

PRESS RELEASE

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Ukrainian “Barvinok” Dancers of Ballet Bellevue Perform at Annual Boeing Diversity Event

Bellevue, WA – Teen/Young Adult dancers age 15-25 will perform a traditional Ukrainian “Hopak” at Boeing’s Annual Diversity Event festivities on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at noon at the Everett Events Center (Comcast Arena) in Everett, WA. The invitation was issued when Ballet Bellevue’s Barvinok dancers were seen at Seattle’s 2009 Folklife Festival by Kishore B. Savanth, Diversity Team Leader at Boeing Commercial Aircraft.

The Barvinok program has grown from a small group of young girls who began studying at Ballet Bellevue in 2003 with Tatyana Luzanova, at the request of Ukrainian families in the Seattle area. As the girls grew up, young men showed up to participate, creating today’s vibrant teen/adult ensemble. The program for young children (age 5 to 14) is now also co-ed. Since 2007, Instructor and coach, Brad Jacula, has inspired and trained the dancers, assisted by Ballet Bellevue faculty, Jill Adomaitis and Christina Stockdale.

Barvinok dancers of the younger set brought home the 2009 trophy from British Columbia’s annual Ukrainian Cultural Festival Competition, formerly won only by Canadian groups in the competition’s seven year history.

For both the children and teen/adult Barvinok dancers, authentic costumes are created by

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noted Ukrainian artist, Oleksandra Pryveda, and parent volunteers led by Valentina Drogomiretskiy.

Weekly Barvinok classes are held at Ballet Bellevue School on Tuesday (Teen/Adult) and Thursday (children) evenings in Bellevue's historic Ballet Arts Center, 204 100th Avenue N.E. in downtown Old Bellevue. For class times call 425.455.1345 or visit www.balletbellevue.org.

Ballet Bellevue is a non-profit organization. presenting professional dancers in classical ballet, contemporary masterpieces and new works by Northwest artists. The company's dedication to dance education has created an amateur Student Division to provide performing opportunities for students of Ballet Bellevue School* and other schools in the Puget Sound region, by audition.

*Ballet Petit, child and teen groups of Barvinok Ukrainian Folk Dance, TBM Hip Hop/Salsa and child and adult groups of Anadolu Turkish Folk Dance.

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