

Guidelines for Choosing Music

When choosing a song it is very important to choose music that fits the category you are teaching. If downloading music be sure that you are using a good source, as many sources, especially those you do not pay for and even some that you may pay for, are poor quality.

Check length and tempo for each level.

Lyrics: It is very important that all lyrics are appropriate. No references to drugs, alcohol, sex, or violence including slang terms. No swearing or suggestive material included, or that has been bleeped from the music but reference is still clear. It is important the songs we choose promote positive messages.

Please email lyrics to BJ in an attachment when you send her the title of the song if the lyrics or message is questionable in any way. Two great websites to help you are lyrics.com and urbandictionary.com – use them both to better understand your lyrics.

If you have any questions let BJ know when reporting your song, **especially before cutting any music!** Be sure you label your music on the CD as well as on the CD case, with your **name, tracks, and what they contain, eg 1. Michelle – Novelty - All level 2. Michelle – Jazz – Beg.**

Styles:

Jazz: Generally upbeat tempo for stronger choreography that can be a wide variety of styles. Your song can start or have a short section of slower music to change it up, but the majority of the piece should clearly be jazz and not confused or mistaken for a lyrical routine.

Lyrical: Generally slower tempo with expressive/emotional lyrics that can be interpreted through the choreography. Typically fluid sustained rounded movements, yet, can also demonstrate the powerful side of emotion.

Contemporary: Any style and tempo of music can be used in a contemporary piece as long as it allows the choreographer to express more complex emotions and movement. You will typically find abstract ideas and a variety of styles which separates it from a lyrical piece.

Funk: Generally a strong steady beat to anchor precise sharp clean moves with no interpretation of individual style as in a hip hop routine.

Hip Hop: Different from funk because the students should be learning the vibe of hip hop through not just the choreography, but the attitude and individual style or “flava” that they should apply to the choreography. Any tempo, fast to slow, is acceptable.

Novelty : Wide open! Thematic in nature and using props, costumes, anything that educates the student on expressing the “character” or “theme” of the dance is highly recommended. We can help locate or purchase props in most cases. Must include some dancing and not be an acting routine completely. Stress performing skills and showmanship. Should not be straight hip hop/lyrical/jazz/contemporary. **Chairs, cowboy boots, scooters and anything else that might damage the gym floor are not allowed. Balloons are not allowed in the arenas. Please do not use in your routines.**