



# St. Augustine Dance Academy

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## SOLOS/DUOS/TRIOS

*Dancers can apply for a duo/trio! Please see the duo/trio application at the end of this document for more details.* Not all dancers that would like to compete a duo/trio will be approved for this opportunity, but you must apply to be considered. If your application is approved, you will automatically be signed up for a duo/trio with the first payment due on May 1<sup>st</sup> so please consider costs before submitting. Dancers should consider peers in the same levels of classes when applying for duo/trio. Dancers may apply for multiple duo/trio opportunities but should apply carefully as they will automatically be committed to each one that is approved. Solos will be by invitation only. **Solo/duo/trio payments are due monthly May through April.**

### **So You Want a Solo (or Duo/Trio)?**

If you're a dancer who hits the competition circuit, you've noticed a trend: Each year there are more and more solos at dance competitions. These soloists are dancers who have the guts to get onstage by themselves, are confident about their abilities, and aren't afraid to accept the judges' criticism. Most important, they are the dancers who are technically and emotionally ready for the experience. Or are they? Twenty years ago, only a few deserving students from each studio danced solos. Today, though, just about everyone who wants to do one, does. So what's wrong with that, you're wondering?

Dancing a solo can be a wonderful and motivational experience, but it can also be devastating. We all have seen dancers who lack confidence attempt their first solo, only to end up running off stage. Humiliation and embarrassment—two pretty nasty feelings to have as a result of doing something we're supposed to love—take the place of the expected exhilaration and pride. In some cases, the disappointed dancer questions whether she wants to continue to dance. All this for a solo?

### **I'm Ready! (I Think)**

You're absolutely determined not to be embarrassed onstage, but how do you know when you're ready to take on the challenge of a solo—and succeed?

Take a close, honest look at yourself and your dancing. You're ready to solo when

- you have made a serious commitment to yourself and to dance;
- you're willing to go into the studio or your bedroom, on your own, to focus extra time on your solo;
- you are willing to take your solo apart count by count and make sure you know what's up technically (where your arms are on every count, what the best angles are, and so on);
- you are willing to rehearse your solo full-out all the time in order to build stamina;
- you are technically ready.

If you aren't 100% ready to be on stage alone, maybe a duo or trio is a great place to start. Most soloists venture onto the stage with one or two other dancers for a year or two before taking a stab at a solo. This is a much more cost effective option and can build confidence before stepping on the stage alone.

## Music Does Matter

You are *not* going to use the most popular song of the year for your solo, no matter how much you love it and are dying to dance to it! Everyone will be using that song, and you don't want to be the ninth dancer performing to it. Your choreographer will find something different, something you've probably never heard at a competition before. Your choreographer will spend time selecting the right piece of music for your personality and their choreography style.

## Walk, Don't Run

It's hard to be patient when you see dancers who are less talented than you performing solos at every competition. But readiness is everything, so put aside your ego, take a close look at your goals and motivations, and talk to your teachers. They can offer an objective assessment of whether you're ready to solo. Trust their judgment, do what you *know* you can do, and get ready for a positive performing experience!

## The Bottom Line

Each solo/duo/trio will require a separate entry fee at competition. You will also need a separate costume for these dances. Choreography will begin with a two hour session over summer. Beginning in August, practice will be held weekly for 8 weeks to complete and clean the dance. After choreography is complete, your choreographer will schedule any necessary practices at your regularly scheduled private lesson day/time to rehearse prior to competitions and performances. This is not only an emotional and physical commitment but a monetary commitment as well.

	Solo	Duo	Trio
Choreography fee	✓	✓	✓
Private lessons*	✓	✓	✓
Costume	✓	✓	✓
Competitions (x3)	✓	✓	✓
Monthly Cost	\$130	\$70 (per dancer)	\$55 (per dancer)

*\*This cost includes a total of 9 hours of private lessons. Additional private lessons are \$45 per half hour. Choreographers may require additional practice based on the progress of the piece.*

**Premier solo/duo/trios will not automatically perform at the spring Convention/Competition.**

**Compete More!** - Solo/duo/trios will have the opportunity to opt into additional competitions: one in late fall and our local spring convention/competition for premier level dancers only. See the company information packet for details about competing at the late fall convention/competition (must also attend convention for the weekend). Add on competitions will be \$290 per solo and \$145 per duo/trio member (includes the cost of two additional practices). Payment options will be available upon commitment.

Interested in even more competition opportunities? Send your company director an email to let them know and we can help scope out other competitions, register your dancer through the studio and set up practices before each event.



*St. Augustine Dance Academy*

**Performance Company Duo/Trio Application**

*One joint application must be filled out by each dancer and their parent auditioning for duo/trio.*

Dancer 1: _____	Birthdate: _____	Grade for 2024-2025: _____
Dancer 2: _____	Birthdate: _____	Grade for 2024-2025: _____
Dancer 3: _____	Birthdate: _____	Grade for 2024-2025: _____

*Leave blank if applying for a duo*

**Keep in mind that selecting ANY styles and ANY choreographer below increases your chances for a duo/trio. Mark your preferences but also mark ANY for more possibility of being selected.**

Please circle any of the styles that you would be interested in performing together:

**ANY**    Ballet    Tap    Jazz    Hip Hop    Acro    Contemporary    Lyrical

You may request specific choreographers that you would like to work with. If you choose specific choreographers, they must initial near their name on your application that they are willing to work with your group. *Please keep in mind that they may say no for various reasons such as their schedule, availability or comfortability/experience with the style you request.*

Requested choreographer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle here if you would be happy working with any of our company teachers:    **ANY**

**PARENT/GUARDIAN:**

I understand the following:

- The main company application is due with or before this application.
- Application for duo/trio does not guarantee acceptance.
- If this application is approved, I am automatically committed to participating in this duo/trio with my first monthly payment due on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Signature of Dancer 1**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Signature of Dancer 2**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Signature of Dancer 3 (for trios only)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**