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## **BalletMet Dance Academy student dancer selected for the Prix De Lausanne Student among 81 finalists in international competition**

**COLUMBUS, OH**—The BalletMet Dance Academy has announced that Delaware resident Christopher Evans, son of Joanna and B.B. Hatanaka, has been named a candidate in the Prix De Lausanne, an international dance competition for young dancers.

A record 226 young dancers submitted videos for the selection process that took place in October. Evans, 15, was one of 81 candidates selected among the applicants to move forward to the final round of the competition, which will take place in Lausanne, Switzerland, in January. Evans is one of only five U.S. born among the 81 candidates.

“It’s such an honor,” Evans said. “It’s like the Olympics of dance, and I’m representing the United States.”

Evans began dancing at age 4 after being inspired by a performance of *The Nutcracker* with Mikhail Baryshnikov. He has studied with the BalletMet Dance Academy for three years and is in the Pre-Professional program. The home school student spends nearly every day at the BalletMet studios in downtown Columbus, often taking the bus from Delaware. Evans said he is fortunate to be in an environment like BalletMet, where he has the opportunity to take class with and gain insight from professional dancers.

In the Prix finals in Switzerland, Evans will be evaluated in classes and his performance in classical and contemporary variations. Along with his mother, Evans will travel abroad with BalletMet Academy Director Susan Brooker.

“We are very proud that Chris is one of two American male students going forward to compete against young dancers from all over the world,” Brooker said. “Although he is still young, his potential is evident. We are delighted to be able to help Chris and our other young dancers on their way to a career in this wonderful art form.”

Mrs. Hatanaka said she is thrilled her son will meet young dancers around the world as passionate as he is about dance. “It will be nothing but an enriching experience for him.”

The Prix de Lausanne is an international competition for dancers ages 15 to 18. The competition seeks to discover, promote, and support the talent of the world’s most gifted young dancers. Many former winners now dance with renowned companies including The Royal Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and the Ballets de Monte Carlo. Prizes include a scholarship to study for one year at one of the Prix partner schools.

**ABOUT BALLETMET COLUMBUS:** BalletMet Columbus, renowned for its versatility and innovative repertory, ranks among the nation’s largest dance companies, and its Dance Academy ranks among the largest professional dance-training centers. Since its inception in 1978, BalletMet has added 152 Company premieres to its repertoire and produced 124 world premieres. It has also developed DanceReach, a series of educational and

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outreach programs that serve more than 20,000 people annually; through DanceReach, up to 70 Dance Academy scholarships each year give access to talented youth, many from minority and underserved groups, who cannot otherwise participate.

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