

# *great gig DANCE co.*

August 13, 2011

Congratulations and welcome to the 2011-2012 Great Gig Dance Ensemble!

Why do we have a performance Ensemble? Dance is a form of artistic expression, designed for performing. The ultimate goal of dance training is the performance! Until the dance student performs for a live audience, their training is incomplete. Many dance students will perform only once a year—on a stage in the recital. These students are known as “recreational” dancers. ***Great Gig Dance Ensemble is a group of more serious dancers who desire more than that once-a-year opportunity to perform. Ensemble dancers LOVE to be on a stage! And being on a stage makes you a better performer, and a better dancer. Great Gig Dance Ensemble will provide you with many opportunities to perform and share your talent with others.***

The first step to becoming a successful dancer is to make a solid commitment to your classes, rehearsals and performances. Strong technique is a key ingredient and class is where you develop that technique. Come to each class prepared to learn and without personal distractions. Class time is your chance to focus on yourself, so try to leave your concerns or worries at the studio door. ***True progress is made when you look at each class, rehearsal or performance as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do.*** Dance full out, stretch a little further, become more aware of your technique, and make the most of every class.

Respect for the teachers and choreographers you work with is essential. Listen to each correction given, whether it's directed to you or another dancer. A correction is an honor; it shows you how much a teacher cares about your progress as a dancer. Always say thank you when a teacher or choreographer offers you constructive criticism. Nothing can stop those students who apply themselves in every class and appreciate their teachers' knowledge and experience.

Performances are your opportunity to show the world the results of your dedication and hard work. Make the most of this opportunity by presenting yourself in a professional manner—and go out there and show the audience how much you love to dance!

## **Ensemble Information and Policies**

### **1. Attendance**

- As an Ensemble member, you are expected to attend your classes and rehearsals.
- All dancers must attend all classes unless they are extremely sick (contagious), or a family emergency arises. These are the only two acceptable excuses for missing class.
- A maximum of 4 unexcused absences in an Ensemble class may result in removal from all performances in which that class participates (at the discretion of the teacher and director). Poor attendance affects not only your performance, but also negatively impacts the performance of your peers. Respecting your peers (as well as yourself) is an important part of your dance education.
- **You must notify the studio and your teacher in advance if you will be absent for any reason!** For everyone's benefit, teachers plan their classes according to their predetermined goals (choreography deadlines, technique goals, etc.)—and when students do not come to class, it disrupts the teacher's plans as well as the progress of the entire class. Please notify the teacher of any planned absences IN ADVANCE with a written note in their office folder. You may call the studio office and leave a message for the teacher in the event of an unplanned absence.
- If a dancer misses the class or rehearsal that directly precedes an upcoming performance, they will be removed from that performance. The dancer may also be removed from subsequent performances if there is not adequate rehearsal/class time available to adjust the choreography.
- If a dancer misses class or rehearsal, he or she is responsible for learning any missed

## 2. Rehearsals and Performances

**Ensemble members must attend all scheduled rehearsals, performances, workshops, competitions and parades—no exceptions will be made unless prior arrangements are made with the director.**

- Great Gig will make all performance and rehearsal dates available as soon as possible. Please check your mailbox, your email (preferred method of communication), our website ([www.greatgigdance.com](http://www.greatgigdance.com)), and our Facebook page for this type of communication.
- It is critical that you attend class and any scheduled rehearsals prior to the performances, workshops, and competitions. If you are unprepared for any performance as a result of poor attendance (for any reason), the choreographer may replace or eliminate your part.
- If a dancer fails to participate in a scheduled performance, competition or recital, (whether voluntarily or required by the director), a \$50 re-choreography fee may be assessed per dance.
- Each dancer is considered an asset to the Ensemble, and when you are missing your dance is incomplete. Be respectful of your peers, teachers and choreographers by committing yourself to them and Great Gig Dance Ensemble.
- Additional rehearsals may become necessary as we approach certain performance dates. Rehearsal fees of \$5-\$10 will be charged, and all dancers will be made aware of rehearsal dates, times and fees with as much advance notice as possible.
- Some Ensemble members may be selected to perform in dances that will not be rehearsed during class, but in a separate rehearsal time (voluntary commitment). Appropriate rehearsal/choreography fees will be charged on a case-by-case basis.

## 3. Levels of Proficiency

- All Ensemble members are required to take Ballet. Ballet is the foundation for all types of dance. You must remain proficient in your Ballet classes.
- Ensemble dancers who are on Pointe must attend 2 Ballet classes each week.
- All Ensemble members must be registered for and remain proficient in **at least** one other type of dance class (Jazz, Tap, Hip-Hop, Contemporary).
- All Ensemble dancers must attend **at least** one approved dance workshop during the season. Workshops are extremely important in a dancer's training—they create an environment for exposure to innovative choreographers, other excellent dancers, and a variety of dance styles. Workshops also encourage dancers to learn movement at a very fast pace—training their minds and bodies to become more efficient. Dates, locations, and prices of all workshops will be posted as they become available.
- Class placement of students is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex. Our staff meets regularly to discuss the students' progress and/or placement. It is our policy to offer appropriate opportunities to every dancer. Some parents and dancers may compare their progress or class or choreography placement to that of others in the program. **We encourage all dancers to focus on their own accomplishments.** Looking to others for inspiration is a good thing; however a negative focus or comparison distracts from the energy that could be focused on becoming a stronger dancer.

## 4. Classroom and Performance Attire –

**Respect yourself and your talent by dressing like a DANCER!** Proper dance attire must be worn to ALL classes, rehearsals, and performances! There will be no exceptions. If you come to class dressed improperly, the teacher may ask you to sit and watch. If you do not have the proper attire or costume (including accessories) at a performance, you may not be allowed to perform. Performances: Dancers MUST remove any belly button jewelry for performances! Visible tattoos (permanent or temporary) are not acceptable. Hair accessories that are not part of the costume are not allowed.

Ballet (girls):

- Leotard (specific style and color leotard for each Ballet level) Ballet 1-(CC202 light blue), Ballet 2-(CC202 royal blue), Ballet 3-(CC202 forest green), Ballet 4-(CC202 burgandy), Ballet 5-(MC300 black) - please order your leotard TODAY from DanceMax.
- Bras are optional, but **MUST** be flesh-colored dance bra with hidden or clear straps
- Pink tights (Capezio #9 in classical pink for performances)
- Pink split-sole ballet shoes
- Pointe shoes are to be brought to the studio for every class!
- Hair pulled back in a bun (use bobby pins, hairnet, gel & spray—no wisps of hair)

#### Ballet (boys):

- Black tights (M. Stevens footed tights in black are preferred)
- Solid black **FITTED** t-shirt or tank (no baggy or long shirts—we need to see your hips!)
- Black split-sole ballet shoes
- Long hair must be pulled away from the face

#### Jazz, Contemporary:

- **NEW THIS YEAR:** All dancers in Jazz and Contemporary classes will wear all black, tight-fitting dance attire to classes and rehearsals!
- Girls: Leotard & tights, jazz pants, hot shorts hot shorts (provided they are not loose-fitting around the thighs, do not ride up inappropriately, and are long enough to maintain modesty when performing kicks, splits and leg extensions)
- Boys: Black jazz pants or shorts, black solid t-shirt or tank
- Shoes for Jazz: Jazz boots, Bloch SO495 in Tan and Black
- Shoes for Contemporary: dancers should be barefoot for class unless otherwise instructed
- Hair must be pulled back!
- Wearing hot shorts will not exempt the dancer from floorwork where delicate knees may come in contact with the floor
- Do not wear athletic shorts (no Softe shorts or boxer shorts) or sleepwear pants in the classroom. Sweatpants should be removed after the warm-up.
- ***Do not wear t-shirts of any kind to class or rehearsal! Printed shirts are distracting to the teacher/choreographer and they may ask you to remove them.***

#### Tap:

- Shoes for Tap: Black oxford-style Tap shoes (Capezio “Hoofmaster” or “Premiere” is preferred for beginner/intermediate; Bloch’s Jason Samuels Smith shoe, Miller & Ben Triple Threat or Capezio K360 is ***highly recommended*** for intermediate/advanced (levels 2, 3 & 4); purchase shoes most suitable for your feet pending teacher approval.

#### Hip-Hop:

- Shoes for performances – Hip Hop A - Converse “One Star” low-top sneakers in black and white (available at Target stores and online); Hip Hop B - Nike “swoosh” high-top shoes in assorted colors; Hip Hop C – combat style boots and Nike “swoosh” high-top shoes in assorted colors
- Shoes for class should be flexible sneakers with a flat sole
- Comfortable, loose-fitting clothing (basketball shorts, sweatpants, etc.)

## 5. Fundraising

Fundraising opportunities will be made available through the Ensemble’s non-profit organization. Take advantage of all fundraising activities available to help ease costs associated with tuition, costumes, workshop/competition fees and other dance-related expenses as noted in Ensemble bylaws. *You may withdraw money from your account to pay for dance expenses by making a request in writing to the Treasurer (use the forms provided behind the Ensemble folders).* **Checks drawn on the Ensemble account will be made out to Great Gig Dance Co. and applied according to your instructions.**

## 6. Communication

- Each Ensemble member will have their own mailbox, located in the back lobby of the studio. Please check your mailbox each time you are at the studio for important information.
- Please also provide us with at least 1 email address where we can send important information directly to the parents and dancers! Check that email address for any communication. The staff is not responsible for missed communications due to your failure to check or maintain your email address.
- Each teacher at Great Gig Dance Co. has a personal communication folder, located in the office.
- Our website ([www.greatgigdance.com](http://www.greatgigdance.com)) is a wonderful resource for communication and we will also post important information on our Facebook page. Check the website and Facebook page often for updated information on rehearsals and events, as well as current photos.
- You may reach Tammy personally at [tammy@greatgigdance.com](mailto:tammy@greatgigdance.com), or at the following numbers:
  - 770-218-2112 (studio)
  - 678-469-0314 (cell)

## 7. Dates and Events

- August 13, Saturday - annual Ensemble Meeting – 1:30 (at the studio)
- August 15, Monday - first day of regular classes at studio
- August 26, Friday – Pigs & Peaches (Adams Park, Kennesaw) – performances at 6:30 and 7:30pm
- September 3, Saturday - Dress rehearsal for Fall performances – 10:00-11:30 at the studio
- September 4, Sunday - "Love the Lake" (Cauble Park in Acworth) - performances at 1:00 and 2:00pm
- September 10, Saturday - "A Taste of Kennesaw" (downtown Kennesaw) - performances at 3:30 and 4:30 (**Note: NEW TIMES**)
- September 30, Friday - North Georgia State Fair (Jim R. Miller Park in Marietta) - performances at 6:00, 8:00 and 9:30pm

*Fall performances: We want to include all Ensemble dancers in the Fall performances, but since it is so early in the season, this will certainly be contingent upon completion of choreography, attendance and proficiency. Look for a performance line-up and costume instructions during the first few weeks of dance classes. There may be additional rehearsals for some dancers leading up to these performances. Dancers will receive a rehearsal schedule during the first week of regular class—rehearsals may be held on Fridays and/or Saturdays.*

- October 15, Saturday - "A Taste of Acworth" (downtown Acworth) - performances times TBA
- "Totally Tap" - October 23 – Great Gig Dance Co.; **incredible** workshop opportunity – mandatory for Ensemble intermediate and advanced tap dancers; workshop fee=\$150; see [www.tapushop.com](http://www.tapushop.com) for more information
- December 2, Friday – Santa's Arrival (downtown Acworth) – evening performance time TBA
- December 3 – Santa's Arrival (downtown Kennesaw) – morning parade and performance times TBA
- December 3, Saturday - Christmas at North Star (North Star Church in Acworth) – performances times TBA
- Sights and Sounds of the Season - we are currently searching for a date and venue – will probably take place the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in December
- At least 2 additional Christmas performances will be scheduled at local assisted living homes and Town Center Mall.
- Hollywood Vibe – February 10-12 – Atlanta (**this will be our mandatory workshop and competition for the entire Ensemble—please make hotel reservations as soon as possible if you want to stay at the hotel**); workshop fee=\$200; host hotel: Sheraton Atlanta on Courtland Street \$129 (cut-off date is Jan. 11th, 800-833-8624; for more information see [www.hollywoodvibe.com](http://www.hollywoodvibe.com)).
- NUVO workshop in Atlanta (optional) – January 27-29 – location TBA – workshop fee=\$195 (juniors) and \$220 (seniors) see [www.breakthefloor.com](http://www.breakthefloor.com) for more information
- The PULSE workshop in Atlanta (optional) – March 24-25 – Georgia International Convention Center (Atlanta) – workshop fee=\$220; host hotel: Atlanta Airport Marriott Gateway \$109+ (404-763-1544); more info at [www.thepulseontour.com](http://www.thepulseontour.com) (optional workshop for ages 11+)
- JUMP workshop in Atlanta (optional) – April 13-15 – location TBA – workshop fee=\$195 (juniors) and \$220 (seniors) see [www.breakthefloor.com](http://www.breakthefloor.com) for more information
- Big Shanty Festival – April 21st & 22nd – downtown Kennesaw; parade on Saturday morning and performances both days
- Showcase 2012 – June 7th-10th, Cobb Civic Center

### Studio closings:

- Thanksgiving Break – November 20 – 27
- Winter Break – December 21 - January 3
- Spring Break – April 1 – 8
- We will conduct class on all other holidays (including Mondays) unless otherwise notified.

## 8. Additional Expenses

As Ensemble members, each dancer will have extra expenses. Some families have found that making extra small payments monthly can help cover these expenses. The following is an estimate of additional Ensemble expenses:

- Class tuition: Ensemble dancers may take unlimited classes for a maximum tuition rate of \$210 per month. The maximum tuition cap for families of Ensemble dancers will be \$285 (please *note: accounts utilizing the above unlimited rate for individuals or families are not eligible for an additional 10% discount for annual payment*). This does not include special classes or additional workshops and rehearsals.
- Shoes: approximately \$25+ per pair (tap shoes for advanced dancers can be as much as \$250)
- Costumes: approximately \$60-\$100 each (costume deposits of \$50 per costume are due in October and the balance is due prior to costume distribution)
- Competition fees: approximately \$35 per group dance (solos, duets/trios are considerably more)
- Workshop fees: \$150-\$250 per workshop, depending on the length (at least one workshop is mandatory).
- Travel expenses: out-of-town performances, workshops, competitions
- Miscellaneous costume accessories or props (hats, earrings, gloves, skirts)
- Ensemble Summer Dance Camp: The 2011 fee is \$100 per dancer.
- Rehearsal fees: Rehearsal fees of \$5-\$10 will be charged as needed. Dancers who are absent from any rehearsal will still be charged.
- Choreography fees for solos\* (\$325), duets (\$180 per dancer), trios and small groups (\$150 per dancer). Fees include 5 hours of rehearsal time with the choreographer. Additional rehearsals will be billed at the choreographer's hourly rate. Senior dancers wishing to choreograph their own solos for adjudication must obtain permission and an informational sheet from the office. ***Please note: a 50% deposit is due on all solos, duets, trios and small groups prior to the first choreography session! The balance will be due upon completion of the routine.***

*\*Solos, duets, trios and small groups are a privilege and will be arranged at the discretion of our staff. To be considered for one of these special pieces, dancers MUST demonstrate a great attitude in their regular classes, as well as dedication to dance at Great Gig Dance Co. They must be willing to rehearse as directed by the choreographer, and must also practice and rehearse independently.*

*A note about solos, duets, trios & small groups:*

*All special groups will perform in a separate showcase during recital week. They will not be presented in the other showcases unless selected by the director, because of time restraints.*

## **Great Gig Dance Ensemble 2011-2012 - Shoe/Clothing/Accessory Requirements**

### **All Ensemble Members:**

- Costume for Christmas performances
- Crystal earrings
- Crystal ponytail holder
- Black sweatshirt, hoodie or jacket with Great Gig logo
- Black jazz pants (boot cut leg)
- Black sports bra
- Black hot shorts
- Tights – Capezio #1816 in Light Suntan and Black
- Tights – Capezio #9 in Classical Pink (seamed)
- Christmas costume:

*Please order your red Christmas costume—the cost is \$60 plus tax. Girls will need tan Bloch SO495 jazz shoes and Capezio #1816 tights in light suntan. For Ballet, girls wear Capezio #9 tights in classical pink, white tulle skirt (made by Michele Knowles--must be measured and ordered) and pink ballet shoes. Boys will wear white tuxedo shirt, black bow tie, black dress pants, black belt, black socks, black jazz shoes and ballet shoes.*

### **Ballet:**

- Leotard: Capezio (order from DanceMax) -- Ballet 1-light blue, Ballet 2-royal blue, Ballet 3-forest green, Ballet 4-burgandy, Ballet 5-black (please order today)
- Tights – girls: Capezio #9 in Classical Pink (seamed); boys: M. Stevens footed tights in black
- Pink split sole ballet shoes (boys wear black)
- Black tutu (Ballet 5 only) – order from studio
- Boys: black tight-fitting t-shirt, black tights (M. Stevens)

### **Jazz:**

- Jazz boots, Bloch SO495 in Tan and Black

### **Tap:**

- Black oxford-style Tap shoes (Capezio “Hoofmaster” or “Premiere” is preferred for beginner/intermediate; Bloch Jason Samuels Smith, Miller & Ben Triple Threat or Capezio K360 is highly recommended for intermediate/advanced (levels 2, 3, 4); purchase shoes most suitable for your feet pending teacher approval)

### **Hip Hop**

- Sneakers – Hip Hop A - Converse “One Star” low-top sneakers in black and white (available at Target stores and online); Hip Hop B - Nike “swoosh” high-top shoes in assorted colors; Hip Hop C – combat style boots and Nike “swoosh” high-top shoes in assorted colors

### **Please keep the following items in your dance bag at all times:**

Hair elastics, hairnets, bobby pins

Safety pins

Hair gel & hairspray

Band-aids

Blister aids (for Pointe & Tap)

Ace bandage

Emergency ice pack

Small screwdriver (for tap shoes)

Extra screws (for tap shoes)

Toothpicks (to repair stripped screws)

Black tape (hold taps in place in emergency)

Water bottle

Spiral notebook & pen

Small sewing kit

Extra tights

Kneepads

**Great Gig Ensemble Price List**  
**8/13/11**

*\*Prices are subject to change. Discounted prices apply only for Ensemble Members. Order items through our office. Deliver time is usually within 2 weeks.*

<b>Great Gig Logo Items</b>	<b>Regular Price</b>	<b>Ensemble Discount 10%</b>
Windsuit, youth (includes first name embroidered on jacket, logo on jacket back and pants leg)	Jacket & Pants \$96.00 (Jacket \$66.00, Pants \$30.00)	\$86.40 (\$59.40, 27.00)
Windsuit, adult (includes first name embroidered on jacket, logo on jacket back and pants leg)	Jacket & Pants \$108.50 (Jacket \$73.50, Pants \$35.00)	\$97.65 (\$66.15, 31.50)
Tracksuit, youth (includes first name embroidered on jacket)	Jacket & Pants \$101.00 (Jacket \$69, Pants \$32, Shorts \$19)	\$90.90 (\$62.10, \$28.80, \$17.10)
Tracksuit, adult (includes first name embroidered on jacket)	Jacket & Pants \$110.00 (Jacket \$75, Pants \$35, Shorts \$22)	\$99.00 (\$67.50, \$31.50, \$19.80)
Small Dance Bag, 19" x 10" x 10" (includes first & last name and logo embroidery)	\$40.00	\$36.00
Large Dance Bag, 24" x 12" x 12" (includes first & last name and logo embroidery)	\$47.00	\$42.00
Sweatshirt, youth	\$26.00	\$23.40
Sweatshirt, adult	\$30.00	\$27.00
Sweatshirt, youth, hooded pullover	\$34.00	\$30.60
Sweatshirt, adult, hooded pullover	\$37.00	\$33.00
Garment/Costume bag (includes one name and logo embroidery)	\$40.00	\$36.00

## Great Gig Dance Ensemble - Letter of Commitment, 2011-2012

I am making a commitment of time and talent to Great Gig Dance Ensemble. This is a commitment to my fellow dancers, my teachers, my parents and myself.

I recognize that I have been chosen to be part of an elite group that is well respected in the dance and civic community, and I will not degrade that reputation by my actions, behavior, or demeanor. I understand that in my daily life I am a representative of Great Gig Dance Ensemble and Great Gig Dance Co., and will seek to present myself always in a positive light.

I agree to put dance as my first priority among extracurricular activities.

I understand that my absence from class or performances adversely affects the entire Ensemble.

I agree to maintain a positive attitude in all things associated with Great Gig Dance Ensemble, and to contribute to the group in a positive manner.

I will not participate in gossip, any type of slanderous speech, or any negative written or electronically-published communication.

I will respect my teachers, parents and peers at all times.

I will remain dedicated to superior performance in school.

I will continually seek to improve my skills and talents through dance, always recognizing that I can achieve my goals only through hard work and dedication.

I acknowledge that my teachers and the director have my best interests in mind at all times.

I will remain grateful to my parents for supporting me in my pursuits through dance.

***Dancers, please read and initial each statement above.  
Ensemble Member & Parent:  
Please sign below and return to the office by Sept. 1, 2011.***

-----  
I have received and read the Ensemble Requirements packet for 2011-2012.

I have read the Letter of Commitment and agree to abide in each statement therein.

Signature of Ensemble Member \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_