

**RENAISSANCE DANCE COURSE AT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE**

By arrangement with the University's Early Music Studio, an Ensemble for beginners in Renaissance Dance will be trained and directed by Helga Hill during semester one. The links between period movement, music, court garments and gesture will be highlighted and the group will give a performance in costume at the end of semester.

**THE ART OF GESTURE**

A limited number of places are available for singers or actors to study with Helga Hill at the University of Melbourne during 1st Semester. Applicants must have completed one year of tertiary studies or had extensive practical experience elsewhere. Details are in the 2009 Faculty of Music Hand Book .

**BAROQUE DANCE CLASSES**

Selected members of the Rippon Lea Renaissance Dancers are able to join in Baroque Dance classes conducted at Albert Park throughout the year. In special circumstances persons who have gained extensive Baroque Dance experience elsewhere may join the group without prior involvement in Renaissance Dance classes. At least two costumed performances are given each year.

**EARLY MUSIC, DANCE AND THEATRE  
ARCHIVE**

Rippon Lea Dancers and participants in Art of Gesture courses have free access to most publications in the Dance, Costume and Gesture sections of the extensive Guild Library at Middle Park.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

**Early Arts Guild of Victoria**

Phone 03 9699 8417

E-mail [helgamhill@bigpond.com](mailto:helgamhill@bigpond.com)

Web for Early Arts Guild

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~earlyart/>

Mail 52 Nimmo Street, Middle Park. 3206. Vic

**RENAISSANCE DANCE**

**BAROQUE DANCE**

**HISTORIC GESTURE**

**COURSES 2009**



**HELGA M. HILL**

## **HELGA M. HILL**

Helga Hill is the researcher, director and costume designer for the Rippon Lea Renaissance Dancers and, as a foundation member of the Early Music Consort of Melbourne, a performer on a wide range of Renaissance and Medieval instruments. She taught Renaissance and Baroque Dance in Europe annually from 1977 – 1997, with frequent courses in Austria, England and Sweden. For ten years she was in charge of Historic Dance Studies at the Dartington (UK) International Summer School where she also presented Historic Gesture for actors and singers and advised on period stage movements. Helga Hill's reconstructed choreographies for 17<sup>th</sup> Century operas have been seen at Dartington, in Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank, London, the Festival of Flanders in Bruges, with Schola Cantorum in Basle, and at Victoria University in Wellington (N.Z.)

In Melbourne, she was the original resource person for VCE (Secondary School) studies in Medieval and Renaissance Dance. She is responsible for the University of Melbourne Renaissance Dance Ensemble and, in 2006, directed and gestured the University's Opera Project – *The Judgment of Paris* by John Eccles (1701). In 2008 she directed and gestured the Scarlatti Project at Sydney Conservatorium.

A voluntary organisation, the Early Arts Guild of Victoria, was formed in 1978 to undertake planning, publicity and financing for groups associated with Helga Hill.

In 2000 she established a private course in the Art of Gesture at the Early Music Studio (University of Melbourne) to further the work of the noted researcher, the late Dene Barnett. Gesture is now an integral part of Early Arts Guild performances involving actors and singers, and is being promoted interstate and abroad.

## **THE DANCES**

Renaissance Dance is primarily the social dance of the European courts between the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Styles range from stately pavans, ring and line dances to complex choreographies from the Italian court repertoire.

## **RIPPON LEA RENAISSANCE DANCERS**

Formed by Helga Hill in 1978, the Rippon Lea Dancers make up Australia's leading Early Dance ensemble. The group's performances around Victoria and interstate are highlighted by quality dancing and colorful period garments made with original styles and materials. Music for the team is provided on historic instruments by the Early Music Consort of Melbourne, and both groups participate with actors and singers in major theatrical productions. Jan Turner is the assistant teacher for the group.

## **FEES**

One Term	\$ 90
Two Terms	\$ 145
Three Terms	\$ 185

## **PAYMENTS**

Whole year payable in instalments of \$ 92.50 on February 11 and June 24. Cheques to be made payable to the Early Arts Guild of Victoria, 52 Nimmo Street, Middle Park, 3206. These fees cover tuition, insurance, hall hire and printed materials issued in classes. Concessions are available for couples (including parent and child) and unemployed applicants.

## **DRESS**

Should be casual to permit freedom of movement. Soft shoes with no heels (preferably soft leather ballet shoes) should be worn for classes. Rubber-soled shoes and point ballet shoes are unsuitable.

Class members who are chosen to join the performing team are provided with costumes at no cost from an extensive collection of Renaissance style court garments.

## **RENAISSANCE DANCE CLASSES 2008**

### **TERM DATES**

#### **TERM ONE**

February 11 to April 8 (nine Wednesdays)

#### **TERM TWO**

April 29 to June 24 (nine Wednesdays)

#### **TERM THREE**

September 2 to November 11 (nine Wednesdays)  
Omit September 30 and October 7

Please keep November 18, 25 and December 2 free for concert rehearsals.

### **TIMES**

#### **RENAISSANCE DANCE CLASSES**

7 p.m. sharp to 9.30 p.m.

#### **WINTER REVISION SESSIONS**

7 p.m. sharp to 9.30 p.m.

July 22, 29 and August 19 subject to changes.

### **VENUES**

The venue for Renaissance dance classes, winter revision sessions and most concert rehearsals is St. Paul's Church Hall, cnr. Windella Ave. and Hale St., East Kew. Some concert rehearsals may be held at Armadale Uniting Church in Kooyong Road or Trinity Uniting Church, in Black Street, Brighton. Dates for Concert rehearsals (on Wednesdays) will be advised.