

The Perla Ballet - About Us

The Perla Ballet is a non-profit youth ballet company based in St. Augustine, FL, committed to excellence in the dance arts through high quality performances and educational workshops. Founded in 2014, it consists of young dancers from many surrounding communities and has its home at The Conservatory.

Since 2015, The Perla Ballet has been a proud member of the prestigious organization Regional Dance America Southeast (RDASE) – a branch of Regional Dance America (RDA). This association of pre-professional dance companies exists to promote excellence in dance education, choreography, performance and production. They offer regional and national networking between directors, choreographers and dancers. In addition, they provide educational, performance, and scholarship opportunities for dancers and choreographers.

The Perla Ballet is for intermediate through advanced dancers in the middle and high school years that desire to pursue dance in excellence with full-length production experiences. Dancers are required to take a minimum number of classes in defined dance styles in order to best maintain and grow in their agility and skill. Dancers can be trained wherever they and their parents see fit, as long as their required training schedule is achieved.

Junior Company - generally at least 10 years of age by December 2024. 3 technique classes per week, 1 jazz class, 1 pointe class plus various rehearsal times

Senior Company- generally at least 13 years of age by December 2024. and have had at least 1 year of pointe work. 3 technique classes per week, 1 jazz class, 2 pointe classes plus various rehearsal times
*This may change at the discretion of the director due to technical skill and maturity.

On behalf of the students, the Directors, Faculty and Staff of The Perla Ballet strive to always offer a place where students are encouraged to be individuals, **strengthening their character and unique personality**, while giving them a platform to grow and mature as artists and as emerging adults.

On behalf of the arts and the community, The Perla Ballet strives to always offer thoughtfully produced shows that are centered around artistic excellence and creativity and family enjoyment.

The Perla Ballet has a track record of dancers and families that have seen wonderful growth in the youth - that is growth toward visions and aspirations for their future, or growth into a college or professional dance careers. Here is are just some of the locations our students have gone on to achieve in the dance industry:

Summer Programs - Students have been accepted into numerous training programs offered by prestigious companies from all over the world, such as:

- Orlando Ballet
- Joffrey Ballet
- National Choreography Intensive
- Ballet Magnificat!
- Brigham Young University
- Bolshoi Ballet
- Boston Ballet
- French Academie/Ballet
- Kirov Academy of Ballet
- Nashville Ballet
- Miami City Ballet
- Oregon Ballet Theatre
- Alabama Dance Theatre
- Brenau University
- Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts Camp
- Texas A&M Summer

College Programs - Colleges from across the country have taken note of the dancers coming from The Perla Ballet, such as:

- Brigham Young University
- Alma College
- Brenau University
- Grand Canyon University
- Cornish College of the Arts
- Kent State University
- Point Park University
- Texas A&M University
- University of North Carolina School of the Arts

Performance Opportunities - The Perla Ballet performs multiple times each year and continues to grow in opportunity to perform. Seasonal performances include full-length ballets in the winter and spring. Additional opportunities include the annual regional and national festivals for Southeastern Regional Ballet Association. Contact Us if you are interested in having the youth company perform in your community! Repertoire has included:

- Doña Antonia
- Cinderella
- The Nutcracker
- Beauty and the Beast
- The Little Mermaid
- The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
- The Ugly Duckling
- Snow White
- Krakatuk
- A Christmas Carol

The Perla Ballet Company Rules and Commitment

MEMBERSHIP

1. Dancers are accepted into the company only after an audition and placement.

LEADERSHIP

1. Artistic Director - Meghan Chapman, Artistic Director - Lori Ladwig, Directors: Executive Director - Jonathan Chapman.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PERFORMING MEMBERS

1. Company members must understand that this is an annual commitment. They agree to take at least the required amount of classes in addition to all rehearsals.
2. Company members may be in school dance programs, however, to be depended upon at The Perla Ballet, they must recognize its priority commitment.
3. Dancers must be on time for all rehearsals and performances as scheduled by the directors, unless previously excused. Any unexcused absences will be counted. Special considerations for absences will be given to important personal, faith-based, or school events providing written notice is given at least two weeks in advance of such event. Illness or death in the family and other such emergent events are always considered a permissible absences.
4. Dancers are responsible for informing themselves of the time and place for classes, rehearsals, and performances. They must accept the role assigned to them since they are assigned with consideration for their level of development, their specific capabilities and the requirements of the overall production.
5. Dancers are responsible for learning any and all choreography that was missed due to an illness or absence.
6. Dancers must be neatly groomed, follow rules of makeup and hair styling for classes, rehearsals, and performances.
7. Should a dancer find it necessary to withdraw from the company or miss a performance, he/she must immediately advise the Directors. The dancer further agrees to teach his/her roles to an understudy and to leave comprehensive notes for roles in which he/she has been cast.
8. Dancers must attend as many fundraising events for their company that their schedule will allow.

FINANCES

1. Junior Apprentice Annual Membership Fee: \$95. Junior Company Annual Membership Fee: \$175. Senior Apprentice and Senior Company Annual Membership Fee: \$225.
2. No fee shall be paid to any company dancer for rehearsal or performance unless authorized by the Directors.
3. All expenses of costumes, accessories, and properties will be defrayed by the company. Regular shoes and tights will be furnished by the dancer for both rehearsals and performances.
4. No costumes or accessories shall be loaned to any dancer except for an authorized appearance under the name of the company or by specific permission of the Directors and payment of the costume fee.
5. Company Leo Fee of \$55 will be added onto accounts separate from company fee for ballet 5+.

COMMITMENT TO THE 2024-2025 SEASON

The Senior and Senior Apprentice rehearsal commitments are Thursday evenings 6:00-9:00pm and Saturday 12:30-5:00pm, start and end times vary according to detailed rehearsal block schedule.

The Junior and Junior Apprentice rehearsal schedule will commonly begin with every other Saturday from 12:30-2:00pm, however it could increase to weekly and at the end of the semester a few Thursday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm as the calendar approaches performance dates.

We are a family working towards the same goal - excellence in our personal technique and training and excellence in our productions. We need each one of you to understand the full year commitment and by signing below, you agree to commit to the 2024-2025 performing season. We are so excited!

Dancer Name _____

Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____