



## CORVALLIS ACADEMY OF BALLET

108 NW 2<sup>ND</sup> St.  
P.O. Box 1827  
Corvallis, OR. 97339  
(541) 758-0180

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Summer Session 2024 Registration Newsletter

Hello CAB students and families- I hope that you enjoyed a fun and restful Spring break!

It is time to open registration for our Interim Session and Summer Session 2024, and I hope that many of you will continue to dance with Corvallis Academy of Ballet over the summer and into the 2024-2025 academic year. Our Summer Session is an excellent opportunity for our dancers to make significant improvements in their technique, strength, stamina, flexibility, and artistry, and Ms. Maddie, Ms. Mimi, Ms. Kristin, and I need to see you tryout the next level of classes before we can confirm your promotion into the next level for the upcoming school year.

**\*Your instructor(s) or your child's instructor(s) will tell you which class level to register for, for Summer Session 2024 and the 2024-2025 academic year.**

**Corvallis Academy of Ballet does not automatically promote students into the next level at the end of each school year:** promotions are based on each dancer's attendance record, their physical strength and health (students who missed a lot of classes due to chronic illness or injury may need to repeat part of or all of a level), and if they have demonstrated sufficient improvement in their technique and artistry to be promoted into a more challenging class.

**Summer Session tuition may be prorated by the week** (a feature that we do not offer during the academic year), to encourage our students to take CAB classes whenever they can this summer, in between vacations, summer camps, etc.

#### **Interim Session (in between the CAB Recitals & Summer Session): June 10<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**

Corvallis Academy of Ballet will be closed for the entire week following our June 1<sup>st</sup> Recitals, June 2<sup>nd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, and then we will offer a limited Interim Session, June 10<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. During this Interim Session, we will be offering our MWF Adult Ballet classes, 9:30am-11:00am, and combined Ballet V/VI classes, Monday-Thursday, 5:30pm-7:30pm.

**\*Please register for the Ballet V/VI Interim Session classes by Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. After this date, if enrollment is too low, these classes will be canceled.**

*\*Pre-registration is not required for the Adult Ballet classes, but please check with me (Megan Skinner), to make sure that you are on the weekly check-in emails that monitor attendance for these drop-in classes.*

#### **Summer Session 2024 (6-week session, June 24<sup>th</sup>-August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024):**

Corvallis Academy of Ballet will be offering a 6-week Summer Session, June 24<sup>th</sup>- August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. As we have done for the past several summers, our Summer Session classes will be held primarily in the



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mornings and evenings, in order to avoid being in our un-air conditioned building during what is typically the hottest part of the day, 2pm-5pm.

**\*Please register for Summer Session classes by Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. After this date, classes with low or zero enrollment may be combined with other classes or canceled.**

### **Changes to our Lower Division Curriculum:**

We are in the process of phasing out our Creative Movement classes for 3-5 year olds, in favor of bringing back two levels of Preballet: Preballet I, for 4-5 year olds, and Preballet II, for 5-6 year olds. Registration for our Creative Movement class never truly recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic, and since finally bringing back our Creative Movement class this past January, we have found that what three year old students, and their parents/guardians, really need from their dance classes is a more casual class, a “mommy/daddy and me” type of class where parents/guardians may be in the studio with their dancer at all times, and where sporadic, drop-in attendance is not a problem.

After careful observation and consideration during Session III and the first half of Session IV, we believe that 3 year olds (and possibly some 4 year olds), would be happier dancing in the preschool-age classes that are offered by other local studios (The Little Gym, Downtown Dance, Dance With Me, Parks and Recreation), and that the best thing for Corvallis Academy of Ballet, as a more structured, conservatory-style classical ballet academy, is to raise our minimum registration age to four years old.

Assuming that this re-structuring works out this summer and into the 2024-2025 school year, both Preballet I and Preballet II will be able to perform onstage in the Corvallis Academy of Ballet June 2025 Recitals.

### **NEW Teen Beginner Ballet Class is being offered this summer!**

By request, we are trying out a Teen Beginner Ballet class on Saturday mornings this summer, 10:00am-11:15am, for 12–17-year-olds. This class is recommended for students who have zero or very limited prior experience with classical ballet training. The class dress code and class structure will be similar to the CAB Adult Ballet classes and OSU Ballet I (PAC 136) classes that I (Megan Skinner) teach, but with a strict teenage age range, so that students will hopefully feel more comfortable in a dance class with their peers, both in terms of age and prior ballet experience. If this class is popular during our Summer Session, we will look at adding this class to our academic year schedule.

### **Guest Teachers for Summer Session Upper Division Classes:**

We are extremely pleased to welcome the following Guest Teachers during our 2024 Summer Session, and we hope that many of our Upper Division students, as well as intermediate and advanced-level dancers, ages 12 years old & up, from other local dance studios, will be able to benefit from taking classes from these experienced teachers.

**Sana Tepley** first began dancing at the age of 5 at Corvallis Academy of Ballet where she continued to dance until graduating high school in 2017. She then completed her degrees in Ballet (BFA) and Spanish (Minor) at the



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University of Utah in 2021. Her collegiate career included classes in Pedagogy, Choreography, Dance History, and Dance Writing. While at the University of Utah, Sana danced in several classical and contemporary works including *Giselle Act 2*, *Don Quixote Excerpts*, *Le Jardin Animé*, "Preludes," by Rick McCullough, and "Maybe Tomorrow," by Melissa Bobick. After graduation, she began teaching ballet at West Seattle Performing Arts where she has thoroughly enjoyed teaching students ages 4 to adults. Sana is also expanding her repertoire as a choreographer, creating classical advanced pieces, works for children, as well as lyrical dance pieces.

Sana will be teaching the Supplemental Class of Lyrical Dance this summer for Int/Adv Ballet and/or Modern Dance students, ages 12 years old and up. Lyrical dance is one of the many contemporary art forms that emerged as choreographers began to blur the lines between dance styles. Lyrical Dance has a base in ballet, modern, and jazz technique, and uses these techniques to create original choreography. This style is also danced to music with "lyrics" and aims to convey a story or theme through the combination of the song and dance. Lyrical dance is popular in the commercial dance world, but it is also seen in concert dance as well. This class will begin with a lyrical-based warm up and end with learning an original choreographic phrase.

A former staff member at Corvallis Academy of Ballet, **Kathy Scharp** is delighted to return to teach at CAB again this summer! Vaganova-trained as a student and as a teacher in her native Michigan, Kathy encourages expressiveness, individuality, and stage presence in her students, while preserving Vaganova placement and line. She especially loves choreography and fostering the love of creating dances in her students.

### Choreography Classes:

Students enrolled for these supplemental classes will learn and work together as a group to choreograph a short solo, duet, trio or possibly larger ensemble piece to one or more classical/neoclassical musical selections. Creativity, collaboration, flow of movement, staging, technique, and musicality will be featured- with assistance where needed.

**Donna Blatt Ervin** founded Modern Dance Technique and Creative Movement in 1991. As Artistic Director she taught technique and created choreography for multiple concerts each year for 32 years until 2023.

Her dance training began at age 11 during Summer Dance in her local park in Brooklyn, New York. She studied Ballet, Modern and Jazz dance at John Dewey High School. From 1972-77 she studied Graham, Horton and Limon techniques at New Dance Group, June Lewis, Martha Graham School and Alvin Ailey. She studied Afro Haitian Dance with Jean Leon Destine (partner to Katherine Dunham) at New Dance



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Group, Louines Louines and Rod Rogers. She majored in Dance at Staten Island College where her instructors included Liz and Clive Thompson, who were Graham and Ailey company members.

Other teaching credits include teaching Afro Haitian dance at LBCC from 1979-1985; after collaborating with Ethnomusicologist Michael Coolen at OSU, teaching dance for his Music History classes. She taught Modern Dance and Creative Movement thru local programs such as Parents for Education Plus, Primary Palette, Parks and Rec, Corvallis Arts Center Artist in Residence program and Majestic Education Program.

MDT students have gone on to excel in higher education programs and perform with companies around the country. Donna has been honored by University of Oregon for her contributions of students to their Dance major program. Additionally, MDT has been enriched by returning alumnae serving as instructors and choreographers for MDT students over the years.

In addition to her choreography for MDT's 32 yearly Spring Celebration of Dance Concerts, she has choreographed dances for Terpsichore, Making Spirits Bright, Dance Gallery, CCT, (*Magdalena* and *Sound of Music*) and ACT (*Le Cage aux Folles*).

Donna will be teaching four Supplemental Classes of Int/Adv Modern Dance Technique and Repertoire, for students ages 13 years old and up. Days one and two will be Graham technique classes: Floor work, center, jumps and across the floor exercises will derive from the Graham syllabus. Repertoire will contain excerpts taken from MDT choreography.

Days three and four will be Horton technique. Traditional Horton exercises for floor, center, and across the floor, in addition to learning some Horton Preludes and Fortifications. Repertoire will again be excerpts from MDT choreography.

Additionally, each of the four classes will also contain elements of Limon technique, as well as other fun, contemporary-derived exercises.

**\*For your financial planning purposes:** a reminder that Session V of the 2023-2024 academic year will run for 6 weeks, April 22<sup>nd</sup>-June 1<sup>st</sup>. **Session V tuition AND a \$30.00 Recital Production Fee** (required of all students who are performing in the Lower or Upper Division CAB Recitals on June 1<sup>st</sup>) **will be due by Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**. Students will not receive their recital tickets until their Session V tuition & Recital Production Fee are paid-in-full.

**\*Creative Movement students will have a 5-week Session V, April 22<sup>nd</sup>- May 25<sup>th</sup>**. Family members and friends of the Creative Movement students will be invited to sit in the studio and observe the final class on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, as an informal "In-Studio Recital." Creative Movement students do not perform in the onstage June 1<sup>st</sup> Recitals, so they do not need to pay the \$30.00 Recital Production Fee.

Thank you, dancers, and families!

~ Megan Skinner