

Dear Sabra, Armand, and Pierre,

In just a few weeks, we will gather in beautiful Bar Harbor, Maine for the 2024 edition of the Acadia Festival of Traditional Music & Dance. Thank you for joining us! I'm so excited to have this opportunity to work together!

We've created a [password protected faculty reference page](#) on our website where we're archiving important emails like this one, PDF attachments, schedules, etc. so you can find it all in one place. The password is: 2024AcadiaFaculty. We will add to this page as things become available and keep it up to date with the latest information.

Please read this email entirely regarding:

- Arrival and Departure
- Dance Program Philosophy and Curriculum
- Class Levels
- Teaching Schedule
- Music for Dance Classes
- Classrooms
- Dance Performances and Collaborations
- Student Concert
- Social Dances and Sessions/Jams
- Merch Info

Arrival and Departure

AFTMD runs from Sunday, June 23 – Saturday, June 29 (departure by 9:00 AM). Please arrive at camp no later than 3:30 pm on Sunday, June 23. Information about getting to the C.O.A. campus can be found on the [transportation page](#) of our website. We recommend arriving as early as possible so you have time to check into your room/unpack, check in your merch, get acquainted with where things are, etc.

We will have an all-faculty orientation meeting at 4:45 pm on Sunday on the porch of Deering (same building as Registration), followed by dinner at 5:30 pm, and an opening celebration concert at 7:00 pm. All faculty will be invited to perform a tune or a few steps in the opening celebration (curated by Mari Black, Music Director, and me). This will be followed by a short social dance with caller Heather McAslan and an open band led by Armand Aromin and Emily Troll! You are encouraged to play/dance, meet folks, and have fun!

Dance Program Philosophy

The dance program in 2024 will offer a rotation of classes featuring Appalachian Old-Time and Irish Sean-nós with **Armand Aromin**, Cape Breton Step Dance with **Sabra MacGillivray**, and Québécois Step Dance with **Pierre Chartrand**. We will also offer a dedicated beginner/novice track in Irish Step Dance and Sean-nós taught by me. Each day will begin with a 30-minute warm-up class so all dance students can move together, followed by two 60-minute

level-specific core classes. Afternoons will include optional enrichment workshops, sessions, and social dances. Classes will incorporate a combination of recorded music and live music from our Artistic Work Study students.

Curriculum

Class content from each teacher should include: technique, repertoire, musicality, improvisation, as well as social dance. It is up to you to determine how much or how little in each area to present to each of your three groups — so the curriculum can unfold organically, and it can vary from group to group. For example, perhaps the Seals would benefit more from social dance and learning about the music, while Bears might appreciate more improvisation skills. You are the expert on your teaching! We want students to experience a broad range of the many things that you offer as an artist within your tradition.

Class Levels

This year we are offering FOUR levels of instruction — Moose (Novice) with me, Harbor Seals (Relaxed Intermediate), Grey Seals (Fast Intermediate), and Bears (Advanced) taught in rotation by the three of you. We also offer an Eagles class (pre-professional mixed-instrument/dance program) which is taught by our music faculty. (As you can see, we have tried to be inclusive of Maine wildlife in our groups 😊.) You will find the [level descriptions here](#).

Some students have expressed concern that they may be “advanced” in one dance tradition but not in the two others. We understand this! The levels do NOT assume that a student has a consistent level of technique or repertoire in all three styles, but rather describe things like: how quickly they learn, how comfortable they are with improvising and solo dancing, how experienced they are with interpreting music and rhythm, etc.

Your class material with each group should be progressive throughout the week, so students are encouraged to choose ONE level at the beginning of the week. They may switch if needed, but “dropping in” to different levels is not encouraged.

Teaching Schedule

9:00 - 9:30 Morning Warm-up for all dance students
9:45 - 10:45 Period 1 Core Classes
11:00 - 12:00 Period 2 Core Classes
1:15 - 2:30 Period 3 Social Dance or Enrichment Classes
2:45 - 4:00 Period 4 Enrichment Classes

Core dance classes are 60 minutes each, and enrichment classes are 75 minutes. Each of you is teaching three enrichment classes throughout the week. Enrichment classes are open to all students, not just “dance majors,” so these should be taught at a beginner-friendly level that is suited to the majority of whoever shows up for the class, unless a more advanced level has been specified. Workshops are offered on a first-come, first-served basis, as classroom spaces

may become crowded or full. Complete schedules for both morning classes and afternoon [workshops](#) and [concerts](#) are available on the [password protected faculty page](#).

Music for Dance Classes

Classes will be taught mostly with recorded music, so please bring the recordings you need for all classes and enrichment workshops.

We have noted your needs for audio speakers:

Sabra - will provide own

Armand - will provide own

Pierre - Kieran will provide speaker and cable

Kieran - will provide own

In addition, we will provide live music from our Artistic Work Study (AWS) students for three of your morning classes during the week. Think of this as having a musical “guest artist” with your groups. It is a wonderful opportunity for students to dance to live music. The AWS schedule is available on the [password protected faculty page](#).

If you like, you can read about this year’s amazing AWS students [here](#)! We recommend communicating with your Work Study student ahead of time about specific types of tunes you may need for class. Feel free to do so via email:

Madelyn	Morrell	morrell.madelyn@gmail.com
Sammy	Wetstein	shwetstein@gmail.com
Lillian	Chase	lillianchasefiddle@gmail.com
Lennart	Jansson	zhanrnl@gmail.com
Yasmina	Zeichner	yasminazeichner@gmail.com

Classrooms

Dance classes will be taught in spaces with wood flooring. Your core classes will be held in the same location throughout the festival, while enrichment workshops may be in a different room. There is a map of all buildings and classrooms on the [password protected faculty page](#) and you will see your classroom assignments on each schedule.

Dance Performances and Collaborations

There are gala concerts each night in Gates Auditorium, featuring our faculty. The Dance Faculty are scheduled to perform a 30-minute concert slot to close out Wednesday night, as a dance-focused performance. Mari Black and Keith Murphy are assigned to be with us as musical collaborators, and we can invite other musicians up to join us. We have a mandatory rehearsal on Monday during Period 4 (2:45 - 4:00 pm) in Blum Gallery, which is on the 2nd floor of Gates. Your sound check schedule can be found on the [password protected faculty page](#).

In addition to our Wednesday night concert, each of us will perform in one additional concert as a guest to the featured music faculty. You should plan to do just one or two dances, plus the finale, on those nights. Please coordinate with your music collaborators in advance, if possible!

Sabra - Monday night with Troy MacGillivray and Susan MacLean

Armand - Monday night with Lissa Schneckenburger and Keith Murphy

Pierre - Tuesday night with Frank Ferrel and Dan Faiella

Kieran - with Laurel Martin and Màiri Chaimbeul

You can see the full [concert schedule here](#).

Student Concert

On Friday night, we close out the camp with a Student Concert. Performances will be student-led and created. You are NOT expected to create group choreography or performance pieces in your classes. (The Moose are an exception to this, as I will be coordinating a piece for them.)

Social Dances & Sessions/Jams

We will have social dances on Sunday night after the opening concert, and Friday night after the Student Concert. There will be Sessions and Jamming every night as well. You are encouraged to participate as much as possible, but we also acknowledge the need to be “off-duty” or have personal space, or an earlier bedtime, etc! Please take care of yourself and honor your needs.

Merch Info

- AFTMD will be happy to sell your merch in our “Trad Trader” store, which will be open a couple of times a day.
- Due to limited space, each faculty member may check in a max of 4 titles of CDs, plus 2 instructional items (tune books, DVDs, etc.) We will not be able to accommodate “soft” items like t-shirts or bandanas.
- CDs will all be sold for \$20 each, and the artist will receive \$16.50. Books/DVDs will be sold for \$30 and the artist will get \$26.50. The cut we take will help to cover any credit card processing fees, etc. we incur.
- On the night of your concert, we’ll make sure your CDs are in the back of the concert hall for concert-goers to purchase (no separate check-in and check-out procedure.)
- You will be responsible for all taxes (sales and otherwise) on the merch money you are paid when you check-out.
- Merch check-in will be in Deering (where Registration and the Trad Trader are located) on Sunday, June 23 from 2:00 - 4:15 pm and again on Monday during the second part of lunch hour from 12:30 - 1:00 pm.
- Merch check-out will be in Deering on Friday, June 28 from 12:30 - 2:30 pm.
- We’ll have an inventory form for you to fill out / pick up and it’s on the faculty web page in case you want to print it out and bring it filled out when you arrive (if not, we’ll have copies on hand for you to fill out.)

- Payment for sales will be sent within a week after the festival by PayPal or Bank Transfer, the same as what you chose for payment for your instructor's contract.

Thanks for reading! Our team has been working hard to plan a dynamic week of immersive music and dance, and we really appreciate all that you are contributing to making this vision a wonderful, joyful reality! If you have any questions, please reach out. We're happy to help!

Cheers,

Kieran
(and April, Mari & Heather)