

# ECB

## EASTERN CONNECTICUT BALLET

### **Gloria Govrin** (*Artistic Director*)

A product of the School of American Ballet and New York City Ballet, Gloria Govrin was the vanguard of the tall-is-terrific look of modern ballet. Ms. Govrin's strength, stature, and stamina made her a star soloist for many years. George Balanchine often choreographed roles specifically for her because of her stage presence and unique abilities. Roles such as Hippolyta in *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, Coffee in *Nutcracker*, the Princess in *Firebird*, and La Bonne Fee in *Harlequinade* were so stamped with Ms. Govrin's identity, that the entrances and exits on the scores were marked with her name rather than that of the role. Mr. Balanchine also established her in high-profile roles and ballets such as *Stars and Stripes*, *Western Symphony*, *Apollo*, *Agon*, Dewdrop in *Nutcracker*, and many others. Upon retirement, Gloria opened her own school and company in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. In 1986, Robert Weiss asked her to come to the Pennsylvania Ballet to teach and from there, she became principal teacher at the Rock School, the official school of the Pennsylvania Ballet. At the school, Gloria choreographed showcases, conducted audition tours, created and presented lecture demonstrations, taught company classes and assisted in staging Balanchine repertoire. In 1999, she was invited by Helgi Tomasson to be the Associate Director of the San Francisco Ballet School. During her 8 years there, she trained many students who went on to professional careers with San Francisco Ballet, as well as many other companies world-wide.

Over the years, Gloria Govrin has been an invaluable mainstay to the Ballet World. People still refer to her strength and personality as a dancer on stage, but she has yet to find a greater passion in this art than teaching. Ms. Govrin is considered one of the leading masters of ballet technique and she brings her years of experience into every class she teaches. Along with her illustrious career, Ms. Govrin is most proud of her daughter, Olivia, a graduate of Berklee College of Music, who currently teaches music for the Boston Public Schools.