

## DANCE COMPOSITION VOCABULARY

1. **ASYMETRICAL:** an unbalanced design
2. **BALANCE:** see symmetrical
3. **CANON:** a round, a form with overlapping patterns or themes
4. **CONSONANT:** harmoniously in balance
5. **CONTRAST:** to compare and contrast, striking differences, opposite of alike
6. **CRESCENDO:** a gradual increase of volume, range or dynamics
7. **DIMENSION:** the relative size of movement or of space
8. **DIMINUENDO:** a direction to gradually reduce the intensity, volume or force of movement
9. **DISSONANCE:** movement or harmony that produces an effect of strangeness and tension, clashing and disquieting effects, usually resolved by achieving consonance
10. **DYNAMICS:** shadings in the amount of energy, intensity or power, subtle variations in the treatment of movement contrasts
11. **FOCUS:** concentration on a fixed or moving point in space
12. **GROUND BASS:** a form in which the basic theme is repeated again and again serving as a background for other thematic materials
13. **HARMONY:** see unity
14. **IMPULSE:** a sudden impelling force that produces movement
15. **INTENSITY:** the relative degree of force or strength, the depth of feeling or concentration
16. **KINESTHETIC:** an internalized awareness of body placement and movement
17. **LEVEL:** the altitude of a movement in relationship to its distance from the floor
18. **MOOD:** the compelling temper, state of emotion or feeling tone of the movement
19. **MOTIF:** the germinal or seed idea of a theme or composition
20. **PHRASE:** the development of a motif into a longer statement that comes to a temporary or permanent finish
21. **PROGRESSION:** a continuity of order that proceeds from the simple or least difficult to the complex
22. **PROPORTION:** the material must be manipulated so that the essential ideas are given intensity, by means of contrast, variety and stress; by means of proportioning the parts and emphasizing their relative importance, the most significant aspects are brought out and the whole gains unity
23. **QUALITY:** the inherent and essential characteristic or distinctive property of a movement, its distinguishing flavor or color
24. **RANGE:** the relative extent of space or scope of movement; the distance between two extremes of movement
25. **RONDO:** a dance form of three or more themes with a periodic return to the main theme (A,B,A,C,A,D,etc.)
26. **SYMMETRICAL:** a balanced, even design, an even correspondence of design, space, rhythm or pose
27. **TENSION:** the relative degree of intensity or energy expenditure; the degree of tautness in a movement; the imaginary line of force that occurs between two or more dancers or two or more parts of the body
28. **TRANSITION:** a movement or movement sequence that forms a connective bridge between two sections or parts of a composition; transitions are more important than steps
29. **UNITY:** a coherent entity with all parts having an harmonious relationship that contributes to the sense of completeness
30. **VARIATION:** an embellishment of the theme for the sake of variety