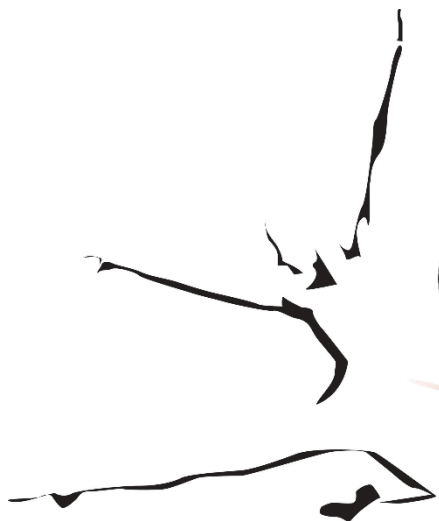




DANCE MASTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

CHAPTER 5

*Solo Title
Scholarship Competition
Handbook*



March 18–21, 2027
South High School
Worcester, MA

Dear Teachers, Contestants, and Parents:

Welcome to our 2027 Solo Title Competition! It is with great pleasure that we offer this outstanding educational opportunity to our contestants. Our Solo Title program is designed to provide a higher level of dance education while giving each contestant the opportunity to experience the quality and high standards established by Dance Masters of America. We hope that throughout this process, contestants will grow as dancers, gain valuable experience, and build lasting friendships along the way. If at any time throughout the Solo Title process you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please send them along to me. We are always open to new ideas. Best of luck to each contestant!

Sincerely,
Ann-Marie Carlomagno
Solo Title Director

2027 Solo Title Competition Schedule of Events

All schedules are tentative and subject to change based on the number of entries.

Registration Deadline: January 1, 2027

IMPORTANT: All Title Winners are required to attend and represent DMNE Chapter 5 at the 2027 DMA National Convention in Sandusky, Ohio.

All Solo Title information is included in this handbook.

Solo Title Schedule

Class Portion – DMNE Scholarship Auditions

****NEW: Title Contestants must participate.***

Date: Sunday, November 8, 2026

Time: Approximately 8:00 AM; exact times will be determined by age division and schedule.

Interview Portion – DMNE Winter Workshop

****NEW: Title Contestants must participate.***

Date: Sunday, January 17, 2027

Time: Approximately 9:00 AM; exact times are subject to change.

Solo Talent Presentation – DMNE Performing Arts Competition

Dates: Thursday–Sunday, March 18–21, 2027

Time: Approximately 4:00 PM; exact timing will be determined by the PAC schedule.

Official Photo Session for all 2027 Winning Title Holders

Date: TBD March 18–21, 2027, according to the scheduled age division.

Time: Immediately following the Title Competition Awards Presentation

Contract Signing for all 2027 Winning Title Holders

Date: TBD March 18–21, 2027, according to the scheduled age division.

Time: Immediately following the Official Photo Session

Questions and phone calls should come from DMNE member teachers only.

**Ann-Marie Carlomagno, Solo Title Director
46 Stonybrook Lane, Shrewsbury, MA 01545
amcpacer64@yahoo.com
508-414-1804**

Section 1 – Eligibility

1. Only students of members in good standing with Dance Masters of New England, Chapter 5, Inc. may enter the DMNE Solo Title Scholarship Competition.
2. The Teacher of Record shall be the DMNE member teacher whose signature appears on both the Chapter and National Scholarship Competition Applications. The Teacher of Record shall be legally responsible for the entrant.
3. All other DMNE member teachers to be recognized shall be listed as Teacher(s) of Recognition. A Teacher of Recognition is a member teacher who works with the contestant on a weekly basis.
4. If an extreme circumstance prevents the Teacher of Record from attending the Solo Title Awards Presentation and Contract Signing, a Teacher of Recognition may fulfill those responsibilities. If a Teacher of Recognition is also unable to attend, another DMNE member in good standing may be designated as the approved chaperone.
5. Entrants in the DMNE Solo Title Competition must be registered with and attending weekly classes as a student of the Teacher of Record listed on the application.
 - a. Current Students:
Must have studied with the Teacher of Record since September 1, 2026.
 - b. Students with Less Than Three (3) Months:
Students who have studied with the Teacher of Record for less than three (3) months must obtain written permission from their former teacher.
 - c. The Title Winner must remain with the Teacher of Record who signed the application for the remainder of the title year for guidance in preparing for Nationals and fulfilling the responsibilities associated with the New England Title.
6. Entrants into the Miss Dance of America, Teen Miss Dance of America, Junior Miss Dance of America, and Petite Miss Dance of America Scholarship Competitions must be female, or have completed their transition to the female gender, single, never married, never had a marriage annulled, not pregnant, childless, and never been convicted of a crime.
7. Entrants into the Mr. Dance of America, Teen Mr. Dance of America, Junior Mr. Dance of America, and Master Dance of America Scholarship Competitions must be male, or have completed their transition to the male gender, single, never married, never had a marriage annulled, childless, and never been convicted of a crime.
8. Contestants are required to participate in all three components of the DMNE Solo Title Competition: the November Scholarship Auditions for the class portion, the January Winter Workshop for the interview portion, and the March Performing Arts Competition (PAC) for the talent presentation and awards.
9. All Title Winners are required to represent DMNE Chapter 5 at the DMA National Solo Title Competition.
10. If a Title Winner cannot represent DMNE at the National Solo Title Competition, the first runner-up will assume the title and all associated rights and responsibilities. The original Title Holder will relinquish all rights to the title and return all winnings to the DMNE Board of Directors.
11. Title Holders will return to relinquish their title at the following year's DMNE Solo Title Awards Presentation under the same Teacher of Record who submitted their original application.

12. Entrants in the Petite Miss Dance and Master Dance divisions must be at least seven (7) years of age and no more than nine (9) years of age.
13. Entrants in the Junior Miss Dance and Junior Mr. Dance divisions must be at least ten (10) years of age and no more than twelve (12) years of age.
14. Entrants in the Teen Miss Dance and Teen Mr. Dance divisions must be at least thirteen (13) years of age and no more than fifteen (15) years of age.
15. Entrants in the Miss Dance and Mr. Dance divisions must be at least sixteen (16) years of age and no more than twenty-three (23) years of age.
16. All ages are determined as of June 1, 2027.

Section 2 – Rules

17. All entrants will adhere to the standards set by Dance Masters of America, Inc., and adopted by DMNE Chapter 5, Inc. The standards are as follows:
 - a. Inappropriate or sexually suggestive movements should not be part of any performance in any DMNE competition and should be evaluated as such and scores should be lowered accordingly.
 - b. Costuming such as thongs, bikini bottoms or tops that allow exposure of private body parts or that is not age appropriate, should be evaluated as such and scores will be lowered accordingly.
 - c. Vulgarity, profanity, or suggestive language in music is not acceptable for our family audiences. Music that is unacceptable or not age appropriate should be evaluated as such and scores will be lowered accordingly.
18. The Solo Talent Presentation may not exceed two minutes and fifty seconds (2:50).
19. Fire, swords, knives, live animals, smoke, dry ice, and props requiring connection to an electrical outlet are prohibited. Other props are permitted. Studios are responsible for bringing props on and off the stage. Prop setup may not exceed one (1) minute. A five (5) point penalty will be assessed for exceeding the time limit.
20. Props, scenery, and stage sets are permitted only when they are functional and integral to the choreography. Any facility fees for cartage and/or storage are the responsibility of the Teacher of Record.
21. No props may block the wings, crossovers, or hallways.
22. Music:
 - a. Each entrant's music must be uploaded to DanceComp Genie by February 1, 2027.
 - b. Member Teachers should have a backup copy of each entrant's music available during the March Solo Talent Presentation.
23. All decisions of the judges are final. Adjudicators' score sheets are the sole property of DMNE. Following the March Solo Talent Presentation, the Teacher of Record will receive a copy of the tabulation sheet and the contestant's video critiques.
24. A contestant's Solo Title routine will be entered as a Title Solo and may not also be entered as a PAC solo. Contestants may enter a different solo in PAC.

Section 3 – Solo Title Competition Components

25. Class Portion

- a. Contestants are required to participate in the DMNE Scholarship Auditions at Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studio in North Andover on Sunday, November 8, 2026. Scores from the DMNE Scholarship Auditions will serve as the contestants' Solo Title class scores.
- b. Class Attire: Contestants are required to follow the dress code for DMNE Scholarship Auditions.
- c. The class portion will be scored on a scale of 1–100 points.

26. Interview Portion

- a. Contestants are required to participate in an interview with a judging panel at the DMNE Winter Workshop at Melissa Hoffman Dance Center in Hudson, New Hampshire, on Sunday, January 17, 2027.
- b. Petite Miss Dance/Master Dance and Junior Miss Dance/Junior Mr. Dance contestants will participate in a three (3) minute interview. Teen Miss Dance/Teen Mr. Dance and Miss Dance/Mr. Dance contestants will participate in a four (4) minute interview.
- c. Female contestants are required to wear a daytime dress or business-type suit for the interview. Male contestants are required to wear a dress shirt and tie with either dress slacks or a business-type suit.
- d. Judging criteria include appearance, projection, grammar, knowledge of dance, ability to express oneself, and self-confidence.
- e. The interview portion will be scored on a scale of 1–15 points.

27. Solo Talent Presentation

- a. Costuming for the Solo Talent Presentation is the responsibility of the contestant. All costuming must adhere to the DMNE standards outlined in Section 2.
- b. The Solo Talent Presentation will be scored on a scale of 1–100 points.
- c. Singing, baton twirling, playing a musical instrument, pantomime, and audible taps in recorded music are not permitted.
- d. Props must be removed promptly as a courtesy to other contestants. The stage must be cleared of any debris following the performance.

28. Awards Presentation

- a. All current Title Holders and contestants are required to participate in the Awards Presentation on the scheduled day for their age division.
- b. Contestants are required to wear their interview attire for the Awards Presentation. Attire will not be judged.

Section 4 – Solo Title Application

The following must be submitted through DMNE DanceComp Genie no later than January 1, 2027. Music must be submitted by February 1, 2027.

29. A completed 2027 DMNE Chapter 5 Solo Title Application and the \$150.00 entry fee must be submitted by the registration deadline. Only studio checks from DMNE member teachers will be accepted; personal checks will not be accepted.
30. A completed 2027 DMNE Chapter 5 Solo Title Contestant Interview Form must be typewritten and uploaded to DanceComp Genie. The completed form will be reviewed by the judges.

31. Headshot and Dance Photos

- a. One (1) high-resolution, vertical color headshot must be uploaded to DanceComp Genie. Hats, crowns, and other head accessories are not permitted.
- b. One (1) high-resolution, vertical color dance photo must be uploaded to DanceComp Genie. The contestant must be photographed in dance attire, not a costume. The photo should show the contestant's full body in a posed position. Action shots are not recommended.
- c. A solid white professional background is required for both photos.
- d. Photos are used by the judges for identification purposes only.
- e. Photos must be uploaded to DanceComp Genie. Photos submitted by email will not be accepted.

Section 5 – General Information

32. Official Photo Session

Individual photos of each Title Winner will be taken by the professional photographer on stage at the time of crowning. Official photos for each scheduled age division will be taken on stage immediately following the Awards Presentation. Parents and teachers are asked to remain off the stage until all official photos have been completed.

33. Title Holder Briefing and Contract Signing

A briefing and contract signing will be held immediately following the Official Photo Session for each scheduled age division with the new Title Holders, their Teachers of Record, and their parents. At that time, a Zoom meeting will be scheduled with the Teachers of Record and parents to discuss preparation for the National Competition, expectations for Title Holders, areas for continued growth, and other important information for the upcoming title year.

34. Awards

The following awards will be presented:

- a. **Interview Award:** Presented to the contestant in each age division with the highest interview score. Ties will not be broken.
- b. **Title Winner National Competition Award:** DMNE Chapter 5 will provide each Title Winner with \$2,000 to help cover expenses associated with participation in the National Solo Title Competition. Payment will be issued after a copy of the National Convention registration receipt has been submitted to the Chapter 5 Treasurer. These funds may be used only toward the National entry fee, transportation, hotel accommodations, and banquet ticket.
 - ★ If a Title Winner is unable to represent DMNE at the National Solo Title Competition, the winner will forfeit the title and all associated rights and responsibilities. The first runner-up will assume the title and all associated rights and responsibilities, provided they participate in the 2027 National Solo Title Competition in Sandusky, Ohio.
 - ★ In the event of a tie for a Title Winner, the tie will be broken first by the Solo Talent score, followed by the class score, and then the interview score. If a tie remains, the judges will conduct a secret ballot.
- c. **Title Winner Awards:** In addition, Title Winners in each age division will receive a crown and sash (female contestants) or medallion (male contestants), as well as a jacket, trophy, and flowers.

35. Teacher of Record – National Convention

The DMNE Teacher of Record listed on the Chapter 5 Title Entry Form is required by National rules to attend the National Convention and Competition with their Title Holder and is expected to remain through the banquet. The Teacher of Record will receive a total of \$2,000, regardless of the number of Title Winners they represent, to help defray the cost of attending the National Convention. Payment will be issued after a copy of the National Convention registration receipt has been submitted to the Chapter 5 Treasurer.

36. Title Holder Responsibilities

Title Winners are expected to fulfill all responsibilities established by DMNE Chapter 5 throughout their title year. A Title Holder Contract will be signed following the Awards Presentation and Official Photo Session. Additional responsibilities and expectations will be communicated by the Chapter Liaison.

37. Returning Title Holders

Past Title Holders may compete again within the same age division. A current Title Holder may not compete in another Title Competition during the same year in which they relinquish their title. A Title Holder must wait one year after relinquishing their title before competing in the next age division.

38. DMA Nationals PAC Eligibility

Contestants who do not win a Title may compete at DMA Nationals PAC without prequalifying, provided they receive a Gold score or higher.

39. Farewell Presentation

Title Winners are required to prepare a three (3) minute Farewell Speech approved by their Teacher of Record. The speech will be included in a pre-recorded video presentation featuring photos from events throughout the title year. The completed video presentation must be submitted to the Solo Title Director by February 1 prior to the Awards Presentation and is subject to approval by the Executive Board. Approved Farewell Presentations will be shared on DMNE social media and may also be posted on the DMNE website.

40. Scholarship Auditions

Current Title Holders may not participate in the November Scholarship Auditions during their title year.

Host Hotel:

AC Hotel by Marriott Worcester
125 Front Street, Worcester, MA
774-420-7555

Contact: Ann-Marie Carlomagno, Solo Title Director
46 Stonybrook Lane, Shrewsbury, MA 01545
508-414-1804
amcpacer64@yahoo.com

Questions and phone calls should come from DMNE member teachers only.

Thank you for supporting
Dance Masters of New England!