



Music . Dance . Drama

COURSE CATALOGUE



Dear Families,

Welcome to the Franklin School for the Performing Arts! Since 1985, FSPA has provided arts education to students of all ages and levels, with outstanding programs in Music, Dance and Drama and an impressive faculty of accomplished artists, performers and teachers.

In all programs at FSPA, students are free to choose their own level of involvement, whether recreational interest or serious study. Artistic development is guided by excellent instruction, enhanced by practice and complemented by performance opportunities. While performing is an integral part of our programs, a single annual performance is not our yearlong goal. All lessons and classes focus on the development of technique, creativity and artistic expression.

Performance opportunities abound at FSPA, with the Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) and at THE BLACK BOX, FPAC's new performance venue. Student ensembles cast each year by audition include dance companies and musical theater troupes with annual trips to Disney World and New York City. ***ELECTRIC YOUTH***, an international touring ensemble backed by an eight-piece band of Boston professionals, is made up of young performers trained at FSPA.

Our school is dedicated to the artistic development of young people and the enjoyment of the arts for everyone. We understand the importance of proper instruction, discipline, practice and accomplishment in the arts as part of a well-rounded education. From preschooler to senior citizen, everyone is invited to discover and cultivate their talents and to express themselves in a supportive, encouraging environment. I look forward to working with you as you create your own path at FSPA!

Warm regards,



Raye Lynn Mercer



Director

Raye Lynn Mercer

Founder of the Franklin School for the Performing Arts, Raye Lynn Mercer received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music from Middlebury College and attended the Vienna International Music Center in Vienna, Austria, where she studied with Maria-Regina Seidlhofer of the Academy of Music. Her teachers included Guiseppe deLellis, Diana Fanning, Gabriel Chodos and Yoriko Takahashi. Pianist, director and choreographer, Raye Lynn present musicals, plays, concerts and dance productions with FSPA and the community-based Franklin Performing Arts Company, established in 1991. Raye Lynn serves as Administrator of the school, oversees the FSPA musical theater program and directs the international touring ensemble ***ELECTRIC YOUTH***. Her FSPA students' résumés include Broadway, national tours, off-Broadway, regional and touring companies, European concert tours, Fox-TV's *American Idol* finals and performances at Walt Disney World and Disneyland Paris, as well as placement in top college and conservatory arts programs.

Combining profession and hobby, Raye Lynn has directed Symphony of Horses productions across the country. Internationally, she has developed ***ELECTRIC YOUTH'S*** professional concert tours in Europe and has enjoyed teaching musical theater workshops in Austria and Hong Kong. President and Executive Director of the Franklin Performing Arts Company, Raye Lynn oversees operation and programming at THE BLACK BOX, a new performance and event venue located behind FSPA in the heart of downtown Franklin.

Contact us at info@fspaonline.com

Cover Photo (Ballerina): Siggul/Visual Arts Masters



Welcome to 38 Main! Step inside the home of the Franklin School for the Performing Arts and experience the

Arts in Action

In Studio I, Ballet Director Cheryl Madeux, a former American Ballet Theatre and Joffrey Ballet dancer, moves purposely around the room working with each of her students, providing both encouragement and finely tuned corrections. Upstairs, Pro Voice Director Hallie Wetzell teaches 6- and 7-year-olds in a Let's Sing class, the first in a series of sequential voice classes offered at FSPA to build repertoire, ear training and healthy technique.

Down the hall, drama instructor Nick Paone, a former Equity actor, coaches a group of energetic students in a lively improvisation. Around the corner, Little Music School Director Kim Rezendes engages the very youngest piano students, assigning a color to each note on the keyboard.

What will YOU experience at FSPA?
Who will you meet? What will you learn?
How will you grow? Join us and discover
YOUR place at 38 Main!



Photo: Galen Hancock photography

Little Music School



The Little Music School (LMS) teaches children as young as 18 months to play the piano and explore the musical world around them. The method's basic

principle is that all children are born with intrinsic musical ability. The sooner they are introduced to music, the greater their ability to understand and appreciate it. This belief is fostered by engaging children with the following LMS components: recognizing and working with colors, playing games, moving, singing and performing.

The LMS curriculum is built on The Three Cs – Color, Creativity and Core. The program welcomes children into a musical land where each note is a color and each color opens up a whole new world to them. They learn to love music in group play, singing, playing the piano and other

instruments, imagining and creating. In addition to learning how to read and play music on the piano, children are introduced to basic musical concepts and various genres of music that will help them to enjoy and understand music for years to come. Children gain confidence, independence and self-esteem while developing creativity and social, developmental and communication skills.



Initially, children attend class with their peers twice weekly (maximum 7:1 student-teacher ratio) and are taught by instructors with extensive backgrounds in music and childhood education. Upon completion of their studies, LMS graduates leave the program with wonderful memories of

making new friends, learning how to play the piano, understanding the musical environment around them and creating a lifelong love of music.

Under the direction of Kim Rezendes, the Little Music School method is available to select institutions.

FSPA is pleased to be the first school in the US to offer this unique program.



Photo: Galen Hancock photography

CHILDREN'S MUSIC PROGRAMS

Rattles and Rhythms

Rattles and Rhythms is a music program for 1-year-olds and an adult caregiver. Thirty-minute classes encourage children to observe, sing, play, imagine, create and learn with others. This is a great opportunity for adults and their children to be exposed to music in a fun, energetic and interesting environment while learning and growing.

Wee Play

Wee Play is a 30-minute class for 2- and 3-year-olds and an adult caregiver. It focuses on singing, listening, moving and instrumental play while learning basic musical concepts.

Do-Re-ME!

Do-Re-ME! is a 30-minute class designed for 4- and 5-year-olds that includes age-appropriate singing, listening, instrumental playing and learning basic musical concepts. It also introduces students to rhythmic and notational reading as well as basic music history. Students' recognition of the letters A through G is extremely important. Parental support and involvement with students' homework and activities are vital to success in this program.

INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

Private Lessons

The FSPA Music Department offers private lessons in all instruments. A student may begin private lessons at any time during the year, given teacher availability. Music Department student recitals are scheduled throughout the year. Written evaluations are issued at the end of the school year. Make-up policies can be found in the FSPA Class Schedule. Ear training and/or theory classes are recommended to supplement private music instruction, especially for those with serious aspirations in music.

Private lessons are scheduled in order of date of registration.

Introduction to Theory, Composition and Improvisation

Level I (Grades 1-4)

Level II (Grades 5-8)

Level III (Grades 9-12)

Music theory provides the tools necessary to unlock creative freedom in composition and improvisation and produces quicker learners, better sight-readers and smarter, more sensitive musicians. Students explore the parameters of music composition in hands-on ways through group activities and self-directed projects. In addition to learning the rudiments of scales, chords, basic progressions and simple counterpoint, students also gain experience with computer notation programs and recording software. A formal recital of student compositions will be presented. Students must have prior note-reading instruction.

FSPA "Jazz Krewe" Instrumental Ensemble

Under the direction of FSPA Music Faculty members Arnie Krakowsky and Kenny Hadley, and with special guest musicians throughout the year, "Jazz Krewe" meets on a weekly basis and explores all genres of music, including jazz, R&B, rock, blues, funk and pop. For students of all ages and any instrument, it is a great opportunity for musicians to supplement their instrumental studies.

FSPA "Groovemasters" Percussion Ensemble

Under the direction of FSPA Music Faculty member, Kenny Hadley, the FSPA Percussion Ensemble meets on a weekly basis and exposes students to the rudiments of Latin drumming techniques, ensemble and orchestral playing and solo and ensemble work. The FSPA "Groovemasters" Percussion Ensemble performs in FSPA's annual Spring Concert. Acceptance into this ensemble is by invitation only.

Small Ensemble Coaching

A weekly coaching class designed to give instrumental students experience in playing with others, small groups are coached by experienced musical professionals in various aspects of ensemble playing including blending, staying together, part preparation, rehearsal technique and musical interpretation. Ensemble groups may perform throughout the year.

Ear Training

Ear training is a course designed for students ages 12 and older that strengthens the ability to hear sounds intelligently, through oral in-class performance and written dictation. An indispensable course for vocal and instrumental students, classes cover melodic/harmonic interval recognition, chord progression analysis, solfege, clef reading, sight singing and more. A basic ability to read music is a helpful prerequisite.

Pop Piano

Piano students learn how to read lead sheets and chord symbols to play ragtime, blues, funk, soul, R&B, rock and jazz.



The Royal Conservatory Music Development program for Piano is an option at FSPA. Students may elect to participate in annual testing and certification.

Music Department Programs

VOICE PROGRAM

Private Lessons

The FSPA Music Department offers private lessons in voice. A student may begin private lessons at any time during the year, given teacher availability. Music Department Student Recitals are scheduled throughout the year. Make-up policies can be found in the FSPA Class Schedule. Private lessons are scheduled in order of date of registration.

Voice Classes

Voice classes are designed for young singers (ages 6-18) looking to gain experience and basic technique. Classes focus on the fundamentals of breathing, vowel placement, sight-reading and ear training. A wide-ranging repertoire is studied including classical, musical theater, pop, rock and jazz genres. Solo and choral repertoire is studied at every level. Age, vocal maturity and experience determine level placement. Students wishing to enroll in Levels II, III or IV must be evaluated by the Vocal Director.

Class Levels

Let's Sing (ages 6-7) 45 minutes

Voice I (ages 8-9) 60 minutes

Voice II (ages 10-14) 60 minutes

Voice III (ages 11-14) 60 minutes

Voice IV (ages 11-14) 60 minutes

Teen Voice (ages 13+) 60 minutes

Boys' Voice (ages 9-13) 60 minutes

Teen Voice

Teen Voice is designed for the beginning to intermediate singer. Emphasis is placed on building confidence along with a healthy vocal technique. Repertoire includes musical theater and popular contemporary genres.



Vocal Coaching

Vocal coaching is offered to intermediate to advanced singers to enhance their regularly scheduled lessons. Proper vocal approach is stressed but with less emphasis on technique and more effort placed on interpreting a song. Coachings may also be scheduled to prepare for auditions.

FSPA Glee Club

Glee Club is a performance-based class that focuses on tight harmonies, rhythmic nuance and emoting a song as a soloist and as an ensemble. Glee Club also provides the perfect setting to continue work on ear training and sight-reading skills, increasing the level of musicianship from its members. Glee Club performs at FSPA events throughout the year. Students must be concurrently enrolled in Voice II or above and have the recommendation of their teacher.



Music Conservatory

FSPA offers a Music Conservatory certificate program for students who wish to be challenged with a varied and rigorous music curriculum. An annual certificate will be presented to students who complete the following requirements during the school year:

- **Private lessons (three trimesters)**
- **Theory workshops**
- **At least one recital performance**
- **End of year jury for music faculty**
- **Ensemble playing**

Further information is available by contacting Kim Rezendes.



Love What You Learn. Learn What You Love.

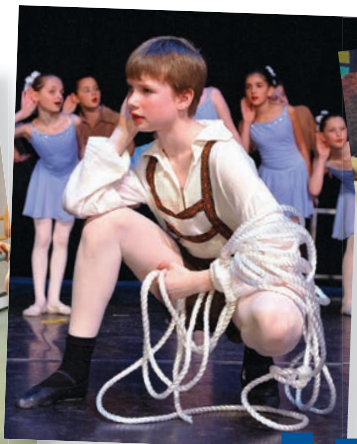
At FSPA, there's something for everyone! You'll find music, dance and drama experiences for all ages and ability levels. Our performing arts programming encourages learning through doing, while building skills and self-esteem. Children develop a sense of independence and accomplishment at an early age in an environment that is both expectation-driven and supportive. We teach the performing arts, but we also impart life skills. And whether or not students pursue the arts for college or career, they leave here having developed poise and self-confidence, with an ability to present themselves and communicate effectively, to improvise and create, and to better manage and organize their time. The lessons our students learn and the values we share – respect, kindness, discipline, teamwork and leadership – make our school a great choice for extracurricular involvement and a very special place to grow up.



Photo: Scott May



Photo: Mark Merten



Grow with Us!

Teacher Inspiration



“I see FSPA as a second home for many students. Besides all the opportunities this school provides (and believe me, there are so many!), I LOVE that everybody has so much fun together. We are like a big and loud family! Whether in the hallways or classrooms, you can hear music, dancing, singing and laughter everywhere.”

**- Irina Fainkichen,
Instructor of Violin**



Photo: Mark Merten

FSPA students learn from a faculty of accomplished artists and dedicated teachers who share a passion and love for the arts. Our faculty brings an extraordinary scope of training, teaching and performing experiences to their work at FSPA. Here students find mentors with real-world knowledge and understanding to guide and support their development and growth.



Do You Know?

- ◆ FSPA faculty members have performed, recorded and toured with such music legends as Dizzy Gillespie, Van Morrison, Tony Bennett and Ray Charles. Our teachers have performed as guest artists or members of such illustrious companies and ensembles as American Ballet Theatre, Artie Shaw Band, Berkshire Ballet, Boston Ballet, Boston Liturgical Ensemble, Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, Count Basie Orchestra, Kiev State Dance Classical Ensemble, Joffrey Ballet, Newport Music Festival, Opera Night in Canada and Opera Unmet.



- ◆ Our faculty brings a global perspective to teaching, with performance experiences and training that spans many continents in such countries as Austria, Canada, Israel, Japan, Lithuania, Russia, Switzerland and Taiwan.



- ◆ FSPA teachers have prepared students for the New England regional semi-finals and NYC finals of the Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) international ballet competition, for the touring companies of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Evita*, and for such prestigious summer ballet intensives as American Ballet Theatre, Bolshoi Ballet Academy, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Joffrey Ballet School, Ballet West, Miami City Ballet and Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory.
- ◆ These mentors have also helped students gain admission to renowned musical theater, dance, classical voice and instrumental programs at America's top colleges, universities and conservatories. Our alumni have earned professional credits on Broadway, in national tours, cruise line casts, regional theater, television and film.
- ◆ Many FSPA faculty members perform, choreograph and direct in Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) productions, sharing a stage and creative experience with the scores of FSPA students who appear in FPAC's season of shows.

“At FSPA, great working relationships create a great teaching atmosphere. I feel extremely valued, and the respect I receive on behalf of my skills and work ethic ensures that I show up each day ready to teach at my best. I am trusted to give my students the highest quality lessons possible, just as students and their families trust that FSPA will be the most accommodating and nurturing space possible.”

**– Cory Jacobs,
Instructor of Guitar**





Children's Dance

Creative Dance

This class for 3- and 4-year-olds is an introduction to dance that explores creative movement, levels, shapes, tempos and rhythms, and develops coordination and locomotor skills. Props and stories are used to engage young children and to create a fun and active learning environment. The class presents a studio performance in lieu of Spring Concert. Students must be able to participate in class without parental presence and should be cooperative in a group situation. Three-year-olds must be evaluated in a class prior to registration.

Rhythm & Movement

This class for 4- and 5- year-olds offers pre-dance instruction including exercises in balance, movement, rhythm, coordination and creativity. Children begin to develop locomotor skills, such as skipping and galloping, and learn the structure of a dance class. Stories and props are used to engage young children. Listening skills are encouraged. Students must be 4 years old or have completed a year of Creative Dance.

Pre-Ballet

This is a primary course which allows 5-7 year-olds the opportunity to progress into any form of dance. Rudimentary ballet positions, as well as basic ballet vocabulary, are taught along with floor exercises, simple steps and correct posture. A greater emphasis on musicality and rhythm is encouraged. Five-year-olds must have studied one year of Rhythm & Movement at FSPA or be evaluated and recommended for Pre-Ballet by an FSPA instructor.

Introduction to Ballet

This class is for students ages 6-8 and begins a wider study of ballet vocabulary with a greater focus on correct posture and placement. The importance of concentration, self-control and discipline are emphasized and necessary for the progression to Ballet I. Basic steps are performed in the center, across the floor and in simple pathways. Students must have completed Rhythm & Movement and Pre-Ballet programs at FSPA or be evaluated for Introduction to Ballet by an FSPA instructor.

Photo: Sigga/Visual Arts Masters

Ballet Conservatory

Ballet Conservatory Classes

FSPA's Ballet Conservatory Program offers classical ballet education of the highest quality. An extensive range of training and performance experiences provides exceptional opportunities for students of all ages and levels interested in the study of classical ballet. The FSPA Ballet curriculum is based on the foundations of the Vaganova syllabus and, since 2009, incorporates the new ABT National Training Curriculum as well.

The first levels of the ballet program begin an earnest study of classical ballet. Barre work is introduced with a strong focus on individual turnout, foot development and port de bra. As dancers progress into the intermediate levels, the faculty carefully evaluates each student's progress and potential for pointe work while continuing to nurture the desire to dance. The Pre-Professional Program begins advanced ballet technique and pointe. Admission is by teacher evaluation and audition only. This program consists of our most challenging and demanding schedule and provides additional performance opportunities for dancers, along with private coaching and extra classes if desired.



Photo: Siggul/Visual Arts Masters

Ballet Conservatory Ensemble

This class is designed to expand students' repertoire while improving technique and developing artistry. Dancers learn challenging variations and ensemble sections from classical ballets such as *Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake* and work on original choreography when appropriate.

There is a studio performance each trimester to showcase their efforts and put performance skills into practice. Conservatory Ensemble is offered to Ballet levels II-VI.

Ballet

Standard Ballet Classes

The Standard Track is designed to train and educate students in classical ballet so they may use this knowledge to enhance other disciplines and prepare to enter competitive college dance programs, if desired. Pointe is not offered on this track, allowing for fewer requirements and greater flexibility of schedules. Students will be evaluated for placement in the level to assure continued development and success. Ballet levels A and B meet once a week for 60 minutes. Ballet B has the option of twice per week by participating in Ballet A as well. Levels C, D and E meet for 90 minutes twice a week. Teacher evaluation is necessary for proper placement.

Recreational Ballet Classes

The three-level Recreational Ballet Program is comprised of once-a-week classes to meet the needs of older students with no prior experience who wish to explore the discipline of classical ballet, dancers with some experience who want to continue study for enjoyment, and advanced dancers with limited time in their schedules. All Recreational Levels present a studio demonstration for parents in lieu of Spring Concert.



Character Dance

Character Dance is offered to ballet students of all tracks and levels as a supplement to students' classical ballet training. The class enhances dancers' knowledge of the classics and improves musicality, coordination, use of the upper body and stage presence. A subdivision of classical dance, character dance is the stylized representation of traditional folk or national dances, mostly from European countries, and uses movements which have been adapted for the theater. Character dance is integral to many classical ballets, including *Swan Lake* and *Paquita*. Popular character dance adaptations that are seen in these ballets, such as mazurka and tarantella, are introduced.



Boys' Ballet

This is an introductory-level class for boys ages 10 and up. Class focuses on alignment, turnout, flexibility, strength, coordination, turns, and jumps and utilizes traditional ballet vocabulary. The class consists of warm-up barre work and basic movements in the center.

Jazz

Jazz classes explore traditional, Broadway and contemporary styles in a fun, energetic atmosphere. Classes begin with a warm-up which stresses technique, flexibility, coordination and strength, followed by progressions across the floor, center work and combinations. Beginner students learn fundamental jazz steps and basic vocabulary through across-the-floor exercises and simple combinations. Intermediate classes focus on body placement and proper technique, stretching and development of skills. Advanced classes emphasize quality of movement in addition to perfecting technique, performance skills and varied styles. Introduction to Jazz is offered for ages 5-7, Jazz I for ages 7-9, and Jazz II for ages 8-10. Ballet is recommended for Jazz III, while Jazz levels IV-VII require a weekly ballet class. Ballet is not required for levels A-D, allowing for greater flexibility of schedules. Jazz III-VII and Jazz A-D are 90-minute classes.

Boys' Dance I-III various styles of jazz and stage movement. Classes are well suited to students in musical theater.

Contemporary

Contemporary dance, a subcategory of the jazz genre, incorporates ballet and modern technique and vocabulary. Contemporary dance is exemplified by its use of traditional ballet technique, various jazz styles and emotional musical connection. Classes consist of center barre as well as choreography that infuses all three genres. Contemporary I (ages 8-12) is a 60-minute class and Contemporary II, III and IV (ages 12+) are 90-minute classes. Placement in levels II, III and IV is by evaluation or teacher recommendation.



Photo: Peter Millette

Modern Workshop

Modern Workshop is offered on an intermittent schedule throughout the year and serves as an introduction to the Modern techniques of Horton, Graham, Cunningham, Duncan, Sokolov and other masters and creators of Modern Dance. The classes focus on enhancing body awareness, exploring levels, traveling movements and positions, and increasing the body's strength and flexibility. The concept of fall and recovery, jumps, turns, improvisation and exploration of different musical rhythms and their dynamics is studied.

Tap

Tap classes are offered to students ages 5 and up and focus on rhythm, musicality and timing. All classes begin with an energetic warm-up, across-the-floor exercises and combinations. Our beginner students explore the fundamental steps of tap dance, learn tap terminology and develop the ability to maintain correct body placement. Intermediate classes further develop skills, focusing on clarity of sounds and increasing speed as well as dynamics and musicality. Our advanced tap dancers are challenged through improvisational exercises, intricate rhythms and footwork. All tap classes are 60 minutes and are offered in levels I-VII and levels A-C with an introduction to tap class for ages 5-7.

Ladies' Tap offers adult women an opportunity to learn basic tap steps, terminology and body placement. Ladies' Tap provides an excellent source of camaraderie and exercise. Tap classes meet weekly for 60 minutes.

Man Tap is a beginner level tap class just for men. Guarantees fun and fraternity. Previous experience is not required and is frowned upon! Students must be over 30 (or by invitation) and have a sense of humor.

Photo: Scott May



Dance for Musical Theater

Dance for Musical Theater includes a jazz warm-up, incorporating isolations and modern and jazz technique along with stretching. Students learn stylized movement from choreographers such as Fosse, Bennett, Robbins and Cole, who not only influenced the musical theater world but the entire dance genre. Curriculum includes an in-depth look into choreographers from various Broadway shows and movie musicals, learning the history and motivation behind the movement. Level I is recommended for ages 10+ and levels II and III for ages 13+. Placement in levels II and III is by audition or teacher recommendation.

Commercial Dance

Commercial Dance explores various styles and techniques used in today's commercial dance world. Stamina, improvement of strength and flexibility, body conditioning and rhythm isolations are included, building on the foundation of hip hop movements and street styles of dance.

Dance Conditioning

Casey's Class focuses on strength and flexibility as well as jumps and turns. Each week students experience various conditioning exercises that work on core, upper and lower body strength, followed by a series of stretches that improve flexibility. Class finishes with turn, leaps and skill combinations. All dancers, beginner to advanced, benefit from this class!

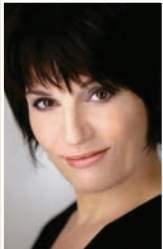
Photo: Mark Merten





The Broadway Connection

“I wish I had a Franklin School for the Performing Arts in my life when I was growing up. It’s invaluable.”



- Beth Leavel
Tony Award Winner for
The Drowsy Chaperone

“It’s really inspiring to work with performers who are so accomplished. Seeing and appreciating how good they are makes you more determined to improve. It’s an opportunity that most kids don’t get to have. All of the Broadway stars are great to work with and make you feel comfortable taking risks and trying new things.”

- Jenna McDermott, FSPA student

Through an affiliation with Broadway Artists Alliance (BAA) of New York City, FSPA musical theater students in performing troupes have the opportunity to participate in an annual weekend program of workshops with Broadway performers, directors, choreographers and casting professionals. The customized program is held at Ripley-Grier Studios, where many Broadway shows audition and rehearse, and includes acting, song interpretation and theater dance master classes. Many of our students are invited to return for BAA Intensives to participate in advanced classes and a showcase before an industry panel of NYC agents, managers and casting directors. Broadway performers have also visited 38 Main to share their expertise, advice and personal stories with FSPA students in dance and musical theater master classes.

FSPA’s association with Broadway Artists Alliance began when BAA Founder and Director Jennifer Johns cast and music-directed FSPA students locally for the Boston run of the 2000 National Tour of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and, subsequently, for the 2004 National Tour of *Evita*.

FSPA on Broadway

“Performing eight shows a week in various cities is exciting and rewarding, but can also be very taxing on the body. I owe a lot of my consistent vocal health and technique to my years at FSPA. Healthy singing habits were ingrained in my body and it has become second nature. Singing a variety of music styles at a young age also set me up to be a diverse performer in my career. FSPA has set me up for success in life and I am so thankful for my years of training in my hometown!”

**- Dan Gleason,
FSPA Class of 2006**

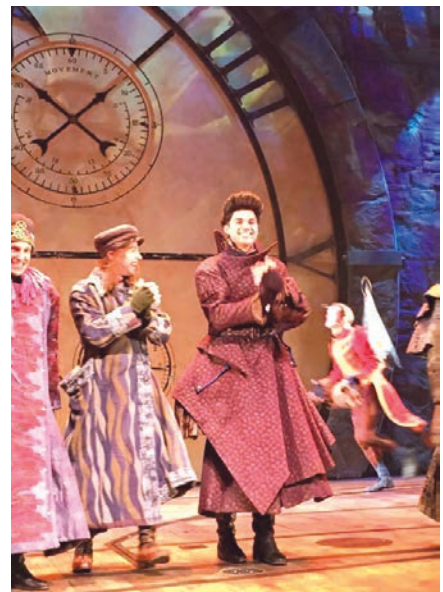
“Jack’s FSPA and FPAC (Franklin Performing Arts Company) experiences inspired his passion and helped shape him.”

Nicole Mullen, Jack’s mom



Jack trained at FSPA and toured as Chip in *Disney’s Beauty and the Beast* before making his Broadway debut. Jack landed his national tour role through FSPA’s association with Broadway Artists Alliance (BAA), where he caught the attention of casting director Bob Cline at a three-day BAA Intensive and industry panel showcase. When *Disney’s Beauty and the Beast* came to Providence Performing Arts Center, more than 125 FSPA friends came out to cheer Jack on!

2016 was an exciting year for FSPA on Broadway, with two students making their mark in hit shows! Alum Dan Gleason debuted in *Wicked*, performing in the ensemble and understudying the lead role of Fyero. And FSPA musical theater student Jack Mullen wrapped up his year-long run in *Matilda* as Nigel. A member of **ELECTRIC YOUTH** and Disney troupes at FSPA, Dan counts *Wicked*, *American Idiot* and *Miss Saigon* among his Broadway national tour credits.



Wylie Sisters Hit the Road with Annie National Tour

FSPA students Amanda and Katie Wylie joined the 2016-17 national Broadway tour of *Annie* in the roles of orphans Tessie and Duffy! With *Annie’s* original lyricist and director, Tony Award-winning Martin Charnin, at the helm, the tour hits 91 cities nationwide, taking the girls to 37 states and Canada.

Acting

Act One

Children in grades 3-5 discover, create and experience drama as an art and learning experience. Music, poetry and stories are used to expand the creative imagination. Speech activities are designed to encourage each child to improvise words and dialogue for imagined characters in a variety of circumstances. Group activities reinforce the goals of cooperation and acceptance of the ideas of others.

Creative Dramatics

Open to students in grades 6-8, this class gives students the opportunity to explore and expand their theatrical imagination. Using theater games, improvisations and simple scenes, students learn to create characters, tell compelling stories and use their voices, faces and bodies more effectively.



Building Characters

This acting class for students in grades 5-8 will allow the talents of serious young actors to find a voice. The ensemble will NOT play a lot of games, but rather work on character building, stage presence and script work. This is meant as an opportunity for students who want to learn acting and be part of a company. Acceptance into this class is by evaluation only.

Principles of Acting

Principles of Acting is for students in grades 9-12 who wish to begin a more serious study of acting and theater. Students use improvisation and original scenes to continue exploring characterization. They also work on scripted monologues and get brief introductions to theater history and its traditions.

Scenes and Monologues

Scenes and Monologues is a high-level acting class which concentrates on script work and character development. Students are held to a high standard and are expected to work on material outside of class.

Improv

Improv focuses on building students' abilities to create collaboratively on the spot. We will explore techniques that will allow performers to feel more confident creating in front of a live audience.

Acting Seminar

Acting Seminar is an opportunity for students who want a broader theater curriculum. During the year, the students themselves will help guide the topics that they want to study. In the past, this class has ranged from audition preparation to magic, costume design and directing.



Photo: Peter Millette

**“It’s not just about singing, dancing and acting.
It’s about launching children into the rest of their lives
with confidence and the total belief that they can
create anything they want for themselves.”**

—FSPA Parent

Musical Theater

Children's Musical Theater

For students in grades K-1, this class provides an introduction to skills in acting, singing and dancing. This is a performance-oriented class with regular attendance required in addition to learning lyrics and reviewing choreography at home, if necessary.

ON STAGE!

All FSPA Musical Theater classes perform three times each year!

A Holiday Tribute • December
at 38 Main

Musical Theater Showcase • March
at THE BLACK BOX

Spring Concert • May
at Franklin High School

Participation in these performances is optional.

Musical Theater I-IV

For students in grades 2-4, Musical Theater I explores and reinforces acting, singing and dancing techniques and styles. More involved performance pieces and materials are introduced. Musical Theater II, for students in grades 5-7, builds on the skills learned in both Children's Musical Theater and Musical Theater I, with emphasis placed on preparation of material, performance skills and stage presence. Musical Theater III-IV, for grades 8-12, builds and expands vocal, acting and movement skills. Students present songs and scenes in class and learn techniques for speaking and singing in character. Musical theater history and legends of the Broadway stage are also explored. Regular attendance and commitment to learning more advanced material is required.

Musical Theater Conservatory

FSPA's Musical Theater Conservatory program is open to dedicated and enthusiastic students in grades 8-12 who are ready to commit to a comprehensive musical theater curriculum. The program offers an opportunity to engage in the performing arts at a high level and to explore possibilities for college and career. Conservatory students meet weekly for Seminar class, which includes song interpretation and musical theater scenes. Students interested will apply to the program prior to September 1st. Conservatory requirements: a minimum of one acting class, at least four hours of dance per week including ballet and jazz, one hour of private voice, Musical Theater Seminar Class, and at least one performance ensemble (Dance Ensemble, Glee Club, Troupes).





A



C



K

Photo: Peter Millette



F

Photo: Peter Millette



D

So much MORE than a Performing Art

FSPA is a vibrant community, a home away from home for so many children and teens, and a nurturing place to grow up – a dynamic hub of nonstop activity and opportunity, where students learn about themselves, make lifelong friendships, realize their potential, and develop the performing and life skills to launch the futures of their dreams. Here are just a handful of the countless FSPA experiences that help make 38 Main such a special and transformative place.

A Disney!

For more than two decades, select FSPA performing troupes and senior dance company have performed at Walt Disney World. This annual experience, which also includes workshops and other special opportunities with Disney performers, choreographers and directors, is truly magical!

B ELECTRIC YOUTH

This international touring ensemble of singer-dancers trained at FSPA is backed by an eight-piece band of Boston's finest musicians. *EY* has toured Europe since 1998, recorded six CDs and performed at iconic venues at home and abroad.

C FSPA Jazz Krewe

Students of all ages and instruments explore and jam to varied genres of music – including jazz, R&B, rock, blues, funk and pop – with special guest musicians and renowned FSPA faculty members Kenny Hadley and Arnie Krakowsky, supplementing instrumental lessons in a dynamic, hands-on way.

D Musical Theater Troupes

Students in grades 5-12 enjoy outstanding training and performing opportunities along with a special camaraderie that comes with being part of an ensemble team.



M



L



Photo: Peter Millette

s School!

E DANCE COMPANY

Nurture your passion for dance with expanded showcase performances of pre-professional pieces.

F FSPA All-Student Shows

Each year, four FSPA all-student productions – a musical, play, ballet and opera – provide a showcase for both beginner and more seasoned talents to shine!

G Guest Artists

FSPA hosts annual master classes with accomplished stars of the musical theater and dance world, such as Davis Robertson (Joffrey Ballet School), Meg Paul (Broadway, ABT and

Complexions Contemporary Ballet), and Broadway headliners Tyler Hanes, Sara Jean Ford, Tony Mansker and Tyrick Wiltz Jones.

H Ballet Conservatory Collaborations

Collaborations with the Metrowest Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Pro Musica have provided special opportunities for Ballet Conservatory dancers to perform classic works with live orchestra.

I Friend In Me Theater Company

FSPA teens are paired with students with special needs to share weekly musical theater experiences including movement, theater games and sing-alongs.

J Spring Concert

FSPA Spring Concert is a highlight at the end of the school year showcasing students' training and progress through performances representing all departments.

K FSPA Summer

The fun continues year round at FSPA with outstanding summer session programs, including a play, musical, cabaret, ballet intensives, one-week camps, workshops, classes and lessons.

L Little Music School

FSPA's youngest students beam with pride at their LMS recitals and graduation ceremony.

M Future Shock

FSPA students who audition for Future Shock are able to add to their performing opportunities during the school year participating in Broadway in Franklin weekend.



Go Anywhere!



Caitlin Cassidy

Caitlin Cassidy (Class of 2007) founded LubDub

Physical Theatre Company with actor-dancer-variety entertainer Geoff Kanick in August of 2013. At FSPA, Caitlin studied voice in Hallie Wetzell's studio, was a member of performing troupes and toured with **ELECTRIC YOUTH!** Caitlin holds a master's degree in Acting, with distinction, from The East 15 School of Acting in London and a BA in Arabic and Political Science from Georgetown

University. Caitlin has designed and implemented courses in dance, theater

and cultural performance under the Tunisian Ministry of Education in Tunisia, served as a Language and Culture Fellow with AMIDEAST and developed and performed work for the International Theatre Institute and UNESCO World Theatre Conference. Caitlin is a collaborating artist with Georgetown University's Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics. She is also working with En Garde Arts to produce the national tour of BASETRACK, a multi-media performance about American veterans' experiences of the Afghanistan War. Acting credits include: *Papa!*

Fiction (Noor Theatre), *A Doll's House* (Epic Theatre Ensemble), *Anything Goes* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *Far From the Trees* (Berkshire Playwright's Lab), *Yerma* (Cockpit Theatre, London), *Cymbeline* (Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, London), *Kafka's Metamorphosis* (Synetic Theatre Company) and *Nicole & Anthony* (Kennedy Center). Caitlin also has appeared on TV and in film.

"Everything that I learned at FSPA

I see and use every day in my professional life.

I attribute my discipline, my drive, my work ethic, my knowledge and my talent to the Franklin School for the Performing Arts.

It was my foundation. It was the beginning of my understanding and my growth as a performer."

- Nadine Malouf

Colleen Megley

Colleen Megley (Class of 2006) is currently School Coordinator and instructor within the Young Movers Program at Peridance Capezio Center in New York City. She graduated summa cum laude with a BA in Biology and Dance from Connecticut College. While at Connecticut College she studied ballet and post-modern dance under the direction of David Dorfman. Since graduating she has been working in the Manhattan and Long Island area, teaching ballet and creative dance. An ABT National Training Curriculum Primary through Level 5 certified teacher,



she is currently pursuing her master's in Dance Education and Ballet Pedagogy at New York University in partnership with American Ballet Theatre. At FSPA, Colleen studied ballet with Cheryl Madeaux along with other dance styles, studied voice with Hallie Wetzell, and toured Europe

with **ELECTRIC YOUTH!** She danced many roles in Franklin Performing Arts Company's *The Nutcracker* (including Snow Queen) and played the title role in their production of *Cinderella*.

"FSPA was so much more than a school to me – it was my second home! As a dancer, performer and educator, I now know how rare the high level of training I received at FSPA is and I am so grateful for all the incredible opportunities provided. The professional teaching faculty and staff are beyond compare and continue to support me in every step of my career."

– Colleen Megley





Ryan Powers

Ryan Powers (Class of 2002) was most recently seen in *GREASE: LIVE!* on Fox-TV. He has been seen on TV shows such as *How I Met Your Mother*, *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*, *Victorious*, *Rules of Engagement*, *Pretty Little Liars* and more. His film credits include *The Nice Guys* and *Rock of Ages*. At FSPA, he studied musical theater, went to Disney World with Broadway Light and toured Europe as a member of FSPA's Youth Choir. His FSPA/FPAC credits include *Lil' Abner* (Abner), *The Secret Garden* (Fakir), *Barnum* (Bailey) and *Our Town* (Si Crowell).



Janna Burke

Janna Burke (Class of 2002) "After graduating from Muhlenberg College in 2008, I toured China with a group from Duquesne performing opera arias and scenes and attended the Ezio Pinza

Council for American Singers of Opera in Oderzo, Italy. I moved to NYC to perform with the Bronx Opera and worked for The Metropolitan Opera as Manager of Patron and Individual Giving. I currently serve as the Major Gifts Officer at the Brooklyn Museum. Training at FSPA has given me poise and confidence and, with Hallie Wetzell, I built a vocal foundation that helped me succeed in college and professional auditions."

FSPA at the Oscars

FSPA alumna **Nadine Malouf** (Class of 2005) had the distinct opportunity to perform alongside Anne Hathaway, Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe and other principals from Cameron Mackintosh's film adaptation of *Les Misérables* at the 85th annual Academy Awards in Los Angeles! Nadine performed "One Day More," joining an ensemble of 25 that included *Les Misérables* alumni hand-picked from the US 25th Anniversary national tour, the 2006 Broadway revival, the Hollywood Bowl company, the UK and film.

Nadine was part of Mackintosh's 25th anniversary national tour, performing a seven-month run in the ensemble and as the understudy for Eponine. Nadine's burgeoning film career includes



the British drama *Shame*, with Michael Fassbender and Carey Mulligan, and a featured role in Cherien Dabis' *May in the Summer*, which premiered at Sundance Film Festival 2013 as an opening day pick. Nadine studied at London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts during the summer of 2013, where she played Lady M in their production of *Macbeth*. In 2014 Nadine starred in the LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater New York premiere of Pulitzer Prize winner Ayad Akhtar's *The Who & The What*. Recently, she received critical acclaim for playing the title role in Shakespeare Theatre Company's production of *Salomé*. Nadine's Off-Broadway credits include *The School for Scandal* and *Ultimate Beauty Bible*.

*Infectious
mix of*



Friendship & Common Purpose

At FSPA students grow up surrounded by peers who enjoy the same interests. The energy, enthusiasm and excitement found at the school reflect an infectious mix of friendship and common purpose. Whether in classes and rehearsals or hanging in the hallways, students have fun together, support and learn from one another. Mentoring and peer leadership happen naturally. Ours is a family-

oriented and student-centered community that supports teamwork, collaboration and connection as integral parts of creative experiences. Students learn to share ideas, respect the input of others, be sensitive to differences, problem solve and think outside the box. In every music ensemble, dance or theatrical performance, the contribution of each participant has value and impacts the success of the group – no matter how large or small the role.



“What I’m most proud of is the community we have built around the arts.”

**–FSPA Director
Raye Lynn Mercer**

Summer at FSPA



Summer is a great time to try out FSPA or to discover new opportunities at 38 Main! Summer dance includes weekly classes in ballet, tap, jazz and contemporary, as well as two Ballet Intensives featuring a day trip to Jacob's Pillow, final performance at THE BLACK BOX and training with a guest artist-in-residence. Our music

program provides private lessons in voice, piano, guitar, bass, percussion, woodwind and violin, along with weekly group classes in voice, music theory and piano. You'll find a fun variety of weeklong performing arts camps in music, dance and drama for all ages and levels too!

FSPA Summer Theater provides the opportunity for hands-on immersion in a Broadway Boot Camp, cabaret show, behind-the-scenes theater design, straight play or musical theater production, with enrollment

for one to five weeks. The Cabaret week focuses on repertoire choices, song interpretation and presentation, and concludes with a cabaret-style revue at THE BLACK BOX. A behind-the-scenes exploration of theater design and production includes staging, lighting, costuming, sets and sound. A two-week musical theater program presents a full-length book musical, while Broadway Boot Camp features song and dance master classes with Broadway guest artists and coaching on individual performance skills.



FSPA on Stage!



while learning about music and having fun. Students gain invaluable experience by studying with top-notch artists and educators. Chamber music at FSPA includes collaborative piano and string ensembles organized by the Music Department faculty for recital programs of classical music, while players interested in jazz, pop and rock are grouped for jam sessions, rehearsals and

performances throughout the year.

FSPA musical theater ensembles rehearse throughout the year for school and community performances. The high school troupes and FSPA's CenterStage dance company are part of our annual trip to Disney World. FSPA students perform on Disney stages, take classes with Disney performers, choreographers and directors, and are regularly selected for unique experiences, such as meeting the *Finding Nemo* and *Beauty and the Beast* casts



There are many opportunities to perform at FSPA!

Highlighting an unparalleled calendar of music, dance and drama events, FSPA presents four all-student productions each year, including a book musical, play, ballet and

opera. Productions showcase students of all ages and levels, and any FSPA student who auditions will be cast in these shows!

Special opportunities for singers include studio voice recitals, acoustic coffee houses, opera scenes, Glee Club and musical theater showcases. For instrumentalists, music ensembles offer students of all ages a chance to play with other musicians





or having a Q & A with Disney's *Mary Poppins* on Broadway, Ashley Brown.

The FSPA Dance Company, open to students in grades 9-12 (grade 8 by special invitation), features the school's most advanced dancers, who enjoy expanded performance opportunities, including an annual dance concert at THE BLACK BOX and several showcase performances throughout the school year. Travel opportunities for Company dancers include local dance conventions and FSPA's annual New York City weekend, as well as field trips to performances and master classes.

For ballet dancers, FSPA's Ballet Conservatory Ensemble develops technique and artistry through class work and performance of classical variations, with special showings at THE BLACK BOX featured each trimester. FSPA Ballet Conservatory dancers also perform a program of diverse repertoire in the spring, expanding students' knowledge of the classics while exploring contemporary ballet and choreography. Collaborative concert performances with the Metrowest Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Pro Musica are among other exciting opportunities. Many FSPA dancers are also cast, by audition, in Franklin Performing Arts Company's holiday production of *The Nutcracker*, performed with professional orchestra and special guest artists.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS FSPA AND FPAC

A Performing Arts Campus Grows Up *in* *the Heart of* *Downtown Franklin*

Since 1991, FSPA's community partner, the Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC), has provided ongoing opportunities for professional artists, area performers, students and families to connect through the arts. FPAC's focus on youth development is reflected in the scores of children and teens cast in company productions each season, including three plays, five musicals and *The Nutcracker* ballet. Students also perform every summer in FPAC's Whatever Theater Festival, which features evenings of one-act plays and a production of Shakespeare on the Franklin Town Common.

In 2014, FPAC debuted a new performance venue, THE BLACK BOX, in downtown Franklin. Located just behind FSPA, THE BLACK BOX provides a professional setting to stage many FSPA performances. The flexible theater, with 360-degree catwalk and open floor plan, can be configured to suit the particular requirements and creative vision of different productions. FSPA students are fortunate to have THE BLACK BOX as a performing resource and for their arts learning and enjoyment!





FSPA ACADEMY

FSPA proudly offers this exciting new academic opportunity in collaboration with the Massachusetts Virtual Academy (MAVA)! Building upon MAVA's state-approved online curriculum leading to the MA State Diploma, FSPA is pleased to provide the setting for a complete and creative academic education with a special emphasis on arts, language and culture. Guided by a full-time FSPA Administrator Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., FSPA Academy students enjoy a more flexible and individualized experience in a nurturing environment enhanced by field trips, master classes, Music Theory, foreign language conversation classes and more! Academy students also have access to FSPA Administration for career and college counseling.

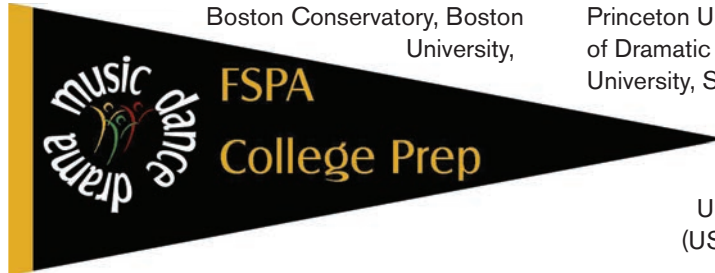
COLLEGE PREP

FSPA provides extensive College Prep services for high school students, including all aspects of college list selection, essay and application development, and performing arts audition preparation. Coaching is available on monologues, vocal repertoire and choreography for those interested in auditioning for musical theater, acting, music and dance programs. For students focused on liberal arts colleges and universities, guidance is offered covering all facets of the application process, including arts supplements and video submissions to enhance a

student's candidacy. Sessions can be customized and scheduled on an as-needed basis.

Director Raye Lynn Mercer and her staff annually prepare high school seniors for college and conservatory auditions, with placement at such prestigious programs as Baldwin Wallace University, Berklee College of Music, Boston Conservatory, Boston University,

Brown University, Connecticut College, Eastman School of Music, Elon University, Emerson College, Georgetown University, Hartt School of Music, Ithaca College, Manhattan School of Music, New England Conservatory, NYU-Tisch School of the Arts, Oberlin Conservatory, Oklahoma City University, Pace University, Pennsylvania State University, Princeton University, Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (London), Rutgers University, Shenandoah Conservatory, Skidmore College, Syracuse University, UCLA, University of Miami, University of Southern California (USC), and Wagner College.





What will YOUR journey look like?

Where will FSPA take you?

Let's begin – come for a visit, take a tour, meet fellow students, faculty and staff, try a complimentary class or enjoy an FSPA performance. We're here to help! Choose just one class or design a full program to meet your interests, talents and needs.

Grow skills, build experiences, find a mentor, make new friends.

Your FSPA adventure awaits!

Call 508-528-8668 to get started. Join us and discover

YOUR 38 Main!

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