

## Karen Robinson Freestyle Clinic

February 4-5, 2012

LTR Dressage is proud to host a freestyle clinic with Karen Robinson of Applause Dressage. Karen is a master technician who has designed freestyles for many of your local favorites and International Champions who have won medals and compete with great success at the Olympics, World Equestrian Games, World Cup, and the North American Young Rider Championships.

The purpose of a freestyle clinic is to give riders the skills to create their own freestyles, or to better understand the process if they are having their freestyles designed by Applause Dressage. Because the clinics do not focus on the technical aspect of training, freestyle clinics are fun for both riders and horses. The private mounted sessions are also interesting and educational for spectators, whether they are riders, coaches, judges or non-riding friends and family. Two sessions on consecutive days is recommended. In the initial session the rider first learns how to determine his or her horse's tempos. Once the tempos at trot and canter have been measured, music is introduced. A large selection of music from many genres will be available and music for the trot and canter that matches the horse's gaits will be played as the rider learns to develop a feel for riding to a constant tempo and to different types of music. This is probably the most fun part of the clinic (riders have told me that it is like having a personal horse DJ), and will take up all of the first session. In the second session, the focus turns to choreography. Karen will work together with the rider – and sometimes the rider's coach – on designing a pattern that conforms to the technical requirements for that pair's level and best highlights the horse's strengths. By the end of two sessions, the rider will have gone through the entire freestyle design process, minus the editing.

The lecture will cover all the points that are important to understanding how freestyles are created and judged. Attendees will learn about every step of the design process, and what to consider when choosing music. They will watch videos of internationally and locally performed freestyles, and look at sample judges' score sheets. Karen will go into considerable depth in explaining how freestyle tests are judged, and why there is often surprise at the scoreboard. Questions are welcomed throughout the lecture and the depth and breadth of topics covered makes the lecture meaningful to anyone interested in dressage freestyles.

- Rider fee (includes Saturday and Sunday lessons) \$325.00
- Auditing, per day \$ 30.00
- Per weekend \$ 50.00

*Auditing includes the lecture each day about the basics of freestyle design and also includes lunch each day.*

- Stabling, per day \$ 25.00

**RIDERS:** A Deposit of 50% is due immediately to hold your place in this clinic.

**AUDITORS:** Please RSVP as soon as possible to help us plan for seating and lunch.

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