

# CREO CONSERVATORY PROGRAM INFORMATION

CREO's Conservatory Program is for dancers considering a future in dance beyond CREO. Including four audition-based tracks, these dancers commit to a class regimen reflective of the highest degree of excellence in their respective areas of focus. Conservatory dancers are considered ambassadors for the CREO studio, both as leaders within the CREO community and representatives of CREO outside the studio.

Attendance is required for all conservatory program dancers at,

- Cathedral Dance Festival – Late April/Early May
- CREO Spring Recital – Typically the second weekend in June (expect multiple performances)

Some ensembles may be invited to perform in additional CREO productions.

## **Conservatory Program Extracurricular Policy**

As ambassadors of the school and leaders among the CREO community, Conservatory dancers are expected to hold impeccable attendance in all CREO classes in order to build teamwork among their classmates and progress with class material. Therefore, dancers involved in on-going extra curriculums such as a long-term sport should consider their schedule before auditioning for a conservatory track. Pending a conversation with the CREO director and conservatory track instructor, dancers may be allowed to participate in short term engagements outside of their conservatory commitments.

## **Conservatory Program Expectations**

- Demonstrate outstanding attendance in ALL classes.
- Adhere to the regimen for your conservatory track.
- Demonstrate respect for your teammates, your instructor, and the CREO director by using class and rehearsal time wisely and focusing your attention on class goals.
- Be willing to try new things, fall, fail, stretch, and grow.

## **CREO CLASSICAL BALLET**

CREO Classical Ballet is CREO's conservatory track for the dancer seeking to focus their training towards technical and artistic excellence in Ballet and pursuit of Pointe. This comprehensive program equips today's young dancers with the artistry and athleticism expected of classical ballet in the 21st century. At CREO the CCB regimen is the pathway to pointe.

**The CCB Pathway** CCB Pathway is an invitational class for pre-pointe dancers who have prioritized ballet in their early training. Dancers are recommended for the CCB Pathway and Pre-Pointe classes based on their ballet class performance the previous school year. Dancers may express their interest to be considered by emailing the Ballet Principal, Alejandra Iannone at [creodance.alejandra@gmail.com](mailto:creodance.alejandra@gmail.com).

- Dancers may decline invitation to the CCB Pathway class yet still pursue pointe study through the pre-pointe class. In this case CREO still recommends pre-pointe dancers take 3 days of ballet class/week in addition to the pre-pointe class.

**The CCB Program** is CREO's pointe program. These dancers have passed their pre-pointe evaluation to begin study en pointe and have decided to dedicate themselves to pointe study by following the regimen outlined below. CCB Program dancers prepare choreography for performance through their pointe class.

*\*CREO's ballet curriculum is designed to help students develop artistry and technical skill with integrity. To ensure consistent progress through the curriculum, CCB dancers are advised to focus their training at CREO. Students are permitted - and encouraged! - to participate in intensives outside of CREO to expand their breadth of experience.*

**The CCB Ensemble** is the audition branch of the CCB Program. The Ensemble includes a selection of CCB Program dancers accepted by audition to prepare choreography that reflects the structure of professional company work including corps de ballet(group) work, small groups and soloists.

## **CCB Pathway/ Pre-Pointe Regimen**

- 3 days of ballet class/week **year-round** (one of which may be the CCB Pathway class (by invitation))
- 1 day of pre-pointe class/week **year-round**

## **CCB Program Regimen**

- 3 days of ballet class/week **year-round** including the CCB-only class
- 2 days of pointe class/week **year-round**
- **Summer:** Take a Ballet intensive either at CREO or elsewhere and continue with the CCB regimen.

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## FLIGHT

Flight is the conservatory track dedicated to building artists that are strong in multiple styles of dance and ready to explore choreography which blends together a broad range of movement vocabulary, techniques, and artistic expression. Flight dancers demonstrate extreme flexibility, agility, strength, & the ability to pick up choreography quickly. Class time is dedicated to building avant-garde choreography and expanding the dancer's capacity for expression on stage.

A regimen including a variety of technique classes and outside opportunities (summer intensives, conventions, master classes) enriches the Flight dancer's "toolbox" of kinesthetic knowledge to draw upon.

### **2023 Summer Regimen & Audition**

- Take the Level 4-7 Dance Blitz
- Take 6 Acro punchcard classes

### **School Year Regimen**

- 4 days of dance/week (including 2 days of Ballet, Wed. Flight, and one elective day)
- At least one semester of Acro
- Exemplary attendance in **all** their CREO classes year-round

## HIP-HOP CONSERVATORY TRACK

CREO's Conservatory track for experienced hip-hop dancers includes three tiered ensembles: Hip-Hop Invitational, Pre-TEAM, and TEAM Hip-Hop. This track emphasizes high physicality, athleticism, and individual expression through the hallmarks of contemporary hip-hop movement including popping, locking, tutting, breaking, rhythm, groove, isolation, groundedness, and acrobatic skills.

### **2023 Summer Regimen & Audition**

- **Hip-Hop Invitational: Tuesdays July 18-August 22<sup>nd</sup>**
  - Hip-Hop Level 3-4 from 6:00-7:00pm
  - Acro Level 1-3 from 5:15-6:00 OR Acro Level 3-4 from 7:00-7:45
- **Pre-TEAM and TEAM Hip-Hop: Mondays July 17-August 21<sup>st</sup>**
  - Hip-Hop Level 5-7 from 5:30-6:30
  - Acro Level 5-7 from 6:30-7:15
- ***Dancers are expected to treat these classes as an audition series and attend all class dates to train consistently over the summer.***

### **School Year Regimen**

- Weekly ensemble class
- An additional Jazz or Hip-Hop class
- Acro year-round

### **Hip-Hop Invitational**

Hip-Hop Invitational is the environment for intermediate hip-hop dancers to progress their hip-hop training beyond the scope of a recreational class. Dancers build their skill for isolation, groove, personal expression and unified ensemble-work. Hip-Hop Invitational can be considered a stepping stone towards continued concentrated hip-hop study through CREO's Hip-Hop conservatory track to TEAM Hip-Hop.

### **Pre-TEAM Hip-Hop**

Pre-TEAM is the (NEW) step between Hip-Hop Invitational and TEAM dedicated to prepare dancers for the physical rigor expected in TEAM Hip-Hop. Dancers will build strength, endurance, acrobatic skill and work toward mastery of industry-style jazz turns & leaps. While Pre-TEAM is designed to prepare dancers for Participation in Pre-TEAM does not necessarily guarantee acceptance to TEAM Hip-Hop.

### **TEAM Hip-Hop**

TEAM Hip-Hop is the conservatory class where advanced hip-hop dancers begin to integrate even greater physicality and athleticism, such as acrobatic skills and complex group lifts, into ensemble choreography grounded in hip-hop movement vocabulary and aesthetic. Choreography may also draw on influences from industry-style jazz turns and leaps. Dancers accepted to TEAM Hip-Hop are typically in 8-12th grade.

# CREO CONSERVATORY PROGRAM INFORMATION

## FAITH-BASED CONSERVATORY TRACK

CREO's conservatory track for faith-based dance includes three tiered faith-based ensembles, Footprints, Roots, and The CREO DanceVERVE: Twin Cities. Dancers participate explore their faith through devotional study and perform dance works which vary in genre (ballet/contemporary/jazz/hip-hop) and in scale from stand-alone pieces to full-length productions that explore themes of Christian faith and worship. Recent production repertory includes productions such as *The Nativity*, *Esther: for Such a Time as This*, and *The Companion: The Story of Ruth & Naomi*.

The mission of the faith-based conservatory track is to give young people an opportunity to grow in faith and to express what they have learned through art & dance. Because we were created by God in excellence we, encourage our artists to create their work in excellence. "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." Colossians 3:23

### **Footprints – Typically grade 4-6**

Footprints is an opportunity for young dancers to "step in" to Christ-centered expression through dance. Zephaniah 3:17 says the Lord rejoices over us so we in turn rejoice in walking in the ways of the Lord. Footprints is the junior ensemble in CREO's Faith-Based Conservatory track.

### **Roots – Typically grade 6+**

Roots is an opportunity for dancers to deepen their understanding of Christ-Centered expression through dance. Just as roots of a tree spread and anchor the body, the work of this company spreads and anchors the body of Christ. Roots is the intermediate ensemble in CREO's Faith-Based Conservatory track.

### **2023 Summer Regimen & Audition (Footprints & Roots)**

- Take the Faith-Builder Workshop July 10-14
  - Footprints: 9:00-11:00am (Grade 3-5)
  - Roots: 12:00-2:00pm (Grade 6+)
- **OR** take the CREO Dance Blitz for your level

### **School Year Regimen (Footprints & Roots)**

- Weekly ensemble class
- Ballet class for your level

### **Performance Opportunities (Footprints & Roots)**

- Cathedral Dance Festival (late April/early May)
- CREO's Spring Recital (early June, multiple performances possible.)
- Conservatory ensembles are also occasionally invited to perform separate repertoire in CREO productions.

### **The CREO DanceVERVE: Twin Cities –Typically grade 7+**

Verve refers to a lively spirit animating artistic composition or performance. It is a word that represents great energy and vitality. The CREO DanceVERVE: Twin Cities is the most advanced ensemble in CREO's Faith-Based Conservatory track and performs works choreographed by the CREO director and staff. These works vary in scale from stand-alone pieces to full-length productions and explore themes of Christian faith and worship.

### **CREO DanceVERVE 2023-2024 Season:**

The 2023-2024 CREO DanceVERVE season will focus on remounting CREO's repertoire The Nativity. Auditions for The Nativity took place in the Spring of 2023 and are now closed. Accepted dancers commit to the following,

- Summer 2023:
  - Attend all role rehearsals for your Nativity role
  - Attend the Summer Nativity Intensive August 21-25
    - Monday-Thursday 6:00-8:00pm
    - Friday 10:00am-1:30pm
  - The Faith-Builder Grade 6+ workshop (July 10-14 12:00-2:00pm) is highly recommended for VERVE/Nativity dancers, but not required.
- Fall-Winter 2023:
  - Attend Fall Nativity Rehearsals (exact dates TBA)
  - Nativity Performance (exact dates TBA)
- Winter-Spring 2024 performance opportunities TBD

# CREO CONSERVATORY PROGRAM INFORMATION

## **Acceptance to the The CREO DanceVERVE (VERVE) takes into consideration:**

**1. Dedication:** The CREO DanceVERVE requires considerable commitment in terms of time and focus. VERVE ensemble members are deeply invested in their personal growth as a dancer and in the growth of the VERVE community. Dancers are expected to demonstrate respect, maturity, and a dedicated spirit of participation in all rehearsals, performances, and company events.

**2. Ability:** The CREO DanceVERVE creates dance work that requires a degree of proficiency in technical genres including ballet, contemporary, jazz, and hip hop. Additionally, VERVE relies on improvisation in the choreographic process.

**3. Showmanship:** Dancers in VERVE are expected to share in the camaraderie of each other's presence and support. The atmosphere in and around rehearsals should be one of inclusion, respect, and kindness. Consideration will be given to dancers who have demonstrated positive contribution to their dance class communities in these ways.

**4. Seniority:** Dancers who have displayed a dedication to dance through many years of study may be prioritized for ensemble placement.

**5. Age:** The CREO DanceVERVE is primarily made up of dancers grades 7+.

## **Apprenticeship:**

Dancers selected to the CREO DanceVERVE for the first time will participate as apprentices. Apprentices have the opportunity to shadow ensemble members as they rehearse and step in when members cannot perform. Apprentices who demonstrate exemplary attendance, skill, commitment, and attitude may advance to full ensemble members in subsequent seasons.