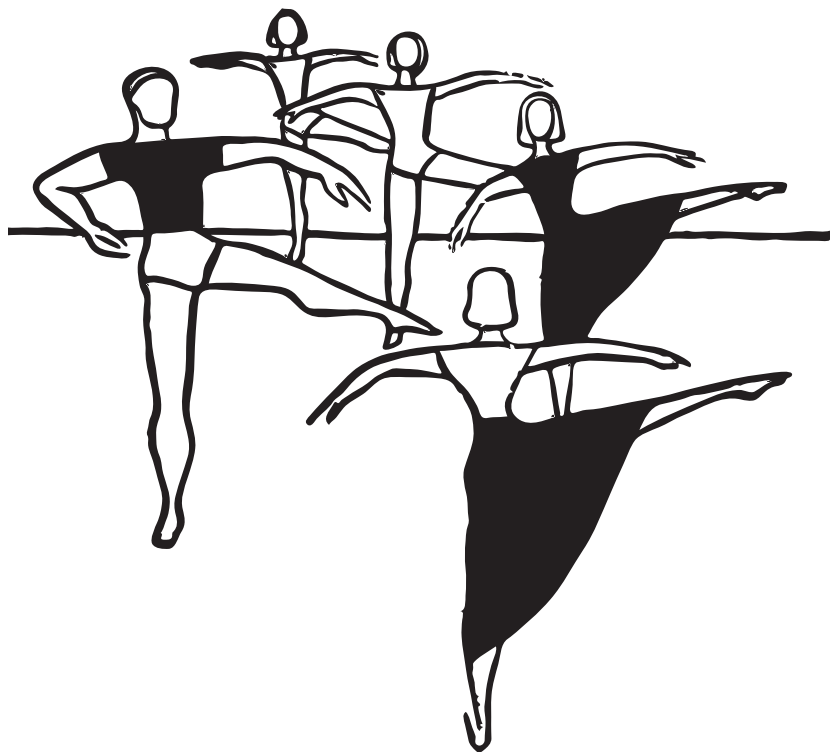


MARTHA GRAHAM SCHOOL
SPRING SHOWCASE



MAY 15-16, 2026

Martha Graham Studio Theater
1501 Broadway, 11th Floor, NYC

Illustration by Charlotte Trowbridge for the Martha Graham School, 1951

PROGRAM

In celebration of the 100th year of the Martha Graham Legacy, this program features early works and new compositions inspired by Martha Graham's first concert program in 1926.

The Graham Repertory seen on this program are excerpts specially staged and rearranged for the Spring Showcase. The original costumes, sets, and lighting are not used for this production.

2026

Advanced Studies Certificate Program / Composition

Choreography by Nérée Blicq (Auriane Maillard)

Music by Eric Satie, *Gnossienne No. 1*

Zhicheng Bu, Imani David, Hui-Chu Lei, Camille Rivkah Nemoz, Maria Novac, Kyra Schwartz

2026 draws on Martha Graham's early ideas about opposing forces. This piece explores how societies turn and fall into fascism—how it rises, and how, by the time we notice it, it's already too late.

SOLSTITIUM

Advanced Studies Certificate Program / Composition

Choreography by Melis Yesiller

Music by César Franck, arranged by Stephen Hough

Elena Cerasa, Leya Gullström Matulesky, Danielle Gutt/Barbara Sulvic

Solstitium is a ritual of wishes and offerings shared by the maiden, the woman, and the crone, inspired by the spiritual essence of Martha Graham's early work Chorale (1926).

TANAGRA

Advanced Studies Certificate Program / Performance

Choreography by Martha Graham

Music by Eric Satie, *Gnossienne No. 3*

Premiered April 18, 1926, at the 48th Street Theater in New York City

Jesse Zhang (5/15, 5/16 Matinee)

Amara Kranz (5/16 Evening)

Inspired by the graceful Tanagra figurines of ancient Greece, Tanagra presents the dancer as a living sculpture. With restrained, elegant movement, and the sculptural use of draped fabric, the work explores stillness, balance, and quiet expression. This 100 year old solo reflects Graham's shift toward a new, modern dance language - where form and presence speak as powerfully as motion.

NOVELETTE & MAID WITH THE FLAXEN HAIR

Beginner Performance Workshop, led by Ghislaine van den Heuvel

Choreography by Ghislaine van den Heuvel in collaboration with the dancers

Music by Robert Schumann: *Novelette*, and Claude Debussy: *The Girl with the Flaxen Hair*

Nérée Blicq (Auriane Maillard), Naomi Hess, Amrita Jones, Stephanie Kuo, Kianna Marrs, Maria Novac, Kyra Schwartz

(Understudy: Kirsten Danielle Delavin)

Inspired by two solos from Martha Graham's first concert in 1926 and created in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Martha Graham Dance Company, this piece explores the relationship between individuality and community. Each dancer begins with their own gestural movement, inspired by the qualities of water and wind. These movements are shared and built together, moving between solo moments and group connection, showing how individual voices come together as a collective.

PROGRAM

SERENATA MORISCA

Advanced Studies Certificate Program / Performance

Choreography by Ted Shawn; Reconstructed by Martha Graham
Music by Mario Tarenghi*

Leya Gullström Matulesy (5/15)
Riley Henderson (5/16)

In 1916, claiming that at twenty-two her new pupil was too old to ever become a good dancer, Ruth St. Denis took little interest in Martha Graham. It was St. Denis' partner, Ted Shawn, who took on Martha's early training after being astonished by the ferocity of her performance in a classroom exercise he developed, the solo Serenata Morisca. Graham performed the solo on Denishawn tours 1921-23 and in the Greenwich Village Follies 1923-25.

**Serenata*, op. 13, adapted by Jonathan McPhee. Recorded by Patrick Daugherty.

VALES NOBLES ET SENTIMENTALES

Intermediate Performance Workshop, led by Cecilia Whalen

Music by Maurice Ravel, performed by Bertram Chamayou

Giulia Alledi, Victoire Boureau, Zhicheng Bu, Emilia Huarte Carboni, Elena Cerasa,
Maria Belén González Contreras, Imani David, Hui-Chu Lei, Camille Rivkah Nemoz, Ximena Oliva,
Bell Shen, Sarah Maria Stubbia, Kelsey Tangorra

Valses Nobles et Sentimentales is inspired by Graham's original solo from 1926 entitled Deux Valses, which Graham performed to this same score by Ravel. Valses Nobles et Sentimentales pulls from historical reviews and photographs for a new choreography celebrating Martha Graham and the Martha Graham Dance Company's 100th anniversary.

CLAIR DE LUNE

Graham 2, Directed by Virginie Mécène

Choreography by Virginie Mécène with the dancers' participation
Music by Claude Debussy
Costumes: Anonymous

Aspen Mason, Johana Gracia Morales, Zoe Ridgell, Emelyn Urdahl (5/15)
Maylissa Jean, Madison Kotch, Emmy Lebrun, Jacqueline Lee (5/16)

This version of Clair de Lune is inspired by the title and an archival photograph of an early, lost work by Martha Graham. The original quartet, Clair de Lune, premiered 100 years ago at Ms. Graham's very first concert, in 1926. This new composition explores the mysterious energy between shadows and light, appearing to bring imaginary lives to fruition under the full moon.

A DANCER'S WORLD

Advanced Performance Workshop, led by Elizabeth Auclair

Graham 2, led by Virginie Mécène

Concept and Choreography by Martha Graham

Music composed, improvised, and performed by Cameron McCosh

This reenacted presentation is based on the 1975 film *A Dancer's World*, directed by Peter Glushanok and produced by Nathan Kroll.

Advanced Performance Workshop dancers:

Jose Manuel Hernandez Esteban, Laurine Gomez, Danielle Gutt, Kendyll Hazzard, Riley Henderson,
Yuri Jeon, Amara Kranz, Raissa de Sousa Lima, Leya Gullström Matulesy, Teo Medici, Barbara Sulvic,
Melis Yesiller, Jesse Zhang

PROGRAM

Graham 2 dancers:

Duet 1: Julian Myrland (5/15, 5/16), Jacqueline Lee (5/15 and 5/16 eve),
Emelyn Urdahl (5/16 mat)

Duet 2: Lucas Sverdlen (5/15, 5/16) and Zoe Ridgell (5/16 mat),
Maylissa Jean (5/15 and 5/16 eve)

Duet 3: Johana Gracia Morales and Eddy Pérez Trimiño

Duet 4: Julian Myrland (5/15 and 5/16 eve) and Aspen Mason (5/15 and 5/16 eve),
Lucas Sverdlen (5/16 mat) and Emmy Lebrun (5/16 mat)

Also appearing:

Madison Kotch, Isaac Jung, and Beginner and Intermediate Performance Workshop dancers

A Dancer's World brings to life the iconic 1957 film of Martha Graham and her company. Remembering the principles that underpin her revolutionary approach to dance, in her own words, reconnects us to our lineage and deepens our understanding of our own craft. In experiencing the same movement sequences her dancers did in the film, alongside Martha's narration, the profound and clear wisdom of her words may be felt and embodied anew, re-invigorating our own dedication and values.

STAFF

Ashley Brown, *Director of School*
Virginie Mécène, *Program Director /*
Director of Graham 2

Lone Kjør Larsen, *Program Director*
Amélie Bénard, *Young Artists Program Director*
Tami Alesson, *Dean of Students*
and Government Affairs
Tyler Quick, *School Assistant*
Chloe Morrell, *Production Supervisor*

Zoe Griffith, *Assistant Production Supervisor*
Melissa Sherwood, *Director of Marketing*
Jacob Larsen, *Partnerships Coordinator*

WORK STUDY

Naomi Hess, Laurine Gomez, Hui-Chu Lei,
Raissa de Sousa Lima, Barbara Sulvic

SPECIAL THANKS

Miki Orihara, Denise Vale, Dorian Wallace

THANK YOU

...to the Martha Graham Center, Company, Board, and School Committee members, our talented faculty and musicians, and all friends and family who support our students daily in their growth as artists!

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