



Dancing Classrooms Philly is Now Musicopia Dance

A new name. A unified identity. A deeper impact.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2025

Philadelphia, PA – Musicopia is proud to announce that its longtime partner, Dancing Classrooms Philly, is now **Musicopia Dance**. The announcement was made during Musicopia's 50th Anniversary Concert, a milestone celebration of the organization's legacy and future in arts education.

The new name signals how the organizations are working together to expand equitable access to music and dance programming. Since 2012, affiliates Musicopia and Dancing Classrooms Philly have shared staff, a Board of Directors, and a vision for empowering young people through music and dance.

"This name change opens the door to even greater collaboration," said Catherine Charlton, President & CEO of Musicopia and Musicopia Dance. "Announcing it at our 50th Anniversary Concert was a powerful moment. Musicopia Dance is a name that reflects our shared history and who we are—together."

Musicopia Dance will continue to offer the same high-quality programming and curriculum that students and schools know and trust, including the flagship Dancing Classrooms Social Ballroom Residency, developed by Pierre Dulaine and first offered in New York City in 1994.

The name change reflects how the organization has grown beyond its original ballroom roots in recent years—offering a broader range of culturally relevant programs that meet the needs of today's students, such as Hip-hop, Latin, and K-pop programs. An expanded 20-session Hip-hop residency program is opening to the community this fall, offering students a space to see their culture, creativity, and lived experiences reflected through movement.

Over the years, Musicopia Dance has helped thousands of students build confidence, teamwork, and joy through movement. "They realize they can do it, and then they apply that skill to every aspect of the school day... And those quiet kids now aren't so quiet...." shared Francesca Russo, Principal of St. Pio Regional Catholic School.

For more information or to explore partnership opportunities, please contact:

Mark Schulz, Senior Director of External Affairs, Mark@musicopia.net

###

About Musicopia Dance

Musicopia Dance's mission is to foster self-esteem, social awareness, mutual respect, teamwork and joy in young people and their communities through social dance education and performance. Originally founded under the name Dancing Classrooms Philly in 2007, Musicopia Dance offers in-school and community-based residences and assemblies, Teacher Workshops, Intergenerational Community Workshops, and continuation programs for the flagship in-school Dancing Classrooms Social Ballroom program, a Saturday Academy program and the Allstars. Through our social dance instruction, we help to enrich school communities across the Philadelphia region by building confidence in students, breaking down social barriers, and inspiring respect for all individuals.

Learn more at www.musicopiadance.org.

About Musicopia

Musicopia's mission is to provide equitable access to music education and enrichment, encouraging self-confidence, global awareness, dedication and joy in Pre-K to 12th grade students and their communities. Since its founding in 1974, Musicopia has helped more than 400,000 children and their communities experience the benefits of first-hand exposure to the arts, and is a recognized leader in rebuilding and revitalizing school music programs through a roster of professional artists sharing music from around the globe. Musicopia reaches thousands of children each year in the Delaware Valley/Philadelphia area through in-school music education, an afterschool string orchestra program, an afterschool drumlines program, community arts programming, the Philadelphia Lullaby Project, and its Gift of Music Instrument Donation Program.

Learn more at www.musicopia.net.