



The Dance Design School  
Teaching the heart of dance & music

## The Helen McLennan Founder Scholarship For the aspiring ballet dancer.

“Learning is not a preparation for life, it is life itself”. Mrs. McLennan has spent a lifetime pursuing the art of dance and her great love of Ballet. Her passion for dance has led her across the world, from a childhood spent in Kenya, learning from a Russian teacher, to England for the Royal Academy of Dance training, to Canada and eventually to the United States, where she founded both the Hudson Valley Dance Theatre and the Dance Design School in 1984. Over the years Helen has taught and learned from hundreds of Dance Design School students. Although she is now retired in Mexico and volunteering to teach for Isaac Hernandez’s father Hector and his schools, she is always thrilled to hear from her former students, many of whom went on to pursue careers in the arts themselves. Others are now doctors, lawyers, scientists, Disney royalty, Broadway performers, and even teachers. These former students have formed lifetime friendships with each other, and have traveled all over the globe. Coming full circle, two former Dance Design School students of hers are currently teachers in Africa themselves, eagerly sharing their love of Ballet with their new pupils: “I love how dance can transcend generations and continents and languages!”

This scholarship represents Mrs. McLennan’s deeply held belief that ballet, especially, is the key to expanded learning throughout life. Her current students, some of whom are between 50 and 85 years old, are testament to that belief.

Best wishes to all our scholarship applicants.

The H.M. Founder Scholarship will be awarded to one ballet dancer and cover the cost of her 4th ballet class per week for the duration of the 2024-2025 school year.

### Eligibility:

- \*Applicant must be age 8-14 at the time of the audition (July).
- \*Applicant must take a minimum of 1 ballet class per week, but wish to take an additional class.
- \*Applicant must have the full permission and support of her parents.
- \*Applicant may not miss any class except in the case of illness. All missed classes must be made up with an additional class. Any missed classes that are not made up within 1 month could cause the loss of scholarship money.

### Application Process:

- \*Fill out the scholarship application and submit before July 20.
- \*Schedule an audition time. Applicants should wear a ballet leotard, tights, and ballet slippers. Applicants will be asked to listen to a short piece of classical music, they will perform a ‘free dance’ to the music.

Scholarship winner will be announced at our Open House in September.

