

Radost Folk Ensemble

New Member Information

(September 2015)

Welcome to Radost Folk Ensemble, now in its 40th year of presenting the dance and music of Eastern Europe to audiences in the Northwest. The following information will help you understand what is expected of performers in the Ensemble.

1. Performers make a commitment to attendance at rehearsals and performances. The 2015 fall session will include several performance opportunities. Please do not miss rehearsals except in case of illness. When members are absent it slows down the progress of the group as we review material. If you do have an unavoidable absence, notify the directors in advance – **Sidney's cell: (206) 854-6111**.

2. Rehearsals are Sunday late afternoons/evenings. Be punctual. Arrive a bit early to warm up and change shoes. Please finish Monday homework before rehearsals so that you are ready and able to focus on learning.

3. Radost is a primarily a volunteer organization. Member families are expected to help the Ensemble in many ways: sewing, helping at parties, sweeping the studio, data entry, etc.

4. There is no tuition charged for membership, however a suggested tax-deductible donation of \$75 or more per season will help defray the cost of studio rental and costume storage and insurance.

5. Although we hope you will have fun at rehearsals and enjoy learning together, please keep socializing to a minimum. Our rehearsal time is limited and expensive, so we need members to be focused at rehearsal and respectful of leaders and other members.

6. Rehearsal time is used mainly for choreographic work, so please take advantage of other opportunities to expand your dance folklore knowledge. Do not hesitate to ask senior members for coaching time outside of regular rehearsals. To learn of special workshops and dance parties join “Northwest Balkan Events” e-mail list serve (<http://groups.google.com/group/Northwest-Balkan-Events> - contact Dina Trageser to sign up - writingchick@gmail.com). Radost provides support for attendance at summer dance camps for first-time campers.

7. Rehearsal attire should be clean, comfortable, non-restrictive, and not too baggy. We need to see how you move and how you present yourself. A leotard and skirt, or t-shirt and dance pants or shorts are appropriate options. Long hair must be pulled back. Radost does not provide dance shoes. Members are responsible for purchasing or borrowing appropriate footwear. *Street shoes are not allowed on the dance floor at most studios.*

8. Radost provides costumes for performances, although members assist with costume construction and distribution. Costumes should be treated with care by members. Mistreatment of costumes will affect casting. Do not eat while in costume. There will be additional requirements for performance appearance, including hairstyle, make-up, glasses, and jewelry, which will be outlined later. These requirements are part of the costume and Radost's authentic presentation on stage and are not optional.

9. Keep a folder in your dance bag for song words, dance notes, rosters and other handouts.

10. If you know you will get hungry before 7pm, bring water and non-messy snacks with you if needed.

Casting decisions are made using several factors, including experience, coachability, and stage presence. In order to present shows of the quality for which Radost is known, we do not cast performers in pieces for which they are not ready. Casting decisions may be discussed with directors outside of rehearsal time.

Please visit the **radost.org calendar** and, for current roster information, the Radost member web site: