



Welcome to the 2015-2016 season! Celebrating 20 years of providing professional training for the aspiring dancer, I have the pleasure of watching Avery Ballet dancers the accomplishments of the Avery Ballet dancers who are studying/performing throughout the U.S. and abroad.

It is very fitting that our presentation of Ballet & Beyond II this past June was a benefit for the University of Mary Washington Sonja Dragomanovic Haydar Scholarship in Dance. After retiring from what was then Mary Washington College, Mrs. Haydar served as artistic advisor and guest choreographer for Avery Ballet. She continued this position until her death in 2005. Since this time, her position was never filled. It is with great pride that I announce the appointment of Amy Patricia Watson, Principal Dancer with the Royal Danish Ballet as the new Artistic Advisor to Avery Ballet. Sharing my vision that was nurtured by Sonja Haydar, Miss Watson will bring her international experience and expertise to Avery Ballet.

Developing a pre-professional program of training at Avery Ballet has evolved from my 35 years of teaching where I have had the pleasure of seeing dancers who have graduated from the school succeed in dance, as well as all areas of life. My philosophy on dance is built on a tradition that is rich in discipline. I hold high expectations from the dancers at Avery Ballet, not only technically, but in how they conduct themselves in and out of the studio.

Through my years in dance, I have seen the expectations for the dancer change. The pre-professional program at Avery Ballet prepares the dancer to be a technically strong and expressive dancer who will be able to adapt to any style required by today's choreographers. Avery Ballet provides state of the art studios to nurture optimal training. Three studios with Sprung Marley floors, and 14-foot ceilings, surrounding windows allows a dancer to train in a professional atmosphere and excel in their work.

The pre-professional curriculum includes a full ballet schedule with "electives" in modern, contemporary, lyrical, jazz, choreographic exploration, and independent studies. Dancers in the program will be trained to prepare both body and mind for the demands of dancing. Our pre-professional dancers are required to train in Pilates to condition and strengthen the body.

Students accepted to the program will have the opportunity to work with resident and guest choreographers as well as choreography currently in the Avery repertoire.

The major performance for the Pre Professional I dancers will be an early 2016 performance (Ballet & Beyond III) at the University of Mary Washington, Dodd Auditorium. There will be a written contract with requirements and commitments for rehearsals clearly stated.

I am honored to begin this new season under the guidance of Amy P. Watson!

Sincerely,

Lisa Snape Avery

Director