

# Historical Dance at Play

Summer Workshop

Renaissance • Baroque • 19th Century  
August 2-5, 2018 at San Jose State University

Class Suggestions for The Renaissance Gentlefolk

## August 2 Thursday

2:30-3:15 | Renaissance Basics (Jennifer Meller) Basic review of 15th-16th century steps and variations with emphasis on their relation to the music.

6:30-8:30 | Studio 204 | Welcome Dance Meet our faculty as each one speaks about their classes. Enjoy a dance demonstration by San Francisco Renaissance Dancers (an affiliate dance troupe of San Francisco Renaissance Voices) followed by everyone dancing together through different eras. In the spirit of the workshop theme, some dances will be receiving a surprising and playful treatment to highlight their inherent nature.

## August 3 Friday

9:00-9:30 Studio 204 | Dance Warm-up (Catherine Turocy) Studio 201

9:45-11: Studio 201 | Welcome to the Italian Renaissance! (Jennifer Meller) One of the oldest treatises of Renaissance dance is Domenico da Piacenza's c.1460 manuscript "De arte saltandi et choreas ducendi". We will learn Renaissance steps from this manual and one of its beautiful partner dances, "Prexoniera".

2:15-3:30 Studio 201 | Joy and Jealousy (Jennifer Meller) The balli covered in this manual (a thorough translation of 15th and 16th century dances by Vivian Stephens and Monica Cellio), are dances belonging to a tradition popular in Northern Italy from the mid-15th through early-16th centuries. The earliest choreographies are from about 1450, but the roots of the dance form are obviously much earlier. We will have fun exploring variations and contradictions in the texts as we reconstruct the dances with our own personal style. Also, for dance history teachers in need of a text explaining how to teach early Renaissance dance, this book is invaluable!

3:45-4:45 Studio 204 | Ren/Bar Moji (Meller and Turocy) A choreographed gesture language summary to the rock song, "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover," newly devised by Meller and Turocy will serve as a convenient way to remember and then teach your own students the basics of period body language from the Renaissance through the Baroque.

5:00-5:30 Studio 204 | Show & Tell Dancers show each other what they learned that day and session is video recorded for archives.

(Check main schedule for evening activities.)

## **August 4 Saturday**

9:00-9:30 Studio 204 | Dance Warm-up (Jennifer Meller) Studio 201

9:45-11:45 Studio 204 | Steampunk (Richard Powers) **If you are involved with Renaissance Fairs, you may be interested in this new approach to historical dance.** This class explores ways to introduce historic dance to new audiences through crossover, hybrids and fusion. These range from techno-infused introductory mixers to the alternate futures of dances for an Edwardian Steampunk Ball.

2:15- 3 Studio 201 | Choreographing Contre for the Stage (Catherine Turocy) From her award winning stage direction/choreography for Le Temple de la Gloire with music by Jean Philippe Rameau, Turocy will teach the final contredanse and give a behind-the-scenes look at her own creative process.

5:00-5:30 Studio 204 | Show and Tell Dancers show each other what they learned that day and session is video recorded for archives.

(Check main schedule for evening activities.)

## **August 5 Sunday**

9:00-12:00 Studio 204 | Reconstruction through Time (Meller/Turocy/Powers) Each teacher illuminates challenges of creating the dance from the “evidence” in their own era. Excerpts of specific dances TBD. This is an active dance class with time for questions at the end.

2:30-3:30 Studio 204 | Lecture by Catherine Turocy: Laughing with Lambranzi! (A look at period humor) The New and Curious School of Theatrical Dancing by Gregorio Lambranzi, published in 1716 is a constant source of amusement demanding spontaneity and play as part of the performance practice. But is humor also historical? Video excerpts from performances and iconography of the time will help to illustrate period humor.

3:45-4:45 Studio 204 | Pulling it all Together (Meller/Turocy/Powers) Each teacher will take some time to review what was taught and highlight the important concepts to take with you.

5:00-6:00 CV2 dorm room TBA | Panel and Farewell Before you go we want to discuss some things and would love to hear your thoughts. What are you doing with your historical dance studies? What would you like to see from future workshops? What is the future of dance history and how can we make it brighter? Let's talk about it all while sipping refreshments.