



Fall Schedule Online

Enrollments Open

TBPS After School Classes
Open

Green Mountain Performing Arts Happenings & Updates



Under New Management!
Heather Morris, Paula Higa,
Melody Richardson

Take the Lead!

Over the past two years GMPA has taken on a participatory governance model by having staff involved in Board meetings and opening up a dialogue with instructors, students and the community through forums, surveys and the Friends of GMPA. We are thrilled to announce a new management model and the promotion of Melody Richardson, Paula Higa and Heather Morris to lead GMPA.



Melody Richardson, will continue in her role as Studio Manager extraordinaire, registrar and stage hand. She will be responsible for the day to day operations, the "back office" functions and overall facility logistics. Melody is the embodiment of the GMPA's core values "welcoming" and "accessibility" for all abilities and ages. Her open manner and solution focused, "can do" attitude have brought GMPA through many a crisis, from plumbing and heating melt downs to recital planning and bank snafus.



Paula Higa, our Ballet Director, has stepped up to become the Dance Program/Artistic Director for GMPA. Along with teaching, Paula will also be responsible for all studio offerings, recruitment, supervision and professional development for our instructors, special events and overall curriculum development. Paula will grow programs for our youngest of dancers such as literacy and movement classes and promote positive youth development activities, including mentoring teaching assistants, student teachers and the "SYNC" competition team. Paula is an accomplished dancer and professional. She is part of the UVM Dance program faculty and is active with performances. Her professional network spans, Vermont, Montreal and abroad. She will bring her wealth of knowledge, professional connections and passion to the GMPA community.



Heather Morris, our Celtic Director, has stepped up to become a Managing Director at GMPA. In addition to growing the Celtic program, she will coordinate marketing, communications and external affairs as well as take on the financial management and grant activities at GMPA. Heather is widely known in Scottish/Celtic community, with her international and regional experience, she has created an extremely successful and respected Celtic dance school. In doing so she has used space and connections across Central and Northern Vermont. In addition, Heather has a non-profit management background and interest. She is invaluable to GMPA and her professional manner, teaching ability and balance truly embody GMPA's slogan, inspiring confidence, creativity and community!

New Genres, Teachers & Schedule!

GMPA is honored to welcome back our current teachers! We are also pleased to announce an expanding faculty who offer an array of diverse and fun options. Together new GMPA teachers: Heather Bryce, Laura Gordon (Dance and Movement), Adina Ford (West African Dance), Marly Schneider (Tap and Choreography) and Palmer Jordon (Hip Hop/Funk) will expand offerings for daytime, afternoon and weekend class options.

To add to the excitement of our new offerings, veteran staff member Taryn Noelle will be offering a vocal class at GMPA on Monday afternoons. Anyone who has heard Taryn sing will appreciate just how exciting vocal training will be for GMPA students.

See the [Fall Line-Up Here](#)

New Grant Award

On August 28, three years to the date after Tropical Storm Irene, GMPA was awarded a \$30,000 Federal flood relief grant through the Community Development Block Grant program. The grant will provide working capital to support the new Management Team model, provide consultation and technical assistance for financial sustainability and support outreach and public awareness. All represent areas and activities that have been underfunded since 2011 and elements essential for the transition to a community non-profit structure.

Calling All Costumes

To help defray recital and other special performance cost, GMPA is building a "costume closet", an inventory of GMPA owned costumes that can be re-used as needed for various events. If you have any "gently used" recital or event costumes bring them to the Studio by September 30th. Those suitable for performance wear will be stored and put to good use! Others will become part of GMPA costume sale!

GMPA Tidbits

- Onsite after school classes expand with two musical theater offerings and West African dance - enrollment now open
- "Sync" Competition Dance Team returns to GMPA!
- Celtic Company starts its practice year on Fridays at GMPA!
- Literacy & movement classes for pre-school age begin
- Annual appeal preparing for kick-off

Get Involved

Our expanding offerings are made possible due to the generous support, creativity and volunteer efforts of the central Vermont community! Share in the fun, dance, move, paint, sew, and enjoy! Add your name to the Friends of GMPA effort using this link!

Become a Friend of GMPA

To enhance community cultural vitality by providing fully accessible dance, theatre and music education in a non-competitive and supportive environment to people of all ages, with a focus on children and youth.