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Ballet San Jose announces new CEO

(San Jose, CA Wednesday, September 10, 2003) Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley is delighted to announce that Charles J. Hart, a Silicon Valley executive with an extensive business leadership and development background, has joined the company as the new CEO. Mr. Hart was a member of the Board of San Jose Symphony from 1990 to 1995 (when he served as its chairman). He combines a keen interest in the arts, a successful role in governance of a major non-profit organization, and various executive positions in industry. His career includes leading companies through turnaround situations and helping them create strong business plans for future success, a key element in his selection to lead the Ballet. Mr. Hart brings this expertise to the Ballet at an opportune time, as the company has weathered financial challenges in the past year even as they have continued to present world class productions to San Jose and Northern California audiences.



"We are thrilled to have identified a leader as talented as Charles Hart", said Eileen Nelson, Ballet Trustee and chair of the search committee for the CEO position. "He combines the characteristics we were determined to bring to this role; a passion for ballet and the arts, a strong track record of business leadership, and a good knowledge of our community and of what it takes to build and strengthen relationships with our many constituents. Our Board and staff look forward to partnering with Charlie in expanding our audience and subscriber base, leading our development programs, and continuing the growth of our exceptional ballet school."

"I have known Charlie for over 30 years," said John Stringer, Chair of the Ballet Board of Trustees and President and CEO of Wyse Technology Inc. "Charlie has excelled in everything he has done. Although his specialty is high tech, everything he does is "high touch." This will definitely apply to all aspects of our company, dancers and community. Charlie is a great fit for us."

"It is with great anticipation and excitement that we begin our working relationship with our new CEO, Charlie Hart," said company Artistic Director Dennis Nahat. "He has been a long-time fan of our ballet and is not afraid of working in the trenches. He is a wise and genteel man with a deep affection for the arts and has worked among artists for much of his career. The fact that he comes from the Bay Area is a major plus for our company in that he knows the territory and there will not be a long learning curve. Mr. Hart has taken to us very quickly and already feels like family, which our company is accustomed in our working relations with management. This is the beginning of a wonderful new era for Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley."

"The San Jose and Silicon Valley communities are indeed fortunate to have such as excellent ballet company and school," said Hart. "However, honored as I am to be part of this outstanding team, we are faced with continued financial challenges in the present recovering economy. My role will be leading intense efforts to establish a strong financial base upon which the organization can grow and expand."

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