



TOP GYMNASTS TO COMPETE AT SPRING FLING RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS INVITATIONAL

Integrity Rhythmics Hosts Largest Rhythmic Gymnastics Competition in the Country April 7-9

Columbus (April 5, 2017) - Integrity Rhythmic Gymnastics and the Boosters of Rhythmic and Artistic Gymnastics are pleased to announce the 9th annual Spring Fling Rhythmic Gymnastics Invitational competition in Columbus on April 7-9.

Gymnasts filled this year's competition spots within days. **Russian National Team gymnast Ekaterina Vedeneeva**, considered one of the best gymnasts in the world, will compete along with **U.S. National Team gymnasts Serena Lu and Elizabeth Kapitonova**. 2015 & 2016 Spring Fling Champion, **Greek National Champion and 2016 Rio Olympian Varvara Filiou** will attend with a special performance on Saturday April 8.

"I am thrilled to showcase this beautiful sport here in Columbus," said **Integrity Rhythmics Head Coach Anna Loescher**. "The talent of the gymnasts attending is impressive and it is an honor to have so much excitement around our event. It is also a great experience for our younger gymnasts to see and be inspired by world class competitors."

For the seventh year in a row, the competition will be held in the Greater Columbus Convention Center's Battelle Grand, the largest multi-purpose ballroom in Ohio. Over 50 teams spanning 19 US states are expected, as well as international participants from countries such as Brazil & Russia. This year's event will also include Special Olympians in an evening session of competition Thursday, April 6.

The event's centerpiece is the annual Grand March-In scheduled for Saturday, April 8 at 1:00 p.m. All competitors from around the world will be recognized at that time, followed by special gala performances from Olympian Varvara Filiou, USA Senior National team member Serena Lu, and others.

In addition to being an Olympian, Filiou has served as a visiting guest coach at Integrity. "This is my third year coming to Spring Fling and I am proud to be a part of this event which has done so much to raise awareness of rhythmic gymnastics in the United States," said Filiou. "I look forward to coming to Columbus, working with the girls on the Integrity Rhythmics team, and meeting members of the city's large Greek community."

The Integrity Rhythmics team is led by Level 10 gymnast **Grace Bundy** (14) of Galloway. Other members of the team include **Christina Jin** (12) and **Sophia Arbona** (11) of Dublin who are both current members of the USA Elite Squad and up and coming future stars, **Caitlin Berendt** (12) of Powell and **Ami Koda** (11) of Dublin who are members of the USA Future Stars National Team.

Ticket prices for the 3-day event are \$30 for adults and \$15 for children under twelve. One ticket covers spectator entry for the entire weekend. The competition is expected to run from 8am until 9pm daily. The final schedule will be posted at IntegrityRhythmics.com approximately one week before the event.

About Integrity Rhythmics:

Integrity Rhythmics is part of Integrity Athletics 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. For information about Spring Fling or the Integrity Rhythmics program, contact Anna Loescher at integrityrhythmics@gmail.com.

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

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