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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbia Classical Ballet Protégé Wins Gold Medal at International Competition

June 4, 2015 – Columbia, S.C. – Rising 16 year-old ballet star and Columbia Classical Ballet company member, Nations Wilkes-Davis, won a gold medal in the junior division competition at the Valentina Kozlova International Ballet Competition (VKIBC) in New York City last week.

Columbia Classical Ballet is widely known for developing amazingly talented dancers. One of their more famous pupils is Brooklyn Mack, who is now a principal dancer for the Washington Ballet. Mack has also been a gold medal winner at the VKIBC.

“Nations is an extremely talented young man who has been training with us for 8 years,” said Radenko Pavlovich, Columbia Classical Ballet Artistic Director. “He has a bright future ahead of him and it is a privilege to have him as a protégé.”

The VKIBC is an international competition with an esteemed panel of international judges. This year, there were more than 20 judges from 13 different countries.

“It is an honor to win a gold medal at this level of competition,” said Nations Wilkes-Davis. “We have worked really hard to get to this level and it is an amazing feeling to see all the hard work pay off.”

Nations was born in Germany and now lives in Columbia, S.C. where he exclusively trains with Pavlovich. In 2013 he received a silver medal in the junior division of the same competition. In February 2014, he placed in the top six in the Youth American Grand Prix Male Senior Division in Atlanta, G.A.

Next week Wilkes-Davis heads to Orlando, F.L. for the World Ballet Competition. He will then come back to Columbia, S.C. to continue his training and be a company member for the 2015-2016 season that will start in September.

For more information about the Columbia Classical Ballet visit columbiaclassicalballet.com.

Columbia Classical Ballet is dedicated to providing South Carolina audiences with the experience of classical ballet performed by the recognized ballet stars of the day. The Ballet recruits the most talented performers from around the world and brings them to our community.

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