



Notate Your Dance



Using Motif Notation

July 20th – August 10th, 2020

Instructor: Beth Megill, beth_megill@yahoo.com

Synchronous Course Meetings:

July 20th Initial meeting 12 pm Eastern Time/ 9am Pacific (90 min)

July 27th Workshopping your score 12 pm Eastern Time/ 9am Pacific (90 min)

August 3rd Workshopping your score 12 pm Eastern Time/ 9am Pacific (90 min)

August 10th Final Group meeting 12 pm Eastern Time/ 9am Pacific (90 min)

Course Overview:

Lessons 1-2 Setting up for Notation Success

Lessons 3-7 Notating Your Dance

Lessons 8-9 Revising and Sharing

22 Day Workplan

Day 1	Lesson 1	Who are you writing for? (Synchronous Session 90 min)
Day 2	Lesson 2	What Matters to You
Days 3-5	Lesson 3	Determine Where
Days 6-7	Lesson 4	Determine When
Day 8	Lesson 5	Nuts and Bolts (Synchronous Session)
Days 9-11	Lesson 5	Nuts and Bolts
Days 13-14	Lesson 6	In Relationship to What?
Day 15	Lesson 7	Your Expressive Dance (Synchronous Session 90 min)
Days 16-18	Review Lessons 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 as needed	
Days 19-21	Lesson 8	Find the Balance
Day 22	Lesson 9	And Then, There were Gaps (Synchronous Session 90 min)

Required Materials:

Dotted paper/notebook (graph or plain paper ok)

Pencils and erasers (lots of them)

Introduction to Motif Notation by Hutchinson-Guest (\$15.00) **or**

Your Move by Guest and Curran (\$61.95)

Course Fee: \$100 (Proceeds go to Non-profit Megill & Co for Music for Dance competition)

Optional/Recommended Materials:

Motif at a Glance by Ann Hutchinson-Guest (\$18.00)

Kinescribe App for iPad (Free)

Labanwriter for Mac (Free- but out of date!)

Labanotator for PC (25 Euros) Not Recommended at this point

Books available through the Language of Dance® Center www.lodcusa.org

Workload: This class is for your growth and enjoyment. It will be rigorous, but that is part of the fun. You will select one piece to work with for the entire 3 weeks. The length and complexity of the work will be determining factors in your workload and how long each lesson will take to complete. The key is to pick something manageable for you given your availability so you can work through the steps and become familiar with the process for future notation projects.

Selecting a Work to Notate:

I know nothing: If you are brand new to Laban-based notation, it is recommended you start with a very short work that is a solo (ideally 1-2 minutes). Or, you may select an excerpt of a larger work that is a solo. Working with just one body in space can make things simpler as you are learning the theory and how to notate in general.

I know a little: If you have some background and have a specific work in mind, you may choose an excerpt that is 2-3 minutes long. I strongly urge you to avoid using a complex duet this first time around. Such a work may suck all the fun out of a first notation project. Ideally select something with large amounts of unison or a solo.

I know (knew) a lot, but just haven't had the chance to use what I know (knew): You choose what is most meaningful to you. You may choose to start with simpler sections of your work to familiarize yourself with the step-by-step process and then return to the more complex sections later once you are comfortable.

Above all, please use something that is joyous or fun for you!

Synchronous Sessions

These are workshop style sessions in which we will share a brief excerpt of our working score and pose questions faced during the prior week of notating. Synchronous sessions will be held via Zoom, recorded and shared with the cohort afterward. Please join the first 90 minute session on June 15th at 12 pm Eastern Time/ 9am Pacific to meet the teacher, get oriented to the course, and to get the most out of your three weeks of notating fun.

Preparations before the first synchronous meeting:

1. Purchase your reference materials. (*Your Move or Introduction to Motif Notation and/or Motif at a Glance.*)
2. Review or become familiar with the Movement Alphabet®
 - a. Use your reference materials.
 - b. Watch LOD and Tea Movement Alphabet Videos on YouTube
 - c. Dance through the Movement Alphabet Audio Guided Movement Exploration on LOD and Tea.
3. Decide whether you want to use a software program to notate or just use pencil and paper. Either is fine, but they will take time to set up and get acclimated with and this course does not focus on the learning of software, so that is something you would need to do largely on your own.
4. Select your dance and have it ready to share digitally (YouTube, Google Drive, etc.). You will want your instructor and your peers to have access to your video for discussion during synchronous sessions.
5. Have a dedicated space and time to work. Notation can be a time-consuming process and feeling pressured or cramped can be counter productive.

Here are a few reminders to help you get the most out of the remaining synchronous sections:

1. Have your reference materials handy.
2. Have a package of post it notes and a marker handy.
3. Have your paper, pencils and eraser handy.
4. Have your dance on video ready to play for yourself or to be shared with the group via screen share on Zoom.
5. Have your body ready to move. . . just in case. We don't want injuries!
6. Have tea or coffee by the cup or pot. (Fine. . . or water).
7. Come with specific questions.
8. Or just come ready to listen and share and learn.
9. For sure come as you are.