



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 5, 2008

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MARY DAY SCHOLARSHIP FUND IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2008-2009 GRANTEES

Washington, DC - Mary Day, Founder/Director of The Washington School of the Ballet and The Washington Ballet was renowned as "The Grand Dame of Ballet in the Nation's Capital." In addition to her many other achievements and memberships, Miss Day was a Founding Director of THE LAUREL FUND for the performing arts, and after her death in July 2006, The Laurel Fund created **The Mary Day Scholarship Fund** to memorialize her commitment to the training and development of talented ballet students.

The scholarships are available to talented young dancers to study ballet at the school of their choice. The deadline for the 2008-2009 awards is June 15, 2008. Applicants will be notified by July 15 and the award(s) will begin in September 2008 for the 2008-2009 school year.

Young dancers between the 8th and 12th grades who have had at least three years of ballet training, some performance experience and who have career aspirations in ballet are eligible to apply for a **Mary Day Scholarship**. Application forms including the required essay should be accompanied by letters of recommendation from the applicant's ballet teacher and coaches, the 2007 parental W2 forms and a three minute audition tape. An audition and an interview may be required. A committee of experts chosen by the Board of The Laurel Fund will choose the grantee(s).

The number of young dancers selected to receive scholarships will vary from year to year and will depend on the funds needed for each grantee.

Each grantee will pursue his/her training at the institution stipulated by the grant and will be expected to notify The Laurel Fund of performances he/she will be participating in during the school

year. At the end of the school year, each grantee will be required to submit an essay about his/her year and send a three minute video of performance or class during the last month of the grant.

The first **Mary Day Scholarship** was awarded last summer to Matthew Dowsette to study at New York City Ballet's School of American Ballet (SAB).

THE LAUREL FUND for the performing arts was founded in 2000 by Elvi Moore to promote all the performing arts and to encourage, nurture and assist economically deserving young artists from the DC metropolitan area, and to instill in them the spirit of giving back to the community. From 2000 to 2006, The Laurel Fund awarded 68 tuition scholarships to study music, dance and theater. Laurel Fund grantees performed at 60 local venues including homeless shelters, drug recovery centers, hospitals, youth centers and residences for seniors, among others. Beginning in 2005, The Laurel Fund has presented *Capital Talents*, which showcases in one performance the artistry and diversity of some of metropolitan Washington, DC's most gifted youth. The 2005, 2006 and 2007 performances were held at DC's historic Lincoln Theatre , and the 2008 performance will be held at Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage on June 11.

For more information on the **Mary Day Scholarships**, including an application form, please visit The Laurel Fund website at www.thelaurelfund.org For additional questions, email info@thelaurelfund.org or write to THE LAUREL FUND for the performing arts, P.O. Box 5622, Washington, DC 20016.