

Ballet Grand Prix Vienna 2021 – For immediate release

The Ballet Grand Prix Vienna is an international ballet and contemporary dance competition for all dancers between the ages of 8 and 27 around the world and is organised by the NCCEA (New Century Culture Exchange Association), in Vienna, Austria – usually taking place in July.

BALLET GRAND PRIX VIENNA 2021 – ONLINE EDITION

Vienna, Austria (October 31st 2021) - With several postponements due to the global pandemic, the 9th International Ballet and Contemporary Dance Competition took place at the end of October, from the 27th until the 30th, virtually for the first time. A 10-member Jury from 8 countries, with world famous ballet dancer Mr. Vladimir Malakhov being the chairman, gathered virtually via Zoom to evaluate the pre-recorded videos sent from 193 candidates (171 girls and 22 boys) representing 22 countries.

The competition was broadcasted via YouTube Premiere over two days. The selected finalists were broadcasted on the 29th of October and the Awards Ceremony took place on the 30th of October, as well via YouTube Premiere. During this time, two masterclasses took place via Zoom with Mr. Vladimir Malakhov and jury member Ms. Sandra Castro-Mühlbauer, respectively.

Finally, the jury carefully selected the top three in each category, alongside some additional awards. The candidates received certificates, and monetary prizes in selected categories.

In memory of Prof. Karl Musil, the *In memoriam Karl Musil Prize 2021* was awarded to candidate Erik Woolhouse alongside his 1st prize in his category, who is dancer with the English National Ballet. Mr. Vladimir Malakhov also dedicated his *Malakhov Prize*, which was awarded to candidate Lejin Liu, who is student with the Beijing Dance Academy.

List of representing schools in the awards ceremony

Australia

- Melbourne Academy of the Arts

Austria

- Academie de Danse
- Mariya Mizinskaya Ballettschule

Bulgaria

- Ballet studio Djulia

Canada

- Goh Ballet, Canada
- Mont Royal Ballet Academy

China

- Beijing Dance Academy
- Ballet School of Liaoning Ballet
- Guangzhou Ballet Company
- Suzhou Ballet Company
- Zhejiang Music University

Germany

- Thüringer Staatsballett, Germany

Hungary

- Hungarian Dance Academy

Japan

- Sawako Murase Ballet School (PBK)
- Mami Ballet Class (PBK)
- Ballet Studio Assemble (PBK)
- CJK Ballet Studio (PBK)
- Ballet of America (PBK)
- Imaoka Syoko Kato Kiyoko Dance Space (PBK)
- Keiko Honda Ballet Academy
- Mika Ballet Studio
- Kawakami Keiko Ballet School (PBK)
- Ballet Studio Infinity
- Yukari Yoshitake Ballet Studio (PBK)
- Otomo Chinami Ballet Studio (PBK)

Malaysia

- Asia Ballet Academy

Romania

- Casa de Balet

Serbia

- National Ballet School Lujo Davičo

Singapore

- Cheng Ballet Academy
- Yan Ballet Academy

South Korea

- Lausanne Ballet Academy Korea
- Yoo's Ballet Conservatory

South Africa

- Eborall, Melville, De Witt Ballet School

Ukraine

- National Opera of Ukraine
- Kyiv State Ballet College

United Kingdom

- English National Ballet

United States

- Marat Daukayev School of Ballet

HISTORY

It all began in 1996 with the first national Ballet / Contemporary dance competition held in Vienna, which later became one of the most important international competitions. They were organised by the Austrian Dance Council (ÖTR) under the direction of Prof. Karl Musil (2013†) and Prof. Evelyn Teri, both well-known international pedagogues and choreographers in the world of ballet. With its great success, further competitions took place in the years 1997, 1999, 2001, 2004, and 2007 respectively. The ÖTR CONTEST acted as a big milestone for many winners such as Jana Salenko, Dinu Tamazlacaru, Nina Poláková, Liudmila Konovalova, Roman Lazik, Mihail Sosnovschi, Jakob Feyferlik, Daniil Simkin and many more, who have successfully reached major stages and achievements all around the world.

In 2013, the NCCEA (New Century Culture Exchange Association), led by President Sophia Li, has taken over the organisation of the contest renamed as WienWeltWettbewerb. Ever since, the NCCEA has arranged the 7th, 8th, and 9th International Ballet and Contemporary Dance Competitions in 2014, 2019 and 2021, respectively, which have also become one of the most prestigious competitions in Europe and its world of dance.

Due to the outspread of the global pandemic in 2020 and its challenges on the cultural sector, the latest edition was rescheduled twice and was eventually organised as part of an online event and has been marked as the competition's first online edition, with great success. Despite the challenges in the cultural sector during this time, the NCCEA organisers used the time to improve and rebuild the competition's branding and concept and have finally announced its new name Ballet Grand Prix Vienna in June 2021.

Our masterclasses and seminars are conducted by renowned and highly qualified authorities in their professional fields. We have had significant jury members, such as Vladimir Malakhov, Susanne Kirnbauer, Jörg Mannes, Chan Hon Goh, Renato Zanella, Yifei Zhao or Park Jae Kaeun. Our goal is to provide an ideal platform for intercultural communication. Under usual circumstances, the competition closes with a gala evening and selection of winners from the competition, who will get the opportunity to perform together with internationally famous dancers from different countries, amongst who were Matthew Golding, Davide Dato, Prisca Zeisel or Maria Yakovleva, and many more.

MISSION OF THE BALLET GRAND PRIX VIENNA

Our mission is to promote excellence in dance, support artistic and cultural diversity, and provide more opportunities for the public to experience the best in classical and contemporary forms. Furthermore, it is our goal to inspire and educate the public about dance through the production and presentation of high-quality events and educational programmes, as well as to find established dance artists from around the world and promote them in Vienna, the capital of art and culture. Not only do we offer students the experience to present themselves in the contest pool, but we also aim to provide this opportunity to professional dancers to benefit from learning the best from renowned dance artists.

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