



MIKHAIL BARYSHNIKOV

Dear Friends,

Peter Pestov is an important part of the Russian tradition of dance pedagogy, and within that lineage, he is an individual of exceptional pedigree. After a Kirov Ballet contingent evacuated St. Petersburg during the Second World War to establish an academy in Perm, Mr. Pestov followed to study with a legendary faculty that included Yekaterina Geidenreikh and my own teacher Alexander Pushkin. He then embarked on a distinguished tenure of over three decades at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy before moving to Stuttgart in 1996, where he has since remained.

When one looks at his extraordinary roster of former students, it becomes immediately evident that Mr. Pestov possesses a special gift for recognizing a dancer's inner talents and for making those talents flourish. He has shared his creative guidance, his experience, and his life with so many, and I hope he feels in return the tremendous gratitude that his disciples send back to him from all around the world.

Please join me in saluting this great man, who is eighty years young this year.

Sincerely yours,

Mikhail Baryshnikov