



## **OVERVIEW**

This year will present some unique challenges for us, but we're committed to finding a way for the dancers to further their technique and training and showcase their hard work. We will continue to evolve our approach, as we monitor public health needs and the government response. Motions Dance Company is dedicated to enriching the training and experience of its dancers through a variety of performance opportunities. Dancers are selected by audition and must attend a required amount of dance technique classes every week and exhibit a strong work ethic and positive attitude. Motions Dance Company hosts an annual home concert featuring its dancers alongside professional dance companies from the Chicago dance community. The group has performed throughout Chicago and its suburbs as featured performers in dance concerts and Dance Chicago. The dancers have worked with guest choreographers from companies such as Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, the Joffrey Ballet, Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, River North Chicago Dance Company, Luna Negra Dance Theater, and more. For 2020-2021, Motions Dance Company will continue to accommodate the interests of more students and build our dancers' resumes. Approaching the collegiate level, a strong dance resume should include a solid background in training and performance, with a variety of accomplished teachers and choreographers.

Main Performance:

- *Home Concert* – April 25, 2021 at 3:00 PM
  
- *Mandatory Rehearsals for Home Concert*
  - Fridays, April 16 & April 23 from 6-9 PM
  - Mondays, April 12 and April 19 (Company class will be extended to 9:30 PM.)
  - Tech Rehearsal on April 24, 2020 from 12-6 PM

In addition, we will also:

- Submit a video to Dance Chicago to continue our participation
- Continue to participate in other performance opportunities that arise
- Perform at various charity venues if they should arise
- Provide opportunities to work with teachers through master classes
- Continue the Student Choreography Project

## **REQUIREMENTS**

If your child is interested in participating in the company, he/she will be chosen by teacher recommendations of all curriculum classes and an audition.

- Audition date: July 18, 2020: beginning at 10 AM
  - Auditions groups will be divided by Ballet levels; Ballet 2 & 3, Ballet 4 & Ballet 5 & 6
  - Specific time frames will be assigned beginning at 10 AM pending the total number of auditionees.
- \$10 audition fee
- Results will be posted on the website on July 27<sup>th</sup>. A company parent meeting date will be determined and posted on July 27<sup>th</sup> as well.

***Summer Requirements for company include:***

*Technique classes* – with this summer being a bit unique, we are still discussing summer requirements. We are currently assessing alternate approaches with how to get our season off to a great start. Below you will see the usual criteria and approach for our summer program, but you should anticipate large adjustments to the “normal” summer program as we determine how to proceed, while keeping our dancers safe.

ATTENDANCE FOR SUMMER REHEARSALS IS CRUCIAL! While we try to maintain some flexibility, and understanding to accommodate for summer schedules, summertime is crucial in terms of getting your dancer off to the right start for the Company. Summer classes and rehearsals are NOT considered optional. Unless you are on vacation, dancers are expected to attend ALL technique classes and choreography rehearsal classes. The same applies to guest choreographer rehearsals; unless you are on vacation, you are expected to attend ALL these rehearsals. We are hoping to bring in guest choreographers in the fall/winter.

If you cannot attend one or more rehearsals for a guest choreographer, you will understudy that dance. This means that you will learn the dance and enjoy the benefits of working with that choreographer and learning that style, but you will not perform the dance unless one of the actual dancers is unable to perform. It occurs frequently that understudies will step in for performances, so we expect understudies to take their role seriously.

If you miss an excessive number of classes and/or rehearsals, this will affect your participation in your dances. Dancers who miss Monday rehearsal classes are expected to rehearse on their own to ensure that they do not forget their dances or become lost. If you are going to miss a Monday, we ask that you send us an email advising us of your absence prior to that date. If we have not seen you for weeks and do not know where you are, this may result in your removal from some or all your dances.

***Fall Requirements for company include:***

*Full curriculum* – two Ballet classes (their regular ballet class and a ballet technique class), one Jazz class, a class of their choice and company class on Mondays at 7 or 8 p.m.

*Experience* – students with two years of jazz and/or ballet experience, ages 9 & up

*Commitment* – ability to attend rehearsals; fully participate in requirements; practice and retain dances

*Fees* – including rehearsal, costumes, etc. (see next page)

Because of the nature of the company and performances, 100% commitment is needed from the students. This includes rehearsals, technique classes, fundraisers, etc. Prior to joining you and your child will be required to sign a contract that will be strongly adhered to. This contract states that you are aware of all requirements and mandatory dates.

## FEES

\$500      Company Fee: This annual fee helps to offset the annual costs of company costumes, choreographer fees, publicity, legal fees, administrative and other operating expenses, company functions, etc.

Company fees can be paid in two installments;

- \$250 due 9/7/20
- \$250 due 3/15/21

\*\*Monies raised through fundraising may be used to offset the second company fee installment. For those who participate in fundraisers, the percentage earned from those fundraising will be deducted from the individual's balance.

This fee is non-refundable. If a family has more than one child in company, the second child pays a discounted rate of \$450. Company fees not paid by the due date are subject to a \$25 late fee/month.

\$60      Company Monthly Tuition: This tuition is for the Monday night company class and is to be paid to Dance Motions with regular tuition.

\$100      Clothing Fee: This is an estimated amount. We like to order new clothes that all members can wear when we do performances.

## **COMPANY STRUCTURE**

The Performing Company will be made up of 3-4 groups. These groups will be divided based on technical ability with a strong focus on Ballet. They will work with various Guest Choreographers and perform in the show.

APPRENTICES: Apprentices will perform some, but not all the dances with their Company level. Apprentices perform all group numbers that include the full company, and at least one dance with their Company level as well. They understudy any remaining dances. You will be informed throughout the summer which choreographers will include apprentices in their dances. Apprentices are expected to attend all Summer Tuesday/Thursday classes and rehearsals, as well as guest choreographer rehearsals.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Company is structured parallel to a professional dance company's structure; the dancers are trained by the Artistic Directors and staff and perform choreography by the Artistic Directors as well as guest artists.

The highlight of the season is our Home Concert, which occurs in April. Please do not make any travel or family plans on those weekends; the performance takes up much of the weekend with mandatory rehearsals and dress rehearsals that also occur that weekend. If possible, we ask you to limit your travel in the weeks prior to the performance, as those weeks are crucial rehearsal weeks for preparation. The Monday Company rehearsals the two weeks prior to the Home Concert are mandatory as well. All mandatory rehearsals are listed on the first page.

Throughout the year, you will receive emails (via TeamSnap) regarding additional shows and festivals we often perform in. If you have agreed to perform in any of these shows, your attendance is mandatory at the Monday rehearsal prior to that performance.

In general, please remember that you are part of a group. Your group consists of some of the most talented and diligent dancers at the studio. Frequent absences impact the entire group and we ask that you be conscientious of your attendance at Company on Monday nights.

We hope this helps to clarify our expectation for the dancers. Over the past few years, we have seen tremendous growth from our dancers based on these expectations and parameters and we constantly receive compliments on our Company. Our colleagues in the dance community tell us every year how blown away they are by the progress and quality of our dancers ... and the dancers have had so much fun on the way. We are excited for you to see how much your dancers grow this year.