

Simple Showpieces using Syllabus Combinations

Music Selection

1. Just because you love it or the artist doesn't always make it a good choice.
2. Will the audience enjoy & connect with it?
3. Make sure it has a strong beat
4. Does it get monotonous or does it have variations & diversity to keep it interesting?
5. Does it have a strong ending or can you create one?

Length of music is very important

6. Try to stay within 2 minutes - 2 ½ minutes
7. Longer songs require more teaching time, gives less time to cleaning. Shorter songs keep the audience wanting more.

Make sure the tempo of the music is not too fast or slow. Adjust the tempo if necessary.

Check to make sure lyrics are appropriate. Cut sections out that may be in question.

Themes

Themes can be super fun! Often performances fall around certain times of the year like:

Valentines Day
Christmas
Halloween

Other Themes:

Make sure you set the stage for your dancers if using a theme. Give them the background and characterization that will help them develop it properly.

Chart your Music before your Choreograph

Chart phrasing

8 count bars of music

Write time at each break

Write verse, chorus, bridge.....

Listen to the music and make notes where you want certain things like hits or ripples.

Design your Choreography

Will you set the formations first and then construct the steps?

Or

Will you construct the steps to the music and then add the formation changes?

Formation Dancing takes an extra level of Coordination.

If you challenge them with too many things, you may have an unpleasant result. The picture will be fuzzy or messy. If you keep the formations simple and create a clear picture for the students, you may be happier with the result and the students will love the experience.

Beginnings and Endings are most Memorable

Use strong formations that catch your attention.

May choose to enter from the side and sweep onto the floor or from the back and travel towards the audience.

Men could enter or start first and then Ladies could join or vice versa.

Simple Template

Entrance

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------|
| Cross Through | Boys Solos & Girls Solos | Ripples |
| Canon (1 person starts and the next joins in) | Group Highlights | Spray |
| Open the Curtain or Unveil | | |
| | | |

Ending

Phrasing your Choreography

What is Phrasing?

Why is it important?

Do you count in Beats & Bars?

Exercise:

Using any of the following steps, create a combination that will phrase in 4 sets of 8

Basic

Throwout

Stop & Go

Whip

Hand Change Bhd the Back

Loop

Arch Out/ Loop In

Turning Basic

How many formation changes?

Brent says 6-8 per minute

For Beginners, I say 4-5 is good.

Super Simple Patterns for Beginners:

Cha Cha

Basic routine

- 1 Basic
- 3 Crossover Breaks
- Walk Around Turn

that is 3 sets of 8

Move on the 4th set

Swing

- 4 steps that are 6 count patterns complete 3 bars
then Move on the 4th set
- 4 sets that are 6 count patterns with one 8 count pattern completes 4 bars

It is nice to move at the end of 4th set or at the beginning of the next set when fresh new vocals start.

Traveling Steps:

Cha Cha

Swing

Tango

Foxtrot