



BC's VIRTUAL STUDIO!

An Online Dance Education provided by Ballet Conservatory

March 23, 2020

Hello everyone,

Today was supposed to be our first day back after a relaxing Spring Break. I know it was not relaxing for most of us as we are worrying about our families and the world right now. It is at times like this that we are reminded how much the Arts can provide joy, comfort and beauty. While everyone is facing difficulty, there is something calming about hearing a beautiful song, doing a simple port de bras, or just being exhausted from doing a petit allegro or a fun tap combination. The current situation in our world has forced everyone to be creative thinkers. Our wonderful and dedicated teachers have jumped to my side to help me find a way to keep our studio alive so that when this crisis is over, we have a healthy studio to return to. Our number one goal is to help the physical and mental well-being of our students during this time of self-containment. We also need to make sure that the studio and its staff can survive the financial crisis that we are about to experience. We know that many of you have the same financial concerns and we want to make it possible for everyone who has been a part of our BC family to finish the dance year with us!

Here is my plan for finishing the next two months and hopefully the recital which we have been so excited about. Since we are technically just finishing our Spring Break, we only have 8 more class days left in March so I am asking everyone to pay their March tuition as usual. This will allow me to pay all our teachers who will spend this week preparing for our Online transition. They will be making videos of classes, recital work, typing recital notes for the dancers and sending us their final music to share with their students. It will be a learning curve for us to transition to an online dance studio which seems so odd to say since learning dance has always been passed on from one teacher/generation to another. But it is something we are forced to do. Moving forward after March, we are asking everyone to pay for both April & May tuition together because our online studio will need password access, zoom numbers, etc. It will be easier to just give access and passwords one time then each month. We are offering the following incentives for those who pay for both April and May together in one payment:

1. Those who take 1 or 2 classes a month will have their REGISTRATION FEE WAIVED NEXT FALL AND GET A SPECIAL ZOOM MASTER CLASS WITH SARAH LANE, PRINCIPAL OF AMERICAN BALLET THEATER THIS SATURDAY, March 28 in the afternoon. See details below.
2. Those who take 3 or more classes a month will have their REGISTRATION FEE WAIVED NEXT FALL and will also receive a 25% DISCOUNT on the total of April & May tuition combined. If you are already receiving a discount, the greater discount will apply. And OF COURSE, the SPECIAL ZOOM MASTER CLASS WITH SARAH LANE!
3. We will also have a special package reserved for those who are affected financially and are unable to work during this quarantine time. Read on to see how we want to help!
4. ALL those who remain with us through this time and return in the Fall of 2020 will receive a special BC anniversary tshirt to thank you for your loyalty during this time and because this July will be BC's 30th ANNIVERSARY!!! When we are on the other side of this crisis, we will have much to celebrate!

HERE'S THE PLAN TO GO ONLINE!

Beginning April 1, if not sooner, we will launch our **Virtual Studio!** We will give our students access to a certain section of our website that will allow you to enter our "Studio." There, students will have tabs (think of the tabs as rooms) to click on that will take them to various classes, activities, tutorials, etc. Here are the tabs/rooms they will find with a brief description of what is each room:

RECITAL – Only those in Recital will receive access to this page.

This is where you will find a direct contact to your teacher and eventually participate in Zoom Classes with your classmates. This week, your teachers are preparing information for the Recital Section to include:

1. A video or videos of the dance. The teacher will explain how the video and notes work together.
2. A typed copy of the notes for your dance.
3. The music for your dance.
4. After a week or two, we will start scheduling ZOOM Classes to work on the recital dance. This will be fun because you will actually get to see your fellow classmates and teachers! For those who cannot make the ZOOM meeting, we will post the recorded version on this page. This will also help with practicing.

When not doing recital work, you can dance all over our Virtual Studio and keep in shape with any of the classes offered, our Tutorials, our Weekly Challenges, or try a class you have never taken before! That will be a nice benefit of this type of education. You will be able to get a glimpse into the other types of dance we offer and even try it out for no additional charge. Here are the other "Rooms" you can visit!

BALLET

This is where you can just take a class without the recital. These classes can serve as warmups before you practice your recital dances. These will be pre-recorded classes so you can decide which class you want to take at any time convenient for you. You will find Pre-Ballet, Ballet by levels, 3 levels of Pointe and even a Pre-Pointe Exercises Class which we usually only offer during Summer Workshop! There will also be Boy's Class, Variations, Pirouettes class and more. A very special opportunity will be ZOOM Master Classes with ABT Principal, Sarah Lane; and Steven Loch, Soloist with PNB. Ms. Lane will do a free class this Saturday but after that there will be a minimal additional charge for Master Classes and even private and small group opportunities with our Guest Teachers. We will be working on more master class opportunities and announce these through our Five Pointes when they are available.

JAZZ/HIP HOP

Ever want to try a jazz class and you can't afford another class, this is a great time to take a beginning jazz class. By paying your regular tuition for the next two months, you can take anything we offer in our Virtual Studio. You can also take from different teachers each week, try a Hip Hop class, and Tracy Jordan has offered to teach a Luigi Style Jazz Warmup which would also be great for Adults!

TAP

Here you will find Song and Tap, Elementary Tap, and all our regular tap levels! There will also be special shorter classes geared towards practicing specific skills like time steps, pickups, etc. This is a great time for you to try tap before you invest in tap shoes. We encourage you to watch a dance form you may not be old enough to take yet, just be careful!

MODERN DANCE

Three levels of Modern with Mrs. Tate

CONTEMPORARY

Classes with Carley Denton and Rachael Clark

MUSICAL THEATRE CLASSES

Since recital work will be done in another “Room,” this section of Musical Theatre will provide a nice time to work on singing in a group, acting classes, preparing a monologue or song for an audition. Private ZOOM or SKYPE voice lessons will be available for an additional charge and since you are a BC student, the cost will be less than usual private voice lessons!

CONDITIONING WORK

This one we love because it is much needed cross-training work necessary for healthy and strong dancers. Conditioning also prevents injury! Unfortunately, there aren’t enough hours in the day during the regular school year and many dancers aren’t able to take Pre Pro, conditioning or stretch classes or Summer Workshop and even if they do, they don’t always do the the exercises at home. In the Conditioning “room” you will have access to 12 different conditioning classes with many of our teachers in addition to fun things like “Stretch with one of your Favorite Advanced Dancers!” There are so many YouTube links out there for people to watch, but we will post helpful links to classes we think are safe and give good instruction.

TUTORIALS

We thought it would be fun to use this time to have our teachers make tutorial videos on different dance topics such as How to make ballet buns with Ms. Faith; Pointe Shoe topics, Stage makeup, Chat Time with Mrs. Lannin, etc. This will be helpful to the moms and dads, too!

COMPANIES – LBT, LBT 2, IDC, PRE-PRO

Here’s where we will post what our company dancers and Pre Pro students do and anyone can pop in and see what we do in our different companies. We will also do a spotlight dancer each week so you can meet them!

CHALLENGES!!!

Last but not least.....This is another way we hope to build our BC community and build our Facebook and Instagram followers! Each week we will announce a different challenge where the dancers make a video and submit it by Friday and then we will pick winners each week and your video will be posted. This will be a fun way to use your TikTok and video skills. The challenges should be super- fun!!!

PRIVATE AND SEMI-PRIVATE LESSONS

Teachers are often asked to do private lessons and we just don’t have time when we teach such long schedules, but now would be a great time to schedule. Each teacher who is available will have a studio contact where you can leave them a message and schedule lessons with them. Lessons will be done via ZOOM or SKYPE or FACETIME depending on teacher’s preference. Prices vary depending on the teacher.

FOR THOSE NOT IN THE RECITAL

****If there is a parent who would like to take advantage of our virtual classes, we will have a super-discounted parent rate for you to add if you already have a child paying. The cost for a parent with a paying student will be \$50 for the month of April and May!

****If there is a former BC student or new student, we will have a fee for them based on their age and level. Please inquire at info@balletconservatory.com because we would love for you to be part of this! And we would love to have you back at the "studio" during this time!

RECITAL: We are very hopeful that we will be able to do the recital. It may not be the same type of recital we are used to, and dances may not be as polished, but if we are able to have it, it will mean life is in a better place and we will have reason to celebrate! We posted the Recital Fee with your March tuition and many of you may have paid it. If we do not end up having the recital, we will credit the recital fee to your summer or fall tuition or refund the recital fee. We cannot refund costumes because they have already been paid for and are in. It is still important to keep working on the recital because the kids know a good part of their dance if not all, and they love the recital dances! It will be fun to keep working on it. I hope it will be comforting to the children to do something they recognize as they transition to our online education. If we are back by May, we are committed to getting our students ready and can have extra rehearsals if necessary.

So that's it!!

We hope you like our introduction to BC's Virtual Studio! All our students will be emailed a personal password as soon as you have paid or communicated with us if you are out of work due to the Coronavirus and need us to work with you. Everyone will continue to log on at our website to pay where register for classes or make payments. After you have done this, you will enter the Virtual Studio and enter your email and password and it will say pending until you receive access. This will allow us to verify payment.

Remember that those whose regular tuition is for 3 or more classes may take a 25% discount off April and May tuition. We are doing this because we feel that those who pay for one or two classes will get so much more opportunity to dance and increase your dance education with full access. Since we are not at the studio, email all questions to info@balletconservatory.com If you think you have a balance from March or prior and need to know how much you owe, you can email us and we will assist you. As we mentioned earlier, if your job is affected by the effects of the Coronavirus, please email us your situation and we will gladly waive your April and May Tuition as long as you are current. If things get better for you, you can always pay us back and if not, we totally understand in light of these difficult times. I know this may seem unfair to some people, but we believe that this is a time where we need to all help each other. Some people will be deeply affected by the Coronavirus and lose their jobs and others are fortunate that they can work from home. The studio is one of those businesses that is greatly impacted and will suffer if we cannot find a way to do business. We feel fortunate that we CAN continue to do business in a different way by using technology. If we can get a majority of our families to commit to the next two months of tuition, we can help those who will be struggling and keep the studio alive and well.

Sorry for this long explanation but I want everyone to feel prepared for what we will be doing during this difficult time. This will not replace actually dancing in a studio where you can leap and turn and jump to your heart's content or do choreography that changes formations, etc. You will not be able to have hands on attention or a hug from your teacher, but it will keep our dancers going so that when we return, we are ready! Please give our teachers this week to

prepare their notes and videos. We would also appreciate a prayer as it will be a lot of work in a computer world which many of us are not very comfortable in. In the meantime, here's what you can do to get ready to dance!!!

1. Get a space ready! Carpet and wood floor are ideal but if you only have tile in your homes make sure to wear a jazz shoes or ballet shoes. It can get a little slippery so be careful!
2. For Tap, you may want to go to Home Depot and get a piece of Masonite to tap on to protect your floors at home. You can always tap on concrete but it will scratch up the bottom of your taps.
3. Find a ballet "barre" which can be a kitchen counter or table. If you have a yoga mat, that will be great for floor stretches and conditioning class. If you don't have weights, you can use your mom's canned goods! If you don't have a theraband, you can use a towel or tshirt. If you don't have a foam roller, you can use a swimming pool noodle. Where there's a will, there's a way!
4. Download the Zoom App <https://www.zoom.us/> It's free! You might want to practice getting on to see if you can do it. I had a little trouble the first time but figured it out. If I can do it, anyone can!
You can also Download the app on to any phone or tablet device through app stores.
5. A bluetooth speaker or bluetooth ear phones will help. Streaming the conversation and music though just your device may not be loud enough or clear enough. I would connect through a bluetooth speaker or some bluetooth ear buds when streaming. Be prepared for some lag depending on internet service.
6. Get an easel or stand for your device set up. You don't have to go out and buy anything...sometimes you just need a table and a couple of books to set up a stand area to stream your device. Get creative!
7. Like us on Facebook and Instagram if you haven't already so you can see the Challenges!
8. Figure out how to do Facebook Live or Skype in case you want to do a private.
Remember to be ready by this Saturday for the Sarah Lane Master classes. We will send everyone who has paid for April and May by Saturday a link and password to this master class. There will be a stretch class with Sarah for the younger dancers and a Ballet Barre for the older dancers. The classes are around 3 or 4 pm but more details will be included with the password in emails sent to you when we confirm your tuition payment.

One last note.....We have several families who owe us for past tuition and while we try to be understanding and give you the time you need in hard times, we are at a time where we really need this past due tuition money in order to be able to pay our faculty and staff during the next few months. If you have received statements and have not followed up, please contact us this week at info@balletconservatory.com to discuss. You can make payments on our website where you register for classes.

Thank you and Stay Safe!

Can't wait to see you online!

Kelly Lannin, Artistic Director

Mary Neel, Business Director

www.balletconservatory.com