



2085 Coney Island Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11223  
718-891-6199  
Fax 718-891-0259

[covdance@aol.com](mailto:covdance@aol.com)  
[www.covenantballet.org](http://www.covenantballet.org)

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Contact: Ms. Lucie Santoro  
Program Director  
[Covdance2@aol.com](mailto:Covdance2@aol.com)  
(718) 891-6199

## **COVENANT BALLET THEATRE'S GRAND OPENING A SMASHING SUCCESS**

The sun beat down on Kings Highway on June 7 as a parade of ballerinas, modern dancers, flamenco dancers and tappers flowed down the street. The 20-minute parade, led by Artistic Director Marla Hirokawa, was only the beginning of a day crammed full with free dance classes, live music and refreshments. After 20 years in a much smaller studio in Sheepshead Bay, Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn, Inc. celebrated its grand opening with a flourish.

The festivities had begun Friday night, June 6, with an Argentine Tango Workshop taught by Brenda Neville. Neville founded Neville Dance Theatre, in addition to performing and teaching at CBTB. Then, after the parade on Saturday, June 7, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz accepted the honors of cutting the ribbon to the new studio and presented a proclamation.

"I congratulate CBTB, which is continuing a legacy of reaching communities and enriching lives with the majesty of dance, and I thank them for bringing their unmatched artistry to our borough," said Markowitz.

For the rest of the day, free classes in pre-ballet, beginner ballet, modern, tap, flamenco and Argentine Tango kept a constant flow of people coming to the new facilities. As well as free CBTB dance classes, the newly-formed NoteAble Music School offered free music classes. The day ended with live music from the NoteAble Music School staff and a fun dance party.

CBTB's transformation would not be possible without the support of Councilman Michael Nelson, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, its Board of Directors, its friend Max Solomon, its volunteers and all the students and their parents.

***Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn, Inc.** is a non-profit contemporary ballet company and dance academy dedicated to providing an excellent local alternative for professional standard performances and dance instructions. The company seeks to foster an intelligent appreciation of dance as an art form and to offer educational and cultural experience to the younger generations. Quality performances, professional instruction, and educational programs, Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn's activities are designed to reflect Christian, wholesome family values and ethics in the arts. CBTB does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its education policies, admissions policies, scholarship and other school administered programs.*