

60th Helicon Ball



**Debutante
Information Booklet**

What is the Helicon Ball?

The Hungarian Helicon Ball is one of the premier debutante balls in Canada. An annual event organized under the auspices of the Hungarian Helicon Society, the Helicon Ball is the main annual social event of the Hungarian Helicon Society.



How the Helicon Ball Gives Back



The 60th Helicon Ball Committee has chosen to continue its tradition to support Hungarian heritage and education in Toronto by inviting guests to make a donation to the Hungarian Helicon Foundation (Ontario). Donations are used

for the support of Hungarian Helicon language schools at both the high school and adult levels and administration of undergraduate and graduate scholarships at the University of Toronto.

What is a "Debutante"?



Traditionally a Debutante is a young woman who is formally being introduced into society.

At the Helicon Ball, a Debutante is a young woman wishing to take part in the community, network, meet new people and is often attending the ball for the first time; sharing this experience with her friends and family.

What does a Debutante do?

Each Debutante is escorted individually into the ballroom, typically but not necessarily, by her father. She is introduced by the Master of Ceremonies to our Distinguished Guest to whom the Debutante then curtsies while her escort bows. Once each Debutante has been introduced, and the Distinguished Guest has said a few words of inspiration, the Debutantes and their escorts open the Helicon Ball with the first dance of the evening: A Viennese Waltz.



Preparation

Our first meet-up may be a **Debutante Tea**. This is an information session where you can ask any questions and members of our Ball Committee will be there to answer them for you.



Debutantes, their parents and escorts are all invited to attend the Debutante Tea.



In order to help you in preparation for the Ball, we will hold rehearsals on Sundays starting a couple of months before the ball and continuing until the day of the ball.

At the **rehearsals** we will practice the entrance, curtsy/bow and the choreographed waltz.

Some additional ballroom dance classes and an etiquette class **may** also be scheduled.

All Debutantes and their Escorts are expected to attend the meetings and rehearsals.



Attire

The Helicon Ball is a traditional black tie affair. Ladies wear full-length gowns. Gentlemen wear tuxedos or tails.

Debutantes wear floor length white dresses, white elbow length gloves and white shoes.

Debutante **Escorts** wear black tails, white vest, white gloves and black shoes.



Events of the Evening

The evening commences with a pre-Ball champagne reception, after which guests are invited to take their seats in the ballroom.



The Distinguished Guests of the Ball, who include representatives of our political, social, artistic and business life are then introduced. Once the Distinguished Guests have been introduced, the ceremonies continue with the performance of the Palotás court dance.



The origins of the Palotás date back to the fifteenth century. Gaining further popularity during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, this palace dance was traditionally performed in the courts of Hungarian royalty. At the Helicon Ball the dancers perform in traditional court attire:

Ladies wear a Díszmagyar- an ornately decorated floor length gown

Gentlemen wear a Bocskai - a tuxedo like suit with intricate detailing.

Events of the Evening (cont'd)

The mood is now set for the highlight of the evening:
The presentation of the Debutantes



Once the Debutantes have been introduced and the first waltz has been danced, the Ball is officially underway!

A four-course dinner is served and the rest of the evening is filled with dancing as guests enjoy music that is sure to appeal to a variety of musical tastes.



This will certainly be a night to remember!

We hope you share this special
experience with us!

For more information or if you are interested
in being a Debutante at the 60th Helicon Ball,
please contact:

Tom Gauder

416-707-6876

tomgauder@sympatico.ca

Andrea Peterdy

647-622-5321

apeterdy@gmail.com

Email: TheBall@HeliconSociety.com

60th Helicon Ball
May 27, 2017

