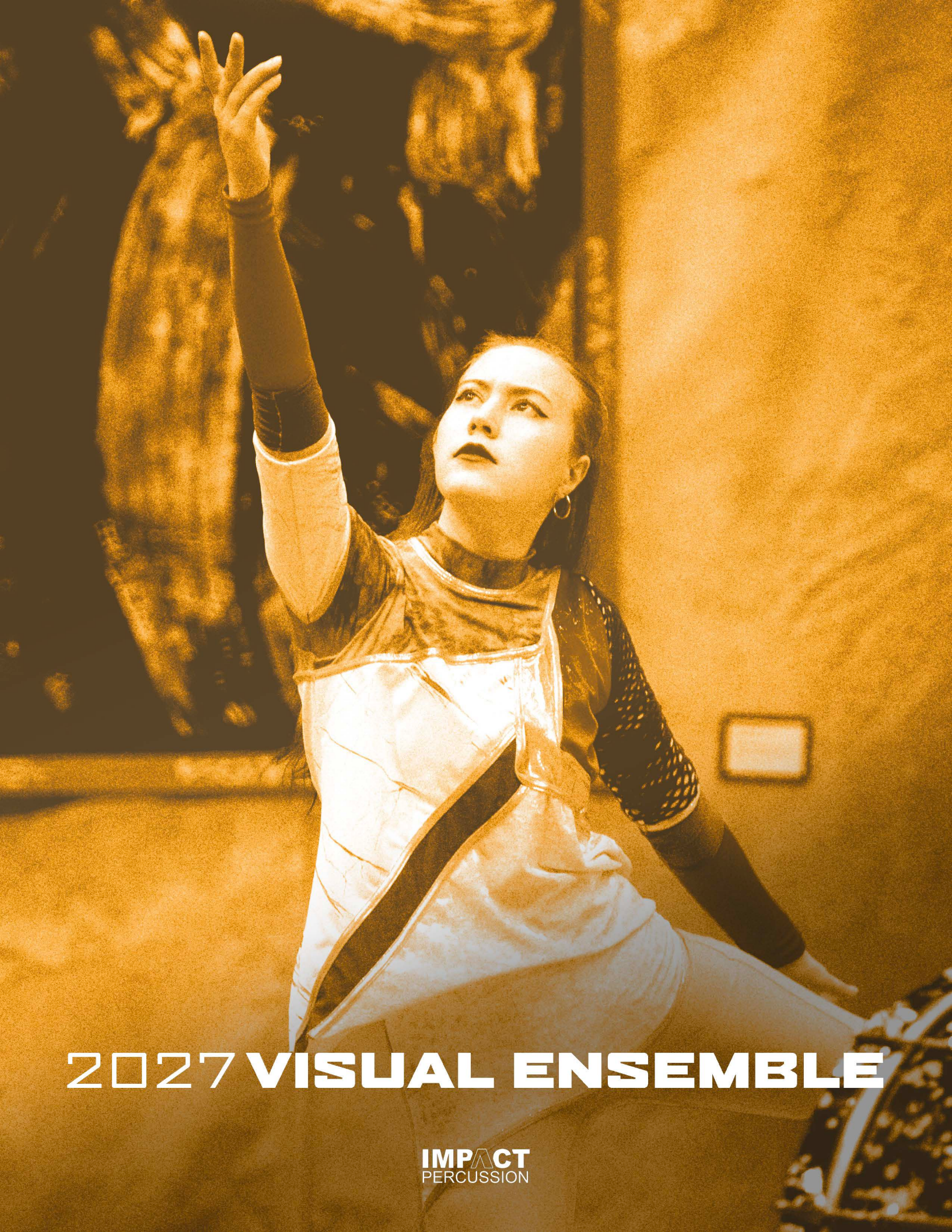




2027 VISUAL ENSEMBLE

IMPACT
PERCUSSION

Welcome to IMPACT Percussion!

On behalf of our administrative, design, and educational teams, thank you for your interest in participating in **IMPACT Percussion's 2027 season**. Our entire team is looking forward to another remarkable year filled with meaningful moments, personal growth, unforgettable performances, and inspiring experiences. 2027 marks our **13th season** and our first season based in the Portland, Oregon area. We can't wait to begin this exciting new chapter with **YOU!**

At IMPACT Percussion, our mission is to **empower youth to reach their full potential through achieving excellence in the performing arts**. We fulfill that mission by creating an environment that challenges performers to pursue excellence, develop their artistry, and grow both on and off the floor.

To get the most out of your **2027 audition experience**, we encourage you to bring a **positive attitude, an open mind, and a strong desire to grow**. As part of the audition process, we'll focus on a variety of visual skill sets to help you understand our approach and assess your abilities. Depending on your progress throughout the process, you may be asked to complete an **individual audition** to highlight your skills. While we'll dig deeper into our technique and approach during rehearsal camps, the following core concepts are the essential building blocks for the IMPACT Percussion Battery. Please carefully review this packet and get ready for the season. We can't wait to see you and begin this exciting new chapter together!

- *IMPACT Percussion 2027 Visual Education Team*

Our Approach

At IMPACT Percussion, visual performance is about more than learning choreography. It begins with developing an understanding of how we use our bodies to create shape, motion, energy, and expression.

Before exploring what can be created through choreography, we must first establish a strong foundation of movement fundamentals. These concepts give performers the tools to move with greater control, intention, and confidence while developing a wider range of movement possibilities.

Shape

Shape refers to how we use and position our bodies in space. As performers, we want to develop a broad range of shapes while maintaining control and awareness throughout our movement.

- **Range of Motion**

Our range of motion can be explored through:

- **Levels** – Utilizing high, middle, and low levels, including groundwork.
- **Scale** – Exploring movement ranging from small and contained to large and expansive.

- **Use of the Torso** – Incorporating movements such as twisting, expanding, and contracting.
- **Variety** – Developing the ability to create and perform a wide range of shapes.

• Transitions

Just as important as the shapes themselves is how we move from one shape to another. Transitions should be performed with the same level of intention and detail as the moments they connect. We will explore:

- **Pathway** – The route the body takes from one shape to another.
- **Dimensionality** – Using multiple dimensions and planes of movement.
- **Body Facing** – Understanding how the body's orientation changes throughout a phrase.
- **Initiation of Movement** – Understanding where movement begins within the body and how that initiation affects the rest of the phrase.

• Complexity

Movement can range from simple to highly complex. Complexity may be created through:

- Using a single body part versus multiple parts of the body.
- Increasing involvement of the torso.
- Exploring angular and curvilinear movement.
- Developing greater attention to detail and nuance.

Dynamics

Dynamics describe the **texture and quality of our movement**. Two performers can execute the same choreography while creating completely different effects based on how that movement is performed.

We will explore contrasting movement qualities including:

- **Sharp ↔ Smooth**
- **Heavy ↔ Light**
- **Free ↔ Bound**
- **Direct ↔ Indirect**

Developing control over these different qualities allows us to make intentional choices about how movement communicates and supports the overall production.

Tempo

Just like music, movement is shaped by time. Performers should develop the ability to understand and manipulate the timing of movement while maintaining control and intention.

Important concepts include:

- **Speed** – Exploring sustained and quick movement.
- **Rhythm** – Understanding the timing and duration of movement.
- **Syncopation** – Performing movement against or between expected rhythmic pulses.

- **Musicality** – Connecting movement choices to the music being performed.
- **Variety** – Developing comfort moving through a range of tempos and rhythmic ideas.

Laban Movement

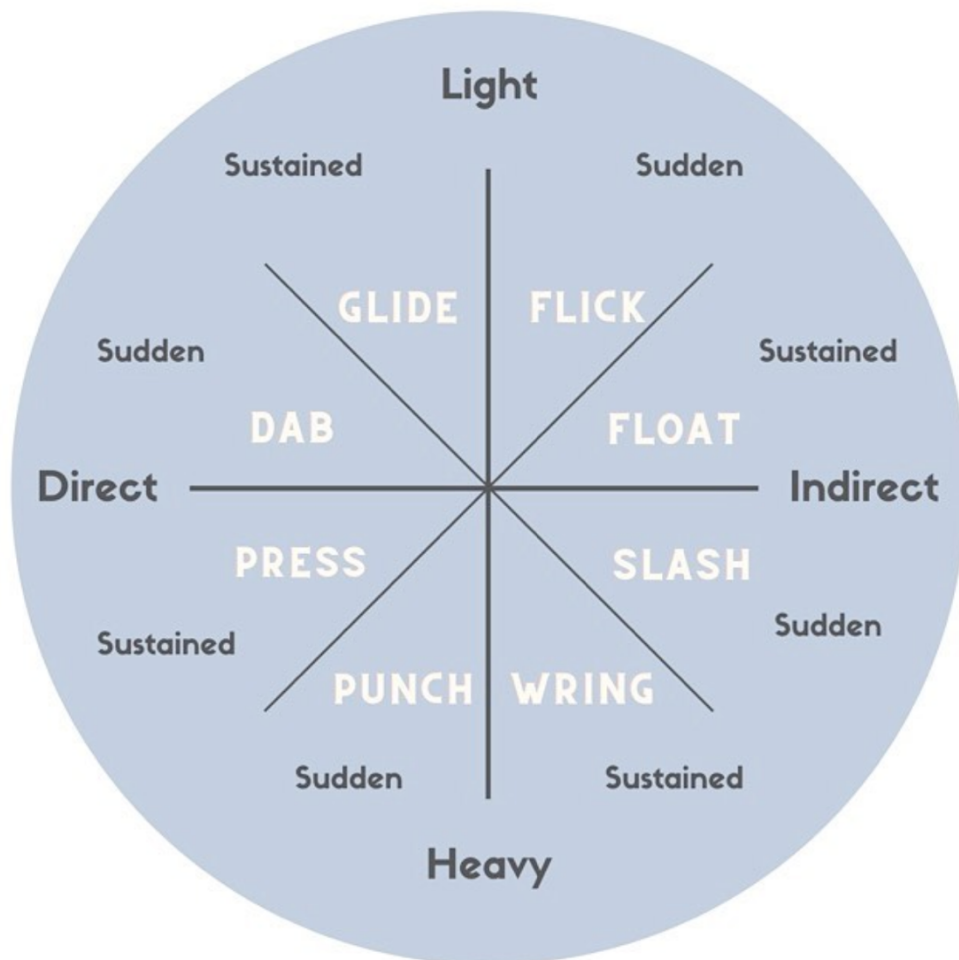
We will use concepts from **Laban Movement** to explore and describe different qualities of movement.

Laban's Eight Efforts combine different relationships between:

- **Direction**
- **Weight**
- **Speed**
- **Flow**

These combinations help us identify and explore eight distinct movement efforts:

Glide • Flick • Float • Slash • Wring • Punch • Press • Dab



Fundamental Approach

The following exercises introduce several of the foundational movement skills we will use throughout the audition process and season. Our goal is not simply to execute each skill, but to develop control, body awareness, balance, and consistency that can be applied to choreography.

Stationary

Tendu, Passé, and Rond de Jambe Sequence:

Tendu

French for “to stretch.” Begin standing tall with straight legs in first position, with the heels together and the toes, knees, and hips turned out. Stretch the foot outward in one direction until the toe is the final point of contact with the floor, while keeping the standing leg stable and aligned.

Passé

French for “to pass.” Bend the moving leg, bringing the foot to the standing knee before extending it outward or returning it to the floor.

Rond de Jambe

Beginning in a tendu position to the front or back, extend the leg outward in a semicircular pathway before returning to the starting position.

Pliés and Swings:

Pliés & Swings

Plié is French for “to fold.” With the feet grounded, create a lower-level change by bending the knees.

Across the Floors

Across-the-floor exercises allow us to apply our movement fundamentals while traveling through space. These exercises emphasize posture, weight transfer, coordination, control, and consistency.

Coupé Walks

Coupé is French for “to cut.” Similar to a passé, the foot peels away from the ground and lifts to the ankle. Travel forward using a coupé lift on crossing counts. Focus on maintaining a lifted posture while moving smoothly across the floor and transferring weight through a controlled foot pathway.

Jazz Walks/Runs

Initiate forward acceleration through a push while keeping the center of mass low. Use longer, reaching strides with dynamic toe-first landings while maintaining an upright torso and minimizing vertical bounce for efficient, quiet travel.

When transitioning from coupé walks, begin in the coupé position. Perform the first four steps as half-time coupé walks before transitioning into full-time jazz walks, connecting the two skills together.

Prances

Prances are similar to jazz walks or runs but without fully extending the legs outward. Begin in parallel first position. Push away from the floor, sending the knee upward and forward before placing the foot back down and repeating with the opposite leg.

Box Step

Begin facing the audience and remain in pli  throughout the exercise. Step outward, behind, outward, and forward to create a square-like pathway, then repeat.

Cha n  Turns

French for “chains,” cha n  turns use both feet, alternating from one foot to the other to continue traveling in a line or circle. Because the movement does not rely on balancing on one leg, it serves as one of our foundational turning exercises.

Piqu  Turns

Piqu  is French for “to prick.” Similar to a cha n  turn, the leading foot and leg extend in tendu while remaining on the ground. The following foot meets the knee in pass  to complete the momentum of the turn.

Sit Roll

Begin standing and lower one knee to the ground. Shift the lower body and hips to the floor, creating a diamond shape with pointed feet. Cross the following leg and foot over the initial leg and use the momentum to return to standing.

Chass s

French for “to chase.” Extend one foot forward while the back foot quickly “chases” and meets the front foot before the front foot continues forward.

Performer Image

At IMPACT Percussion, how we carry ourselves is an important part of how we communicate with an audience. Strong visual performance requires awareness, confidence, maturity, and commitment.

As you work through the material in this packet, strive to develop a performer image that is:

- **Elongated and balanced** – Maintain length and control throughout the body.
- **Lifted** – Maintain strong posture through every level of space, including lower levels and groundwork.
- **Aware** – Develop an understanding of where your body is in space and how it relates to the performers and environment around you.
- **Athletic and sturdy** – Move with strength, stability, and confidence.
- **Emotive** – Develop a range of performance qualities and the ability to communicate through movement.
- **Mature** – Approach movement and performance with intention, focus, and commitment.

Ultimately, our goal is to create performers who don’t simply execute choreography, but **communicate through it**. Every shape, transition, and movement quality is an opportunity to contribute to the production and connect with the audience.

Come prepared to move, learn, take risks, and grow. You may be asked to step outside of your comfort zone, and that’s okay. Bring your best effort and positive energy to every rep, and don’t forget to enjoy the process.