



Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp to Host Free Dance Master Class and Scholarship Auditions for Summer Sessions

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, the Midwest's largest provider of arts education to children and youth, is hosting a series of free dance master classes and summer camp dance scholarship auditions for its summer camp sessions. These master class/audition dates will be held in locations in Michigan, Illinois, and Minnesota periodically until early March. Participants may audition for any of

Blue Lake's four, 12-day sessions or for the Dance Ensemble, a four-week intensive program held during Sessions 1 and 2.

According to Blue Lake Dance Director Julie Powell, "Our summer dance faculty consists of seasoned dance professionals and dance educators that have a passion for teaching and a desire for excellence. We welcome all interested dancers to come take the Master class and scholarship audition." Students should arrive 30 minutes early and bring a photo of themselves in first arabesque position.

Blue Lake's Dance Program is designed to challenge young dancers and enhance their current level of training. Dance majors receive five hours of daily instruction that includes ballet technique, pointe or pre-pointe, partnering, men's classes, and repertory, along with contemporary classes offered in the afternoon. Workshops in injury prevention, conditioning, dance composition, and music theory for dancers help to provide a well-rounded summer dance experience.

Dancers interested in enrolling in Blue Lake's Dance Program are encouraged to participate in one of the Scholarship Audition Master Classes. As a result of their participation in these audition/master class events, dancers are offered merit scholarships for the coming camp season. The amount awarded is based upon the dancer's ability, potential, work ethic, and commitment to dance. The most advanced participants will be invited to join the four-week Dance Ensemble program.

Blue Lake's Dance Program can accommodate up to 80 participants in each of its four sessions. Sessions 1 (June 27-July 8, 2012) and 2 (July 11-22, 2012) are for students entering grades 9-12 the following academic year. Sessions 3 (July 25-August 5, 2012) and 4 (August 8-19, 2012) enroll students entering grades 7-9 the following academic year. Basic knowledge of ballet technique and terminology is recommended. While an audition is not required, it is strongly recommended for the awarding of merit scholarships and for those dancers who wish to be considered for the Dance Ensemble during Sessions 1 and 2.

Blue Lake's Dance Ensemble is a four-week summer intensive program that culminates in two performances held at the 750-seat Miller Theater. Membership is limited to 35 dancers at the intermediate/advanced level of training. Ensemble dancers receive five hours of daily instruction along with coaching, mentoring, and rehearsal time, all led by Blue Lake's outstanding dance faculty. Past Dance Ensemble programs have included re-creations of choreography from ballet classics such as *Swan Lake* and *Coppelia* and original choreography by Blue Lake dance faculty, frequently accompanied by faculty members and student ensembles.

The series of audition/master class dates for the 2012 season began in January. There are still several dates remaining. The following is a list of auditions taking place in February and March, with locations and contact information:

Flint, Michigan

Friday, February 24, 2012
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Flint Institute of Music
1025 East Kearsley Street
(810) 238-1350, ext. 137

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Sunday, March 4, 2012
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
C.A.R.E. Conservatory
2661 29th Street SE, Suite 1
(616) 464-3682

Detroit, Michigan

Friday, March 9, 2012
4:30 to 6:00 p.m.
Detroit School of the Arts
123 Seldon
(313) 494-6000

For dancers who are interested in Blue Lake's Dance program, but are not able to attend one of the audition/master classes sessions, it is possible to submit a DVD audition. DVDs should be sent along with the Dance Scholarship Application (available at bluelake.org/scholarships), and a photo of the dancer in first arabesque position. Please indicate if you would like to be considered for Blue Lake's four-week intensive program, the Dance Ensemble, open to qualifying intermediate-advanced dancers. DVD auditions will be reviewed on a regular basis, and any notice of scholarship received will be mailed within two weeks of receipt of materials.

Include the following:

- 1st arabesque en l'air
- A la seconde position tendue a terre and en l'air
- An adage combination
- A pirouette combination
- A petite allegro combination
- A grand allegro combination
- 1 – 2 min classical variation (optional)
- 1 – 2 min contemporary combination (optional)

Blue Lake also offers a minor in Contemporary Dance for those majoring in other camp programs. The Contemporary Dance Minor is structured in two levels to offer beginning students an introduction to basic dance technique while providing more advanced dancers a challenging experience. Classes focus on conditioning, technique, and a variety of dance styles including classical ballet, contemporary, and other dance genres. Contemporary Dance Minors

will have the opportunity to perform at an informal showing for fellow campers at the conclusion of the session. Please specify either Contemporary Dance I (no prior dance experience) or Contemporary Dance II (at least 2 years dance experience recommended) when on Blue Lake's application form. This minor is not available for Dance majors.

Questions regarding camp enrollment or audition requirements should be directed to Blue Lake at (800) 221-3796. Complete information about Blue Lake's Dance program can be found at www.bluelake.org/dance. To request a 2012 catalog, call the camp or log on to www.bluelake.org.