



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

House of Representatives

Dennis J. Kucinich

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CSARDAS DANCE COMPANY OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the founders, members and performers of the Csardas Dance Company of Cleveland, Ohio, as they celebrate fifteen of years of promoting the history and heritage of Hungary, through the ageless and colorful expressions of the songs and dances of Hungary.

Richard Graber, who grew up in Cleveland as the son of Hungarian immigrants, founded Csardas Dance Company in 1994. He is now the Director of Programs and Services with the Houston, Texas Arts Alliance, and serves on the Board of the Hungarian American Cultural Association of Houston. Christopher L. Smith, former Artistic Director, set a precedent of historical authenticity and keen attention to detail, which still reflect in the brilliant colors and fabrics of the dancers' wardrobes, and also, in the artistic direction of Csardas. Stuart Meyer and Judith Horvath have both served as Csardas Youth Ensemble Rehearsal Instructors, drawing on their backgrounds as professional dancers and instructors. Toni Gras, Managing Director, has been with the Company for the past ten years. As a child, she performed with Hungarian dance troupes, and her daughter danced for nine years in the Csardas Youth Ensemble.

Over the years, hundreds of young dancers have had the enriching opportunity to be part of the Csardas Dance Company. Currently, thirteen young men and women dancers from the Greater Cleveland community are members of the Csardas Dance Company: Emese Chmielewski, Amy Dial, Melissa Dial, Andrea Horvath, Sara Katrenich, Thomas Katrenich, Vivien Luksa, Kate Steven, Abbey Toth, Emma Toth, Michael Vamos, Courtney Gras and Leah Vasarhelyi. Since its creation in 1994, the mission of the Csardas Dance Company has not wavered: To preserve and promote the dance, music and song of the people of Hungary. The Company also strives to bolster the public's support of, and appreciation for, the performing ethnic arts.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring the Csardas Dance Company, for enlightening, entertaining and engaging audiences with song and dance, reflecting a certain vibrancy in movement and music—by bringing to life the age-old stories of village life in Hungary. The Csardas Dance Company is an arts treasure in Cleveland, and its continued existence is vital to the performing ethnic arts foundation of our entire community—serving as an audiovisual record of our heritage and our history and connecting us all through the universal language of dance and song.

(Appearing in the Congressional Record in September, 2009; Volume 154)