

Hello and Welcome to

PETROV BALLET SCHOOL

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Eugene Petrov
Artistic Director

Mission Statement:

The Petrov Ballet School is dedicated to providing quality training in and appreciation for the art of classical ballet.

Proper classical training is the cornerstone of a successful education for young dancers, giving them grace, versatility, endurance, discipline, and confidence to achieve any task at hand. Continuing in the best traditions of Russian ballet, we offer instruction for dancers ages 5 and up in all levels of expertise as well as classes for adults. The professional and courteous atmosphere of the school, as well as individual attention to every student, allows for a great experience in the exciting and beautiful world of dance.

About the Artistic Director:

Eugene Petrov is a native of St. Petersburg, Russia, and began his education with the International Folk Dance Ensemble at the prestigious Institute of Culture, where he was trained in character dance and classical ballet. By age 15, he became a company member, and shortly thereafter, was promoted to soloist. He performed with the company throughout Russia and its former republics, as well as in Europe and India. After arriving in the United States in 1992, he continued his training and worked as a teacher and leading dancer with Irine Fokine Ballet in Ridgewood, New Jersey. Currently, Mr. Petrov performs as a guest artist with Connecticut Ballet and with Sierra Nevada Ballet. He has danced principal and soloist roles in renowned classics such as Sleeping Beauty, The Nutcracker, Swan Lake, Paquita, and Romeo and Juliet, as well as many contemporary works, and has performed throughout the United States, including New York City; Washington DC; Reno/Lake Tahoe, NV; Cleveland, OH; Oneonta, NY; Phoenix, AZ; and Stamford, CT.

Mr. Petrov has over 15 years of teaching experience in both classical ballet and in character. He currently teaches all levels of ballet, from beginner through professional. His character classes, featuring styles of dance from around the world, are unsurpassed in popularity with his students. For the last four years, AFEE has provided grants to Hillside School of Allendale, NJ to have Mr. Petrov come to the school every day for two weeks in order to introduce and teach 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-grade students the athletic components of both ballet and character. He recently was asked to do a similar school program in Stamford, CT through the Connecticut Ballet school, as well as teach Connecticut Ballet company classes. Mr. Petrov is looking forward to continuing to be a part of the education and development of future generations of dancers here at the Petrov Ballet School.

Curriculum/Age/Placement:

Petrov Ballet School accepts students starting at age 5. After a brief evaluation by the faculty of the school, students will be placed into the appropriate class level. Level of classes will be determined by the student's ability as well as age. A solid foundation of training achieved in the lower level classes is essential for the successful progress of every student.

All students at the Petrov Ballet School must attend at least one ballet class per week at their appropriate level.

Ballet Classes

Beginner Ballet

(Approximate age: 5-7)

Ballet Level I

(Approximate age: 7-12)

Ballet Level II

(Approximate age: 8-12)

Ballet Level III

(Approximate age: 10-14)

Ballet Level IV

(Approximate age: 13-18)

Pointe Classes

Taking pointe classes is a natural progression of classical ballet training. Due to the difficult nature of the training, only when students are physically ready will they be allowed to join pointe class, and no student will be asked to go on pointe before they exhibit a desire and interest in doing so. Every student joining a pointe class must take a minimum of two ballet classes per week at Level II or higher.

Beginner Pointe

(Level II and up)

Intermediate Pointe

(Level III and up)

Advanced Pointe

(Level IV, Level III by invitation only)

Other Classes

Other classes offered at the Petrov Ballet School include Pas de Deux class, Stretch classes, Jumps & Turns class, Character classes, Adult Ballet and Stretch classes, and Boys class.

Pas de Deux (Partnered Adagio)

(Level III /Level IV)

By invitation only

Pas de Deux or partnered adagio class is one of the highest levels in a classical dancer's training.

Students will learn the intricacy of partnered duets between the ballerina and male danseur. Lifts, jumps, turns, and acting will be incorporated in this class under careful supervision of experienced instructors and partners. Note: Fees for the Pas de Deux class are not part of the regular tuition.

Junior Stretch

(Level I and up)

Senior Stretch

(Level III and up)

Jumps & Turns

(Level II and up)

Stretch and *Jumps & Turns* are specialty training classes. Each of them puts a strong emphasis on proper development and improvement in a specific area of a dancer's abilities. This in turn allows dancers further advancement in their regular ballet classes.

Stretch class allows students to concentrate on developing flexibility, strength, turnout, and extension. Carefully designed barre and floor exercises give them an opportunity to develop and strengthen all joints and muscles necessary for dance training and greatly reduces chances of injury.

Jumps & Turns class, loved by younger students for its excitement and lively pace, serves great purpose in the dancers' training. From an early age, dancers learn skills that make classical ballet and other forms of dance exciting and beautiful. Even though some of the steps and combinations are given in regular ballet classes, here the emphasis falls on developing proper approach to jumps, balance and coordination of turns, and spotless execution time and time again, making them second nature. As they progress, this will allow students to develop "body memory" in order to approach difficult combinations more confidently.

Junior Character

(Level II and up, Level I by invitation only)

Senior Character

(Level III and up)

Character Dance classes provide students with **authentic** training in this exciting dance style. Character Dance can be simply described as a stylized form of dance that takes its roots from folkloric traditions all over the world and is structured with ballet training. Character Dance is generally divided into two categories:

Classical Stage Character – character dance incorporated in classical ballets such as "Don Quixote," "Swan Lake," "Sleeping Beauty," "Raymonda," and many others.

Folk Stage Character is a stylized form of dance that reflects folkloric traditions, etiquette, and history of worldwide nations.

Students will be trained in both categories of Character Dance, as it is a very important part of classical training and education.

Boys Class

(Approximate age: 8 and up)

This class is a perfect introduction for boys and young men to the athleticism and excitement that the dance world provides.

This class, designed by a male instructor, puts emphasis on the physicality of dance: flexibility, coordination, strength, and agility—all qualities which are beneficial to the general physical development of young men, as well as extremely helpful and complementary to any other sport or athletic endeavor.

If, however, young men decide to study the art of dance further, this class also will provide them with the necessary base knowledge to join other classes in the curriculum.

Adult Ballet / Adult Stretch

(All Levels)

Adults are welcome to join our *Adult Classes*. We offer ballet classes of all levels from beginner to professional. *Adult Stretch* class is also a great way to stay limber and fit. Stretch class consists of barre and floor exercises—a great set of ballet stretches done to beautiful classical music.

Private Instruction and Coaching:

Private instruction and coaching are available for any student in Level III or Level IV. Dancers not currently enrolled at the Petrov Ballet School must first schedule an interview with the Artistic Director.

Performing Opportunities:

A crucial aspect of training at the Petrov Ballet School is to provide students with a wide variety of performing opportunities. Participation in any performance is not mandatory, however, it is our belief that through performing in front of the audience, our students will achieve full artistic and technical development as dancers and will

experience the unlimited joy and excitement of dance as a performing art.

In order to assure each student's continued training, no rehearsals will be conducted during regular classes.

We are always researching different venues and performing opportunities for our students to enrich their experiences as dancers and performing artists.

Annual Spring Gala

(Level I thru IV)

Littlest Gala

(Beginner Ballet Level)

Other Performances

(Level I thru IV by audition or invitation only)

Uniform and Conduct:

Student's uniform and proper conduct in the studio and during class is an important factor in proper training at our school.

Uniform

Girls: Black leotard (short or long sleeve), pink tights, pink canvas or leather ballet slippers (must be split sole). Hair must be neatly arranged in a tight bun. If the student has short hair it must be away from their face.

Boys: Black biker shorts or leggings, white t-shirt, white socks, black or white ballet shoes (must be split sole).

Special shoes may be required for Character Dance and other classes. Please consult our faculty.

For complete conduct information, please read our *Studio Policies* letter.

Parents' Involvement:

Parents' involvement in the student's training and education is crucial to their success.

During the year, the Petrov Ballet School faculty invites parents to have one-on-one interviews to discuss their child's future goals, their progress, placement, and potential. The interviews are held at the beginning and at the end of each semester. For convenience, the appointments for interviews can be scheduled over a period of 2-3 weeks.

Parents are always welcome to observe classes through the windows in the lobby. (Please bear in mind that during the class, students' attention should be directed to the instructor and the task at hand, rather than at the parents observing them.)

Parents of students in *Level I through Level IV* are invited for an in-class observation during the first week of each month.

Parents of students in *Beginner Ballet* are invited to observe their child in class on the first week of November, February, and May.

The last week of January each year we will also have *Open School Observation Week*. All parents and their children are invited to observe any class on the schedule.

We encourage you to contact our faculty and staff with any questions, concerns, or issues you may have. Our students are very important to us, so you can set an appointment or contact us by telephone or e-mail at any time.

Petrov Ballet School is always in need of volunteers. Here are some of the areas that we can use your help: Adult supervision for performances and tours; advertisement and publicity; web development and management; fundraising; help with costumes and production scenery; ushers; and backstage help during performances. We try to make your children's experience at our school as full and as exciting as possible, so your help will be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in helping, please contact our staff with your area of interest and ability. Thank you in advance.

Registration Process:

The registration process is simple and quick. After meeting with the faculty members of the school during registration time, all the beginner students age 5-7 will be placed in the *Beginner Ballet* level. New students with previous experience age 7 and up will be asked for a quick 10-minute audition in the studio. This will ensure placement in the correct level. We do ask all students to bring appropriate attire for the audition. Parents are welcome to accompany students into the studio for the duration of the audition.

The Registration Form must be completed and signed along with the Registration Fee before the audition can take place.

We are honored to take part in your child's education, training, and development, and we are looking forward to seeing our students experience the wonderful world of dance and becoming members of the Petrov Ballet School family.