



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SARASOTA CUBAN BALLET SCHOOL TO STUDY AND COMPETE IN THE  
23RD INTERNATIONAL BALLET SCHOOLS COMPETITION OF HAVANA**

Sarasota Cuban Ballet School students and faculty are making their third trip to Havana, Cuba. Nineteen SCBS students will study at the Fernando Alonso Ballet School from April 8-19, 2017. They will study under the direction of Cuban instructors alongside international students and Cuban national students. SCBS Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director Ariel Serrano will also teach classes at the school while visiting his homeland. Seven SCBS students will compete in the 23rd International Ballet Schools Competition of Havana while in Cuba.

Four of them are from Sarasota:

- Harold Mendez, Sarasota High School, age 15
- Olivia Ratner, Sarasota High School, age 15
- Edlyn Wernicoff, Pine View High School, age 15
- Lauren Teyke, Pine View High School, age 16

“This is an incredible opportunity for our students to study and compete in Cuba,” said Ariel Serrano, Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of SCBS. “They’ll not only enhance their skills, they’ll have the experience of a lifetime.”

**About The Sarasota Cuban Ballet School**

SCBS was founded in 2012 by the Cuban-born husband and wife team of Ariel Serrano and Wilman Hernandez. Born in Cuba, they trained at the elite National Ballet School of Cuba and performed internationally. In 1993 they moved to Sarasota to join the Sarasota Ballet. Co-Artistic Directors of SCBS, they teach classes at all levels for students from age three to adults, but the heart of the School’s program is a rigorous training course to prepare talented, serious young dancers for professional careers. Students of SCBS have gone on to perform with Dance Theater of Harlem, Milwaukee Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Ballet West, Boston Ballet, Ballet Manila, Ballet Municipal de Lima and The Royal Ballet.

**About the Cuban Style**

SCBS is the only school in the United States specializing in the Cuban training style, which is renowned for its athleticism, passion and grace. The Cuban Style is an authentic movement of style of classical ballet with influences from the major schools of ballet—French, Italian and Russian. It emphasizes dancing with the entire body and promoting harmonious movement among arms, legs and torso. It is a very clean and precise, but not stiff. It has a romantic feel, with attentive partnering, and is changing the face of modern ballet with superb technique and impeccable footwork. This award-winning School provides world-class ballet instruction in the tradition of the Cuban method.

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