

Profile of the Vancouver Csárdás (Hungarian Children's) Dance Group

The Vancouver Csárdás (Hungarian Children's) Dance Group is a non-profit group, presently operating under the non-profit organization of the Hungarian Cultural Society of Vancouver. The dance group has existed for over 30 years, welcoming children (4-15 yrs) of all nationalities & providing the opportunity to learn and appreciate the art form of Hungarian cultural dance. This long standing history is testament to the sustainability and lasting impact of the dance group. Fund-raising opportunities/events are continually worked on by the very active parent base of the group, so that the group may continue to flourish.

The Csárdás dance group's program offers a clear benefit to the community through the opportunity it provides for all children of varying nationalities and economic backgrounds to participate in learning about music, rhythm and songs through dance and builds confidence in showcasing the children's developed talent as performers. As well, the numerous performances prepared are done so for the pleasure of the community, both residents and visitors to the Greater Vancouver area.

The Csárdás dance group exposes the community to Hungarian culture via festivals, such as the European festival, Western Canadian Hungarian Cultural Festival and festivals of various other cultures. The group is often called upon as guest dancers at the cultural centres of such nationalities as Serbia, Austria, Greece and Poland. They also volunteer to perform at seniors' homes, schools and community centres. Being children, they are always especially well received!

The Csárdás dance group continually seeks out new events and opportunities to showcase its performances, as well as returning to previous years' events. Through this pro-activeness to sharing the group's talents, the program continues to be of interest to the community in which it is home to, as well as many far reaching communities within the Lower Mainland and beyond. As a result, the community benefits by learning through the children's performances about the culture, history, music, song and dance of Hungary.

Presently, there are 12 dancers in the group. They currently have three dances prepared (four as of late summer), from three different regions of Hungary. They are:

Szatmári (Dance of the Szatmár region, NE Hungary)

Somogyi lassú & friss czardas (Dance of the Somogy region, SW Hungary)

Délalfoldi táncok (Dances of the Southern Plains)

For more information on interest in joining the dance group or in inviting the dance group to perform, please contact us at hungariandancegroup@gmail.com

The Vancouver Csárdás(Hungarian Children's) Dance Group



Instructor Profiles

My name is Robert Florian and I am currently the instructor and choreographer of the Vancouver Csárdas (Hungarian) Dance Group. I have been teaching this group of children for the past seven years with my teaching partner, Szilvia Pál. I have been involved as a Hungarian dancer for over twenty years and began as a student in this group in the late seventies. I have danced not only with this group, but was also a member of the Victoria Buza Virág dancers for over ten years. I am now a member of the Forrás Hungarian Dance Group where I continue to hone my skills in the art of Hungarian folk dancing. My knowledge comes from years of attending numerous workshops in Hungary, the United States, as well as here in Canada. The majority of my training stems from private and group lessons from professional dancers from groups in Hungary and Transylvania. My main purpose as an instructor of this children's group is to pass on my years of training and to encourage young people not only of Hungarian decent, but all children in our community who would be interested in gaining an appreciation and a love towards the art of Hungarian folk dancing, music, song and rhythm.

Robert Florian

My family has been a part of Hungarian cultural music, dance and history preservation for a very long time. From an early age, I have been closely associated with Hungarian folk art, introduced through my siblings who were founding members of the Transylvanian cultural dance movement in the early 1970's. I often followed my siblings to dance practices and performances. I was already a group member of a number of dance groups, before the age of 10.

In 1990, I became part of the cultural dance group of my college, to which I attribute my continued love for dance as an adult. Since coming to Canada in 2004, I am pleased to be able to pass on this knowledge not only to my own children, but to the children of the Vancouver Csárdás Dance Group who are of varying nationalities. I have been a partner in teaching these children, to Robert Florian, for nearly seven years. I also continue to enjoy the art form as a performer, being a member of the Forrás Hungarian Dance Group here in Vancouver.

Szilvia Pál

Instructors performing at the Greek Festival



Instructors & children performing together:



Performing at the 2008 Western Canadian Hungarian Dance Festival: Sydney, BC





Group photo 2008



Group photo 2010

