

# Local Dancer Headed to Miami

## Grace Cho to spend summer at Miami City Ballet.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**G**race Cho, 13, has been dancing since she was four years old. The Reston resident says dancing is how she likes to express herself.

"It's a way to express myself using just movements, no words," she said. "It's about conveying a message, trying to show my character and personality."

Cho, a student at Langston Hughes Middle School and student at the Classical Ballet Theatre in Herndon will be spending her summer in Miami, as she was awarded a full scholarship to the Miami City Ballet for a summer program. She said she is hoping to learn more fundamentals about techniques.

"Learning more basics and technique is important so you don't get injured," she said. "I also hope to learn more about the artistry as well as more facial and upper body expressions."

While she'll be spending several weeks in a place known for fun in the sun, it will be mostly work for Cho, who will train six days a week while at the program.

This has been a banner year for Cho, who placed well at the 2012 Youth American Grand Prix in Philadelphia, placing second overall for her contemporary performance and a top-12 finish for classical ballet. She credits her teachers at CBT for aiding her development.

"I think it shows how good the training at CBT has been, and how much I've grown as a dancer while I've been there," she said. "I think it also is a good sign of how we fare



Grace Cho performs at the January 2012 Youth America Grand Prix. Grace portrays the goddess Diana the Huntress in a variation from the ballet "Diana and Acteon."

PHOTO BY VISUAL ARTS MASTERS

against other dancers outside of Northern Virginia."

At the Classical Ballet Theatre, Cho has also been using her experience to teach the younger students, which she enjoys.

"I love to assist the teachers, the students are so cute and they really have fun learning," she said. "I smile every time I tell them about something like proper first position, and to see them work hard to connect and then finally understand it."

Her mother Miho Sato says dancing has helped her daughter learn the importance of setting priorities so she can do her schoolwork before dancing. Sato said her dancing takes up much of her free time as well.

"On her days off she goes to her ballet

friends' houses and practices dancing and choreography and tries on costumes," she said.

"I love how hands on the faculty is, they're passionate, thorough and professional while being very respectful," she said.

While Cho has accomplished much on the dance floor, she says her ultimate goal is to be part of a professional company somewhere. Her years of dance have taught her that the skills don't come easy, but they are worth the work.

"It doesn't come right away, it takes a lot of time, discipline and training," Cho said. "And it's important to never stop learning, no matter how long you've been doing it, because you can always get better."



PHOTO BY KATIE AND TONY DE LA PAZ

Grace Cho performs the "Neapolitan Dance" in Classical Ballet Theatre's April 2012 Children's Series production of "Swan Lake."



PHOTO BY KATIE AND TONY DE LA PAZ

Grace Cho performs a contemporary piece "Still Standing," as part of Classical Ballet Theatre's Evening of Contemporary Dance at the Reston Community Center.

Send announcements to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com).

### WEDNESDAY/JUNE 20

**Counting Crows with Good Old War, Foreign Fields and Filligar.** 7 p.m. Wolftrap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Rock and folk music. \$48 in-house, \$30 lawn. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org) or 703-255-1868.

### THURSDAY/JUNE 21

**U.S. Navy Band "Cruisers."** 7:30 p.m. Frying Pan Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Classic rock, rhythm and blues, Motown and more. Free. 703-324-7469.

**One-on-One Computer Tutoring.** 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.

**One-on-One English Practice.** 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Call for appointment with an ESL volunteer. Adults. 703-242-4020.

**Book Discussion.** 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Imperium: A Novel of Ancient Rome by Robert Harris. Adults. 703-242-4020.

**eBook/eReader Instruction.** 7:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn about library eBooks and how to access them with your compatible device. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.

**Creature Teacher.** 7 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Meet and learn about all kinds of animals. Presented by Bar C Ranch. All ages. Sign up each child and adult separately. 703-437-8855.

**Diana Krall with Denzal Sinclair.** 8 p.m. Wolftrap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Jazz vocalists. \$50 in-house, \$35 lawn. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org) or 703-255-1868.

**Take a Break Concert Series: Chris Vadala Band.** 7-9 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza. Free. 703-476-4500.

### FRIDAY/JUNE 22

**"Flowers for Algernon."** 8 p.m. Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. After experimental surgery to dramatically increase his IQ, a man's life is changed forever. \$20. [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org).

**Joan Sebastian and Pepe Aguilar.** 9 p.m. Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Latin music equestrian show. \$64-\$144, available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or 1-800-745-3000.

**Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles.** 8 p.m. Wolftrap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Performing from the Beatles catalogue \$42 in-house, \$25 lawn. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org) or 703-255-1868.

**School's Out Luau.** 4-8 p.m. Golf Course Island Pool, 11301 Links Drive. Free. 703-476-4500.

### SATURDAY/JUNE 23

**"Fairy Tale Courtroom"** by Dana Proulx. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The audience is the judge and jury for the Wolf and the Witch in this interactive comedy. \$8. [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org).

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