

About the Course teachers ...

Fiona Garlick & John Barnard have led the Early Dance Consort for many years. They have appeared as performers in numerous and varied concert and stage productions with leading early music ensembles. Their pedagogical experience ranges from regular classes & courses in North Sydney to lectures, workshops & masterclasses presented for arts & education institutions around Australia & overseas.



THE EARLY DANCE CONSORT

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Baroque & beyond **2026 Summer Course** *in Early Dance*

7-9 January 2026
North Sydney

2026 Summer Course

Wednesday 7 - Friday 9 January

An invitation to our 16th Summer Course in Early Dance. By popular demand, we are returning to the Baroque era of the early 18th century, and a little beyond, for a taste of some of the exquisite and vivacious dances of the court. They come from a time when the *Belle Danse* technique of the French court was in use both in the ballroom and on stage.

How do we know? We are lucky that, in the absence of video clips (!), there are detailed notations preserving many beautiful dance creations. With study we can bring these to life and feel the physical presence of the courtier in the posture, gestures & dance moves lost over the centuries. And discover echoes in the music and dance of our time.

Why learn? The Summer Course provides an opportunity to develop an appreciation of this distinctive dance heritage. Musicians, actors, dancers and history-lovers will benefit from tangible insights into rhythms & musical forms, into manners, deportment, gesture & aesthetics. Over three days, students will learn movements, steps & sequences in preparation for excerpts & complete dances in different rhythms. Basic technique will be introduced for newcomers, while experienced students will benefit from refining technique & style, & building repertoire.

Venue 181 Blues Point Road, North Sydney. Near North Sydney Train & Bus Station.

Requirements No previous dance experience required. No need to bring a partner.

Course details

Morning A sessions introduce the basics of Baroque dance style: deportment, gesture & characteristic movements which distinguish it from other styles, exploring a range of steps & their precise relationship to the musical rhythms for dances from Bourree & Gavotte to Minuet, Chaconne & Gigue.

Morning B sessions develop steps in context to form phrases & figures, building towards one or more dances from the repertoire

Afternoon C sessions will extend to more complex steps, subtleties of hand & arm movements, furthering appreciation of the precision and delicacy of the *Belle Danse*. Plus discussion of the dance notation known as *chorégraphie*, which is key to recovering the treasures of this unique dance repertoire.

Students are encouraged to begin on Day 1, Wednesday, and may choose to do either:
 * Full Course (9 sessions over 3 days) OR
 * Part Course (1 or more A or A+B sessions)
 with Wednesday sessions being pre-requisite to those on following days.

What to wear Light comfortable clothes, and secure shoes without rubber soles. Flat, light shoes for warm-ups (e.g., ballet flats, jiffies). Low-heeled shoes (1-4cm) for Baroque dance (e.g., Grecian sandals) or Jazz shoes for both.

To eat & drink Light refreshments will be provided for morning tea. Bring water to drink, pack/buy lunch if staying for the day.

Health & Hygiene For the wellbeing of all participants, we urge you to stay at home if unwell. Hand gel will be available. Natural ventilation will be maintained.

Enrolment

Please complete enrolment form, & return by email/post. Preferred payment is by direct deposit (bank details on enrolment form). Otherwise cheque or exact cash in envelope. Early-bird rates available until December 19. Do get in touch by phone or email if you have any questions, or go to ~

www.earlydanceconsort.com.au

DAILY SCHEDULE 7-9 January, 2026

9.00 am	Register/Warm-up
9.15am-11.00am	A sessions
11.00am-11.15am	Morning Tea
11.15am-1.00pm	B sessions
1.00pm-2.00pm	LUNCH (BYO)
2.00pm-3.45pm	C sessions

COURSE FEES 2026	Early-bird*	Full Price
Full Course (3 days, 9 sessions)	\$220.00	\$250.00
One Day* A + B + C *Wednesday only (3 sessions)	\$95.00	\$100.00
Mornings A sessions (3 sessions over 3 days)	\$90.00	\$95.00
Mornings A + B daily (6 sessions over 3 days)	\$170.00	\$185.00
Single session A or A+B each (Wednesday only)	\$35.00	\$40.00
* Early-bird rates up to 19 December 2025		