



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**SARASOTA CUBAN BALLET SCHOOL WINS GOLD AND BRONZE IN
23RD INTERNATIONAL BALLET SCHOOLS COMPETITION IN HAVANA**

The Sarasota Cuban Ballet School (SCBS) is pleased to announce that three SCBS students won medals, and two students were finalists, in the 23rd International Ballet Schools Competition in Havana, Cuba. Medal winners and finalists were announced on Wednesday, April 19, at the National Theatre of Cuba. The SCBS students were:

- Harold Mendez, age 15: Gold Medal—Intermediate Category
- Anna Bassett, age 16: Bronze Medal—Intermediate Category
- Sierra Cummings, age 18: Bronze Medal—Advanced Category
- Olivia Ratner, age 15: Finalist—Intermediate Category
- Edlyn Wernicoff, age 15: Finalist—Intermediate Category

SCBS students and faculty made their third trip to Cuba with 19 students who trained under the direction of Cuban instructors at the Fernando Alonso Cuban National Ballet School from April 8 to 19 alongside international students and Cuban national students.

“We are so proud of our students and how they represented the United States in this international competition,” said SCBS Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director Ariel Serrano. “Taking home three medals is a huge accomplishment and shows the dedication, hard work and talent that our students have.”

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 Cuban National Ballet School 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 adult, 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 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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