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## Marie Bollinger Vogt

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*"Marie can see what is beautiful, and she goes after it."*

## Recollections of Marie . . .

An interview with Madame Velta Cernonok

"I was a soloist, dancing with the Latvian National Ballet, when I first met Marie Vogt in 1951..." begins Madame Velta Cernonok. Impressed with both the high-quality ballet that was being performed in Toledo and the tremendous artistic gifts of Toledo Ballet

Founder/  
Director Marie Vogt, Madame Cernonok accepted Marie's invitation to teach here. "I was proud to be a part of The Toledo Ballet; it was (and still is) a great pleasure working with her!" she exclaims.

Marie is a successful artistic director, Madame Cernonok believes, because of the many qualities she embodies—from good taste to great talent as a teacher and choreographer. "To be a good dancer, one needs to take daily dance classes." She further explains that this consistent adherence to discipline, exemplified by the dedicated young ladies and gentlemen of The Toledo Ballet, speaks well not only of them, but of Marie as well. Beyond the basics, "Marie also has to make sure that the dancers dance with the expression and movement that was intended. By so doing,

she really creates the ballet."

Having visited a number of cities in the world, Madame Cernonok believes that native Toledoans sometimes fail to recognize the artistic achievement represented by The Toledo Ballet. An incredible number and variety of ballets have been performed here, and

some of the most notable people in dance, including Soili Arvola and Daci Dindonis, have been invited to choreograph them. Madame Cernonok maintains that "People just don't realize how difficult it is to establish

and maintain a ballet company of this stature."

Similarly, Madame Cernonok comments that "The Toledo *Nutcracker* is one of the most outstanding in the country, a true celebration of the approaching holiday season. "What makes it special, year after year, is that there is something in it for everyone. Marie has an eye for details and the ability to create lovely interludes in the performance that appeal to young, first-time spectators and sophisticated adults alike."

Finally, when asked about Marie's most remarkable



Marie Vogt

The Toledo Ballet and the Kroger Company:

## "A Mutual Admiration Society"

Placed in nomination by The Toledo Ballet Association, the Kroger Company recently received a well-deserved award for its outstanding community support of the arts, presented by the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo.

The relationship that led to this award-winning nomination can best be described as that of "a mutual admiration society," says Kroger Toledo Advertising Manager Mark Hrabcak. "It's a two-way street; The Ballet Association is a group of enthusiastic, dedicated people who are delightful for us to work with." Mark explains. He gives special credit to The Toledo Ballet's Business Manager, Jack Jones and Administrative Manager, Jody DeBacker, for "going out of their way to acknowledge Kroger's support."

Mark adds, "We at Kroger believe that The Toledo Ballet is a worthwhile organization, and knowing that our contributions are appreciated reinforces the commitment we have made. Though other community organizations often ask for help, they are not always as thorough or as conscientious in giving back. Helping The Toledo Ballet reach its goals, on

from  
*Jack Jones*  
Business Manager

Our 50th season officially began with the presentation of the legendary Vaganova Academy of the Kirov Ballet on July 20-21, 1990 at the Masonic Auditorium. This event was a major cultural coup for our community and The Toledo Ballet Association. The success we enjoyed would not have been possible without the generous commitment of volunteer support and leadership from our Association members, as well as the financial underwriting by our many visionary sponsors. The entire community pulled together to provide the finest experience for our Soviet guests during their exclusive six-city Ohio tour. All of us can indeed be proud, for this was one of our finest efforts.

The Toledo Ballet was pleased to have nominated the Kroger company for the

Community Support of the Arts Award presented October 7 by the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo. We truly value Kroger's commitment to the arts and the leadership this outstanding company provides in the business community. Bravo!

That the golden performance of the *Nutcracker* is fast-approaching is a grand tribute to our Founder and Artistic Director, Marie Bollinger Vogt, and The Toledo Ballet. We can never know the number of lives Marie has touched and inspired with her vitality and vision. These past 50 years can best be characterized as that of a family coming together in a celebration of love, respect and dignity. This close, familial spirit is especially apparent to everyone who has

ever been involved with the *Nutcracker*. Under Marie's leadership, quality dance has been firmly established as a great Toledo tradition, and The Toledo Ballet continues to flourish as a vital, dynamic company.

The 1990-91 Season finale will be the premier performance of the full-length *Cinderella* ballet April 27-28, 1991. As with any new production, there will be a considerable investment in costumes and set rental. However, this will truly be an experience that the entire family will enjoy.

This ambitious season will require equally ambitious, creative support drives from our membership and the community-at-large. Please assist us in our mission of bringing quality dance to our community by identifying

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*Nutcracker* headliners Evelyn Cisneros and Anthony Randazzo. Photo by Marty Sohl.

## TBA celebrates 50th anniversary

*By Chris Stockwell, President  
Toledo Ballet Association*

It is my pleasure to extend greetings from The Toledo Ballet Association Board of Trustees to you, our valued members and friends. This past July we all shared in a wonderful cultural and artistic opportunity as we hosted the Vaganova Choreographic Institute of the Kirov Ballet.

The success of the Kirov visit was a fitting prelude for a grand celebration of The Toledo Ballet Company's 50th *Nutcracker* this December 8 and 9. Excitement dances in the toes, the eyes, and even the air as preparations are made for dazzling performances, happy reunions, and, of course, the

first Gala *Nutcracker* Ball sponsored by the The Toledo Ballet Association and The Toledo Ballet Women's Guild.

At the pinnacle of this cause for celebration is the founder and artistic director of The Toledo Ballet Company, Marie Bollinger Vogt. Through the years she has inspired and nurtured hundreds of dancers, and guided the Company to its position of prominence in the Toledo arts community of 1990. We hope that you will join us in honoring this outstanding woman and her many accomplishments at the 50th *Nutcracker* performances and at the first Gala *Nutcracker* Ball. See you in December!

## from the desk of Marie Vogt

Preparing for the 50th Nutcracker Celebration inspires recollection of the many fine dancers who have appeared in it. They have given me great joy through the years, and continuing to hear from so many of them keeps a glow in my heart. Surely all must know that they are never forgotten and, since home is where the heart is, they will abide with us always.

I think you may also be interested in hearing about some of our dancers at home and abroad.

Mary Jeffries' granddaughter, Armon Yvette Miller, has more than justified this dear woman's devotion. Armon has recently signed with the prestigious Alvin Ailey dance company.

The William McIntyres of Monroe, MI are understandably proud of their Toledo Ballet dancer, Molly, for winning the Miss Michigan title.

Sara Claire Campesino largely credits her ballet training for her fifth place win in the four-country gymnastic competition held in Japan recently.

Debbie Roshe, who began as a prologue child with *The Nutcracker* and then danced as Claire (as well as a number of other roles) is currently staging and teaching for the Pittsburgh Playhouse and Point Park College. She has also been featured as a dancer in Broadway's "Woman of the Year;" as one of two female dancers in the touring company of *Le Cage aux Folles;* and as a dancer on tour with the late Richard Burton and his company in "Camelot."

Judith and Rachel Nasatir are attracting notice in the literary and art worlds. Judith is

associate editor of the magazines *Interior Design* and *Interior Design Market* and artist Rachel, who lives in Chicago, recently exhibited her work in the Spectrum Women's Art Show here.

Toledo Ballet's Heather Iler, selected by Mikhail Baryshnikov as one of nine dancers (out of hundreds) to receive two years of special American Ballet Theatre coaching, has been signed by Edward Villella to the Miami Ballet Company. Her current tour of France and England follows her performances at Wolf Trap in Virginia and the Ravinia Festival in Chicago. Right on, Heather-with-the-beautiful-feet!

The Winter Garden, New York City, is where our Lisa Mayer is performing as Sillabub in the current production of "Cats." A purrfect choice!

Male dancer Greg Strahm is subscription manager for the National Symphony in Washington, D.C., where he also teaches ballet.

Bill and Judy Sloan's two daughters reflect their parents zestful lives as they eat up the arts. Lee performs and teaches Shakespeare, and Jackie, a recent Magna Cum Laude Harvard graduate who starred in and directed musicals while a student there, is now lighting up the boards of Hollywood.

Betsy Baron performs at home and abroad as a brilliant soloist with the Montreal-based

Royale Ballets Canadiennes.

Carrie Haumann is putting her script-writing talents to good use for a David Scelzer drama while sister Connie Haumann, with her lovely voice, performs on both European and domestic opera stages.

Laura Wade often bounces in to greet us from her home in Chicago, where her contemporary dance company, Akasha, is headquartered.

Polly Brandman Hughes and husband Mark are proud parents of brand-new Briana Erin—just in time to keep Polly's sister Dr. Rusty Brandman Pieter and her husband John's seven-year-old daughter, Rebecca, company.

The love bug bit several people this spring as we celebrated the weddings of Cheryl Linkey and Tom Walter; Gwen Schirm and John Clark; your Snow Queen Anne Marie Getz and George Sears.

Evelyn Cisneros sends greetings and promises a more beautiful-than-ever performance with her partner, Anthony Randazzo, in this, the 50th Nutcracker season. Reigning queen of the ballet world in San Francisco, Evelyn has danced throughout Europe and Japan since her appearance here last season. She claims the panoramic views are "delicious," especially the views of the Golden Gate Bridge from Lincoln Park and that of the Pacific Ocean from Cliff House...and most especially from her own home near Mount Davidson.... where she often sits, allowing her eyes to dance high above the San Francisco fantasyland.

## Toledo Ballet Nutcracker Brunch



Sunday  
December 9

11 a.m.

Hilton  
Hotel

\$12 adults  
\$9.50 children

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
BY  
RESERVATION  
ONLY

Call 874-5889  
for more information

## To the pointe . . . News from the Women's Guild

by Joy Hyman, President

The Fall Tea/Membership Drive, with a lovely fashion show from Harriet's at the Sylvania Country Club, was a tremendous success with more than 110 people in attendance. The Guild presented a \$1,000 check to The Toledo Ballet Association for the special *Nutcracker* performance for children and adults with disabilities.

Yearly Guild membership renewal forms will be sent soon. Anyone wishing to join is invited to pick up a membership form at the studio or to contact Nancy Greenspoon (882-2315) or Kathy Hurt (885-5229).

Susan and Dan Brennan hosted a beautiful Kick-Off Party for the *Premier Nutcracker*

*Ball* at the Toledo Club on Wednesday, October 17. This gala event, chaired by Titi Kakissis, will be held on December 8, 1990 at the Hilton Hotel from 7 p.m. to midnight. A magnificent, magical *Nutcracker* scene, featuring a 14-piece band, will be created by the Lion Store. Throughout the entire evening, everyone will have a chance to bid on several unique items—from a Toyota to a condo for a week—in the Silent Auction. If you have anything you would like to donate, please call 885-5424. We need volunteers for the Silent Auction set-up on Friday, December 7 and Saturday, December 8. If you can help, please call Joy Hyman at 865-7500. Invitations will be sent



Marie and Ted Vogt with a longtime "friend" at the 50th Nutcracker kickoff.

soon, and reservations are limited, so reserve your place at this 50th Gala event as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you "on your toes" at the Ball.

## Recollections . . .

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personal characteristics, Madame Cernonok quickly responds: "She is a wonderful, loyal, tactful person; it's wonderful to be called her friend. Marie can see what is beautiful, and she goes after it." Madame Cernonok concludes, "I admire and salute her...I think Toledo should say 'Thank you, Mrs. Vogt'."

## The Toledo Ballet and Kroger

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the other hand, presents no risk or liability to us."

Mark concludes, "Doing good is good business, and this has been particularly true for Kroger in Toledo. And for that, we especially value our warm relationship with The Toledo Ballet."

## from Jack Jones

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support opportunities including membership, corporate and contributor fund drives, program advertising, and goods or services for the Silent Auc-

tion. We all know the current economic realities that exist in our region. That is why I personally ask for your commitment and assistance to make this very special season a success. Thank you!

THE TOLEDO  
*Ballet*  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

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