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Ballet announces New Class for 4 Year Olds

School of Canton Ballet early childhood division has added a third weekly Creative Movement 1 class for 4 year olds on Saturdays at 9:30-10 a.m. The new weekend class will benefit children with working parents. Two other Creative Movement 1 classes meet on Wednesdays at 4:15-4:45 p.m. and Thursdays at 12:30-1 p.m. The school's fall semester begins September 3. Students can register anytime as long as there is space available in the class.

The classes are taught by longtime early childhood specialist Julie Mizer Grasse. A former Canton Ballet company dancer herself, Grasse also has taught preschool in the Canton area for many years.

The division classes provide opportunities for young children to release imagination and creativity through physical movement. They learn articulation of their body parts, such as finger, toes, etc., and begin work on coordination, rhythm and musicality (classes enjoy live piano accompaniment).

Early childhood classes range from Mommy & Me (or daddy, grandparent, friend) for toddlers (to age 3) and Predance for 3 year olds to Creative Movement 2 for 5 year olds.

Under the artistic direction of Cassandra Crowley, the School of Canton Ballet is in its 36th year of continuous operation. The school offers instruction for all ages 2 through adult. The classes take place in the Canton Ballet studios in the Cultural Center for the Arts at 1001 Market Ave. N. in downtown Canton.

For registration and other information call Canton Ballet at 330-455-7220. Information also is available at cantonballet.com.

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With an annual budget of over \$600,000 Canton Ballet comprises Ohio's largest preprofessional ballet company and a school that ranks among the three largest preprofessional dance training centers in the state. Since its inception in 1965 Canton Ballet has produced over 130 premieres and held honor company status in Regional Dance America since 1983. It has developed a series of educational and outreach programs serving 5,000 school children annually and a comprehensive financial assistance program which includes the Kerri Hunter Minority Scholarship for talented and underserved youth. Canton Ballet holds membership in national and state dance service organizations RDA and OhioDance and receives funding support from county arts council ArtsinStark and the Ohio Arts Council.