



# Parent and Student Handbook

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# **Administration, Faculty and Staff**

For faculty biographies, please visit, <http://www.ConchitaEspinosaConservatory.com/faculty>

**FOUNDER:** Conchita Espinosa

**FOUNDING ADMINISTRATOR:** Alicia Espinosa

**DIRECTOR EMERITUS:** Maribel Zubieta Diaz

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**CFO / CEA Director:** Carol Diaz-Zubieta

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**COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR:** Elisabela Valls, Ed.D.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:** Cristina Masdueño

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**MUSIC DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT:** Yamilka San Emeterio

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**EVENTS COORDINATOR:** Veronica Castillo

[vcastillo@conchitaespinosa.com](mailto:vcastillo@conchitaespinosa.com)

## **DANCE**

**BALLET AND LYRICAL DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Danella Bedford

**BALLET:** Danella Bedford, Kenia Garcia Cabrera, Ph.D., Yunielys Hernandez, Stephanie Perez

**LYRICAL AND CONTEMPORARY:** Danella Bedford

**SPANISH DANCE DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Marisol Moreno

**SPANISH DANCE:** Marisol Moreno, Cristina Masdueño, Leiza Mendez

**HIP HOP:** Ali Goudreau

**CUBAN DANCE:** Yunielys Hernandez

## **MARTIAL ARTS**

Daniel Osorio

Orlando Rivadaneira

## **MUSIC**

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Yirka Ledon

**MUSIC THEORY:** Norman Milanes, Tania Nuñez

**CELLO:** Jose Pradas

**CLARINET:** Norman Milanes, Tania Nuñez

**FLUTE:** Tania Nuñez

**GUITAR:** Mirtha de la Torre, Josue Varela

**BASS:** Mirtha de la Torre

**LIRAS / MELODICAS / XYLOPHONE:** Iliana Raymat

**PERCUSSION:** Conrado Garcia

**PIANO:** Ibette Acosta, Javier Concepción, Alina Gonzalez, Yoanna Hernandez, Yirka Ledon, Claudia Monteagudo Rodriguez, Tania Nuñez, Marita Rodriguez, Josue Varela

**SAXOPHONE:** Norman Milanes, Iliana Raymat

**TRUMPET:** Antonio Perigo

**VIOLIN:** Jose A. Guibert, Wendy Ocando

**VIOLA:** Jose A. Guibert

**VOICE:** Laura De Mare, Eglise Gutierrez

## **THEATRE**

## **VISUAL ARTS**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Karina Vazquez

**HALL MONITORS:** Patricia Fernandez, Maritza Herrera, Tania Peraza

# **History**

## **Our Founder**

At the age of 14, Conchita Espinosa graduated from the "Conservatorio Internacional de Música" in Havana, Cuba as a professor of piano and music theory. She continued her music education with renowned professors and artists Joaquín Nin, Ernesto Berumen and Jasha Fishermann, and went on to become a concert pianist in Mexico, Cuba and the United States.

In 1933, at the age of 19, Espinosa founded "La Academia Musical Conchita Espinosa" in Havana. By 1959, what started as a musical conservatory had evolved into an elementary school and conservatory of music and dance with over 450 students. Three decades later, after arriving in Miami, Conchita continued her life's work as a teacher of music. The late composer Ernesto Lecuona, considered by many to be one of Cuba's most distinguished musicians, declared of Conchita, "You were born to teach. You have the divine gift of transforming the student and accomplishing the maximum, always bringing out his personality. That is a gift from God."

In 1963, history was repeated when Conchita opened Conchita Espinosa Academy in Miami, in the garage of a small home on SW 22nd Avenue and First Street- the neighborhood that would later become Little Havana. Registrations at the school surged and the school flourished. From the garage of her home, to the first campus in Little Havana, to the state-of-the-art 10-acre facility in southwest Miami-Dade home to the school and Conservatory since 1984, Conchita's legacy has carried on for generations. Today, the school



houses students in grades K3 to eight and its students continue Conchita's legacy of personal, academic, and artistic excellence. The Conservatory is open to the community, and has over 500 students from beginner to professional levels.

During her extensive career, Conchita received many honors including the Richard and Dorothy Lear Memorial "Distinguished Educator Award" presented to her in March 1994 and the "Legacy of Excellence Award" presented by General Motors during Hispanic Heritage Festival in 1999. Additionally, she received "Conchita Espinosa Day" proclamations from both the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County. In 2001, S.W. 6th street – which fronts Conchita Espinosa Academy – was named "Conchita Espinosa Way." Her last honor, presented to Conchita in May 2006, was the prestigious Medalla de Excelencia Nacional Cubana from the Instituto de San Carlos de Cayo Hueso.

Throughout the years Conchita Espinosa Conservatory of the Arts has been blessed with some of the best teachers who've shared Conchita's dedication to arts education. In the past we have been fortunate to have teachers like Rosita Segovia, Martha Mahr, Maestro Manuel Ochoa, Dulce Anaya, Michael Fokine, and Elena del Cueto, among others. We continue to have the finest teachers available working with our students. Today, Conchita's dream has been carried on by her daughter, Maribel Z. Diaz, and her granddaughters, Carol Diaz-Zubieta and Ana Diaz-Zubieta, and the School and Conservatory faculty who work together knowing that at the heart of each lesson, accomplishment and performance is the core of what Conchita's legacy is all about: "¡Ser mejor, mejor y mejor!"

## **General Information**

The arts are an integral part of a complete education. They enhance our social, mental and physical health. They develop our visual skills, sharpen the development of motor skills, enhance cognitive abilities, and satisfy our spiritual and fundamental human need to create and share beauty. The Conchita Espinosa Conservatory of the Arts (CEC) is comprised of a comprehensive performing and fine arts program that facilitates student participation in the world of music, dance, theatre, martial arts, and visual arts, where each student can learn, feel valued, and develop his or her unique talents and abilities.

CEC is committed to developing and training young artists. Our courses are designed to meet the needs and interests of students dedicated to developing their natural artistic talents. Students are expected to commit to each discipline and put forth the necessary effort to grow.

We believe that exposure and involvement in the arts promotes the acquisition of knowledge,

understanding, and commitment to that which is so essential and beautifully human. We are committed to ensuring a learning environment that is respectful, orderly, supportive and safe.

## Faculty

Our Conservatory faculty is chosen for its excellent teaching and artistic skills and professional credentials. Each enjoys a superb reputation in their respective areas of expertise. Our teachers focus not only on students' progression and growth in their arts discipline, but also on nurturing individual qualities such as respect for self and others, self-discipline, pride, and responsibility.

## Registration and Tuition

Registration forms can be found on the CEC website and can be submitted to Isabel Chao at [ichao@conchitaespinoza.com](mailto:ichao@conchitaespinoza.com). Tuition can be paid through the CEA Payment Portal. Tuition is based on a yearly fee for September through May. For your convenience, tuition may be divided into nine (9) equal monthly payments. **Please note that holidays and vacation time do not affect the monthly payment because they have been already accounted for in the yearly tuition fee.**

Please refer to the Tuition Sheet found on the CEC website for a detailed listing of each discipline and the corresponding tuition. There is a \$70.00 registration fee per discipline, and a \$40.00 late fee, **per month**, if tuition is not paid by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

If you are to **withdraw** from a conservatory class during the course of the year, a ["change" form](#) must be completed and submitted to [Isabel Chao](#) in the month prior to the drop becoming effective, and must be submitted at least 15 days prior to the beginning of that next month. Otherwise, you will be charged for the following month. Once Conservatory classes have started in September, the month has to be paid in full. Tuition cannot be refunded if the student has already taken at least one class, and then needs to withdraw from Conservatory.

## Class Placement

In all Conservatory disciplines, level placement is made at the discretion of the department heads and faculty, based on student age and ability. Unlike an academic setting, students in an arts conservatory sometimes remain in a level for more than one year. It is of utmost importance that our students are promoted at a pace that is appropriate to his/her proficiency in the given discipline—demonstrated by elements such as their physical strength, developmental maturity, and demonstration of the necessary knowledge base for promotion.



# Dress Code

Each discipline has its own dress requirements. Uniforms for specific disciplines are listed in the *Responsibilities and Requirements* section on page 11. Students who are not in complete uniform will be asked to sit during class.

Only dance shoes may be worn in dance studios and on stage; no street shoes are permitted. Dance shoes should not be worn outdoors; this ruins the shoes and studio floors. To ensure safety, students are not to walk barefoot in the Conservatory hallways or outdoor premises.

# Building and Theatre Use

Following is a list of what is expected of each student regarding the use of Conservatory facilities:

- Students are not permitted in the Conservatory studios, music rooms or the theatre without a faculty or staff member present.
- No chewing gum, food or beverages are allowed inside the studios, practice classrooms, dressing rooms, or theatre.
- Only students actively attending Conservatory classes are allowed in the dressing rooms before and after their class.
- Personal items may be left in the Conservatory dressing rooms during class hours. All personal items must be kept inside a bag at all times. Items left unattended or left within the Conservatory premises after Conservatory hours, will be placed in the "Lost and Found" in the CEA Cafeteria. Please note that the **Conchita Espinosa Conservatory of the Arts** is not responsible for lost items.
- Students are expected to respect and care for all of the facilities and property of the Conservatory, as well as the Academy premises, including the theatre. Misuse of facilities and/or property will result in disciplinary action, and may result in financial obligations to cover repair or replacement costs.
- Instruments loaned or rented from the Conservatory are the responsibility of the student. If lost or damaged, the student is responsible for obtaining a replacement.
- Any artwork on display within the Conservatory or School grounds may not be touched. Paintings, drawings, mixed media, pictures, sculptures, etc, are to be enjoyed and respected.

# Cubbies

All items stored in cubbies during class must be removed when the student leaves for the day. Articles left behind will be taken to the school's "Lost and Found".

# Visitors

Classes are not open to visitors.

- **Open Classes:** Parents and relatives may come to a class during the week we conduct Open Classes. Separate Open Class weeks are held for Music, Dance, and Martial Arts classes. Please refer to the Conservatory calendar on the website for this year's Open Class Week(s).

## Responsibilities and Requirements

### Attendance Policy

Focus and discipline are necessary for a student to maintain quality development as an artist and a person. Therefore, consistent attendance is essential. If a student is injured, he or she should attend class by watching and not be taken home early or stay in after-school.

Attendance is an integral part of the final grade, and integral to the ability to advance within a discipline.

**Excused Absences:** The student is absent for reasons that the Department considers legitimate, such as a death in the family, hospitalization, or illness with a doctor's note. Each absence will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The administration reserves the right to evaluate records with excessive, excused absences and determine if this will affect the student's grade and promotion to the next level and their participation in performances and other conservatory events.

**Early Dismissals:** Students are allowed two Early Dismissals per semester per course. Permission to leave class early should be obtained from your teacher prior to class. A student should not leave class, even if given permission before class, without notifying the teacher.

**All students are to return to their assigned after-school class after each conservatory class to be dismissed by an after-school aide. Even if a student must leave class early, they are to return to their after-school class in order to be properly dismissed using the PikMyKid application.** Students who do not attend CEA are to go to the breezeway to the dismissal line, immediately after their class. Parents are not to arrive to pick up their child until 15 minutes after the completion of class. This is to prevent congestion in the dismissal traffic line.

**Tardiness:** Students are expected to be on time to each class. Students who arrive late to a class miss the “warm-up” and may be asked to watch class and take notes. **Three (3) tardies will automatically place the student on probation.**

**Performances and Rehearsals:** The same guidelines for Excused and Unexcused Absences in class apply to missing a rehearsal or not participating in a performance once the student has made a commitment to be part of an event.

## Probation

All Conservatory students are required to:

- Maintain a satisfactory attendance record, including classes, rehearsals, and performances
- Maintain respectful and focused behavior in class

**Any student who fails to meet any of these criteria will be immediately placed on probation.**

Students on probation jeopardize their opportunity to participate in performances and his or her final grade for the class will be lowered. A student on probation has until the end of the following semester to meet the minimum requirements in order to be removed from probation and remain in the class.

## Class Guidelines

- Classes begin on time. Students are expected to be prepared in complete uniform and with materials, supplies and homework.
- Bathroom breaks are before or after class, not during class.
- Students are responsible for keeping the studios, classrooms and the theatre in order and clean for the next class.
- Students are expected to show respect for the work in progress in the Conservatory at all times. Silence in the classrooms, hallways and the bathroom areas is vital in order to maintain the level of concentration in the studios and the theatre during classes and rehearsals.
- Courtesy is an important part of professional ethics. Students are expected to show respect to classmates and property, as well as to all personnel and equipment. Doors should not be slammed at the entrance or exit from the studios or the theatre where people are working.
- Participate fully in class. Your attitude and body language express your level of commitment. Bring to class the concentration, enthusiasm and preparation needed in a performance.
- Students will thank the teacher upon completion of class.

- At the end of a dance, theatre or music ensemble class, it is customary to applaud the teacher as a way of saying thank you.
- Cell phones owned by students should be turned off for the length of time spent in the Conservatory.

## **Dress Code**

### Dance Department

Following a dress code not only promotes discipline and pride, but also allows teachers to observe a student's body placement and alignment so that accurate corrections can be made. Please note that holes in leotards, tights or shoes are unacceptable. A student who is out of uniform may be asked to sit down and observe the class.

#### **BALLET DRESS CODE**

Leotards and hair accessories according to class color are available at Dancing Supplies Depot for Pink through Forest Ballet Levels. Dancers in Intermediate I/II/III can select a black leotard from a list of approved styles available at Dancing Supplies Depot, but must also have the black leotard with the lace top.

**No Jewelry. Nails must be trimmed close to the finger with no nail polish or gels.**

For ALL LEVELS, pins are still needed to make a bun under the hair accessory so it does not flop around and the hair falls out.

\*\*\***Ballet shoes** should fit snugly so that minimal material can be pinched at the back of the heel when the foot is pointed. This means they cannot be bought with "growing room" as this does not allow the use of the correct muscles and can cause injury. Do not be tempted to use the drawstring to make the shoes "fit" as this can cause irreparable damage to the Achilles tendon at the back of the foot. Please make sure that drawstrings are neatly tucked inside the shoe during class and performances. The elastics should be sewn at the spot where the heel, when compressed, forms a right angle with the sides of the shoe. If you have any questions, please see Ms. Danella.

#### **GIRLS**

<b><u>Level</u></b>	<b><u>Leotard</u></b>	<b><u>Socks/Tights</u></b>	<b><u>Shoes</u></b>	<b><u>Hair</u></b>
<b>Pink</b>	Pink Conservatory Leotard	CEA School Socks Matching color Ballet skirt (available	Capezio or Bloch Full Sole Ballet Shoes (Leather)	Ballet bun with corresponding hair accessory.

Light Blue	Light Blue Conservatory Leotard	at Ballet Boutique or Dancing Supplies Depot).		
Red	Red Conservatory Leotard			
Lilac	Lilac Conservatory Leotard	Capezio Pink Convertible Tights available at Dancing Supplies Depot or Ballet Boutique.	Capezio or Bloch Full Sole Ballet Shoes (Leather)	Ballet bun with corresponding hair accessory.
Navy	Navy Conservatory Leotard			
Cobalt	Cobalt Conservatory Leotard			
Forest Green	Forest Green Conservatory Leotard	Capezio Pink Convertible Tights available at Dancing Supplies Depot or Ballet Boutique.	Split Sole Ballet Shoes	Professional bun (matching hairnet and hair pins according to hair color) and matching flower piece around the bun.
Intermediate I, II & III	Black leotard from list of approved styles at Dancing Supplies Depot AND black leotard with the lace top.	Capezio Pink Convertible Tights available at Dancing Supplies Depot or Ballet Boutique.	Split Sole Ballet Shoes	Professional bun (matching hairnet and hair pins according to hair color.)
Advanced				
Variations				
BOYS				
All Levels	White t-shirt, black tights, and black ballet shoes, available at Dancing Supplies Depot or Ballet Boutique.			

<b>LYRICAL AND CONTEMPORARY DRESS CODE</b>				
<b><u>Level</u></b>	<b><u>Leotard</u></b>	<b><u>Socks/Tights</u></b>	<b><u>Shoes</u></b>	<b><u>Hair</u></b>
<b>ALL</b>	Any color leotard	Black tights and black spankies	None	Bun or low ponytail, neat and away from the face

## TAP DRESS CODE

\*\*\***Tap Shoes** should fit snugly but not tightly. If the shoes are too large, the ability to make sound is hampered and the feet can be injured. Taps should be the “screw-on” type for students of three or more years of experience. The taps should be attached tightly and checked regularly for adjustment, as the screws tend to loosen through wear. Tap shoes may differ from class to class; therefore, the teacher must be consulted prior to purchasing shoes.

### GIRLS

<u>Level</u>	<u>Leotard</u>	<u>Socks/Tights</u>	<u>Shoes</u>	<u>Hair</u>
<b>ALL</b>	Black Conservatory leotard, black Conservatory shorts	Pink tights	Tan tap shoes, available at Dancing Supplies Depot or Ballet Boutique	Ballet bun with corresponding black hair accessory.

### BOYS

<u>Level</u>	<u>Leotard</u>	<u>Socks/Tights</u>	<u>Shoes</u>	
<b>ALL</b>	Conservatory T-Shirt  Black dance pants, available at Dancing Supplies Depot or Ballet Boutique	School Socks	Black tap shoes, available at Dancing Supplies Depot or Ballet Boutique	

## SPANISH DANCE DRESS CODE

Leotards and hair accessories according to class color are available at Dancing Supplies Depot for Jerez through Segovia levels.

\*\*\*\*\* **Spanish Dance Shoes:** Black Spanish Dance shoes come in different styles; therefore, the type of leather, height of heel, nails etc must be consulted with the teacher prior to purchasing shoes.

\*\*\*Please note, for ALL LEVELS, pins are still needed to make a bun under the hair accessory so it does not flop around and the hair falls out.

### GIRLS

<u>Level</u>	<u>Leotard &amp; Skirt</u>	<u>Socks/Tights</u>	<u>Shoes</u>	<u>Hair</u>	<u>Other Supplies</u>
Jerez	Red Conservatory Leotard	CEA School Socks	Lower, wider heel Spanish dance shoe WITHOUT nails. (not regular character shoes), available at Ballet Boutique or Dancing Supplies Depot.	Ballet bun with red hair accessory.	NA
Teruel	Red Spanish dance skirt, available at Ballet Boutique or Dancing Supplies Depot.				NA
Cantabria					Cantabria students must bring castanets, available for purchase through the Conservatory.
Sevilla	Cobalt Conservatory Leotard	Capezio Pink Convertible Tights, available at Dancing Supplies Depot or Ballet Boutique.	Character shoes without nails. These are available at Ballet Boutique or Dancing Supplies Depot.	Ballet bun with cobalt blue hair accessory.	Castanets, available for purchase through the Conservatory.
Cordoba	Cobalt blue Spanish dance skirt, available at Dancing Supplies Depot.				



Andalucia	Black Conservatory Leotard  Black Spanish dance skirt WITH ruffles, available at Dancing Supplies Depot.	Capezio Pink Convertible Tights, available at Dancing Supplies Depot or Ballet Boutique.	Character shoes without nails, available at Ballet Boutique or Dancing Supplies Depot. Pink Ballet Slippers	Ballet bun with black hair accessory.	Castanets, available for purchase through the Conservatory.
Castilla	Black Conservatory Leotard AND Black Lace Leotard, available at Dancing Supplies Depot.  Black Spanish Dance Skirt (no ruffles) ***Consult with teacher before purchasing.	Capezio Pink Convertible Tights, available at Dancing Supplies Depot or Ballet Boutique.	Spanish Dance shoes <u>with nails</u> , available at Ballet Boutique or Dancing Supplies Depot.  Pink Ballet Slippers  Alpargatas, available for sale in Conservatory.	Professional bun (matching hairnet and hair pins according to hair color.)	Castanets, available for purchase through the Conservatory.
Navarra	Black Conservatory leotard or black leotard from list of approved styles at Dancing Supplies Depot AND black leotard with the lace top.				
Malaga					
Segovia					
Advanced					
BOYS					
All Levels	Conservatory T-Shirt		Black Spanish Dance Boots,		Castanets, available for purchase

	Black Dance Pants		available at Dancing Supplies Depot.		through the Conservatory
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## HIP HOP DRESS CODE

**No jewelry. Nails must be trimmed close to the finger with no nail polish or gels.**

### GIRLS

<u>Uniform</u>	<u>Shoes</u>	<u>Hair</u>
Shirt: TBA  Black Jazz Pants or Athletic Pants	Black Dance Sneakers, available at Dancing Supplies Depot	Hair in a bun or ponytail away from the face.

### BOYS

<u>Uniform</u>	<u>Shoes</u>	
Shirt: TBA  Black Jazz Pants or Athletic Pants	Black Dance Sneakers, available at Dancing Supplies Depot	

## CUBAN DANCE DRESS CODE

**No jewelry. Nails must be trimmed close to the finger with no nail polish or gels.**

### GIRLS

<u>Uniform</u>	<u>Socks/Tights</u>	<u>Shoes</u>	<u>Hair</u>
Black Conservatory leotard  Black Ballroom dance skirt available at Dancing Supplies Depot	Tan tights (pink tights may be worn for class)	Tan character shoes <b>(Absolutely NO            ballroom style            shoes)</b>	Hair in a bun or ponytail away from the face.

BOYS			
<u>Uniform</u>		<u>Shoes</u>	
Conservatory T-Shirt Black Jazz pants available at Dancing Supplies Depot or Ballet Boutique	Black Dance Sneakers available at Dancing Supplies Depot or Ballet Boutique	Black Dance Sneakers, available at Dancing Supplies Depot	

## Martial Arts Department

MARTIAL ARTS DRESS CODE
Conservatory Gi - available for purchase through Conservatory office. Pre-Order Only. No jewelry. Nails must be trimmed close to the finger with no nail polish or gels.

## Music Department

MUSIC DRESS CODE
No uniforms are required for music class. Students are required to wash their hands thoroughly before class, <b>have their nails properly trimmed</b> , and come to class with hair neatly away from the face.

## Theatre Department

THEATRE DRESS CODE		
<b>No jewelry. Nails must be trimmed close to the finger with no nail polish or gels.</b>		
Students should come to each class with a notebook and pencil.		
<u>Uniform</u>	<u>Shoes</u>	<u>Hair</u>
Black Conservatory or Theater T-Shirt and Black sweatpants available at the Dancing Supplies Depot	Black sneakers or Black Jazz Shoes.	Hair must be worn neatly away from the face.

# Visual Arts Department

## VISUAL ARTS DRESS CODE

All students are required to wear an Art Apron. Students are required to wash their hands thoroughly before class. Students should bring with them a sharpened #2 pencil.

## **Private Music Classes**

### Objectives

The objective of the music classes at Conchita Espinosa Conservatory of the Arts is for the student to become familiar with the international language of music, master the instrument of choice, and develop his/her talent and skills in the arts.

### Textbooks and Supplies

The teacher will give each student a list of the books and materials necessary for his/her age and level. The teacher will specify where the books are sold. *\*\*\*Please consult with your teacher before purchasing any music books. Your individual teacher will let you know what books you need and where to purchase them.*

All music students need the following on the first day of class:

- a blank notebook (must bring to every class)
- a binder with plastic sheet protectors inside (for their repertoire)
- a music staff notebook (Pre A-B)

The teachers will provide additional material for the student's individual repertoire to be presented at his/her music exam in the fall and spring.

The student must write his/her name and schedule for both the instrument and solfege class on the first page of his/her music notebook.

# Music Theory and Solfège

Students who have passed the exam for Level I of their instrument and/or are in 2nd grade (approximately age 7) or above must attend a weekly solfège group class offered within the conservatory. Students who do not attend solfège classes **will not be able to take their instrument's final exam or participate in concerts or recitals. This will result in the student not advancing to the next level.**

The student must write all the information received in each class in his/her music notebook.

## Attendance

- Students and/or parents are expected to let the teacher know in advance if they are unable to attend a class. The teacher and parent may arrange a make-up lesson before the missed class. If the teacher is absent, it is the teacher's responsibility to make up that class. If the student misses a class for emergency matters, the teacher will make up that class. If the student misses class without making prior arrangements with the teacher, the teacher does not have the responsibility to make up the class.
- Once scheduled to perform, whether at CEA/CEC or at an outside venue, students are expected to respect their commitment. It is very important that we have parental support.
- Students must present themselves at his/her instrument class with the correct uniform and clean hands.
- All music students are expected to attend professional concerts presented at school. If the student is not playing he/she must be in the audience. Being exposed to performances in dance, music, theatre, etc, is an essential aspect of their training.
- Students and families are strongly encouraged to attend concerts outside of the school. We encourage students and their families to attend classical concerts, ballets, operas, etc. There are many events occurring weekly in our community. This will aid in both their growth as artists and in their appreciation for the arts, as well as help develop a more encompassing view of life.
- CEA and Conservatory students have the benefit of receiving discounted tickets to many performances and concerts at the Adrienne Arsht Center by using the promo code **CEA**.

## Music Class Guidelines

- At each class the teacher will write in the notebook the exercises and music the student needs to prepare for the following class. The student will receive a grade (1 to 10) for each class.
- Students must bring his/her music and notebook to each class. This counts as part of his/her grade.

- Parents need to sign the notebook each week and encourage students to practice daily to prepare for the upcoming class.
- Parents may communicate with the teacher via the notebook.
- Students must practice at least 15 minutes per day. As students progress in their instruments, they will be expected to practice for longer.

## Evaluations

Late arrivals for classes or rehearsals will not be accepted. This will be reflected in the daily notebook grade, which will count toward the final grade.

Every month each teacher will select a "Student of the Month." The selected students' certificates will be displayed in the Conservatory Bulletin Board and those students will be considered to perform at a school assembly or Conservatory function.

The teacher will evaluate each class and write the grade in the student's notebook. The evaluation grade for each class will range from 1 (minimum) to 10 (maximum). Students with an average of less than 7 may not be selected as "Student of the Month."

Parents must sign their child's notebook after each class and encourage the student to practice daily in order to be prepared for the next class. This notebook is the best form of communication of the student's progress between parents, students and teachers.

We ask students to practice at least 15 minutes daily in order to master their instrument. As students advance in level, they will be expected to increase their daily practice time.

## **Examinations and Juries**

### Juries for Dance

At the end of the school year, dance students will be evaluated by a panel consisting of, but not limited to, the teacher, Head of the Department, and the Conservatory Director. This process is very important in evaluating the student's growth, level of commitment, and goals.

The panel's grade for the student's performance on the day of the evaluation is only a part of the overall final grade. The student's work in class during the course of the year, his or her attendance, and his or her participation in rehearsals and performances will be discussed by the jury and will be reflected in the final grade.

## Juries for Music

All students in Levels I and above must be examined each fall and spring, and fulfill the examination requirements for his/her level, including technique and repertoire. All Students in Level I and above will be examined in front of a Jury. The student's final grade depends on both the class grade reflected in his/her notebook and the jury's evaluation on the day(s) of the exam. Music Exam dates are in the Conservatory calendar found at [conchitaespinosaconservatory.com](http://conchitaespinosaconservatory.com). The student's individual schedule will be provided 2 weeks in advance.

## Juries for Theatre

At the end of the school year, theatre students will be evaluated by a panel consisting of, but not limited to, the teacher, Head of the Department, and the Conservatory Director. This process is very important in evaluating the student's growth, level of commitment, and goals.

The panel's grade for the student's performance on the day of the evaluation is only a part of the overall final grade. The student's work in class during the course of the year, his or her attendance, and his or her participation in rehearsals and performances will be discussed by the jury and will be reflected in the final grade.

## Examinations for Visual Arts

The body of work the student has produced during the school year (portfolio), his or her behavior in class, and participation in showcases determine his or her final grade.

## **Rehearsal and Performance Guidelines**

Rehearsals and performances are an integral part of the development and progression of a young artist's technique, self-discipline, and commitment to their teachers and peers. If a student fails to attend a rehearsal due to an unexcused absence, he/she may be excluded from the corresponding performance and may receive a failing grade.

The following guidelines are meant to help both students and faculty members work efficiently during rehearsals so that the highest artistic standards are achieved during the performance and rehearsal process.

- Once the student auditions for a production, concert, or choreography, the student makes him/herself available for the casting pool with the understanding that if chosen for the



performance, he/she may not withdraw unless approved by the teacher and the Head of the Department.

- Students, parents and/or guardians are required to **immediately notify** the teacher if a rehearsal conflicts with previously scheduled activity. Only the teacher can give a student permission to miss a rehearsal. Do not assume that you can miss rehearsals without consequences.
- Students are expected to be on time for all scheduled rehearsals. Parents and/or guardians must notify the teacher immediately of any emergency that may cause the student to be late.
- It is important for the rehearsal/performance process that you maintain your health. Get plenty of rest, eat right and if you become ill, see a doctor immediately.
- Students must attend all final and dress rehearsals in order to be a part of a production. Do not schedule outside commitments on rehearsal days.
- Students are to come to rehearsals in the appropriate uniform for the discipline, as specified in the corresponding guidelines and described above. The only exceptions are dress rehearsals and specific written instructions from your teacher.
- No rehearsal of any kind may be held without a member of the Faculty or Administration present.
- No guests/relatives are allowed in any rehearsal unless approved by the teacher or the Administration.
- When attending a rehearsal, participants are expected to remain quiet and observe during the times that they are not working.

## Schedules/Calls

- Attendance is mandatory for all run-throughs, techs, dress rehearsals, and warm-ups. It is your responsibility to read all written communications from the Conservatory and/or check the Conservatory bulletin boards and website for all schedules. It is essential to adhere to call times given. Faculty and administration do their best to adhere to a rehearsal's scheduled end-time. However, there are times during the final rehearsal process where rehearsals may run over time. Please be flexible.
- Students must check in with the production director of the performance and/or stage manager upon arrival the day of a dress rehearsal and the day of the performance. Do not have anyone else do this for you. The staff needs to know the student is present.
- Understudies or alternates should plan on attending all mandatory warm-ups and rehearsals for performances as directed by their teacher or production director.
- The stage manager is in charge of the backstage area during a performance, and all students must follow the stage manager's instructions.

# Backstage Etiquette

- Only the technical staff and the performers involved in that portion of the performance should be backstage at the time a piece is being performed. If you see anyone who should not be backstage, please tell the stage manager immediately. The stage manager will take care of the situation.
- Treat running crews with respect. You cannot do the show without them.
- Neither talking nor applauding are allowed backstage. Become a “master of silence.”
- No heavy feet while exiting during blackouts.
- Be careful when exiting through the backstage doors or the theatre side doors and avoid slamming the doors. It breaks the entire magic and concentration created on stage. Please exit quietly.
- Do not be in the sight lines (the wings). If you can see the audience, then the audience can see you. If you have to be backstage during a performance, behave in a way that will not distract those performing on stage or in the audience.
- Be aware of your surroundings. There are objects backstage that may cause an accident. Be very careful when moving around the backstage or in the hallway.
- Props should only be handled by people using them in a performance or by designated Prop Crew members. You are expected to respect all parts of the scenery in every production.
- Any costumes and/or props used need to be removed from the stage area at the end of the piece and returned to their assigned place. Remember to pick up anything (clothes, shoes, accessories, etc.) used during warm-up.
- No performers are allowed in front of the theatre, in the lobby area (hallways) or in the audience before or during the performance.
- **Absolutely no backstage visitors/relatives will be permitted.**

# Dressing Room Etiquette

- Respect your working environment. The dressing rooms for the Rosita Segovia Theatre are CEA classrooms. Please be respectful and do not move or remove anything you find in the room. You should be equally respectful of any item brought into the room that belongs to your fellow artists who will be performing with you.
- If you make a mess, you clean it up! As soon as you finish your participation in the performance, put your things back in your bag. Do not wait until the end when everybody is rushing to go home. In the confusion things tend to get lost or left behind.
- Write your complete name on all your personal items.
- Respect other people’s need for concentration/privacy in the dressing room.
- No one except performers, faculty or staff is allowed in the dressing area.

- The audience should not see you in costume/make up at any time before or after the performance.
- If there are costume problems, tell someone involved with costumes as soon as possible so the problem can be taken care of.
- Do not eat or drink beverages (other than water) once you are in costume.
- It is the responsibility of the performer to return costumes and accessories to the costume rack as soon as the performance is over. If your costume (including any accessories) has been rented, it is not to be taken home after the production. If you have rented a musical instrument for the performance, you need to return it after your performance has been completed. As per your rental agreement, all items checked or rented out to you must be returned in the same condition they were in before the rental. You will be held responsible for loss or damage, and fees may apply.
- No instrument, costume, accessory, or prop will be rented or loaned to students without a signed agreement form on file.
- If you have a quick costume change, you will have one of the technical staff members assisting you, but it is your responsibility to lay out your costumes and accessories and keep them out of the way where they will not disturb others. Remember to arrange them in the order they will be put on.
- No fingernail or toenail polish is allowed, not even clear.
- Do not wear jewelry to rehearsals or performances. Please do not bring any other valuables, including electronics. The Conservatory will not be responsible for any lost articles. Administration, faculty, and staff reserve the right to temporarily confiscate any phones, iPads, and other electronics being inappropriately used or causing disturbance or distraction during a class, rehearsal, or performance. What is considered a disturbance or inappropriate is left to the discretion of the individual in charge of the student at a particular time. Confiscated items will be returned at the end of the class, rehearsal, or performance.

## Audience Etiquette

- Arrive at the Theatre before "Curtain." Do not be late for a performance or you will have to wait outside the Theatre's entrance door until you are invited to come in.
- Cell phones and all other electronic devices should be turned off.
- The focus belongs on stage and nowhere else. No talking, eating, unwrapping of candies, etc.
- Absolutely no food, gum or drinks are permitted in the Theatre.
- Do not put your feet on your chair or on the chair in front of you.
- After intermission return to your own seat and do not take another audience member's seat.
- No photography or recording of any kind is permitted at any performance. Flash photography can be a danger to the performers. Taking pictures or video recordings is distracting and obstructs the view of other audience members. Be mindful, and use courtesy!

# **Social Media**

We highly encourage everyone to follow the Conservatory social media pages.

**Facebook** - @Conchita Espinosa Conservatory of the Arts

**Instagram** - @ConchitaEspinosaConservatory

This is an excellent way to stay informed of what is happening in the Conservatory, read the monthly newsletters, and know about upcoming events. However, there are some guidelines to keep in mind:

- Choreography are intellectual property of the choreographer. No choreography from any performance or rehearsal should be posted to any social media pages other than the official Conservatory pages.
- Every performance has a professional photographer and videographer. While we encourage taking pictures before and after the show (and tagging them appropriately to the Conservatory pages), filming or taking pictures during a performance is strictly prohibited.
- Feel free to share our Conservatory posts! Each share spreads the word about the wonderful things going on at CEC and establishes pride in our Conservatory community.

# **Festival of the Arts**

The Festival of the Arts is a biennial tradition at CEC. From the selection of its theme, the careful planning of the choreographies, music selection, and scripting of every role, the Festival of the Arts is a showcase of the hard work, dedication, and growth the students have shown in class. During the Festival of the Arts and the preparation process, CEC students put to work the lessons learned in each discipline and life skills inculcated throughout the year, which include responsibility, commitment, and focus.

The Festival is not just for the participants' family and friends. It is an event that is open to the community and the whole Conchita family. We are called to continue this very dear part of Conchita's legacy and one of CEC's most cherished traditions.

# **Conservatory Delegates**

CEC Delegates are parents who volunteer to help year-round with coordinating cultural field trips, decorating Conservatory hallways, fundraising, and general support of students and teachers. The CEC Delegates provide assistance during the preparatory stages and on the day of Conservatory performances, competitions and the biennial Festival of the Arts. All families will receive information at the start of the Conservatory year on how to volunteer to be a CEC Delegate. CEC delegates will meet with Maria Ofelia Armas during the course of the Conservatory year to discuss the various ways to support the Conservatory.

## **Amendments**

The Conchita Espinosa Conservatory of the Arts reserves the right to modify, amend, delete, or add to this Handbook, as it deems necessary in its sole discretion and at any time.



**Maribel Z. Diaz**  
Director Emeritus



**Ana Diaz-Zubieta, Ph.D.**  
Director

**2025- 2026 STUDENT/PARENT AGREEMENT**  
(Please sign and return to the Conservatory Office)

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Having carefully read the Conchita Espinosa Conservatory of the Arts Student/Parent Handbook, I understand that the successful implementation of the conservatory's programs depends on all members of the CEC family assuming their responsibilities.

I am prepared to support the philosophy, uphold the standards, and abide by the consequences described in this handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date