

Private Lessons

Rationale

Regular and casual private lessons are an option for all MYPA student depending on the availability of studio space and teaching staff. Regular lessons are booked for an entire term or year. Casual private lessons are booked on a week to week basis.

The focus of private lessons is on quality of performance and continuous improvement based on the needs and goals of the individual and their specific needs.

The purpose of private lessons is to variously:

- prepare students for solo performances to build confidence, give performance experience and challenge and extend the individual
- polish students exam work prior to exams
- give students the benefits of one to one coaching to improve their technical and performance standards
- build stamina, strength, fitness, memory and storytelling skills
- provide a program specifically designed for the individual
- expose students to different teachers to ensure experience with different choreographic styles, musical interpretations and teaching styles

Private lessons will not extend beyond the students capabilities. The needs of the child are paramount.

MYPA recommend that exam candidates who do not have regular private lessons have a few private lessons before exams to polish syllabus work before an exam.

As students get older and more experienced they will build a repertoire of dances and will be able to perform more solos, however the emphasis will be on quality of performance and continuous improvement rather than quantity.

Too many dances, particularly across genres means that teachers do not get enough time with students to polish dances and adequately prepare students for competitions. Students may have to make choices between particular dance genres.

Not placing at a competition is not a reason for getting a new dance. Students are expected to take on board any constructive feedback and discuss this with their teachers. Special private lessons can be arranged during the term or holidays for extensive examination of a solo performance from a DVD for the thorough analysis of a performance to aid understanding and improvement.

Students who are rushed to learn new solos just prior to a performance rarely perform optimally and are under rehearsed and generally under prepared and therefore under greater pressure. This is contrary to our aim for students to enter the stage as best prepared as they can be to for their performance.

Related Documents

- Fee Schedule
- Costume Policy
- Dress and Grooming Policy
- Disclaimer

1. All solos, duos, trios and quads are the property of MYPA. If a student leaves the school choreography remains with MYPA.
2. Private lessons are not available unless fee payments are up to date.

3. MYPA cannot guarantee a particular teacher for private lessons.
4. Exam work will take preference to solo preparation according to the judgment of the student's teachers.
5. Due to rostering and other staffing issues private lessons cannot be "made up". For private lessons where a student misses a class due to illness, credit for the class will be given on presentation of a doctor's certificate.
6. If a private lesson that has been paid for is cancelled by MYPA a credit for the class will be given for the following term.
7. Private lesson places cannot be held for students who take a long leave of absence if there is a waiting list for private lessons.
8. If notice is given before two weeks into the term that students have school camp or similar commitments, private lessons will not be scheduled and therefore not charged to the account. This may have an impact on the number of solos it is possible to teach.
9. In order to adequately prepare students for solo performances 4 dances is the maximum that can be rehearsed in a 30 minute lesson particularly for students at or below intermediate level or approximately 12 years of age. New dances can be learnt during casual private lessons given there is enough time during private lesson to rehearse routines.
10. Solos will be choreographed and taught over a four week period. The fifth week of teaching is to consolidate the choreographic intent of the dance. Generally two new dances can be taught each term if appropriate to planning and the student's needs.
11. No new solos are to be started without consultation with the director and will form part of the annual student planning process.
12. Filming of the dance **during class** is not permitted unless expressly invited by the teacher. MYPA encourages students to learn the choreography without the use of filming to practise and improve memory skills. Choreographing a dance is a fluid process and the teacher may change the choreography from week to week.
13. If parents need to talk to the teacher they are asked to make an appointment or to let the teacher know that they need five minutes at the beginning of the lesson so as not to impinge on other students time.
14. In order to help students achieve their goals, planning for exams and competitions is encouraged. Students will not normally be taught a new dance less than 6 weeks before a competition. This impacts on scheduling and may require extra private lessons prior to competitions, eisteddfods and other performances.
15. Solos are to be kept for two years (or if the dance is still suitable and the theme appropriate for the age and ability of the student, for longer if the student wishes). As students grow in skill and ability new more complex or difficult steps can be added to the choreography. Part of the skill of performing is to maintain freshness in presentation, no matter how long a student has had a dance.
16. Dances put en pointe from demi are considered to be a new dance.
17. Casual private lessons, booked on a lesson by lesson basis are charged at a rate per half hour and must be paid before or at the time of the lesson.

18. Pre booked term private lessons are charged at a rate per half hour and also the same rate per half hour for extra casual lessons.
19. Intensive coaching and analysis private lessons are charged at a rate per half hour.
20. MYPA welcomes student input into the choice of music for solos, duos, trios and quads, but the final decision is made by the teacher. All music must be checked with the director to ensure that it is not currently being performed as a solo or troupe. Music requests can be lodged with the director by email or in writing. Music requests cannot be made for more than 2 years in advance.
21. To be eligible to learn and perform a Ballet, Neo-Classical, National or Demi Character solo students from Pre-primary and Primary must be participating in one classical technique class at the discretion of the teachers and director.
22. To be eligible to learn and perform a Ballet, Neo-Classical, National or Demi Character solo students from Grade 1 to 5 must be participating in at least 2 classical technique classes.
23. To be eligible to learn and perform a Ballet, Neo-Classical, National or Demi Character solo students from Grade 6 and Intermediate Foundation classes must be participating in classes of an appropriate level and frequency to maintain your classical ballet technique, appropriate stretching, demi pointe and pointe classes.
24. To be eligible to learn a solo in a particular genre the student must be participating in the performance group for that particular genre. If they leave the group the solo may be performed for the rest of the calendar year at the discretion of the director. This applies to duos, trios and quads.
25. Students are encouraged to approach teachers and the director about learning duos, trios and quads. Participation in duos, trios and quads is at the discretion of the teachers and the director. The number of items performed is limited by the amount of private lesson time and no more than three duos, trios or quads are permitted at any one time for any one pair or partnership.
26. As the costume is usually part of the creative vision the teacher guides the costuming process, although student input is encouraged. Students and parents are asked to respect the ideas of the teacher. All costume ideas must be discussed with and approved by the teacher and the director before purchase or construction to avoid duplication.