



## Definitions of Dance Styles performed at DANCEFEST

**This document provides students and staff advisors with a clear understanding of each dance style presented at DANCEFEST so that all entries will be placed in the correct category.**

**\*\*\*NEW: K-Pop dance** refers to the choreographed dance style associated with Korean pop music, commonly known as K-Pop. K-Pop is a genre of popular music originating from South Korea that incorporates a wide range of musical styles, and it is characterized by its visually appealing music videos and energetic dance routines.

During the pandemic, the rise in streaming technology and accessibility led to even more people learning K-Pop choreography and more K-Pop influences in dance, music, and fashion. Performances by famous Korean Pop groups, such as Blackpink and BTS, have gained new audiences and success. This has prompted fans to create DANCE COVERS, which essentially consist of replicating the choreography to a specific song and uploading it online for others to watch.

K-Pop dance routines are a crucial element of the genre and play a significant role in the overall performance of K-Pop groups. These dances are often highly synchronized, intricate, and feature a mix of different dance styles, including hip-hop, jazz, contemporary, and traditional Korean dance elements. K-Pop choreography is known for its precision, dynamic movements, and visually stunning formations.

Students entering a K-Pop dance entry will list ALL artists who are responsible for the original choreography used in these pieces. We will then distinguish original choreographers from the students we are leading the instruction and arranging of the choreography. Please don't hesitate to reach out to [ossdancefest@gmail.com](mailto:ossdancefest@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

**\*\*\*NOTE-** This category will receive adjudicator feedback but is a NON-COMPETITIVE CATEGORY and will not be considered for Overall Awards.\*\*\*

**Ballet** is a type of performance dance that originated during the Italian Renaissance in the fifteenth century and later developed into a concert dance form in France and Russia. It has since become a widespread and highly technical form of dance with its own specific and codified vocabulary. Ballet entries can include performances *en pointe*.

**Contemporary Dance** is rooted in Modern dance. This recent dance artform (circa 1990s) focuses on a concept that explores the human condition. It does not have fixed or established movement patterns but rather is a continuous search for new forms and dynamics. Therefore, its dancers use various modern and classical dance techniques to train.

**Cultural Dance** is a performance of social or traditional folk dance stemming from ritual, ie. harvest, weddings, funerals, etc. or a specific culture, such as Bellydance, Indigenous or Irish dancing to mention only a few. Dance is also an evolving language; therefore, every gesture and move has its own history and cultural derivation. Dance styles and music are also tied to specific cultures and change over time in correspondence to a changing society. Dancers should ensure they are educated in the cultural importance of the dance so the culture is honoured and not appropriated.

*Note: Cultural Dance entries will be designated and adjudicated as "Set" choreography or "Creative" choreography. "Creative" choreography is a dance composed by the student using*

*a combination of choices using the elements of dance to create their dance performance. "Set" choreography is choreography originated by the culture, not the student dancer. The "performance" of this "set" choreography can be adjudicated ONLY. The "creativity" can not be demonstrated by the student. For example, the Scottish Sword Dance is "set" choreography.*

**Hip Hop** is a vibrant form of dance that began on the streets of New York City in the 1970s and was known as "break dancing". The "breakbeat" was the instrumental "break" in the music that the dancers improvised to. DJs were introduced to control the breaks in the music. Hip Hop combines a variety of freestyle movements incorporating elements of popping, locking, jazz, and other dance styles. It has evolved into one of the most popular and influential styles of dance and is typically performed with hip hop, R&B, funk, electronic or pop music.

**Jazz** is a performance dance style that arose at the turn of the 20th century in the United States. Jazz dance may allude to vernacular tap and jazz Broadway/dramatic jazz. Both types expand on African-American styles of dance that evolved with jazz music.

**Lyrical** is a technical dance style inspired by movements from classical ballet and classical jazz demonstrating a literal interpretation of the lyrics of the accompanying song.

**Modern Dance** is a free, expressive style of dancing that started in the late 1800s as a rebellion against the restrictions of classical ballet. It generally employs multiple techniques that develop the dancer to express the concepts and ideas of the choreography. Examples of established techniques use the entire body in movements expressive of abstract ideas, such as a dance based in the Graham or Limon Technique.

**Musical Theatre** Musical theatre dancing is less of a particular style, and more of a description of dancing that is rooted in the diverse history of Broadway musicals. The choreography depicts the characters and the storyline that move the plot forward. Relying heavily on a knowledge of ballet, tap, and jazz, musical theater dancers are, first and foremost, actors and place a high focus on musical interpretation.

*Note: Musical Theatre entries will be designated and adjudicated as "Lip synched" performances or "Live vocals".*

**Tap** is a type of dance characterized by using the sounds of metal taps affixed to the heel and toe of shoes striking the floor as a form of percussion, coupled with both characteristic and interpretative body movements. This dance style is rooted in the fusion of African rhythms and Irish dancing. It evolved in the 1920s from its roots into the theatre and is called Tap.

**Fusion Dance** combines different dance styles to create a unique performance. It does not typically conform to any specific genre; it may involve combining existing styles such as Hip Hop and Breakdance, Ballet and Contemporary, or Jazz and Hip Hop, creating a new style, or demonstrating both such as Bollywood which is Hip Hop, Jazz and classical Indian dance.

**Open** is a category for any style of dance that is not included in the above descriptions.

Send questions relating to Dance Styles to [ossdancefest@gmail.com](mailto:ossdancefest@gmail.com)