

5/5/13

To Whom It May Concern:

I own a 19 yo Hanoverian gelding who was in professional training at Prix St George when I moved to California with him 5 1/2 years ago. I was only riding at about 3rd level when I purchased him with the goal of one day riding Grand Prix. Soon after arriving in CA, I started taking 1 or 2 lessons, 2-4 times a year with Claus Bergener but this was not sufficient to enable me to make much progress towards my goal. I was very fortunate to find Shayan about 18 months ago and in that time, he has trained myself and Pookey to the level where I am about to ride my first Grand Prix test. I knew my horse had the potential to reach Grand Prix but I needed serious help. 18 months ago we couldn't do piaffe, passage, good canter pirouettes, more than 2 1-tempi or decent half-passes. He could be very heavy in the bridle and liked to motor around like a steam train with bad brakes. I rode with too much tension in my body, too much speed, unsteady hands, unsteady legs and bad posture. Under Shayan's regular tuition, all those bad habits have almost gone ☺

"Pookey" looks fit and fabulous with a very strong topline. He now feels light in the bridle and moves in self-carriage, with far more lateral suppleness than I ever thought possible. Now when Claus asks for more bend in the trot half-pass, I'm able to do it right away, without losing impulsion, another dramatic improvement since Shayan started training us. Pookey developed a great passage in just 3 months and took just another 2 months to learn the piaffe/passage/piaffe transitions under Shayan's tuition. His piaffe is truly classical and in my latest lesson with Claus (April 20th), he commented that Pookey's in-hand piaffe was now the best he'd ever seen in the US. Performing a half-decent half pass in right lead canter used to be almost impossible for us 18 months ago, and I can recall an entire lesson with Claus a couple of years ago where we mainly worked on just that. Shayan has improved his canter half-pass to the point where we can now do the half-pass, flying change movement in the Grand Prix test. Shayan is truly a 'horse whisperer' and his instinctive understanding of horse behavior makes the training process move so much faster as there is no guesswork about what the behavior means.

One major factor that is contributing to Shayan's success in training my horse and myself is his unswerving commitment to our improvement. One night he lost sleep trying to work out why I could not ride the piaffe, and the very next day, under his instruction, I was able for the first time to ride a good piaffe on the spot for more than 10 strides. I was so happy I cried! He has never lost faith in myself or in Pookey, and he teaches because he cares about my riding success. He trains horses and riders from the heart. When he had problems teaching Pookey to do multiple 1-tempi changes, he kept trying until he found a method that worked for us. Together, Pookey and I have learned to consistently do 15 1-tempi changes. It took 12 months, but given Pookey was 18 when we started, that's pretty darn impressive!! Claus has commented on how much improvement there has been in Pookey's piaffe, passage, pirouettes and 1-tempi changes, all due to Shayan's training.

I can absolutely recommend Shayan to anybody who is serious about improving their riding and anyone who wants their horse trained into a beautiful animal that is an absolute pleasure to ride. Pookey adores Shayan and that's a testimonial right there.

Sincerely,



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Sincerely,



Claus Bergener
German "FN" Licensed Instructor
Grand Prix Judge