

# MKS Dance Concert FAQ's

Each year, we receive a few questions regarding how and why we do things the way we do for Dance Concert. 2003 marked our first Dance Concert with 30 students and a number of dance ministry dancers. It was a fantastic show, but every year we continue to strive to make the Dance Concert experience better and better - for our students and families, as well as everyone in the audience.

Here we address some of those topics. We hope it is helpful!

## **Recital vs. Dance Concert - What's in a Name?**

- The decision to call our end of the season performance "Dance Concert" was inspired by one of our former teachers who recognized the creative aspect of our shows. Recital indicates a showing of skills learned throughout the year. Our shows not only include the opportunity to see this growth and development of skills in each of the dancers, but also to share a message.
- The Dance Concert theme is focused on, not just the weekend of the performances, but all throughout the year. Students learn Bible verses that pertain to the theme, and the theme is interwoven into the music and costumes that are chosen, as well as the choreography that is created. It is a process that typically begins anywhere from 1-3 years before the actual Dance Concert weekend.
- We are thoughtful and prayerful about every aspect of the Concert, so that audience members will have an experience, as well as enjoy seeing their friends & family members dance. We desire to touch peoples' hearts & minds for the Gospel through all that they see and hear at the concert!
- We also keep the length of our program to less than 2½ hours, so that the audience will enjoy their time at the concert and not be fatigued.

## **3-4 Hours of Rehearsal & Performance time for Young Children**

- The 4 hours on Dress Rehearsal night seems long on paper but goes fast when we are there. In the previous 12 years, we have maintained this schedule with no issue with the younger students. It is a super fun evening, and there is so much going on, that the time passes quickly for the kiddos. They will be dancing, and they will be watching the other younger classes.
- Dance Concert day, which is 3 hours, they will also spend some time playing, having a snack, using the rest room (with a handful of little ones in costumes, this can take some time ;)).
- Rest assured that we have a great system in place for this time! Most families look forward to this fun and exciting weekend each year!

## **Stage Make-Up for all ages**

- Stage make-up is not a matter of modesty vs. immodesty, but rather an issue of visibility. Without stage make-up under the stage lights, the students' features are not very visible. The goal is for the audience to be able to see the dancers' facial features without them being washed out.
- We would not recommend stage make-up to be worn outside of the Dress Rehearsal or Dance Concerts.
- If you still have concerns, please let us know, and we will make a note that your child should not be wearing make-up on those days.

## **Video Taping and Taking Photos during the Performances**

- Videotaping at the Dance Concert raises a few issues for other audience members as well as for the professional videographers. If we allowed videotaping, people holding up cameras and phones would block the view of other audience members, and the light from phones (as well as from Flash Photography) causes the professional video to have lighting issues. We were able to see someone's phone on a video, and it was very distracting to the dance and affected the integrity of the lighting on the video.
- There is not a space in the back of the auditorium for people to video tape.
- The videographers do a fantastic job providing a quality video for you to enjoy for years to come. Through the years, many parents have reported little dancers wearing out their copies after watching them so many times!
- The dance at the Dress Rehearsal should be the same as at the actual performance, as the students are all supposed to be in full costume, hair, and make-up just like on Dance Concert day.
- See the photo on this article to get an idea of what we are trying to avoid during the shows - <http://www.fasthorseinc.com/blog/2013/06/07/cell-phones-dont-ruin-concerts-people-do/>

### **Wardrobe Mistresses**

- Wardrobe Mistresses are needed to help keep the students occupied, safe, and prepared for their performance.
- Many moms love the chance to be "in on the action" backstage and have this experience with their child(ren).

### **Dance Concerts on Saturdays and Sundays**

- There are families that celebrate the Sabbath Friday evening through Saturday as well as on Sundays. Without going into the many layers of logistics that we work out each year, it would be very difficult to schedule the concert in such a way that would allow for us not to dance on Saturdays and Sundays now that the studio has grown to the size it has.
- We have kept the later time slots to avoid church time as much as possible. We know that that does not solve the issue of keeping the Sabbath, but our heart is to have the concert as a time of worship. That being said, just as church leaders "work" on the Sabbath, so do we as we lead others in worship.
- We hope you know that our heart is not to dishonor the Lord or the Sabbath day, but to ultimately honor Him with praise and worship.

### **Personal Schedule Conflicts with Dance Concert Weekend**

- With hundreds of students and families, we cannot accommodate everyone's plans, unfortunately, but we do my best to honor as many people as possible.
- We schedule the Dance Concert more than a year before the performance weekend, and we give that date to everyone as they enroll each year in order to allow for people to plan accordingly.

### **Formations & Student Placement in Dances**

- Each year, teachers strike a delicate balance between the artistic/aesthetic nature of choreography and the desire to showcase each students' skills/abilities.
- Students are placed in formations based on height, not ability.
- Instructors creatively find ways to highlight all of the students, but there is no guarantee that every child will have equal time in the front row. Dancing in a straight line would be lacking in interest, and putting tall students up front for an extended period of time would be lacking in aesthetic value.
- Because the auditorium for the Dance Concert is set up with stadium seating, students are visible regardless of placement on the stage from most vantage points.
- "Once I hit my growth spurt my freshman year in High School, I moved into my new home in 95% of my dances - the back line. It never occurred to me to be in the front, since that did not make sense with my height. I was proud of my height - and my spot - and found out quickly that I was not hidden back there - and this was before stadium seating." - Miss Michelle (& Miss Heather lived there too - her entire dance student career.) 😊