

# Integrity Rhythmic Gymnastics to Host Country's Largest Invitational Meet with 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fling Invitational April 4-6, 2014

*More than 500 gymnasts are expected to compete at the Greater Columbus Convention Center*

**Columbus** (February 19, 2014) - Integrity Rhythmic Gymnastics and the Boosters of Rhythmic and Artistic Gymnastics are pleased to announce the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Fling Invitational competition in Columbus, April 4-6. For the fourth year in a row, the meet will be held in the Greater Columbus Convention Center's Battelle Grand, which is the largest, multi-purpose ballroom in Ohio.



More than 500 gymnasts are expected to compete, making it the country's largest rhythmic gymnastics invitational.

Columbus will welcome international competitors from **Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Finland, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Russia, and the United Arab Emirates.**

Ticket prices for the three-day event are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children under 12 years of age. One ticket covers spectator entry for the entire weekend. The competition is expected to run from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. daily. The final schedule will be posted at [IntegrityRhythmics.com](http://IntegrityRhythmics.com) approximately one week before the event.

"This will be an exciting event as our list of participating rhythmic gymnasts from around the world has once again surged to unprecedented levels," said Integrity Rhythmics Head Coach **Anna Loescher**. "The combination of hosting the meet in Battelle with its high ceilings and state of the art features, the quality of the competitors, and Columbus's growing reputation as a sports destination has led to gymnast registrations from numerous countries around the world and from across the United States.

The Integrity Rhythmics team features 17-year old gymnast **Audrey Whitaker** of Worthington, who is one of 12 Elite Senior Level 10s in the United States. Other Integrity team members include **Julia Goslee** of Hilliard, who at age 11 is a member of the U.S. Rhythmic Gymnastics Youth Elite Squad. Spring Fling will feature a performance by the US Junior Group, which is training and preparing to qualify for the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Game this coming August.

Coach Loescher is assisted with the Integrity Rhythmics program by **Aliane Baquerot-Wilson**, a member of the 1996 U.S. Rhythmic Gymnastics Group team. Other members of the '96 squad are expected to be in the stands for Spring Fling, in recognition of its stature as the largest invitational meet in the country. The '96 team has the distinction of being the only U.S. group to ever compete in an Olympics, placing 9th, after winning a silver medal at the Pan American Games in 1995. Integrity plans to recognize members of the '96 team, along with other competing athletes from around the world during the Grand March In the Saturday afternoon of the event.

"We are pleased that members of Junior and Senior U.S. National teams will compete at Spring Fling," said Loescher. "Aside from being a phenomenal sports event for our team, the event is a chance for our girls to meet, learn from, and get to know their peers from around the world. It's also great that Spring Fling is a catalyst to bring the 1996 Olympic team back together as it will be the first time most of us are in the same place since Atlanta."

**Integrity Rhythmics** is part of Integrity Gymnastics of Plain City, home of **Blaine Wilson**, who earned a silver medal in the team competition at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens and was a member of the U.S. Men's Gymnastics Olympic team for the 1996 Atlanta Games and 2000 Sydney Games. Founded by Coach Loescher in 2005, the Integrity Rhythmic program has grown into the largest rhythmic gymnastics program in Ohio. Rhythmic gymnastics is an Olympic sport that combines the strength of gymnastics, the beauty and expression of dance, flexibility, and the use of apparatus such as ribbon, ball, and hoop.

**CONTACTS:** For information about Spring Fling, contact Anna Loescher: [springflingrhythmic@gmail.com](mailto:springflingrhythmic@gmail.com)

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**Boosters of Rhythmic & Artistic Gymnastics - Non-Profit 501(c)3 Organization**

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