



The Cecchetti Society is an international organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the Cecchetti Method of Classical ballet and is committed to the highest standards of training for dancers and teachers.

The Cecchetti method of ballet is a style of classical, theatrical dance based on the teachings of the great Italian ballet master Enrico Cecchetti (1850-1928). Born into a family of professional dancers, Maestro Cecchetti had a distinguished career as a principal dancer on the international scene before becoming a teacher of renown. He taught in Russia, Poland, Italy and England and became the private instructor of Anna Pavlova and many other celebrated dancers. Cyril Beaumont published the Cecchetti theories, beginning in 1922. Beaumont was assisted in the transcription of the manuals by Cecchetti protégés. In 1924 the Cecchetti Society was incorporated as a branch of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, with headquarters in London, England.

The Canadian Branch of the Cecchetti Society was founded in 1949 by Betty Oliphant, first ballet mistress of the National Ballet of Canada and co-founder with Celia Franca of the National Ballet of Canada. In 1996 the Cecchetti Society of Canada was federally incorporated as a non-profit organization with charitable status. The Cecchetti Society of Canada is a corporate member of Cecchetti International-Classical Ballet.

The Cecchetti method has been a major part of the professional training programs at Canadian dance institutions such as the National Ballet of Canada and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

Students who are very interested in ballet and have the physical facility to perform the examination material are eligible to take the professional Cecchetti Ballet Examinations.

There are two streams of examinations offered by the Cecchetti Society, the ***Standard Ballet Exams*** and the ***Grade Ballet Exams***.

The ***Standard Ballet Exams*** are a lovely body of work that enables students to develop their classical artistry and sound ballet technique. There are fewer exercises within this syllabus, which allows students the time to place even greater focus and attention on their training. The Standard Ballet Exams are geared specifically to those students who may have certain physical limitations or technical issues that may hinder them from being successful in a Grade Examination. These exams are taken in larger groups and the teacher is in the exam room with them to help conduct the examination.

The ***Grade Examinations*** encompass a greater body of work and requires a higher level of focus and greater attention to detail. Due to the exceptionally high expectations for the Grade examinations, they are the ideal choice for those students who are ***truly*** passionate about ballet and have the physical facility for the art form. Students are entered into the exam in groups of 2-3 and the teacher is not permitted into the exam room; the Examiner conducts the examination.

Both streams of the Cecchetti Ballet examinations have a clear, linear, systematic build-up through the levels that allows for the development of a sound technical foundation to be established in those students studying in the method. The Cecchetti method is known for its clean lines and having movements free of stylistic mannerisms. In all examinations emphasis is placed on proper classical alignment, co-ordination, sense of line and quality in all movements, performance ability and artistry. The student examinations (Standards and Grades) have an excellent build-up, which prepares students for the pure Cecchetti work seen in the major examinations.

The age guidelines for the *Standard* and *Grade* exams are as follows:

<i>Standard Exams</i>	<i>Minimum/Appropriate Age</i>	<i>Maximum Age</i>
<i>Primary</i>	<i>6 years</i>	<i>9 years</i>
<i>One</i>	<i>7 years (8 is preferred)</i>	<i>12 years</i>
<i>Two</i>	<i>9-10 years</i>	<i>18 years</i>
<i>Three</i>	<i>10-11 years</i>	<i>18 years</i>
<i>Four</i>	<i>11-12 years</i>	<i>18 years</i>
<i>Five</i>	<i>12-13 years</i>	<i>18 years</i>
<i>Six</i>	<i>13-14 years</i>	<i>18 years</i>
<i>Senior Certificate</i>	<i>15+ years</i>	<i>18 years</i>

<i>Grade Exams</i>	<i>Minimum/Appropriate Age</i>	<i>Maximum Age</i>
<i>One</i>	<i>8 years (9 is preferred)</i>	<i>12 years</i>
<i>Two</i>	<i>10 years</i>	<i>18 years</i>
<i>Three</i>	<i>11 years</i>	<i>18 years</i>
<i>Four</i>	<i>12 years</i>	<i>18 years</i>
<i>Five</i>	<i>13 years</i>	<i>18 years</i>
<i>Six</i>	<i>14 years</i>	<i>18 years</i>
<i>Major Examinations</i>	<i>Minimum/Appropriate Age</i>	<i>Maximum Age</i>
<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>15 years</i>	<i>18 years</i>
<i>Advanced One</i>	<i>16 years</i>	<i>18 years</i>
<i>Advanced Two</i>	<i>17 years</i>	<i>n/a</i>

Please note the ages listed above are merely guidelines with the exception of Primary, Standard one and Grade one.

Students will be entered into Primary and Standard One examinations, which will allow their teacher to adequately assess what stream of the Cecchetti examinations would best suit their physical facility and goals for their ballet training.

Students interested in participating in Cecchetti examinations should discuss their options with the Artistic Director's of Affinity Dance and Ms Heather. Students will be entered in the examination stream that is most appropriate for their level and ability and will be entered into examinations at the discretion of Ms Heather. This is to ensure the examination process is a positive experience for the students.

Students who do participate in the Cecchetti Examinations (Standard or Grade) will receive a personalized exam report with comments and critical feedback from the Examiner to the student. The student will also receive a certificate stating the exam level and the mark received.

The **marks awarded** for the **Standard Exams** are as follows:

Standard Not Yet Achieved /Pass /Pass with Merit /Pass with Special Merit

The **marks awarded** for **Senior Certificate, Grades and Major Examinations** are as follows:

Not Awarded /Pass/ Pass Plus/ Commended/ Highly Commended/ Honours

Teachers have the option of entering students for fall (November- December) or spring (May-June) exams. It is the teacher's choice as to which exam session the students will participate in. With enough students enrolled in the exam session the studio will be able to host the exam session. If there are not enough students to host an exam session several studios may share a day at any given studio.

As a way of assisting teachers and students with the preparation for their exams, the Cecchetti Society offers biannual pre-exam workshops. The exam work is taught by the Examiners of the Cecchetti Society, which allows for greater insight into examination expectations. At the workshops open ballet classes are also offered as well as classes that are complimentary to ballet such as Pilates, Contemporary, Character etc. These workshops are incredibly beneficial to all students, particularly those preparing for examinations.

The Cecchetti Society, BC Branch also offers the **Cecchetti Awards**, which is a unique performance opportunity for students. Candidates for the Cecchetti Awards are chosen during the fall workshop. Those students invited to participate in the Cecchetti Awards learn a set dance and then compete at the Cecchetti Awards, which is usually held annually in February. It is a true honour to be invited to participate in the Cecchetti Awards.

The Cecchetti method is a strong training system for dancers wishing to pursue a career in dance or for those who simply enjoy dance for its physicality. This holds true largely because the Cecchetti science of classroom practice exacted a co-ordination of arms, legs, and head, which produced a wonderful fluidity of movement, particularly in the upper body. Although Cecchetti's development of the *terre à terre* style - brilliant articulations of the legs, with the dancer barely leaving the floor - was notable, his varied, six-day plan trained jumps of many textures. Most importantly, the solid, un-mannered Cecchetti base enabled the dancer to embrace any choreographic style. The fact that Cecchetti trained dancers can easily embrace and adapt to any choreographic style is vitally important to today's dancer who must be so incredibly versatile to be successful in the professional dance realm.

For more information on the Cecchetti Society and the method please visit: <http://www.cecchetti.ca>