

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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Romanian Ballet Director Welcomed by Ethnic Communities

CLEVELAND, Ohio. With the goal of exploring the rich arts and culture of our city Mihai Babuska, Romanian Ballet Director, will be visiting Cleveland under the auspices of the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program from October 16 through 19. The Cleveland Council on World Affairs is proud to be the local sponsor during Mr. Babuska's stay. Upon arrival he will be greeted by George Dobrea, Honorary Consulate of Romania and **Csárdás Dance Company**. **The key welcome will consist of an informal rehearsal/performance in traditional costume by Csárdás Dance Company's Youth Ensemble, located at the International Culture Center in Hinckley. Csárdás Dance Company is a professional dance company presenting traditional and contemporary works stemming from Hungarian heritage (www.csardasdance.com). The Csárdás Youth Ensemble is currently preparing for their upcoming formal performance at Severance Hall on November 12th as part of the Family Concert Series.**

Following the dance, 'European's Best Bakery and More' restaurant located at 19608 West 130th Street will open its door for the Director during normally closed business hours so he may experience fine European dining in Northeast Ohio.

Mr. Babuska is the ballet master, choreographer, and director of the ballet company of the National Opera, the largest in Romania. He has worked on a number of highly acclaimed productions and mentored a series of gifted young dancers. His experience as a principal dancer gives him a large classical repertoire, but also compliments his knowledge of modern and contemporary interpretations of traditional dance.

Throughout his stay he will be talking to other directors on issues such as performance arts management, dance in the community, and public and private support for the arts. He will also visit Karamu House, a community based arts center for African-American culture; the Cleveland Institute of Music; Cleveland Public Theatre in conjunction with the VERB Ballet-Cleveland's national repertory dance company; Several Romanian Dance Troupes; and St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church which houses the famous "Romanian Ethnic Art Museum".

The Cleveland Council on World Affairs is a non-partisan, non-profit organization whose aim is to promote greater understanding of foreign relations and global issues in Northeastern Ohio.