dedicated with her own dream.

With your generous scholarship, we can support her hard work.

With our deepest gratitude, we thank you and your incredible foundation for this wonderful opportunity.

*Best Regards,
Sebastian, Kim & Siena Apodaca*



CYRUS SHASKAN

Colburn Dance Academy, "Superieur Pro" Level

My apologies for being a couple weeks late for sending a thank you letter but thank you so much for your generous offer of 800 euros. You have no idea what this means to me, helping me accomplish my dreams to study overseas for the summer.

Thank you so much and your kind donation will not be wasted.

ALEXA JULIAN

Carmel Academy of Performing Arts, "Avancé" Level

Dear Ms Melite de Foucaud,

I would like to thank the American Friends of the Paris Opera & Ballet for the incredible scholarship I've received. I'm so very grateful for this honor, as it will benefit my first international experience, immensely. I'm beyond excited for my first endeavor in Paris at the Paris Opera Ballet School, and I could not do it without your financial support.

*Sincerely,
Alexa Julian
Monterey, CA, United States*

NATALIE YU

Los Angeles Ballet Academy, "Moyen 2" Level

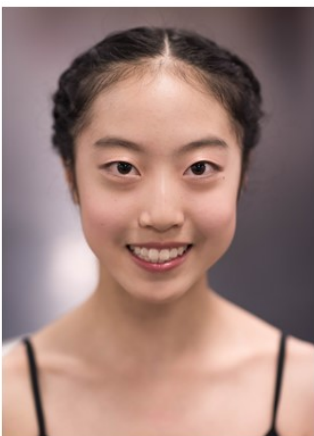
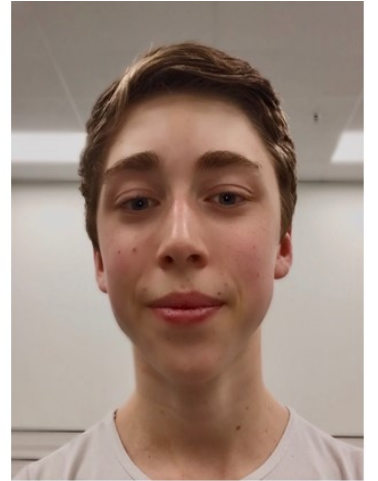
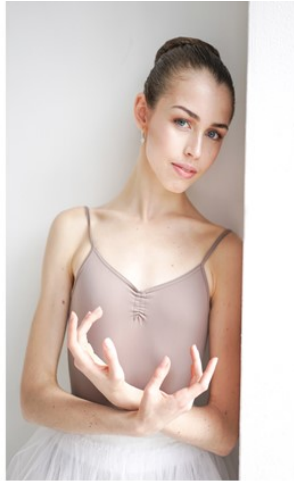
Dear Ms. Melite de Foucaud,

It is such a privilege for Natalie to attend summer school at Opéra national de Paris Ecole de Danse, but also to receive a scholarship from American Friends of the Paris Opera & Ballet, it is an honor.

Thank you Ms. Melite de Foucaud, the scholarship will help our family immensely and financially make Natalie's summer travel plans to Paris plausible.

Once again, thank you.

*Warmest regards,
Nicole Kim (Natalie Yu's Mom from America)*



- **FROM THE EXCHANGE FRENCH STUDENTS SELECTED TO GO TO THE SAN FRANCISCO BALLET SCHOOL SUMMER INTENSIVE**

APOLLINE ANQUETIL – who received a **full** scholarship thanks to the support of the Angel Shine Foundation /Allyson Tang & Thomas Widmann

Apolline Anquetil
Student at the Paris Opera Ballet School

Dear friends of the Angel Shine Foundation, dear Mrs. Tang,

I would like to start by thanking you so much for providing me with a scholarship for the San Francisco Ballet School 2019 Summer Intensive. I am very grateful that the foundation gives me the opportunity to participate in this high level training program.

Dancing in San Francisco with the teachers of this renewed school will not only allow me to improve my technical skills but will also make me discover a new style which will for sure enrich my artistic aptitudes. This Summer Program will also be a human adventure. I am looking forward to meeting other young students from all around the world. I am very eager to exchange with them about our passion for ballet but also about our different ways of life and cultures. This is a great opportunity to open my mind to new horizons and I thank you very much for that also.

I have been passionate for ballet for many years now. Dancing every day at the Paris Opera Ballet School helped me realize I wished dancing would become my job. The more I dance, the more I love it and see all the extent of this art. One of the things I like most is sharing emotions with the audience when on stage.

I hope to meet with you and thank you in person. I would be very happy to meet or exchange with you, or to answer any question you may have. Please find below my email address: apoanquetil@gmail.com

Let me tell you again how blessed I feel that the Angel Shine Foundation has chosen me as its new Angel Shine scholar. I realize how lucky I am to be your protégée. Be sure that I will do my best to honor that position at all times.

Yours sincerely,
Apolline Anquetil

KYLIAN TILAGONE – French Student who received a **full** scholarship from AFPOB to participate to San Francisco Ballet School Summer Intensive

Hello,

Dear American Friends, I am writing to you just to say that I am so grateful for the opportunity that you gave me! The summer intensive program of San Francisco is very important for me because I can get another opportunity, the one to be engaged in the school of San Francisco. Furthermore it's my first time in USA so with this summer intensive program it will be one of the greatest experience and memory I ever had! This summer intensive program is very expensive and without your financial help I could probably never have done it so for all of this THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Kinds regards.

Tilagone Kylian.

BENJAMIN MESLIER – French student who received a scholarship (all Registration fees) with San Francisco Ballet School

Dear American friends

I am Benjamin Meslier one of the Students of the Paris Opera Ballet School who'll benefit from your financial help to go to the San Francisco Summer School. I wanted to say personally a huge thank you to your association! Without your help I wouldn't be able to go to the San Francisco Summer School this summer. Since I was a little boy I wanted to become a professional ballet dancer. Dance means everything to me, it's all my life. I am actually at the Paris Opera Ballet School and I want to become a professional dancer in this company. However this Summer School is a way for me to maybe integrate this school if I am not hired in Paris Opera Ballet. In addition to this, even if I am taken, this Summer School will be a very good experience for me. It's really interesting to learn from other countries' dance styles, to meet other teachers, other dancers ... and I am particularly interested by the American ballet style. I am sure it will enrich me so much and it will improve my dance a lot. This Summer School is so important to me and for my potential career. I am so excited to discover the city of San Francisco though. It's all thanks to you if I can have this opportunity. I will never be able to thank you enough for this.

Best regards

Benjamin Meslier

MAILENE KATOCH – French student who received a scholarship (all Registration fees) with San Francisco Ballet School

Dear American Friends of Paris Opera Ballet School,

I would like to thank you for helping and giving me the opportunity to participate at the San Francisco Ballet School's summer courses. I appreciate their company a lot but I have never been able to go there and try their particular style. I am so excited to discover something new and to add it to my dance and personality. I know that I will grow and learn so much from this experience. I can't believe that I shall be spending three weeks at the San Francisco Ballet School surrounded by amazing teachers and students from so many different horizons. Your help means so much to me and I am really thankful about it because I totally realize how lucky I am. Without your help it would have never been possible for me to participate to this summer intensive that I always wanted to do.

Yours sincerely,

Maïlene Katoch

2. STUDENTS' FEEDBACK & TESTIMONIES AFTER THE SUMMER INTENSIVE

The following feedbacks and testimonies were received from the young dancers after their exchange program at the Paris Opera Ballet School after the program.

- **FROM THE AMERICAN STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED TO THE PARIS OPERA BALLET SCHOOL SUMMER INTENSIVE**
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CYRUS SHASKAN

Colburn Dance Academy, "Superieur Pro" Level

Hello Méliite,

Today my intensive came to an end and I was sad to leave, but I really had an amazing time in Paris. It was too bad the intensive was only two weeks but I feel I got a lot out of coming here.

I can't say I've mastered anything but I definitely found new things to work on and think about in my dancing. My balances and my control of my body through my movements were my biggest issue but was also a very eye opening lesson that I don't think I will ever forget. I also had an extraordinary time in the city going out every night seeing cool museums and being part of the Parisian culture while also realizing the amount of history that took place in the city I was dancing. It was unbelievable and I still can't believe I was in Paris. I still want to thank you so much in helping me make this experience possible. I will never forget this as long as I live.

*Thank you so much
Cyrus Shaskan*

ALEXA JULIAN

Carmel Academy of Performing Arts, "Avancé" Level

Dear Ms Melite de Foucaud,

*I'm writing you about the incredible experience I had in Paris, France!
My first day at the Paris Opera Summer Intensive was amazing. Over the two weeks of training that followed, I made connections with the teachers and several international friends! My new friends are from South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, Israel, England, Greece, and Russia! I learned how to further my technique, adapt the French style, and become a stronger dancer overall. I will never forget the corrections I received from the phenomenal teachers, and the memories I made with my diverse friends!*

Traveling in Paris, my mother and I visited: the Louvre, Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame (the exterior), Le Procope (the oldest restaurant in Paris), the Grande Arche, and my favorite, Opera de Garnier! Here are some pictures from our adventures...

Thank you again for the financial support. I'm eternally grateful for this opportunity and I will never forget the experience I had in Paris.

*Sincerely,
Alexa Julian*



SIENA APODACA

Amirian Ballet Academy & Nazgul Ryskulova Shinn, California, "Intermediaire" Level

Dear Ms de Foucaud,

Thank you so much for the extraordinary opportunity of studying at the Paris Opera Ballet this Summer. It was my first sleep away camp experience and while I found it difficult to be away from home, I cherish the memories.

I loved mime class and learned a lot in Baroque and character class as well. While my technique classes were not as challenging as I am accustomed to, here in America, I did learn to use more port de bras while dancing. I loved the friendships I made even though some of us couldn't speak each other's language. Thank goodness for apps and hand gestures.

My favorite memory was sitting with my friends at the end of the day, playing cards and singing songs.

I enjoyed the experience of going to Paris and was so lucky to watch the Paris Opera Ballet perform at the Palais de Garnier. It was amazing!

All in all, I am very grateful and I look forward to returning one day.

*With much Gratitude,
Siena Apodaca*



Stretching in Class

Having fun with a new friend Sylvia

Aviva Gelfer-Mundl

Vaganova Ballet Academy, St. Petersburg, Russia, "Superieur Pro" Level – 2nd Summer Intensive

To Ms. de Foucaud and everyone at American Friends of the Paris Opera & Ballet,

This summer I was lucky to be a part of 2019 Paris Opera Ballet School Summer Program. Last year after attending, I remember feeling so fortunate to have been given the opportunity, and dreamed of going back. Once again, my two weeks in Paris this July were career changing. I am beyond grateful to have had the opportunity to have danced amongst incredible talent and learn from the POBS world renown teachers. I would like to thank everyone at the AFPOB for helping me be a part of the program. The corrections, connections, and bonds I made during the two week program will be remembered and cherished forever. I am very fortunate to have attended the program in 2018 and 2019, something I would have not been able to do without your help and support!

Thank you so much for assisting me with this golden opportunity.

*With warmest wishes and much gratitude,
Aviva Gelfer-Mundl*

NATALIE YU

Los Angeles Ballet Academy, "Moyen 2" Level

Dear Melite,

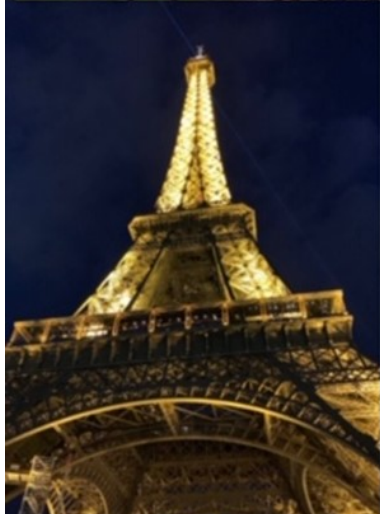
I want to say "thank you" for the wonderful experience Natalie had in Paris.

She returned home couple weeks ago from Paris and can't tell you how much Nat has grown since her two training at Paris of Opera.

Dancing in Paris, meeting ballerinas from other parts of the world, and not to mention teachers of Paris of Opera has opened her eyes and view the world of ballet in a whole different light.

Thank you so much and we hope Nat will have another opportunity in the future to participate and train once again at Paris of Opera. Natalie will send a separate email with her thoughts and experiences of Paris along with pictures.

*Warmest regards,
Nicole*



A F O B
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of the Paris Opera & Ballet

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