

FEBRUARY 2018



Summer 2018 Registration

Registration for the Summer '18 session will begin on Monday, March 5th. The Summer '18 schedule will be available March 1st.

How to Register Online!

- Visit www.KenoshaDanceMusicDrama.com
- Click "Registration"
- Current Students: Click "Current Student", log into your online portal, enroll in any further classes, update any new information, read and check off waiver information.

UPDATED 2017-2018 calendar

Make sure to check out the new calendar for the rest of the 2017-2018 Session! [CLICK HERE](#) to view!

Music Students

REMINDER: You must **re-enroll** for the Summer 2018 Session. (We are open Monday-Thursday during the Summer)

Spring Break

Spring Break will be Tuesday, March 27th - Sunday, April 8th.
Classes will resume on Monday, April 9th!

7 REASONS TO CONTINUE DANCING THIS SUMMER

With the dance studio season coming to an end, it's time to "roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer"...and in the dance world there's summer study, in particular.

So then the question becomes, "Why dance this summer?" What are the benefits of continuing to dance and not taking time off? In preparation for Man In Motion's "Dance In New York City: One-Day Intensive" – featuring a faculty of amazing dance instructors – we posed this question to a variety of professionals throughout the dance community to get their opinions and expert advice.

Here's what they had to say:

REASON #1: Training during dance's off-season will give you a "leg up"

Alexis Lepperd, founder of the Dance Teacher Network on Facebook, points out that every sport has a regular season and an off-season – and for many dancers, summer is their off-season.

"But athletes still practice and sometimes participate in specialty training during their off-season to keep their training up to date and perhaps even learn something new that can complement their existing knowledge base," said Lepperd.

"Dance is no exception. Even if a dancer does not attend an intensive and simply keeps up with regular classes, they will be far ahead of their classmates who took the summer off. And those that do take an intensive will return with additional skill sets that will certainly help them shine above their peers."

REASON #2: Summer freedom provides opportunities to "taste" different dance styles

"Summer training is less about advancing technique and more about opportunities where dancers can gain insight into different styles without adding another class to their schedules." So says Annette Milone-Singuenza, studio director at A Place to Dance in Maspeth, NY.

"Summer freedom offers a chance to 'taste' different dance forms during workshops, through visiting teachers or master classes, conventions, or going to see dance performances. This helps the dancer make decisions about how/where they would like to increase their level of commitment."

REASON #3: Taking the summer off means resuming in the fall from three steps behind

From the competition perspective, Adrienne Kellett believes that dancers who do not continue to take classes over the summer have a hard time getting back into it and potentially can become lazy. Kellett is competition director for Throw Down Dance Challenge.

"It's undoing what has already been accomplished," Kellett said. "I also feel that it takes a good three months for the dancer to get back to the level they were already at. A serious student should dance year-round and take as many classes as possible."

REASON #4: Dancers can grab the extended time and concentrate on more intricate things

"During the summertime, most kids are stress-free and when they get into dance they focus on just DANCE." That's according to Stefanie Salaman, studio director at Performers Edge Dance Academy, Bronx NY.

"With that being said, dancers tend to concentrate on the more intricate things - like closing their rib cage, working on a higher releve' and working their flexibility to have a correctly placed battement. These elements are all worked on throughout the season, however summer classes will help to make the dancer really understand their body."

REASON #5: These experiences provide the opportunity for growth, beyond just dance

"Training during the summer," said Salaman, "whether through workshops, weekly class, intensives or camps, is highly recommended in my studio because it always produces positive results and helps each individual become a better person, as well as a better dancer. Intensives and workshops that provide a positive atmosphere teach dancers not only to dance, but also to be independent and ready for the professional dance world."

REASON #6: Training in the summer confirms that being a dancer is part of your lifestyle

"The summer is time for sun, fun, and vacation...and for dance! Being a dancer is a lifestyle, and incorporating your training during these months is vital to maintaining all the technique you worked so hard for during the year." Who would know better than Karla Garcia, a professional dancer, a Season 5 finalist on TV's "So You Think You Can Dance" and currently appearing on Broadway in Hamilton.

"It's also important for returning to your studio in the fall. You'll find it easier and smoother to get back into a full dance schedule."

REASON #7: Dance is just plain "Hot Fun in the Summertime"

"On top of everything else, summer dance is so much fun!" Garcia continued. "Meeting new people at intensives and getting to take class outside your studio with other dancers and from different teachers from around the country is all a part of your growth as an artist. By the end of the summer, you will be so **INSPIRED** to return full force in the fall."

-April 24, 2016 | Jerry Buchs

3 REASONS WHY SUMMER MUSIC LESSONS ARE AWESOME

*The pros of continuing lessons throughout the summer,
and what to do when you can't.*

When I was a kid, summers were some of my most fun, fruitful times with piano lessons. Because I took school very seriously, I often felt pressed for practice time during the school year. Summer, on the other hand, was my time to relax into a super-fun project.

I always encourage families to continue lessons throughout the summer. Why?

There's no break in the student's progress.

When students take the summer off, they typically need all of September to return to their previous level. Our teacher Lucas Gillan points out that, especially for beginners, students resuming after summer break need a lot of time and repetition to re-learn basic concepts of rhythm, note-reading, the musical alphabet, etc.

If lessons are sustained, students benefit from not spending time playing catch-up. When I taught, there was a marked difference come fall between my students who studied throughout the summer, and those who didn't.

"Continuing lessons throughout the summer has the doubly positive effect of avoiding knowledge loss, and allowing more time to go even deeper into the concepts and music the student is working on," Lucas says.

Which leads to my next point...

Less school work means better focus.

With a lighter school load, and fewer extra-curriculars and sports commitments, students' brains are primed for focus! Summer is a perfect time to hone in on a specific goal, and enjoy concentrated-but-fun practice sessions.

Summer is an opportunity for a special project.

Not to be depressing, but summer is really short! On the school calendar, it really only lasts from mid-June until mid-August, and shortens further when you account for travel or summer camps.

Summer's brevity, however, also makes it a great time to trade weekly practice plans for a project-based approach. Teacher and student can devise one or two big goals to explore during their time together, and then the student can work at their own pace throughout the summer.

The project should feel fun and exciting to the student, and focus on an area they don't have time to explore during the school year. For me it was usually something like learning to improvise or compose. Summer is a good time to re-evaluate and ask your student to consider, what do I really enjoy? What would I like to learn more about?

Here's an ideal scenario: teacher and student are ready for the end-of-school year recital a few weeks early, and the last lessons before a recital are "explore-your-curiosity" lessons. Teacher and student discuss these avenues, so that by the time the summer session starts, the student is off and running with an exciting goal.

I realize that it's human nature to want to spend all the time you can practicing for a recital, so maybe that's asking too much. But I do think it's important to build in time to define or revisit what a student finds exciting about music, and then devise a springboard to explore it.

Some Fun Summer Project Ideas

- Learning a more ambitious pop song in a new key signature
- Learning three new songs by one composer or songwriter the student admires
- Writing a medley of favorite songs
- Learning the Bach Inventions
- Focusing on elements, like ear training and music theory, that don't necessarily require a performance, but will enhance the students' learning and musical experiences for the long-term.

What if summer music lessons aren't possible?

The simplest way to keep a student's head in the game— and what I suggest for any extended absence— would be for teacher and student to agree on five or so songs as the student's "official repertoire". The student would agree to do maintenance work throughout the summer to keep those songs in shape. For accountability, the student would play those songs back for the teacher as a mini-recital at the beginning of the school year.

It could be wonderful for a student to explore curiosities completely on their own, too, even if it just means expanding their listening into a new genre.

Outside of music study, parents can encourage their student's connection to music through music-oriented summer camps, and by attending outdoor, family-friendly concerts.

Regardless, summer can provide an interesting shift from the regular rhythms of music lessons. Your student can always benefit from a change of pace, which in turn leads to renewed energy in the fall.

-by Abraham Levitan

Kenosha Academy of Performing Arts