

I Want To Dance With My Horse!

There are more and more riders today, especially women, who want to learn how to ride in a light and balanced way. They are not interested in riding big, powerful gaits, or performing ground-covering extensions. Their preference is to relax and glide from one movement to the next with the ease and fluidity of a ballroom dancer. They dream of someday experiencing that floating, soft, cloud-like fantasy ride. Simply put, they want to feel as though they are dancing with their horse.

Up until now there has not been a recognized venue that rewards and/or addresses these needs, however, an inspiring competition is being introduced that offers riders a way to learn and improve, while enjoying a very special and creative journey with their horse.

This competition is called The Baroque Equestrian Games©. It embodies the original techniques and exercises of classical equitation as practiced in the Baroque schools of horsemanship when artistic riding reached its zenith.

The purpose of The Baroque Equestrian Games competition is to help riders understand and experience this system of training, which was conceived out of an age that revered beauty, nature and art in all of its forms, including horsemanship. Therefore, the goal of this competition is to demonstrate the *art* of classical horsemanship and be rewarded for the qualities to which it aspired.

This resourceful competition was created by Tina Cristiani Veder and Bruno Gonzalez of Caballos de los Cristiani. Being open to all breeds, they believe that every horse and rider can benefit and improve by correctly practicing the progressive exercises and patterns of the tests of the competition.

There are three Sections, or Segments, to The Baroque Equestrian Games. The first is The Classical Schooling Section©. It includes four Phases (levels) of Training beginning with walk and trot, and ultimately progressing to the High School Phase, which embraces full collection. Each Phase of Training includes

three tests, which are comprised of exercises designed and practiced by the classical masters themselves to create a horse with balance, suppleness, and self-carriage, and to produce a rider with proficiency, finesse, and grace. The Classical Schooling Section determines what Phase of Training the horse and rider will be entering in the following two Sections of the competition. It employs a different scoring system than competitive



dressage and puts emphasis on different criteria.

The Baroque Equestrian Games Section© is next. It employs certain games and maneuvers practiced during the Baroque period to test the training of the horse and the skill and accuracy of the rider. Nothing in the Baroque Games Section is timed. As in all the tests,

the goal is to present a picture of grace and harmony by the rider, and relaxation and effortlessness by the horse. If done correctly, the maneuvers and exercises in the Baroque Games Section will improve the capability of the rider, while increasing the responsiveness and correctness of the horse.

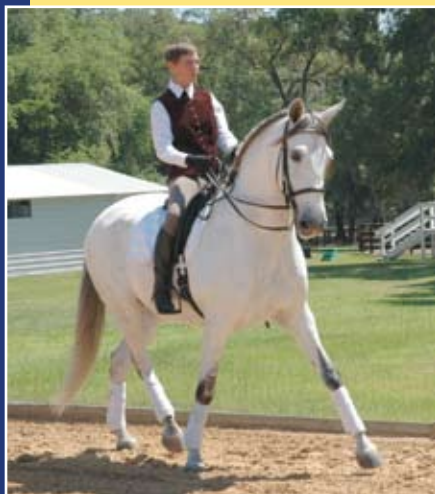
The Presentation Section© is the third Section. It is the showcase of the competition. It gives the rider and horse a way in which to express unity and harmony by creating a costumed, musical freestyle that is reminiscent of the gala equestrian displays of old. The Presentation Section honors classical equitation as a performance art. It is limited only by one's imagination and eventually will be open to teams or quadrilles.

The Baroque Equestrian Games is being introduced this year through demonstrations and schooling shows. Judges certification is underway. The first demonstration was at the Region 6 ERAHC show held in Mt. Holyoke, MA, on July 22-24. It was enthusiastically received.

It is the hope of its creators that The Baroque Equestrian Games© will act as a vortex to connect modern horsemen to the heritage and knowledge of a time-honored system that created the most beautiful movements that have ever united man and horse.

In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The Creation of Beauty is Art." Therefore, we pose the question, shall we just ride or...shall we dance?

For more information about The Baroque Equestrian Games, go to www.baroquegames.com.



Announcing

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A Competition Rewarding the
Elegance & Artistry of Classical Horsemanship



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