

Monthly Newsletter

JANUARY 2026



Winter Session Classes

**New Class Time for
JAZZ VARIATIONS
Mondays from 7-8:30pm
Marr Mac Dance
(8627 109 St NW, Edmonton, AB)**

[Register Here!](#)

We are focusing our efforts on one amazing weekly class!
We have gathered an incredible slate of dance educators to teach a series of 12 jazz classes.

Contemporary Jazz with **Sarah Adam**: Jan 12, 19, Feb 2, 9, 23
Broadway Jazz with **Andi Fitzgerald**: March 2, 9, 16, 23
Afrobeats with **Deborah Kissi** - April 6, 13, 20

No classes on Jan 26, Feb 16, March 30

We ask dancers to register for class using the purple link above. This form contains a Waiver and a Media release which need to be completed **each time you register for drop ins**. Payment can be made in advance by E-transfer to orchesisdancesociety@gmail.com or by cash (exact change please). See the attached parking map and ensure you register your vehicle following the instructions inside the studio.



	FULL SESSION	DROP-IN
Members	\$220	\$20/class
Non-Members	\$275	\$25/class

Motif Moves 2026

We are in a time of chrysalis; inviting change and growth, uncomfortable as they may be. Join us at The Roxy Theatre (10708 124 street) where our latest dance art will emerge from its cocoon on:

Friday, January 30th at 7pm
Saturday, January 31st at 7pm &
Sunday, February 1st at 2pm

Tickets available [here](#)
General \$27
Student/Senior(65+) \$22



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Dance Workshops

Through the support of the Edmonton Arts Council, ODS has provided a series of free workshops to our greater dance community. Under the direction of a team of West African artists and advocates, including Eric Awuah, Venessa Farn, and Papa Bangoura, we explored the rich traditions and practices of dance and rhythms from Guinea and Ghana. We acknowledge the profound impact of these dances on our past and current artistic practices and are grateful to the artists who enthusiastically share their cultures.



We have been blessed with an abundance of empowering dance opportunities over the last several months. Alongside local partners Cecilia Ferreyra and Leo Gonzalez of Cuban Movements Dance Academy, we brought dancers together for an AfroCuban Contemporary workshop. Harrold Ferran Molina, principal dancer, choreographer, musician, teacher, and director with the National Folkloric Ensemble of Cuba, led us through foundations of the Yoruba series, known as the sacred dances of the Orichas. Harrold guided dancers to embody crashing thunder and rolling waves using this unique language of folkloric dance. Following, Leo expertly fused movements and symbolism taught by Harrold with his own style to yield an AfroCuban Contemporary dance combination. It was a transformative dance experience!



Photo Credits: Heather Taschuk

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Silent Auction & 50/50

One of our main fundraisers during the year is our **Annual Silent Auction**. We are still seeking digital items such as gift cards and tickets for our online auction and physical items for our in-person Silent Auctions. Our goal is to have 10 exciting items to bid on at each performance! All proceeds from the Silent Auctions go towards running of Motif Moves. If you have item(s) to donate please email us at:

orchesisdancesociety@gmail.com with the **Subject: SILENT AUCTION**.

There are two ways to access the Silent Auction events: 1) the online auction running January 23, 2026 to February 1, 2026; 2) at each performance of Motif Moves 2026.

New this year is a 50/50 Raffle. Stay tuned for the start date of the raffle! It will run until February 2, 2026.

Board Members Needed

Orchesis Dance Society is a non-for-profit organization that relies on volunteers and fundraising to sustain our programs and initiatives. The Board plays a crucial role in making these things happen.

We are saying thank you and farewell to the following volunteers who have come to the end of their board terms: Amanda Ducharme, Janita Frantsi and Heather Taschuk. We also said *au revoir* to Brittyne Hlavay earlier in the Fall, as she relocated to France!

The following Board positions are open for application/nomination:

Chair - The Chair presides at all meetings of the society and the board. They set the overall direction of the board. They are responsible for calling all meetings and setting the agenda for each meeting. They also co-sign cheques and are an ex-officio member of any special committee that may be formed.

Treasurer - The Treasurer is responsible for keeping the finances of the society. They do so by preparing financial statements, supervising spending money, including signing checks. The Treasurer works with the accountants or auditors of the society on the audit of the financial statements and presents the financial reports of the society to the board of directors and at the AGM. They are responsible for supervising the box office at the Motif Moves performances.

Member-at-Large (2) - Members at large positions are intended to bring particular expertise that the board identifies as a need. They are also available to assist large roles such as the Treasurer and Fundraising Coordinator in their work. They may also serve on special committees as needed.

Each board member may serve for a term of one year in a position, with the term being renewable up to three times after the first year. Board members must be over the age of eighteen and have been involved with ODS for at least two years, unless the board agrees to make an exception to fill the need for a particular expertise. They must also be a current member of ODS. We are looking for people that have experience in law, accounting, business, personnel, not for profit groups, fundraising and sponsorship. The board is elected at the AGM, which is coming up in March 2026.

If you are interested in becoming a Board Member, please email us at **orchesisdancesociety@gmail.com** with the **Subject: BOARD MEMBER** for more details.

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AGM – Call for Agenda Items

Our Annual General Meeting is usually held in March each year. As such, we are putting out a call for Agenda Items. Agenda items additional to the financial statement may be added by general membership by presenting, in writing, a petition with no less than fifteen member's signatures, to the board. Examples of items that may appear on the agenda are by-law changes, special resolutions or other items that require whole membership input. Please contact Heather Taschuk at orchesisdancesociety@gmail.com if you have a potential AGM Agenda item. It should be submitted to her by Friday, January 30, 2026.



Membership Drive!

Having a membership entitles you to have voting privileges and be eligible to hold Board positions. Want to be involved, but don't have a membership? It's easy! Just click [here](#) to sign up! The annual membership only costs \$5. Memberships purchased after January 1, 2025 are good until **August 31, 2026**. Everyone who has a membership with ODS is invited to attend the AGM. Opportunities for draws, discounts, and more are included!

Dance in the Community

Do you have a dance event that you would like to share with the Orchesis Dance Society membership? Email orchesisdancesociety@gmail.com with the details. Our Newsletter is sent out in the last week of each month, so please have your information submitted by the 20th of the month you would like us to share it out.



VIVA DANCE

The Roxy Theatre
February 19th to 21st

"It's Just You and Me"
premiered at The Fringe 2025
and is being remounted!

Get your tickets [HERE](#)

Also catch them at the
SkirtsAfire Festival
March 13th & 14th

MILE ZERO presents ZERO LAB #1

Jake Haste's ***Confusing Levels of Moisture*** or ***The Holes in Hitler's Head***
We invite you to share the excitement of new dance works in progress.

7:30 PM

\$20 MZD Member/ \$25 General Admission/ ZERO LAB Pass \$50

January 16+ January 17

MILE ZERO DANCE
9931 78 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB

Zero Lab #2: Eric Awuah (March 27+28)
Zero Lab #3: Ember Collective (May 22+23)

Policies and Information

Participation in Orchesis Dance Society classes, performances and events are open to any person wanting to dance who is **18+**. No previous dance experience is required! All technique classes are taught as Open Level classes. Instructors will tailor the format of each class around the experience levels of the participants. We are an inclusive and diverse group - all are welcome!

Cancellations: Classes may be cancelled if there are fewer than 3 dancers pre-registered 2 days prior to class.

Refunds: No refunds will be issued unless Orchesis Dance Society cancels a class. If you miss a class that you've paid for, you will be able to take up to 2 make-up classes in the current session or the **next** session (i.e. Spring).

Donating to Orchesis Dance Society

Skip-the-Depot:

We have an ongoing initiative with Skip-the-Depot where you can donate the value of the beverage containers you have collected towards Orchesis. It's simple! Collect your refundable deposit containers, contact Skip-the-Depot to come and pick up your bottles, and they will process them, making sure the donation gets to us!

Fill out this form to arrange for pick-up and donation: [Skip-the-Depot](#)

You can also donate to ODS year-round or monthly by clicking [HERE!](#) The value of your contribution translates in the following ways:

- \$35 pays for one hour of studio time
- \$75 pays for one hour of instructor time
- \$100 pays for one dancer's registration fee to dance in Motif Moves



Receipts:

We are working on accessing a more streamlined registration system for Orchesis Dance events and classes. Until then, if you require a receipt for your payment to Orchesis Dance Society, please request one when you register. We'll be happy to prepare one for you!

We acknowledge that the land on which we dance is on Treaty Six Territory and is the traditional and current gathering place for many Indigenous people, people who have danced here long before our group existed. We respect the diverse First Nations such as the Nehiyaw (Cree), Denesuliné (Dene), Nakota Sioux (Stoney), Anishinaabe (Saulteaux) and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), and hope to honour them through our dance art.

REACH OUT
FOR A CHAT

Let's connect!

GET TO KNOW
US BETTER

@orchesisdanceyeg | orchesisdancesociety@gmail.com

www.orchesisdancesoc.ca

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