

# THE ISAAC ARES CLASSICAL MANIFESTO:

## WHERE IS THE COLLECTION?

[www.dressage-isaac.com](http://www.dressage-isaac.com)

*Hola everyone*

*A call to restore soul and function to the art of classical dressage*

### THE FOUNDATION

*The anatomy of the horse leaves no room for debate.*

*In its natural stance, a horse distributes approximately 60% of its weight on the forehand, and 40% on the hindquarters.*

*This asymmetry is not a flaw it's a structural reality: a long neck that acts as a counterweight, a ribcage suspended by muscular slings, and hind limbs designed to propel, not support.*

*Classical dressage was never meant to beautify that truth but to transform it.*

*Through rigorous gymnastic development, the horse learns to carry more weight behind, free the shoulders, lift the base of the neck, and reorganize its centre of gravity.*

*Collection is not about shortening it is about redistributing gravity in favour of balance, lightness, and longevity.*

## THE DISTORTION

*Today, we increasingly observe horses that, after years of formal training, remain trapped in their original mechanics:*

*collapsed in the shoulders, the base of the neck sunken, hind legs pushing without supporting, and a disconnected back.*

*Collection is absent.*

*The base of the neck doesn't rise it drops.*

*The back doesn't act as a bridge it caves in.*

*Impulsion doesn't elevate it bounces without purpose.*

*The piaffe loses its pelvic origin, the passage loses lumbar cadence, and the canter folds into itself.*

*What once revealed the horse's biomechanical truth now too often rewards its aesthetic denial.*

*This is not a matter of blame it is a matter of lost direction.*

## THE FUNCTIONAL TRUTH

*A trained eye needs no stopwatch or scorecard.*

*Just watch how the neck breathes and you will know whether the horse is truly working or merely compensating.*

*A descending base of neck restricts scapular freedom and breaks rhythm.*

*A collapsed thoracic sling increases forehand loading and strains joints.*

*A disconnected topline block the energy transfer from hind to fore.*

*A retracted hind leg without pelvic flexion creates motion without true collection.*

*When the structure fails, no amount of expression can replace function.*

## **THE OBSERVATION**

*In the walk the most sincere of all gaits two oscillations tell the truth:*

*Axial movement: the longitudinal expansion and contraction of the topline the rhythm of breath, elasticity, and connection.*

*Appendicular movement: the lateral sway that accompanies shoulder alternation when exaggerated, it often compensates for an inactive core and false collection.*

*Where the neck ceases to breathe, the back collapses.*

*Where motion becomes decorative, mechanics degrade.*

*And where there is rigidity, there is no art only artifice.*

## THE DECLARATION

*We call for a new biomechanical literacy.*

*We call for a return to dressage that educates the body and liberates the spirit of the horse.*

*We demand that form follows function, not disguises it.*

*We stand for trainers who look beyond the trophy, and riders who listen with their bodies, not their timers.*

*Because dressage is or should be rehabilitation elevated to art.*

*And when the art stops serving the horse, it stops being art.*

*Isaac Ares*

*Classical trainer. Independent observer. Critical voice.*

*For the horse. For the truth. For the art.*

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*This manifesto expresses an independent professional opinion for educational and ethical purposes, promoting biomechanically sound equestrian practice. It refers to no specific rider, horse, competition, or governing body.*