



## PACIFIC BALLROOM DANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Pacific Ballroom Dance presents Mosaic, a virtual concert

Pacific Ballroom Dance (PBD) will present Mosaic, a live-streamed ballroom concert, free of charge on June 20th at 7pm through the VIMEO platform. "This is the first time PBD has presented an entirely virtual spring concert, but our staff and students have rallied to the challenge of this new medium and created an incredible show," said Artistic Director Katie Mecham. "Our concert will present a collection of dances from each of our formation teams. The pieces range from award-winning competition routines to energetic and playful dances, while others delve into quarantine and learning to dance alone. It will be entertaining, enlightening, and emotional."

PBD has been closed since March, honoring the Stay Home, Stay Safe policy put in place by Governor Inslee to battle the spread of COVID-19. Classes and workshops have continued virtually as students worked to find a new, and temporary, normal.

Junior high dancer Moya Udd said, "This year dancing has been hard because we have to learn the routines over videos and virtual meetings and we don't have anyone to show us in person but I kept going with dance because I love to dance and I love a challenge."

Teammate Melanie Castro said, "This concert is special because of all of the hard work that people have done, especially during this whole pandemic. [It's been hard because] we could not physically finish this year all together, and we had to be at home and do it virtually. I have kept going with [dance] because I know that this pandemic will not go on forever, and that to be [a better dancer] I have to continue, and dance is where I can truly be myself and show who I am."



The students have grieved the loss of their spring concert, a huge event in the life of any dancer. "The Auburn Performing Arts Center would be bustling and busy right now," said staff member Anne Eugenio. "It really is sad to drive past and see the building empty and still. However, I am beyond excited about the studio's innovative concert coming up. I think audiences are going to love it."

Katie explained, "In planning last fall, I was inspired to build our upcoming Spring Concert around the theme of 'Mosaic', not fully understanding why, but feeling like it would be an idea I wanted to explore artistically and develop into a show. As events have progressed over the last few months, the theme choice has brought greater levels of depth and meaning to the idea as we struggle to find a way through our current world events as an organization, as dancers, and as humans. Our lives have become incredibly fragmented and isolated, making it hard to find connection and to see a way forward. The image of a mosaic, a collection of fractured pieces crafted into a work of art, has come to symbolize what the experience of this year has been. Morgan Harper Nichols once said, 'There will be a day when all of these broken pieces will gracefully come together and you will walk away from all this - a storyteller.' Each of us has been impacted differently this year and we have a different story to tell, but when our stories are told through the medium we love best, dance, they take on a heightened sense of meaning, connection and understanding, a beautiful mosaic of dance."

Pacific Ballroom Dance (PBD) began in 1994 as a small, local youth club with a goal to provide young teens with the opportunity to build respectful social skills, self-esteem, fitness and teamwork. In 2003, PBD became a 501c3 non-profit organization with a mission to build character in youth by providing a positive ballroom dance experience. Today, PBD is a thriving youth dance education studio based in Auburn, Washington, serving more than 1000 students annually from age 10-18 from throughout the Puget Sound area.

MISSION Pacific Ballroom Dance builds character in youth by providing a positive ballroom dance experience.

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