



## UPPER SCHOOL CLASSES

*Upper School Classes meet for a thirty-two week season, September through early June. Class placement for previously enrolled students is determined by the instructor with permission from the Director. New students must audition with the Director.*

Modern I: (ages 12 and up) one and a half hours, offered twice weekly  
 Modern II: (ages 12 and up) one and a half hours, offered once weekly  
 Jazz III: (ages 12 and up) one and a half hours, offered once weekly  
 Jazz IV: (ages 12 and up) one and a half hours, offered once weekly  
 Pilates Body Conditioning: (Level B and C students only) one hour, offered once weekly

### Upper School Ballet:

Level A: (ages 11 and up) one and a half hours, offered four times weekly  
 Level A Pointe: (ages 11 and up) half an hour, offered three times weekly  
 Level B: (ages 12 and up) one and a half hours, offered three times weekly  
 Level B Pointe: (ages 12 and up) half an hour, offered three times weekly  
 Level C: (ages 13 and up) one and a half hours, offered four times weekly  
 Level C Pointe: (ages 13 and up) one and a half hours, offered three times weekly (dancers in Level C are expected to take ballet and pointe at least four times weekly by taking Pointe and Variations and taking one additional Level A or B ballet class weekly on pointe.  
 Pointe and Variations: (Level B and C students only) one and a half hours, offered once weekly

Tuition: please contact our administrator for up to date tuition information. Tuition is calculated on an annual basis, a variety of payment plans are available. Eligible students may receive financial help or participate in work study scholarship programs. Uniforms: class uniforms are required at each level. Please visit our website or stop at the front desk for specific requirements.

**THE UPPER SCHOOL** trains students who are accepted by audition. The majority of students who complete their Lower School training are accepted into the Upper School Program. Amherst Ballet's Pre-professional curriculum is based on the Vagonova method of ballet training and requires that all students study **classical ballet** as a foundation. The Pre-professional Ballet Track allows students desiring a professional career in ballet to study ballet intensively, and assists students with choosing appropriate summer programs and preparation for auditions. Students may choose the Pre-professional Ballet Track, or may choose to concentrate on non-ballet dance forms and take only the minimum ballet required. Electives are offered in **Modern Dance, Jazz Dance, and Pilates Body conditioning**. Spanish dance and **Character Dance** are offered from year to year.

■ **Amherst Ballet Theatre Company:** Students who study in the Upper School audition for or are selected by choreographers to perform in a variety of venues each year as members of the Amherst Ballet Theatre Company. The Company offers students the opportunity to work with choreographers and perform a variety of dance styles. In the past, ABTCo has performed and toured locally, nationally, and internationally.

■ **Spring Performance:** Amherst Ballet traditionally offers local audiences an annual repertoire performance and/or

Story Ballet performance. All Upper School students perform either as members of the ABTCo or in class demonstrations that are part of the show.



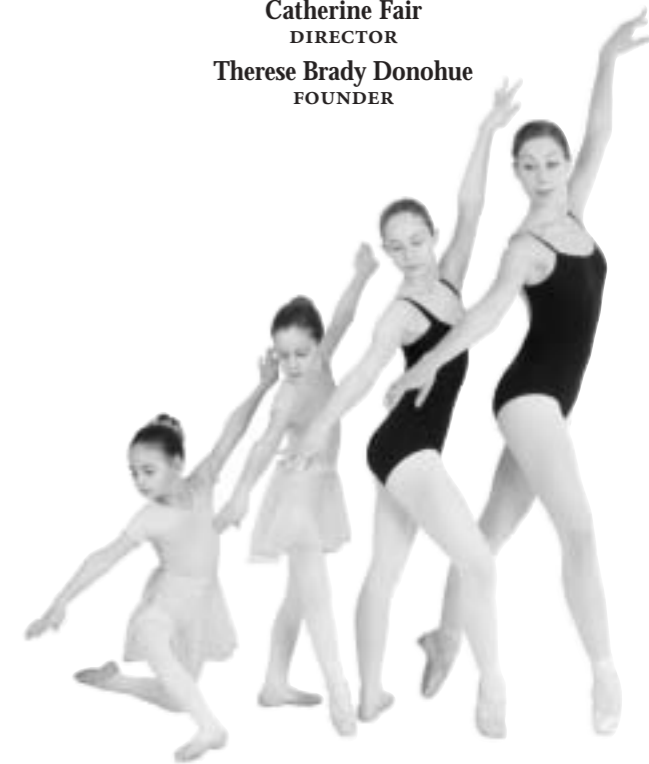
AMHERST BALLET is a non-profit organization run by a volunteer Board of Directors and is dedicated to dance education and professional training. Through nurturing and inspiring local young dancers, we help them strive toward an understanding of artistic excellence, discipline, leadership, and a lifelong appreciation of dance.



*home of the*  
**AMHERST BALLET**  
**THEATRE COMPANY**  
*and the*  
**Amherst Ballet**  
**Upper and Lower Schools**

**Catherine Fair**  
 DIRECTOR

**Therese Brady Donohue**  
 FOUNDER



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## AMHERST BALLET OFFERS...

- **Professional, experienced faculty**
- **Pianists for every ballet class**
- **Small class sizes**, (no more than 10 students accepted for Lower School Classes, 14 for Upper School)
- **A well rounded, diverse curriculum** in both the Lower and Upper Schools
- **A nurturing homelike, space with two light filled dance studios**
- **A variety of performance experiences**, including an end-of-year performance
- **Special projects**: our special projects have included a number of exciting collaborations. Amherst Ballet has been hosting and collaborating with the **Moscow Ballet**, conducting auditions, setting and rehearsing choreography, and presenting **The Great Russian Nutcracker**. Each year, more than fifty Amherst Ballet students audition and are chosen to perform with this amazing company at the UMASS Fine Arts Center. An ongoing collaboration with the **Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art** has resulted in a number of performances there, including Amherst Ballet's own production of **The Very Lonely Firefly**.



■ **Great summer programs** for students of all ages, including a Teen Intensive, and daily technique classes on the intermediate and advanced levels

■ **Master Classes** with a variety of visiting teachers from around the world

**FOUNDED IN 1971** by Therese Brady Donohue, Amherst Ballet is committed to pursuing excellence in dance training for young students by providing an educational program of the highest possible quality. Our alumni have taken their places in top colleges, universities, and dance companies, and have gone on to a variety of life experiences, benefiting from the growth, self confidence, discipline, and love for the arts that they gained at Amherst Ballet. Our students are accepted to a variety of prestigious summer programs each year such as **Boston Ballet**, **Walnut Hill School of the Performing Arts**, **American Academy of Ballet**, and

others. Amherst Ballet continues to offer a variety of performance experiences that have ranged over the years from tours to a variety of locations, including Yugoslavia and Hawaii, to collaborations with well-known artists, choreographers, and professional dance companies. Because of our location in an area where many prominent professional dancers, artists, and teachers live, work, and study, our students have traditionally benefited from the wealth of talent that can be found in the Pioneer Valley. Young children and teens alike have been part of a greater community of dancers and like-minded peers, and have been nurtured in a warm, homelike setting. We are well known for unique performances such as our Two-Act Story Ballet **The Magician's Nephew** based on the children's story by C. S. Lewis and **The Very Lonely Firefly** based on the book by Eric Carle.

**THE LOWER SCHOOL** offers classes for children ages three and up. We offer **ballet, jazz, creative movement**, and a special **Boys' Dance class**. Our ballet program is the foundation of the Lower School, and trains children using The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Syllabus for



students studying once per week (through Level Two.). This graded syllabus is taught in over eighty-four countries and focuses on classical ballet as its foundation with Free Movement (based on Modern Dance) and Character Dance (Russian, Polish and Hungarian) as integral components. The RAD method was developed through a collaboration of dance professionals, child psychologists, and orthopedists, and was designed to challenge each child while respecting individual differences in physique and developmental readiness. (For more information, log onto the RAD website. <http://www.rad.org.uk/>) For students studying ballet twice weekly or more (Levels 3 – 5) the curriculum is based on the Vaganova Syllabus (the Russian method of ballet training.)

■ **Visitor's Day and Certificate Day**: parents are invited to attend a classroom demonstration twice annually. Students practice their class work in preparation for demonstrations and gain a sense of pride and achievement by presenting this work to family and friends.

■ **End of year Lower School Performance**: Each year, the Lower School performs prior to the Amherst Ballet Theatre Company. Each class (except for Creative Movement) performs a special dance. Occasionally, the Lower School students dance with the ABTCO during special performances such as Story Ballets.

For more information please visit our website at [www.amherstballet.org](http://www.amherstballet.org) or call the school at (413) 549-1555



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## LOWER SCHOOL CLASSES:

*Lower School classes meet for a thirty-week season September through May. Most classes are offered more than twice weekly. Students in Pre-primary through Level Two are only required to attend class once per week. Students in Levels Three through Five must attend at least twice weekly in order to successfully master the work. Beginning students ages 5 through 7 will be placed at the appropriate level for their age. Older students with previous ballet experience who want to attend class in Levels Two and up must audition for placement. Students ages 8 through 11 with no previous experience audition with the Director, are placed at an appropriate level, and will be encouraged to study more frequently in order to accelerate and catch up with their peer group.*

Creative Movement: (ages 3 and 4) 45 minutes, individual classes meet once weekly

### Lower School Jazz

Jazz I: (ages 8 and up) one hour, meets once weekly

Jazz II: (ages 9 and up) one hour, meets once weekly

Boys' Dance Class: (for boys ages 8 to 12) one hour, meets once weekly

### Lower School Ballet

Pre-Primary: (ages 5 and up) 45 minutes, meets once weekly

Primary: (ages 6 and up) 45 minutes, individual classes meet once weekly

Level One: (ages 7 and up) 45 minutes, individual classes meet once weekly

Level Two: (ages 8 and up) one hour, individual classes meet once weekly

Level Three: (ages 9 and up) one hour, meets twice weekly

Level Four: (ages 10 and up) one and a half hours, meets twice weekly

Level Five: (ages 11 and up) one and a half hours, meets twice weekly

Teen Beginning Ballet: (for middle/high school students) one hour, meets once weekly

**ADULT BALLET CLASSES** are offered at Beginning and Intermediate/Advanced levels throughout the year.