



MANKATO BALLET
PERFORMING COMPANY

MBPC Overview

The Mankato Ballet Performing Company (MBPC) is intended to be a group of advanced dancers who are ambitious about pursuing ballet/dance as a career. This may include dancing with a professional company, teaching, college, or other avenues. **These dancers are making dance a priority over other activities they may be involved in.** This group of dancers will be challenged at a slightly higher level and receive more aggressive feedback from instructors.

Dancers with the MBPC will get additional performance opportunities and other benefits which are outlined below. However, it is important to stress that dancers should not join the MBPC simply because they want these benefits. The MBPC will be taken very seriously and while it will give your dancers access to amazing choreography and excelled training it will also be hard work and requires a higher level of dedication. Dancers who may not be able to meet the qualifications should consider carefully before applying as there are ramifications such as being released from the MBPC, demotion within the MBPC, or being removed from parts should a situation warrant such a measure.

Dancers who want to be considered for the MBPC must complete an audition form and attend an annual audition. If accepted, new members of the MBPC will be asked to sign a contract.

MBPC Qualifications

Dancers who meet the following requirements are eligible to audition for the MBPC.

- Dancers must attend the audition in May to be considered
- Dancer must be in Level 3B or higher during the fall of 2022
- Dancer must have begun pointe work prior to the fall of 2022
- Dancer must be in middle or high school for the fall of 2022
- Dancer must take MBC's Company Crash Course Intensive
- Dancer must take a minimum of three weeks of summer intensives either at MBC or another program. (The Crash Course counts as one week)

(New MBC students joining in the fall of 2022 who missed the audition process will be given separate consideration based on the director's discretion.)



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MBPC Understudy Policy

Dancers in the MBPC will be assigned parts to understudy. Understudies learn the role in case the dancers cast in that part are injured. Dancers learn a great deal from being an understudy, gain additional training and stamina and it has a vast effect on their overall technique. Understudies are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals for parts they are assigned to learn.

MBPC Injury Policy

Dancers working at this level will inevitably encounter an injury from time to time. It is imperative that dancers communicate to instructors when they are hurting and seek medical attention promptly, when appropriate. Dancers who are injured need to formulate a plan with their instructor and medical professional (when involved) for a safe and prompt return to class. When dancers need to sit out for a period, there are certain expectations for MBPC dancers:

- Dancers should still attend all scheduled classes and rehearsals
- When watching dancers should mark arms and heads
- When watching rehearsals dancers should bring a notebook to take notes on choreography or write down combinations or corrections that may be applicable to them
- When sitting out, dancers should ice, stretch, or do any other physical therapy recommended by their medical professional

(Should a dancer's injury prevent them from returning to training in time to perform an assigned part, or an injury prevents them from performing on pointe for a part that is intended to be performed on pointe it is at the discretion of the choreographer and director to determine if an understudy or split cast should fill that part in a permanent capacity.)

MBPC Attendance Policy

Dancers must attend classes consistently to help avoid injury or falling behind in their technique. For this reason we require all dancers to do make-up classes for ANY missed class including Company Class and Supplementary Classes. Dancers who are engaged in other activities should consider carefully before overextending themselves and signing up for too many classes.



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Dancers who are not caught up on their make-up classes may no longer meet the requirements to hold their status/rank in the Company and may face a demotion in the Company.

Make-up classes may be done in any class that is one or two levels down from their current level. Open Classes are also acceptable classes to take as make-up classes.

(Dancers who find themselves severely behind in classes should meet with the Artistic Director and create a plan for getting caught up. Communication about the situation is key and we may see fit to reduce the number of make-up classes, or provide other opportunities to get credit for classes.)

MBPC Structure

Dancers who audition for the MBPC are not guaranteed a position in the company. Dancers who are accepted into the Company will be divided into ranks:

- Soloists
- Demi Soloists
- Corps de Ballet
- Apprentices
- Trainees

The distinction between these ranks is based on the dancers' audition, past attitude, work ethic, rehearsal, attendance in classes and having completed all make-up classes. This does not always align with ballet class levels as different criteria are considered when ranking the dancers for Company productions. This decision will be a collective decision made by current MBC staff and is a final decision.

(Dancers who work hard can and will be promoted midyear. However, it should be noted that the items above can also cause a demotion in the Company at any point if class attendance, injury, grades, or attitude become an issue with a member.)



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MBPC Requirements

Dancers who are accepted in the MBPC are then asked to sign a contract agreeing to the following requirements:

- Make MBPC take precedence over other outside activities
- Have regular attendance in ballet and supplementary classes
- Do make up classes for ALL missed ballet classes
- Attend Company Class
- Understands that missing a rehearsal may result in removal from that part
- Attend all rehearsals for parts they understudy
- Always have danceable pointe shoes
- Always adhere to the Dress Code
- Maintain good grades in school (2.5 GPA)
- Address injuries promptly and communicate them to staff
- Have a respectful attitude towards their fellow dancers and instructors
- Are subject to our MBC Code of Ethics both inside and outside the studio

MBPC Benefits

Dancers who join are given some benefits that include, but are not limited to:

- Additional 2-hour Company Class at no extra cost
- Receive a second supplementary class at no extra cost
- Additional choreography will be set on these dancers
- Additional performance opportunities throughout the year
- Opportunities to understudy other rolls
- May wear any color leotard on Saturdays or during rehearsals
- Annual enrichment/team building activities
- Annual MBPC banquet each spring

MBPC Costs

There is no additional cost associated with being involved in the MBPC. However, it should be noted that dancers will go through more pairs of pointe shoes, will require Company tights, are allowed to purchase and wear colored leotards for company class, and are asked, but not required to purchase a jacket to wear to mini performances and other events.