

Poised for Success Freestyle



Guide to the Laude Class Overture, Melody, and Harmony Divisions

Published: November 15, 2020

Table of Contents

Page

3	Introduction to the Laude Class
4	Titles Available – Laude Class
	Getting Started

Overture Division – Performer and Laude Class

6	Submission Checklist – Handling Leg
7	Handling Leg - Options/Requirements Descriptions
9	Submission Checklist – Technical Leg
10	Technical Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions
13	Submission Checklist – Artistry Leg
14	Artistry Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions

Melody Division – Laude Class

17	Submission Checklist – Handling Leg
19	Handling Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions
24	Submission Checklist – Technical Leg
25	Technical Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions
28	Submission Checklist – Artistry Leg
29	Artistry Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions

Harmony Division – Laude Class

33	Submission Checklist – Handling Leg
35	Handling Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions
44	Submission Checklist – Technical Leg
46	Technical Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions
51	Submission Checklist – Artistry Leg
52	Artistry Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions
59	Dynamic, Master Performer, and Category Specialist Divisions

Introduction to the Laude Class

The word “Laude” means “praise” or “distinction” in Latin. This is commonly used as a title of honor at graduations, meaning “with distinction”. Our English word, “applause” comes from the same Latin root.

And, in the Poised for Success Freestyle Titling Program, we regard senior dogs, and dogs with limited ability or mobility, with distinction!

And so, now a titling class has been created especially for these particular performance partners!

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The purpose of the Laude Class is to provide teams with the same structured introduction to Canine Musical Freestyle as those in the Performer Class, in order to prepare them to create Musical Freestyle performances, but with more of an emphasis on maintaining, or creating, skills that one's dog can, or can still, perform safely and comfortably, and using those skills in ways that are more mentally than physically challenging. This track also highlights a specific focus on building and preserving strength and joy in movement to music, and on using that movement in fun and creative ways.

With those emphases in mind, some of the options from the Performer Class have been changed, and adapted for the Laude Class – some in minor ways, and others in more significant ways. Some options have been dropped and replaced with others designed specifically for dogs in this Class. And, new options have been added in order to provide more flexibility for Laude Class teams.

Titles Available – Laude Class

Teams who elect to participate in the Laude Class may progress through the titling program with the following Titles:

- ✚ Overture
- ✚ Melody – Laude
- ✚ Harmony – Laude
- ✚ Dynamic – Laude
- ✚ Master Performer – Laude
- ✚ Category Specialist/Poised for Success Freestyle Titling Champion - Laude

Teams who have previously earned titles in the Performer (Regular) Class (all titles prior to November 15, 2020), may switch over to Laude Class at any time to earn the next title available in progression from the last title earned, or they may re-start with the Melody Division – Laude Class to earn the Laude Class titles as separate titles.

Getting Started

The Poised for Success Musical Freestyle Titling Program starts here! All of the information that you need to get a start on creating your videos for titling submission is found in this guide!

If you are just getting started, please read the “Overture Division Titling Requirements” in their entirety.

For each Division, in each Class, an overview/checklist is provided, and then a detailed description of what is needed for each Leg.

If you find anything confusing, or have questions, or would like to see video examples of any of the requirements or options, please feel free to email Kristine at: pfsfreestyle@gmail.com or ask on the Poised for Success Freestyle Facebook Group, which can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PoisedForSuccessFreestyle/>

Overture Division Guidelines

*for the
Laude and Performer Classes*

**Overture Division Titling Requirements – Laude and Performer Classes
Submission Checklist – Overture Handling Leg**

General Rules

- _____ Treats/toys concealed in pocket or container until each task is complete
- _____ If clicker used in “Training” category, held in manner that keeps it as hidden from the dog as possible.
- _____ Audio can be heard on the video. Music need not be playing for this category, but verbal interaction with your dog should be audible
- _____ No editing, except to trim the beginning and end of clips, if necessary
- _____ Dog and handler are fully visible in all video clips.
- Or, permission has been secured to submit clips that do not include a “full picture” effect. If your working space makes this impossible, please contact Kristine to discuss options – we will make it work!

Submission Clips – Harmony Handling Leg (Scroll Down for Exercise Descriptions)

Training – Choose Two

- _____ Pivot Platform
- _____ Moving Target
- _____ Two Paw Platform Or _____ Backing Up Into the Garage
- _____ Ground Target

Cues – Choose One (Three behaviors demonstrated)

- _____ Physical Cues _____ Behavior #1 _____ Behavior #2 _____ Behavior #3
- _____ Verbal Cues _____ Behavior #1 _____ Behavior #2 _____ Behavior #3
- _____ Concurrent Cues _____ Behavior #1 _____ Behavior #2 _____ Behavior #3

Props and Fitness – Choose Three

- _____ Paws Up
- _____ Pole
- _____ Jump Or _____ Cavaletti
- _____ Send Around
- _____ Ground Hoop
- _____ Paw Prop Or _____ Paw Pod

Overture Division - Handling Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions

Training Category

Choose any **two** options from this category. Each box contains one option.

OH1 - Pivot Platform – dog performs a 180 degree pivot in each direction with front feet on a platform. This may be demonstrated as one video clip or two separate clips. Handler may move or remain stationary.

OH2 - Moving Target - Dog carries out at least one Freestyle behavior following a target stick or open hand target

OH3 – Two Paw Platform OR Backing into the Garage (Complete one, but not both)

Two Paw Platform - Dog backs up at least six inches to place back feet on a board, mat, or low platform. This may be cued, or offered by the dog.

OR

Backing into the Garage – Dog backs up at least six inches into a space created by two props, such as cones, set side by side.

OH4 - Ground Target - Dog sends to a ground target at least two feet away – may nose touch, place one or two paws on the object, or simply stand with the target in front. No duration required at this level – dog simply needs to go to the target.

Cues Category

Behaviors in the “Cues” Category cannot include interaction with objects, such as props or targets. Behaviors may be basic skills, such as sit or down, or tricks, such as spin.

Choose any **one** option from this category. Each box contains one option.

OH5 - Physical Cues - Dog carries out three behaviors or tricks on obvious physical signal

OH6 - Verbal Cues - Dog carries out three behaviors or tricks on a verbal cue alone. If you choose a leg weave, set your leg before giving the verbal cue. Dog should move on verbal cue.

OH7 - Concurrent Cues - Dog carries out three behaviors or tricks when a physical and verbal cue are given at the same time

Props and Fitness

Behaviors demonstrated in this category must include the use of objects. Handler arms, legs, etc. cannot serve as props.

Choose any **three** options from this category. Each box contains one option.

OH8 - Paws Up - Two front paws up on any object, such as: training platform, prop, or piece of fitness equipment. Dog should hold the position until released off. No specific duration is required.

OH9 - Pole – Dog makes at least one single full circle around a prop (may be held or free standing). This should be a full circle – not just a 180 degree loop.

OH10 - Jump OR Cavaletti (Complete one, but not both)

Jump - Jump over a prop, no taller than dog's chest. There is no minimum height, but the dog must jump, or hop, over the prop.

OR

Cavaletti - Dog steps over three cavalettis in a row. Dog may walk or trot. Cavalettis can be ground bars.

OH11 - Send Around - Send dog around a prop, to return to handler, at least two feet away. This may be a 180 degree turn around the prop, or a wide arc. Handler may step forward to cue, but should remain stationary once the dog is sent.

OH12 - Ground Hoop - Dog performs a behavior or trick (sit, sit-lift paw, spin, etc) inside of a hula hoop on the ground

OH13 - Paw Prop OR Paw Pod (Complete one, but not both)

Paw Prop - Dog places one paw on a "cane" (dowel, stick, etc.) that is lying flat on the ground, or is held up from the ground on one end.

OR

Paw Pod - Dog places one paw on a paw pod, or similar item and holds it there for several seconds

**Overture Division Titling Requirements – Laude and Performer Classes
Submission Checklist – Overture Technical Leg**

General Rules

- _____ Treats/toys concealed in pocket or container until each task is complete – **unless otherwise stated**. Treats and toys visible to the dog, even in hand, are permitted in Part 2 of “Foundation Heelwork” only.
- _____ If clicker used in “Foundation Heelwork” option, held in manner that keeps it as hidden from the dog as possible.
- _____ Audio can be heard on the video. Music need not be playing for this category, but verbal interaction with your dog should be audible
- _____ No editing, except to trim the beginning and end of clips, if necessary
- _____ Dog and handler are fully visible in all video clips.
- Or, permission has been secured to submit clips that do not include a “full picture” effect. If your working space makes this impossible, please contact Kristine to discuss options – we will make it work!

Submission Clips – Overture Technical Leg (Scroll Down for Exercise Descriptions)

Movement and Heelwork – Choose one.

- _____ Stationary Positions _____ Center to Heel _____ Center to Side
_____ Heel or Side to Center
- _____ Spin in New Position _____ To Heel _____ To Side _____ To Center
- _____ Foundation Heelwork Training
_____ Foundation Heelwork Exercise
_____ Sustained Stand Training **

Tricks and Moves – Choose Four

- _____ Spin
- _____ Circle
- _____ Leg Weave
- _____ Swing
- _____ Paw
- _____ Choose Your Own Trick: _____

Overture Division – Technical Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions

Movement and Heelwork Category

Choose one option from this category. Each box contains one option.

OT1 – Stationary Positions

Complete each of the following as a separate exercise (may be separate video clips, or one continuous video)

Dog moves from starting position to new position and stands in the new position for at least three seconds. Ideally, the dog should remain standing, but it is acceptable if the dog sits first (uncued) and is then cued to stand.

Dog may move into the new position directly, or may complete a single leg weave or partial circle around handler to get to the new position.

 **Center Position to Heel Position**

 **Center Position to Side Position**

 **Heel or Side to Center Position**

Handler may use an open hand target to help the dog find position, but no food is permitted in the hand. For Laude Class, several steps of movement are permitted, if needed.

OT2 – Spin in New Position

Complete each of the following as a separate exercise (may be separate video clips, or one continuous video)

Dog moves from starting position to new position and performs a spin in the new position. The spin may be performed in either direction. There may be a pause in the new position, before the dog performs the spin, but the dog should not be cued to sit at any time. If the dog sits at any time without being cued, that will not disqualify the performance.

Dog may move into the new position directly, or may complete a single leg weave or partial circle around handler to get to the new position.

 **Center Position to Heel Position and Spin**

 **Center Position to Side Position and Spin**

 **Heel or Side to Center Position and Spin**

Handler may use an open hand target to help the dog find position, but no food is permitted in the hand. For Laude Class, several steps of movement are permitted, if needed.

OT3 – Foundation Heelwork Training

Both Part 1 and Part 2 must be completed

Part 1 – Foundation Heelwork

Send your dog away from you (a little) by tossing a treat, sending around a cone, or leave your dog in a stay bit behind you.

Call your dog to you and immediately turn away from your dog, so your dog must catch up to move with you.

Pick your dog up in heel or side position and move several steps forward (straight line or curve), with your dog next to you. You may help your dog through use of a hand target or other natural visual cue.

Your dog does not need to move with you in any defined position. Simply move ahead together several steps with your dog on your left or your right.

Part 2 – Sustained Stand Training

In a short video clip (no longer than 40 seconds), demonstrate how you are training your dog to stand in position (you choose – heel, center, or side) and hold the stand for several seconds.

You may incorporate training aids, such as platforms, disks, target sticks, hand targets, barriers, etc. Food or toys may be visible to the dog for this exercise.

Please demonstrate only methods that are positive and motivational. Use of any verbal or physical corrections is not permitted for this demonstration.

Your dog does not have to carry out the behavior successfully, without help from you, in this clip. You need only show how you are training this skill.

Please Note: If you have already started working on training a sustained stand, please demonstrate work that is at the level of your current training. You need not go back and demonstrate how you initially taught the behavior. For instance, if your dog is already holding a sustained stand in center position, you could demonstrate teaching your dog to move into position while remaining standing.

On the other hand, if your dog is just getting started with the concept of holding a sustained stand, a demonstration of initial training is perfectly appropriate.

Tricks and Moves Category – Choose any **four** options from this category.

OT4 - Spin – Dog spins 360 degrees clockwise or counter clockwise while in front of handler

OT5 - Circle - Dog circles handler 360 degrees clockwise or counter clockwise, ending in same position where he or she started, or beyond

OT6 - Leg Weave – Dog weaves once under handler's leg. Dog may start in front of handler, or on the right or left.

OT7 - Swing - Dog starts in heel or side and "swings" across the front of the handler to end up in the opposite position

This is similar to a left finish in Rally, but the starts in heel or side position and moves across the front of the handler to get to the opposite position

OT8 - Paw – Paw touch to one hand. Dog may be sitting or standing.

OT9 - Choose your own trick - You and your dog may perform any trick that does not require the use of props. Please name the trick clearly on your video clip or title.

**Overture Division Titling Requirements – Laude and Performer Classes
Submission Checklist – Artistry Leg**

General Rules

- _____ Treats/toys concealed in pocket or container until each task is complete – **unless otherwise stated**. Treats and toys visible to the dog, even in hand, are permitted in some of the exercises for this leg. See Exercise Descriptions (below) for details. ** (Indicates this allowance)
- _____ Audio can be heard on the video. **Music is required in all clips for this leg**, although no choreography to the music is needed at this Level. Music must be playing so the dog can hear it – at this Level music can not be added to the clip as an overlay.
- _____ No editing, except to trim the beginning and end of clips, if necessary
- _____ Dog and handler are fully visible in all video clips.
- Or, permission has been secured to submit clips that do not include a “full picture” effect. If your working space makes this impossible, please contact Kristine to discuss options – we will make it work!

Submission Clips – Overture Artistry Leg (Scroll Down for Exercise Descriptions)

Sequencing and Duration – Complete all three Exercises:

- _____ Sequence
- _____ Entertainment
- _____ Traveling Transitions (formerly, Moving Positions)

Music and Choreography – Complete both Exercises

- _____ Play to Music
- _____ Doodling

Overture Division – Artistry Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions

Sequencing and Duration Category – Complete **all three** Exercises.

OA1 – Sequence - Choose any three Freestyle tricks and have your dog perform them in succession, one after the other, without stopping to treat in between.

It is permitted for teams to perform more than three Freestyle behaviors, but no treats may be given until the end.

Food and toys may not be held in the hand for this exercise.

OA2 - Entertainment - With music playing in the background, have your dog perform any two of the “Props and Fitness” requirements listed under “Handling”. These need not be performed in succession, but may be if you like.

Additional moves may be performed, in addition to the prop moves.

No food or toys may be held in the hand for this exercise.

OA3 - Traveling Transitions (Formerly, Moving Positions) – Complete the following:

- ✚ Begin with dog in heel position and move forward together, several steps
- ✚ You pause, as your dog keeps moving in flow, and have your dog move into Center Position
- ✚ As soon as your dog moves into Center Position, immediately move backward several steps as your dog moves forward toward you
- ✚ You pause, as your dog keeps moving in flow, and have your dog move into Side Position
- ✚ As soon as your dog moves into Side Position, move forward, together, several steps
- ✚ You pause, as your dog keeps moving in flow, and have your dog move into Heel Position. Exercise finished!

You may transition your dog in one of three ways:

- ✚ Dog move directly from one position to the other
- ✚ Dog completes a single leg weave
- ✚ Dog makes a partial circle around the handler

Transitions can be mixed and matched from one position to the other.

Transitions should happen “in flow”, without any significant pauses in position before you begin moving. (Exception: dogs needs to pause due to age/physical need)

Be sure to move as your dog completes each transition. This exercise should not be completed with the handler standing in one place throughout. If you are

working in a small space, move as much as space permits. The fact that there is handler movement is more important than how far the team travels.

A high level of precision is not expected go for "flow"!

Treats or toys may be visible to your dog for this exercise.

Music and Choreography Category – Complete both Exercises.

OA4 – Play to Music - Create one 20 – 30 second clip of you playing with your dog while music is playing. This can be toy play, tossing treats, personal play, etc. Treats and toys may be visible for this exercise.

There should not be any training in this clip – just play!

Treats or toys may be visible to your dog for this exercise.

OA5 – Doodling - Choose any two trained behaviors that your dog can carry out in center position (sit, down, spin, paw move, etc.)

Play up to 20 seconds of any song or piece of music.

As the music plays, you will have your dog only perform those two behaviors at a point where you believe that the dog's movement matches the music in some way. You should remain in one place, although you may move your arms and legs in a natural way.

The two behaviors do not need to be performed in immediate succession, and each behavior may be repeated one time.

Treats or toys may be visible to your dog for this exercise.

Poised for Success
Freestyle

Guide to the
Melody Division

for the
Laude Class

**Melody Division Titling Requirements – Laude Class
Submission Checklist – Melody Handling Leg**

General Rules

- _____ Audio can be heard on the video. Music need not be playing for this category, but verbal interaction with your dog should be audible
- _____ No editing, except to trim the beginning and end of clips, if necessary
- _____ Dog and handler are fully visible in all video clips.
- Or, permission has been secured to submit clips that do not include a “full picture” effect. If your working space makes this impossible, please contact Kristine to discuss options – we will make it work!

Submission Clips (Scroll Down for Exercise Descriptions)

Foundation Skills and Fun Drills – Choose Four

- _____ Pivot Platform
- _____ Precision Marking _____ Behavior #1 _____ Behavior #2
- _____ Moving Target _____ Choice #1 _____ Choice #2
- _____ Ground Target
- _____ Backing Skills
- _____ Play in Motion
- _____ Moves in Motion

Cues – Choose Three; At least one must be a starred Exercise (*)

- _____ Distance Cues
- _____ Natural Body Language *
- _____ Trained Physical Cues
- _____ Supporting Cue Chains *
- _____ Verbal Cue Chains *

Props and Fitness – Choose Five

- _____ Hoop Trick
- _____ Cavaletti
- _____ Send-Weave Combination

- _____ Figure 8 Prop
- _____ Prop Pivot
- _____ Send to Prop
- _____ Two Prop Figure 8
- _____ Distance Circle
- _____ Two Tricks Inside a Hoop

Melody Division - Handling Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions – Laude Class

Foundation Skills and Fun Drills Category

Choose any **four** options from this category. Each box contains one option.

For this category, reinforcers can be visible to your dog for motivation and encouragement, although they should not be used as a lure

MHLD1 - Pivot Platform

Choose one of the following pivot exercises, and have your dog demonstrate it in one direction. Dog should pivot at least three steps, unless otherwise noted.

- ✚ Dog mounts pivot platform, facing handler. Dog and handler move simultaneously, with dog more or less maintaining center position.
- ✚ Dog mounts platform, in either heel or side position. Handler moves away from dog and dog pivots toward handler. Dog need not maintain position perfectly as dog and handler move, but dog should end up back in heel or side position.
- ✚ Dog mounts pivot platform, facing handler. Handler steps up next to pivot platform and dog pivots into position. (For this one, as many steps as are necessary to move into position are needed)

MHLD2 - Precision Marking - Complete **any two** of the following behaviors, and clearly mark (clicker or distinct audible verbal marker) criteria indicated:

- ✚ Sit - Mark when dog's rear end hits the ground
- ✚ Spin – Mark when the dog commits to the spin
- ✚ Leg Weave – Mark when dog commits to the weave
- ✚ Backing away from you – Mark while one of the dog's back paws is in motion
- ✚ Dog moves out around a prop – Mark just after dog commits to going around
- ✚ Dog places two paws on a prop – Mark as dog's paws land on the prop
- ✚ Dog steps inside a hoop, or similar object – Mark as dog's paws land inside the hoop

MHLD3 - Moving Target - Use a target stick to move your dog in **two** of the ways indicated:

- ✚ Dog starts facing you and moves into position facing away from you
- ✚ Dog spins and then weaves under one of your legs
- ✚ Dog moves in a large 360 degree arc around you following the target stick (you pivot, or move in a small circle, at least 360 degrees)
- ✚ Dog moves around an object 180 degrees
- ✚ Dog moves in a circle around a free standing prop
- ✚ Dog moves across part of the floor in a large arc, with dog on outside of arc

MHLD4 - Ground Target - Dog moves to a floor target that is at least 2 dog lengths away from the dog's starting point and carries out a Freestyle behavior near the target. The dog may touch the target, or sit or down at the target, but does not need to do so.

MHLD5 – Backing Skills

Choose one of the following backing exercises, and have your dog demonstrate it. Dog should back at least three steps, unless otherwise noted.

- ✚ Dog backs up to place back paws onto a low board/mat/etc. Handler moves with dog
- ✚ Dog backs up to place back paws onto a low board/mat/etc. Handler remains stationary
- ✚ Dog is in heel or side position, between the handler and a barrier, such as a ring gate, wall, or piece of furniture. Dog and handler move backwards together.
- ✚ Dog backs up in between two props. Dog may start all the way out from in between the two props, or may start already between them

MHLD6 – Play in Motion

Starting with your dog on your left or your right and moving in a pattern of your choice, have your dog perform either a transition of position, or a freestyle move.

Demonstrate how you can use play to maintain focus.

Perfect heel position is not necessary, it is more important that your dog is focused and having fun.

The use of a toy, or play with food, is allowed and encouraged.

MHLD7 – Moves in Motion

Toss a treat out ahead of you, and have your dog go get it.

As your dog is eating the treat, move backwards to pick your dog up in center position. As your dog moves to meet up with you, have your dog complete one of the following:

- ✦ Move forward in center position, as you move backward
- ✦ Spin (either direction)
- ✦ Leg Weave (single or up to three weaves, any style)
- ✦ Circle You (fully or partially)
- ✦ Paw Lifts or Kicks

To the best of your dog's ability, the move should flow from his or her forward movement toward you. However, if a pause is necessary, that is OK

Be sure to cue your dog early enough to know what move/movement he or she will be going into. Obvious cues are encouraged for this drill.

Have your dog complete this three times, using at least two of the behaviors listed above. Your dog may repeat one of the behaviors, or, you may substitute a behavior of your choice (not on the list) for one of the repetitions.

Although not strictly required, performance of this option to music is highly encouraged!

Cues Category

Behaviors performed for the Cues Category cannot include interaction with objects, such as props or targets. For this category, behaviors may be basic skills, such as sit or down, or freestyle tricks.

Choose any **three** options from this category; at least **one** must be from among the starred options. Each box contains one option.

MHL7 - Distance Cues - Dog carries out a distance behavior, using the cue style of your choice. Dog should be at a distance of at least two dog-lengths from you.

MHL8 - Natural Body Language * - Use natural body language to cue a behavior (footwork, leaning, turning into your dog, moving leg into place for a leg weave) – no verbal cues may be used except to set up/release to begin moving.

MHL9 - Trained Physical Cues - Cue one behavior using a physical cue that does not resemble the way that the behavior was trained. This cue should be unrelated to the movement of the dog. Examples: Handler raises a hand in the air, the dog does a down; Handler touches his or her hat and the dog backs away from the handler

MHL10 - Supporting Cue Chains * - Cue three behaviors in a row, without giving any reinforcement in between, using physical cues that support the movement of your dog. You may support your physical cues with concurrent verbal cues, but take care not to overshadow your physical cues with the verbal.

MHL11 - Verbal Cue Chains * - Cue three behaviors in a row, without using any reinforcement in between, using verbal cues only. You may move, but take care to ensure that your movement does not cue the specific behaviors.

Props and Fitness Category

Behaviors demonstrated in this category must include the use of objects. Handler arms, legs, etc. cannot serve as props.

Choose any **five** options from this category. Each box contains one category.

MHL12 – Hoop Trick

Have your dog perform any trick with a hoop, except for performing moves inside of a hoop that is flat on the ground, or a figure 8

MHL13 – Cavaletti

Dog trots across a row of 3 cavaletti's or stable low props. Dog should be able to move through this setup comfortably.

MHL14 - Send-Weave Combination

Send dog in a loop around prop (dog need not circle it fully) from a distance of at least two feet, and cue a weave as the dog returns and repeat once. The full sequence should be completed without stopping to reinforce, although verbal praise is welcome at any time.

Or

Send your dog in a loop around a hand held prop (dog need not circle it fully), such as a cane, and then weave under your leg. Dog should complete the send-weave combination at least twice.

MHL15 - Figure 8 Prop - Dog completes a Figure 8 using two ends of a prop, such as a jump or hula hoop or NADAC Hoop.

MHL16 - Prop Pivot - Dog places two paws on a prop and pivots 360 degrees while handler remains stationary. No distance is required and you may use your hand or arm to cue, or support, the pivot

MHL17 - Send to Prop

Send your dog to a prop that is at least 3 feet away. Dog should place two or four paws on the prop and hold that position for at least 4 seconds

MHL18 - Two Prop Figure 8 - Dog makes a figure 8 around two props, completing at least a total of three loops.

MHL19 - Distance Circle - From a distance of at least 2 feet, the handler sends the dog to circle a prop – dog should make at least one full circle, not just a 180 degree loop.

MHL20 – Two Tricks Inside a Hoop

Have your dog move into a hoop, or something similar, on the ground, and perform two different Freestyle behaviors within the hoop.

**Melody Division Titling Requirements – Laude Class
Submission Checklist – Melody Technical Leg**

General Rules

- _____ Audio can be heard on the video. Music need not be playing for this category, but verbal interaction with your dog should be audible
- _____ No editing, except to trim the beginning and end of clips, if necessary
- _____ Dog and handler are fully visible in all video clips.
- Or, permission has been secured to submit clips that do not include a “full picture” effect. If your working space makes this impossible, please contact Kristine to discuss options – we will make it work!

Submission Clips (Scroll Down for Exercise Descriptions)

Movement and Heelwork

Complete all four:

- _____ Moving in Center
- _____ Moving in Heel
- _____ Moving in Side
- _____ Outside Curve

Choose One:

- _____ Synchronized Movement
- _____ S-Pattern

Tricks and Moves

Choose Six:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| _____ Spin | _____ Scallop |
| _____ Leg Weaves | _____ Paw Touch |
| _____ Circles | _____ Twizzles |
| _____ Place Pony | _____ Circles in Turn |
| _____ Paws | _____ Choose your own trick |

Melody Division – Technical Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions – Laude Class

Movement and Heelwork Category

Complete all four. Each box contains one exercise.

The focus in this category should be enthusiasm, joyful movement, and keeping movement fluid. Although not strictly required, use of music is strongly encouraged for this section.

Handlers may have reinforcers visible to the dog for the options in the Movement and Heelwork Category (Not Tricks and Moves). However, food-in-hand should be held up away from the dog, in a natural way. Hand near handler's waist or hip, or well up above dog's nose. Food should not be placed on dog's nose to lead the dog through the movement.

MTL1 - Moving in Center - Dog moves toward handler, in center position as handler backs up, in a straight line, at least 5 steps

Handler may toss a treat, or send dog around a prop, to set the dog up to move into position. Precise positioning is not required.

MTL2 - Moving in Heel - Dog moves forward in heel position as handler moves forward, in a straight line, at least 5 steps

Handler may toss a treat, or send dog around a prop, to set the dog up to move into position. Precise positioning is not required.

MTL3 - Moving in Side - Dog moves forward in side position as handler moves forward in a straight line, at least 5 steps

Handler may toss a treat, or send dog around a prop, to set the dog up to move into position. Precise positioning is not required.

MTL4 - Outside Curve - Dog moves with handler in a large circle (at least 6 foot diameter – or, for smaller space, as large as the space comfortably allows) with dog on the outside of the circle. Dog may be in heel or side position, but must be on the outside of the circle. Precise positioning is not required.

Dog should walk briskly or trot, displaying a natural gait.

Team should complete at least one full circle

Unless otherwise indicated, no props or object targets may be used for performance of the following options. Empty hand targets may be used.

Choose **one** of the following options. Each box contains one option.

MTL5 - Synchronized Movement

Demonstrate three synchronized moves or movements. These may include movement skills, such as forward and backward movement with your dog in position, lateral movement, pivots. This may also include synchronized moves, such as synchronized spins, switches, turns.

At least one of the moves must be a transition of position.

MTL6 – S-Pattern - Dog moves toward handler as handler moves backward in a large “S” Pattern. Dog is in center position.

The “S” need not fill the entire working space, but should consist of movement through at least half of the space visible to the camera.

Tricks and Moves Category

No props or targets may be used for performance of the following options.

Choose any six options from this category. Each box contains one option.

MTL9 - Spin - Spin Clockwise or Counterclockwise in heel or side position. This can be done with the handler stationary or in motion

MTL10 - Leg Weaves - Dog completes 3 – 5 consecutive leg weaves. Handler can be in motion (any direction) or stationary

MTL11 – Circles - Dog circles handler while the handler pivots in the opposite direction

MTL12 - Place Pony - Dog moves into “Pony” position and then backs up to land behind the handler. “Pony” position is dog standing between the handler's legs, as if the dog is the “pony”.

MTL13 – Paws - Paw wave – dog lifts a paw to “wave” it at the handler, but does not touch handler. Dog may be sitting or standing. No sustained “hang time” is required on the paw lift, but that is also an option.

MTL14 – Scallop - Dog carries out at least 2 Scallops. Dog may sit or stand as the handler moves.

Scallop: Dog starts in heel or side position – may be standing or sitting. Dog is cued to “swing” across the front of the handler to end up in the opposite position.

In other words, if the dog starts in heel position, the dog moves across the front of the handler from heel to side position). Dog may remain standing, or sit, upon reaching position.

Dog remains stationary (in stand or sit) as handler moves across the front of the dog to return to the original starting position. (In other words, if the dog starts in side position; Handler moves across front of dog, so the dog is now in heel position)

This is one full Scallop.

MTL15 – Paw Touch - Have your dog perform a paw touch to your knee or lower leg, or to the back of your leg. The dog need not hold the position – just perform the touch.

MTL16 – Twizzles - Dog pivots 360 degrees toward the handler as the handler turns to the left (heel) or to the right (side)

MTL17 – Circles in Turn – Start with dog in center position, either sitting or standing. Handler circles dog and returns to original position while dog stays in place. Then, handler remains stationary as dog circles handler and returns to original position.

MTL18 - Choose Your Own Trick - You may perform another (prop-free) Freestyle behavior, or trick, that is not listed here, and that you did not demonstrate at the Overture Level.

**Melody Division Titling Requirements – Laude Class
Submission Checklist – Artistry Leg**

General Rules

_____ Audio can be heard on the video. **Music is required in all clips for this leg,** although no choreography to the music is needed at this Level. Music must be playing so the dog can hear it – at this Level music can not be added to the clip as an overlay.

_____ No editing, except to trim the beginning and end of clips, if necessary

_____ Dog and handler are fully visible in all video clips.

Or, permission has been secured to submit clips that do not include a “full picture” effect. If your working space makes this impossible, please contact Kristine to discuss options – we will make it work!

Submission Clips (Scroll Down for Exercise Descriptions)

Sequencing and Duration – Choose three:

_____ Sequence

_____ Transitions

_____ Circle Sequence

_____ Moving to Music

Music and Choreography – Complete both:

_____ Doodling

_____ Traveling the Floor

Choose one:

_____ Play/Train to Music

_____ Pace Changes

_____ Stop and Go

_____ Entertainment

Melody Division – Artistry Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions – Laude Class

Sequencing and Duration Category – Complete three of the following exercises. Each box contains one exercise.

For this section, food may be held in hand, but should not be used to lure the dog, nor to prompt behavior, unless such use is specified within a particular option.

MA1 – Sequence - Choose any **four** Freestyle behaviors (may include movement), and have your dog perform them in succession, one after the other, without stopping to treat in between. Behaviors may be repeated once.

MA2 - Transitions - Precise positioning is not required for this option. As long as your dog moves from one side of you to another, the criteria is met. Emphasis in this option is on comfort level.

Dog carries out any two of the following transitions of position, in flow. For each transition, your dog should start on one side of you and end on a different side.

Several steps of movement should be taken before the first transition, and in between the two transitions. This exercise should not be completed with the handler in a stationary position, although a pause is fine as dog carries out transition move.

- ✚ Switch (Dog and handler turn 180 degrees in the same direction)
- ✚ 180 Turn Toward Each Other
- ✚ Single Leg Weave
- ✚ Pivot (From center position into heel or side)
- ✚ Cut (Dog cuts behind the handler to move from heel to side or side to heel)

MA3 - Circle Sequence - Have your dog heel on the outside of a large circle (as you did in "Heelwork and Movement" above). Small space option may be used.

As you go around the circle, have your dog carry out one Freestyle behavior, or trick, at about 12:00 on the circle, and another at 6:00 on the circle. You may stop and treat the behavior before continuing forward. However, be sure to end with heeling, not a behavior.

Handler may remain stationary as the dog carries out a Freestyle behavior, but the team, together, should not make any significant pauses during the sequence

MA4 – Pace Changes to Music – Plan a movement sequence with your dog where three changes of pace take place. This can either consist of slower movement to faster movement back to slower movement, or faster movement to slower movement back to faster movement.

Your dog may move directly into the pace changes, or a Freestyle move can be used as a transition between the different paces of movement.

Other moves may be included in this sequence, but the pace changes should feature prominently.

Music and Choreography Category

Treats/toys **may be** visible to your dog/in your hand for the following exercises

Complete **both** of the following. Each box contains one exercise.

MA5 - Doodling - Choose any **four** trained behaviors or movements that your dog can carry out.

Play up to 40 seconds of any song or piece of music.

As the music plays, you will have your dog only perform those behaviors at points where you believe that the dog's movement matches the music in some way.

MA6 – Traveling the Floor

Devise one specific pattern that you and your dog can trace on the floor as you move together. This need not be highly complex – it can be as simple as diagonals across the floor in a zig zag, a circle, or an arc, but should consist of more than a single straight line.

Precise positioning and heelwork is not required as part of this option – you and your dog need only move together.

Props may be incorporated and used as part of your movement pattern, but you and your dog would need to move around them together, if used. (Example: Dog and handler perform a Figure 8 together, around two props)

Move through the pattern with your dog at least one time.

Your dog may be on your right, left, or in front of you. No behaviors or moves, should be used in this exercise, other than a setup move at the start.

You may have food visible to your dog and may reinforce wherever needed, but try to maintain as much flow as you can through the patterns.

Choose **one** of the following options. Each box contains one option.

MA7 - Play/Train to Music - Create three 20 – 30 second clips of you and your dog playing and/or training to **two** different genres of music.

MA8 – Transition into a Pace Change – Move with your dog through your performance space in a fluid way. Begin moving slowly, or at a moderate pace. After moving for a bit, have your dog perform a Freestyle move, and as your dog completes that move, immediately pick up the pace and move with your dog quickly. After moving for a bit, have your dog perform another move (it can be the same one, or a different move), and immediately shift back to the slower pace and move a few steps to end the option.

There should not be significant pause before or after performance of the Freestyle move – it should serve as a fluent transition into the pace change. However, your dog should move through that move at a comfortable pace, so a slight pause is acceptable if the dog needs to do so.

MA9 – Stop and Go – Start off in motion with your dog. Your dog can be in any position. Have your dog perform a Freestyle move and then stop. Hold the pause with your dog for at least 3 seconds. Then “burst” into movement again, moving in any direction, with your dog in any position.

MA10 – Entertainment - Using two props, create **a short performance** to show off your dog's Freestyle skills. You may incorporate movement and moves/tricks into your show.

Have your dog use each prop at least once during your “show”, incorporating use of the props at least three times (so, you need to use one of them twice) demonstrating three distinct prop behaviors.

No specific choreography is required, even though music should be playing.

Poised for Success
Freestyle

Guide to the
Harmony Division

for the
Laude Class

Harmony Division Titling Requirements – Laude Class Submission Checklist – Handling Leg

General Rules

- _____ If clicker used in “Training” category, held in manner that keeps it as hidden from the dog as possible.
 - _____ Audio can be heard on the video. Music need not be playing for this category, but verbal interaction with your dog should be audible
 - _____ No editing, except to trim the beginning and end of clips, if necessary
 - _____ Dog and handler are fully visible in all video clips.
- Or, permission has been secured to submit clips that do not include a “full picture” effect. If your working space makes this impossible, please contact Kristine to discuss options – we will make it work!

Submission Clips – Handling Leg (Scroll Down for Exercise Descriptions)

Training – Choose Four

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| _____ Keeping Pivots Fresh | _____ Delayed Reinforcement |
| _____ Precision Marking | _____ Contrasting Skills |
| _____ New Location | _____ Moves in Motion |
| _____ Moving Target Sequence | _____ Play in Motion |
| _____ Keeping Backing Fresh | |

Cues – Choose One;

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| _____ Props as Cues | _____ Find the Cue |
| _____ Cue Discrimination | _____ Polishing Physical Cues |

Props and Fitness – Choose Six

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| _____ Two Paws | <u>OR</u> | _____ Alternating Paws |
| _____ Hold | | |
| _____ Theme | <u>OR</u> | _____ Fitness Gym |
| _____ Dance on a Pedestal | OR | _____ Dance on a Low Platform |
| _____ Sling Shot | | |
| _____ Can Can | | |

- _____ Paw Wrap
- _____ Distance Props Combination
- _____ Dance Inside a Prop
- _____ Hoop Sequence
- _____ Hand Held Cane Sequence
- _____ Prop Transition of Position
- _____ Opposite Circles Around a Prop
- _____ Dance Inside a Hoop
- _____ Make Your Own Prop Behavior

Harmony Division – Handling Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions – Laude Class

Foundation Skills and Fun Drills Category

Choose any **four** options from this category. Each box contains one option.

For this category, reinforcers can be visible to your dog for motivation and encouragement, although they should not be used as a lure

HHLD1 – Keeping Pivots Fresh

Have your dog place two front paws on a pivot platform or disk, and pivot once in each direction, to the degree that he or she is comfortable doing so. Your dog may dismount the platform in between directions.

After your dog has done this, have your dog carry out one or two simple “free flowing” movements, such as spins, a circle around you, a leg weave, or moving with you on the outside of a curve.

Next, repeat the pivot exercise.

Finally, have your dog, again, carry out one or two “free flowing” movements. These may or may not be the same ones.

Your dog can take as many breaks as is needed throughout the exercise, but the submission should be one single video clip.

HHLD2 - Precision Marking - Have your dog perform a behavior at a distance and precisely mark the dog's commitment to the behavior. The dog may return to you for reinforcement, or you can go to your dog to reinforce.

A prop or target may be used for this option, as long as your dog performs the behavior independently.

The mark (such as a click, or marker word) must be audible, or visible (if you are using a tactile marker), for the judge.

HHLD3 - New Location - Go to a location where you have not yet filmed any video clips for this titling program. This can be an outdoor or indoor location. If you are working in your home, it can be a room where you have not yet filmed, or your yard or porch.

Have your dog perform a 3 – 5 behavior sequence (may include types of movement as a behavior) in the new location. Use of props is permitted, and use of items in the performance space as props is permitted, as long as behaviors can be carried out safely.

HHLD4 – Moving Target Sequence – Use a moving target (target stick, target cup, open hand target), to lead your dog through a sequence of at least three Freestyle moves/behaviors, including at least one of the following in the sequence:

- ✚ Dog starts facing you and moves into position facing away from you
- ✚ Dog moves forward, facing away from you, as you move forward, for several seconds (a long target stick or target cup would be best for this for medium and large dogs)
- ✚ Dog completes a Figure 8 around two props
- ✚ Dog circles a free-standing prop
- ✚ Dog moves in a large 360 degree arc around you at or beyond the distance of your arm to one side (you move, or pivot, approximately 360 degrees).
- ✚ Dog and handler complete a “distance spiral”. Handler moves across the floor in an arc, then in a smaller 360 circle, and then repeats at least twice. (Think like an old fashioned phone cord, kind of stretched out)

Dog should transition from one movement, or behavior, into the next fluidly.

Although not strictly required, performance of this option to music is encouraged!

HHSD5 – Keeping Backing Fresh

Using a backing exercise that your dog is comfortable performing, have your dog begin with a repetition of backing up. Your dog can back up any distance for this exercise. Work within your dog's ability and comfort level.

Possible Backing Exercises:

- ✚ Dog backs away from you while you remain stationary
- ✚ Dog backs up while you move toward your dog (any distance)
- ✚ Dog backs up with you in heel or side position
- ✚ Dog backs up to a rear paw target
- ✚ Dog backs up into the “garage”

After your dog completes the backing, have your dog carry out some kind of open movement. Forward movement with, or toward you, or some “open” spins or weaves”.

Repeat the backing exercise, and then, once again, have your dog carry out some kind of open movement.

With this, the exercise is finished.

HHL D6 – Delayed Reinforcement

Have a container of treats, or a toy, out of your dog's reach, but visible to your dog.

Standing at least three feet from the reinforcer, have your dog perform any three of the following:

- ✚ One single behavior such as sit, down, stand (from a sit or down)
- ✚ One Freestyle behavior
- ✚ One behavior using a prop
- ✚ A large circle with dog in heel or side. Dog may be on inside or outside of circle. Team should circle away from reinforcer and then back to starting point (three feet from reinforcer)
- ✚ A sequence of three Freestyle behaviors
- ✚ A stay (sit, down, or stand) while handler moves six feet away and then returns. Dog may also wait with two or four paws on a prop. Handler should move away from the reinforcer.

After the exercise is successfully completed, team should go to reinforcer together and the handler should jackpot (treats) or play with the dog interactively with the toy.

HHL D7 – Contrasting Skills

Demonstrate two skills that can be used to incorporate contrast into a performance.

These may include, but are not limited to: Pace Changes, Close Movement vs. Distance, Synchronized Movement vs. Dog or Handler Only Moving, Movement vs. Pause, etc.

Video two separate clips where you demonstrate these two separate contrast skills.

Please identify the contrasting skills in the title of your video, caption of your video, or with your emailed entry.

HHL8 – Moves in Motion

Starting with your dog either on your left or on your right, have your dog go out around a prop in front of you. Depending on what your dog prefers, you may send your dog ahead to go around the prop at any distance from you, or you may go to the prop with your dog.

As your dog is going around the prop, move backwards to pick your dog up in center position. As your dog moves to meet up with you, have your dog complete one of the following:

- ✚ Move forward in center position, as you move backward
- ✚ Spin (either direction)
- ✚ Leg Weave (single or up to three weaves, any style)
- ✚ Circle You (fully or partially)
- ✚ Paw Lifts or Kicks

To the best of your dog's ability, the move should flow from his or her forward movement toward you. However, if a pause is necessary, that is OK

Be sure to cue your dog early enough to know what move/movement he or she will be going into. Obvious cues are encouraged for this drill.

Have your dog complete this three times, using at least two of the behaviors listed above. Your dog may repeat one of the behaviors, or, you may substitute a behavior of your choice (not on the list) for one of the repetitions.

Although not strictly required, performance of this option to music is highly encouraged!

HHL9 – Play in Motion

Starting with your dog on your left or your right and moving in a pattern of your choice, have your dog perform at least two transitions of position and at least one freestyle move.

Demonstrate how you can use play to maintain focus.

Perfect heel position is not necessary, it is more important that your dog is focused and having fun.

The use of a toy, or play with food, is allowed and encouraged.

Cues Category

Choose **one** option from this category. Each box contains one option.

For this category, reinforcers may not be visible to your dog, but you may stop and reinforce at any time, if your dog needs that assistance.

HHLC1 - Props as Cues - Use a hand held prop to cue three different Freestyle behaviors. This can be one continuous video clip, or three separate clips.

Movement of the prop may resemble a way that a behavior might have been trained.

HHLC2 – Cue Discrimination - Choose a prop that your dog can use to carry out three different behaviors, with the prop in the same configuration for all three.

Create a video clip of your dog carrying out all three behaviors, with clear understanding of the three distinct cues.

You may reinforce with treats or toys in between behaviors.

Then, create a second clip with your dog carrying out the same three behaviors on cue in a different order.

HHLC3 - Find the Cue (A Verbal Cue Option) - Choose three behaviors that your dog knows well on verbal cue.

Have four pieces of treat in your pocket, or a toy.

With arms in a neutral, but natural, configuration, cue **one** of the three behaviors verbally. When your dog successfully carries out the behavior, reinforce with a single piece of treat or a short burst of play. In addition, a treat may be tossed to set your dog up for the next repetition.

Cue a second (different) behavior. Again, reinforce, as described above.

Go back and cue **the first** behavior again. Reinforce as above.

Cue the third behavior. Reinforce.

Go back and cue the first behavior again. Reinforce as above.

That's it – just four repetitions. Feel free to jackpot the final repetition.

This exercise may be performed using physical cues for dogs who are unable to hear. For Laude Class, one of the behaviors for this option may be a prop behavior.

HHLC4 - Polishing Physical Cues - Choose any three behaviors that your dog knows well.

Using either physical cues, or concurrent cues, cue the three behaviors, in succession, in a way that is clear to your dog but “polished” to an extent that the physical cue does not appear only to be a lure. The cue may resemble the way the behavior was trained, but the dog should demonstrate clear response to the cue.

Example: stand straight up and wave a physical cue for a spin above your dog's head instead of leaning forward to hold your hand near your dog's nose level.

Physical cues do not need to appear “dancy” or graceful – they should simply look like physical signals rather than just lures. However, leeway will be given for physical cues that resemble lures, given the fact that many senior dogs need more visual clarity to perceive their cues.

One of the behaviors for this option may be a prop behavior.

Props and Fitness Category

Choose **six** options from this category. Each box contains one option.

Reinforcers should not be visible to your dog for this option, but a clicker may be used.

HHP1 - Two Paws OR Alternating Paws

Two Paws - Have your dog place two front paws on a cane (dowel, stick) and hold the position for at least 4 seconds. The dog's paws should be resting on the top of the cane, supporting the dog's weight, or appearing to do so.

Dog may stand on hind legs, or “sit pretty”.

OR

Alternating Paws – Have your dog place one paw on a cane (dowel, stick) and hold the position for at least 2 seconds. Then, have your dog place that foot back on the ground and then place the other paw on the prop and hold the position for at least 2 seconds.

Dog may sit or stand, whichever is most comfortable.

HHP2 – Hold - Have your dog pick up a prop in his or her mouth (an imitation flower, a basket, etc.) and hold the prop for at least 4 seconds

HHL3 – Theme OR Fitness Gym

Theme - Identify a theme that you might incorporate into a Freestyle performance and select a prop that communicates that theme in some way. Include a caption that identifies the theme, or include it in the video clip title (playlist).

Have your dog perform at least two behaviors with that prop in one video clip.

This is not intended to be a choreographed performance (see Artistry for that option!). Simply demonstrate the prop behaviors, one after the other.

The same prop, and behaviors, may be incorporated into the "Theme Through Setting" option for the Artistry Leg.

Or

Fitness Gym - Create a "gym" of at least three pieces of fitness equipment and have your dog complete an exercise with each one, in a flowing sequence. Dog may hold positions as part of the sequence.

HHL4 - Dance on a Pedestal OR Dance on a Low Platform

Dance on a Pedestal - Have your dog get onto a prop that is sturdy. Have your dog perform two Freestyle behaviors in a row on the prop. If your dog cannot do this safely, please select "Dance on a Low Platform" instead.

Or

Dance on a Low Platform – Have your dog get onto a low platform, such as a flat board. Have your dog perform three Freestyle behaviors on the prop. One of the behaviors may be repeated, so only two distinct behaviors are needed.

HHLP5 - Sling Shot - Send your dog around a prop that is at least two feet from the dog's starting point. (More is better, if possible)

As your dog makes a loop around the prop, turn away and pick your dog up in heel or side position and then make a large 450 degree circle with your dog on the outside of the curve. You and your dog will pass the prop as you loop around.

Small Space Option

Send your dog around a prop that is at least two feet from the dog's starting point. (More is better, if possible). Remain facing your dog.

As your dog returns to you, cue your dog to circle behind you (either direction). As your dog comes into heel or side position, complete a 450 degree turn (as large as your space allows) with your dog on the outside of the curve, passing the prop as you make the turn.

HHLP6 - Can Can - Dog sends to a prop at least 2 feet away and performs a set of 4 alternating paw kicks. Dog may sit or stand on the prop.

This may also be done within a ground hoop.

HHLP7 – Paw Wrap – Dog should wrap one, or two, paws around a prop. Dog may wrap paw(s) around a free standing prop or a prop held by the handler, or the dog can wrap paws around a cane to hold it up. The paw must be wrapped around the prop, not just resting on top of the prop.

HHLP8 – Distance Props Combination

Set up two separate props with which your dog can perform two different prop behaviors, set them both at a distance of 3 - 5 feet away from you, set at least 5 feet apart. Have your dog perform each behavior at least once with one or the other of the props. Your dog does not have to maintain distance from you in between each behavior, although it is encouraged if at all possible. Your dog may start by you and send out to the props, or start near the props and begin at a distance.

Although not required, you are encouraged to have your dog perform this to music.

HHLP9 – Dance Inside a Prop – Have your dog perform at least two Freestyle moves with all four paws inside a prop that has at least a couple inches of height to the sides, such as a suitcase or box. A flat prop, such as a hula hoop may not be used for this option.

HHLP10 – Hoop Sequence – Have your dog carry out a sequence of at least three Freestyle moves, at least one of which is a move that incorporates a hoop (or something similar). Use of a stationary “hoop”, such as a NADAC hoop, is encouraged.

HHLP11 – Hand Held Cane Sequence - Have your dog carry out a sequence of at least three Freestyle moves, at least one of which is a move that incorporates a hand held cane (or other prop). Although the dog only need interact with the cane for one behavior, the cane should be held throughout the whole sequence.

HHLP12 – Prop Transition of Position - Start moving with your dog in any position relative to you. This need not be formal heelwork, just movement with you. Send your dog to a prop, or set of props, and have your dog perform some kind of independent behavior with the prop, or props, (send around, circle around, Figure 8, put paws on the prop and hold the position). As your dog disengages from the prop to return to you, pick your dog up in a different position relative to you, or have your dog perform a transition of position move immediately upon return to end up in a different position relative to you. Finish by moving at least several steps with your dog in the new position.

HHLP13 – Opposite Circles Around a Prop

Have your dog continually loop around a prop as you move around the prop, outside of your dog, in the opposite direction. Prop may be hand held, such as a cane, or free standing.

Both dog and handler must complete at least one full circle. Dog and handler need not circle at the same pace.

HHLP14 – Dance Inside a Hoop

Have your dog move into a hoop, or something similar, on the ground, and perform three Freestyle behaviors within the hoop. One of the behaviors may be repeated, so only two distinct behaviors are needed.

HHLP15 – Make your own prop behavior

Choose a prop that you have not yet worked with in any of your titling clips. Have your dog carry out a prop behavior that has not yet been a part of the titling program prop behaviors.

**Harmony Division Titling Requirements – Laude Class
Submission Checklist – Harmony Technical Leg
General Rules**

_____ Except where permitted, treats/toys concealed in pocket or container until each task is complete.

_____ Audio can be heard on the video. Music need not be playing for this category, but verbal interaction with your dog should be audible

_____ No editing, except to trim the beginning and end of clips, if necessary

_____ Dog and handler are fully visible in all video clips.

Or, permission has been secured to submit clips that do not include a “full picture” effect. If your working space makes this impossible, please contact Kristine to discuss options – we will make it work!

Submission Clips – Harmony Technical Leg (Scroll Down for Exercise Descriptions)

Movement and Heelwork

Choose Five:

- _____ Transitions of Position
- _____ Backing
- _____ Laterals
- _____ Moving Pivots
- _____ Big Turn
- _____ Inside Curve
- _____ Double Arc Pattern
- _____ Beautiful Movement
- _____ Synchronized Movement Sequence

Tricks and Moves

Choose Six:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| _____ Leg Circles | _____ The “Dean Dog” |
| _____ Simultaneous Spins in Motion | _____ Simultaneous Distance Move |
| _____ March/Kicks | _____ Complex Transition of Position |
| _____ One Paw Pose | _____ Signature Move |
| _____ Leg Weave Sequence | |
| _____ Cross Paws | |
| _____ Sequence of Circles | |

Harmony Division – Technical Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions – Laude Class

Movement and Heelwork Category

The focus in this category should be enthusiasm, joyful movement, and keeping movement fluid. Although not strictly required, use of music is strongly encouraged for this section.

Handlers may have reinforcers visible to the dog for the options in the Movement and Heelwork Category (Not Tricks and Moves). However, food-in-hand should be held up away from the dog, in a natural way. Hand near handler's waist or hip, or well up above dog's nose. Food should not be placed on dog's nose to lead the dog through the movement.

Choose **five** of the following options. Each box contains one option.

HTLM1 – Transitions of Position – Complete the following sequence:

1. Move forward with your dog on your left. Pause and have your dog perform any transition move to your right. You may move (as with a switch), but your dog should not remain stationary.
2. Move forward with your dog on your right. Pause and have your dog perform any transition to center position (in front of you) other than a direct "call front". Again, you may move as your dog transitions, but your dog should not remain stationary.

The two transitions may mirror each other, but this is not required.

3. Break off and reinforce your dog
4. Repeat the entire sequence, but have your dog perform transitions from one position to the other that are clearly distinct from those in your first performance.

Transition suggestions: Switches, Dog Circles Handler, Pivots, Leg Weaves, Cut Behind, Swing (from left to right)

For the Laude class, emphasis is on flow and comfort of movement, and not on precision of position. If transitions result in "loose" position, that is perfectly fine.

HTLM2 – Backing - Start moving forward with your dog in heel, side, or center, at least a few steps.

Transition your dog (transition of your choice) from the starting position to the position of your choice (heel, side, or center), and then move with your dog as your dog moves backward for at least two (of your) steps. Your dog may pause slightly after the transition, but the pause should not be significant.

Backing does not have to be perfectly straight, but your dog should back up willingly. Handler may move into dog's space, but should not "push" the dog backward in any way.

HTLM3 – Laterals (Dog moves sideways)

Start moving forward with your dog in heel, side, or center and move with your dog for at least a few steps.

Transition your dog (transition of your choice) from the starting position to the position of your choice (heel, side, or center), and then move with your dog as your dog moves laterally for at least two (of your) steps. If your dog is in heel or side, your dog may move away from you or toward you.

Your dog may pause slightly after the transition, but the pause should not be significant.

Lateral movement does not have to be perfectly straight (dog's rear end need not line up with his or her head perfectly). Handler may move into dog's space, but should not in any way "push" the dog laterally.

HTLM4 - Moving Pivots

Start moving forward with your dog in heel, side, or center and move with your dog for at least a few steps.

Transition your dog (transition of your choice) from the starting position to the position of your choice (heel, side, or center), and then you and your dog should complete a 270 degree (minimum) pivot together, in synchronized movement

If possible, try to make the transition fluid, without a pause as your dog moves into position. However, a slight pause is acceptable, as long as it is not cued deliberately by the handler.

HTLM5 – Big Turn

Start moving forward with your dog in heel, side, or center and move with your dog for at least a few steps.

Turn either to the left or to the right and perform a wide 270 degree turn with your dog (as in Rally Obedience, but bigger). Your dog may be on the inside or outside of the curve – whichever is more comfortable.

After completing the turn, continue forward with your dog a few steps in the new direction.

HTLM6 - Inside Curve - Dog heels in a large circle (at least 6 feet in diameter) with the dog on the inside of the circle. The dog may be in heel or side position, but must be on the inside of the circle.

Handler should walk briskly, and the dog should not appear crowded.

Team should complete more than one full circle

Small Space Option

Dog heels on the inside of a circle that is as large as the space allows, with handler moving as briskly as is possible within that space.

Team should complete the circle at least two times.

HTLM7 – Double Arc Pattern

Complete a pattern with your dog in the following shape:



Your dog may be on the inside or outside of the curve. Have your dog be where he or she is most comfortable, and where movement will be most joyful.

HTLM7 – Beautiful Movement

Do your best to find music that matches your dog's footfalls when your dog is moving with an open, natural gait. If this is not possible, due to your dog's movement ability, choose music that your dog enjoys.

Design a way to best show your dog's most beautiful movement. Open, free-flowing movement, if possible. Or, strong movement, bouncy movement, or simply the best movement that your dog has to offer. Props may be used. Movement between two props is encouraged, but not required.

Have your dog move to that music for enough time to display his or her movement. Maximum time: 40 seconds.

You may hold food, or a toy, in your hand for this option, in a very obvious way. Enjoyment and beautiful movement are the goal of this exercise.

HTLM8 – Synchronized Movement Sequence

Design a 3 - 5 skill sequence where you and your dog move in synchronization throughout. This may include movement skills, such as forward and backward movement with your dog in position, lateral movement, pivots. This may also include synchronized moves, such as synchronized spins, switches, turns.

At least one of the moves must be a transition of position.

Throughout this entire sequence, dog and handler should be doing the same thing side by side, with the exception of movement in center position where dog moving toward handler as handler moves backwards and vice versa is permitted.

Tricks and Moves Category

Choose **six** of the following options. Each box contains one option.

Reinforcers should not be visible to your dog for this category.

HTLT1 - Leg Circles

Have your dog circle one of your legs, making at least one full 360 degree circle

HHLT2 - Simultaneous Spins in Motion - Starting on the move (dog can be in heel, side or center), cue your dog to spin and, as your dog spins, you spin at the same time. If your dog is in heel or side, you should spin in the same direction as your dog. If your dog is in center, you may spin in either direction.

Or

Double Simultaneous Spins – Start with your dog either in heel or side position. You and your dog can be moving forward or stationary. Cue your dog to spin, and as your dog spins, you spin 450 degrees to pick your dog up in center position. Then perform another simultaneous spin, starting with dog in center and ending with dog in center.

HHLT3 - March/Kicks - Have your dog perform at least four alternating paw lifts, one after the other. Dog may be standing or sitting, and may be positioned anywhere in proximity to you.

HHLT4 - One Paw Pose - Have your dog perform a paw touch to your knee or lower leg, or to the back of your leg and hold that pose for at least a couple of seconds.

HHLT5 - Leg Weave Sequence - Perform a series of 3 – 6 leg weaves in a weave pattern that is not: Figure 8 Weaves (handler stationary) or dog weaving forward while handler weaves forward. Be creative!

HHLT6 – Cross Paws - Sitting, standing, or lying down, dog crosses one paw over the other in turn. Dog should perform at least two crosses.

HHLT7 – The “Dean Dog” – Starting in front of the handler (who remains stationary), dog backs up several steps and performs any Freestyle move, or trick, at a distance from the handler. Dog may immediately return to handler after the trick is complete. Dog may back straight away from the handler, or may back at an angle.

HHLT8 - Simultaneous Distance Move – Starting with your dog at a visible distance from you, have your dog perform a distance move that you will carry out at the same time. This might be simultaneous spins, or simultaneous paw/foot lift or paw/hand wave, backing up several steps away from each other, etc. Distance need not be maintained once behavior has been successfully completed.

HTLT9 – Sequence of Circles

Create a 3 – 5 move sequence out of moves that feature circling movement, and perform it with your dog. These moves may include: Dog circles handler (once or multiple times), Dog circles handler as handler pivots in opposite direction, heeling in a large circle, Dog circles handler's leg, Handler circles dog then dog circles handler or vice versa, dog backs around handler, etc.

HTLT10 – Complex Transition of Position – Create a complex transition of position by combining two distinct Freestyle moves that flow together to result in your dog starting in one position relative to you and ending up in a different position.

Both moves need not be transition of position moves, and neither move need be complex in and of itself, but the two combined together should result in a flowing combination that accomplishes the transition.

Both moves should feature dog movement. Handler may remain stationary, or move, but dog should not be stationary while the handler moves for this option.

HTLT11 - Signature Move - Develop a "signature move" with your dog. This should be something creative and interesting that your dog obviously enjoys performing.

The signature move may be made up of a combination of two or three moves that form a "whole", but in that case they should be connected together in some obvious way.

This move should not be any of the Tricks/Moves listed in this category at any level, and it may not include use of a prop.

**Harmony Division Titling Requirements – Laude Class
Submission Checklist – Artistry Leg**

General Rules

- _____ Audio can be heard on the video. **Music is required in all clips for this leg.** Some of the options in this Division require choreography. For those that do not, music must be playing so the dog can hear it – at this Level music can not be added to the clip as an overlay.
- _____ No editing, except to trim the beginning and end of clips, if necessary
- _____ Dog and handler are fully visible in all video clips.
- Or, permission has been secured to submit clips that do not include a “full picture” effect. If your working space makes this impossible, please contact Kristine to discuss options – we will make it work!

Submission Clips – Harmony Artistry Leg (Scroll Down for Exercise Descriptions)

Sequencing and Duration – Choose five:

- _____ Focus to Music
- _____ Performance of Synchronized Movement Sequence
- _____ Harmony Division Tricks and Moves Sequence
- _____ Performance With Props
- _____ Traveling the Floor With Transitions
- _____ Sling Shot
- _____ Transitions in Movement
- _____ Duration of Behavior
- _____ Combined Transitions

Music and Choreography – Choose Five:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| _____ Hand Held Prop | _____ Arms |
| _____ Theme Through Choreography | _____ Contrast ** |
| _____ Theme Through Setting | _____ Outdoor Performance ** |
| _____ Opening Pose | _____ Holiday or International Theme |
| _____ Dance | _____ Something About Your Dog |

Harmony Division – Artistry Leg – Options/Requirements Descriptions – Laude Class

Sequencing Category – Complete **five** Exercises. Each box contains one option.

For this section, food may be held in hand, but should not be used to lure the dog, nor to prompt behavior, unless such use is specified within a particular option.

HALS1 – Focus to Music- Choose one of the following focus exercises and have your dog carry it out to music.

- ✚ Toss a treat away and call your dog after he or she has eaten the treat, or allow your dog to offer a return to you after eating the treat. As your dog approaches, turn and move several steps with your dog on your left or your right, praising as your dog moves with you. Reinforce your dog after you have taken several steps together. Repeat three times in a row.
- ✚ Toss a treat away and call your dog after he or she has eaten the treat. As your dog approaches, click a clicker, and then move several steps with your dog on your left or your right. Reinforce your dog after you have taken several steps together. Repeat three times in a row.
- ✚ Move around the performance space with your dog, allowing him or her to offer focus and attention freely. Refrain from asking for attention – allow your dog to offer it. At any point when you have several seconds of moving attention, mark and reinforce with a treat or with toy play. Periods of disengagement are not penalized in this option since the point is to allow your dog to offer focus. Continue until you have marked and reinforced at least three times.
- ✚ Toss a treat. Allow your dog to offer to return to you after eating the treat. Refrain from calling your dog. As your dog turns toward you, mark, and reinforce your dog upon return. Repeat three times in a row.

No behaviors should be cued during for this option – not even heeling, although if your dog offers heeling or some other behavior, that is perfectly fine.

Strive to make this an enjoyable exercise for both your dog and yourself!

Food or toys may be visible to the dog during this exercise, but should not be used as a lure, nor to directly get your dog's attention.

HALS2 – Performance of Synchronized Movement Sequence - With music playing, carry out a performance of either three synchronized movements in sequence, or of two synchronized movements with a prop behavior in between for contrast.

The prop behaviors does not need to be a synchronized movement, but it may be.

HALS3 – Harmony Division Tricks and Moves Sequence – Design at least a four move/movement sequence (no maximum number of behaviors!) that incorporates any three of the “Tricks and Moves” listed for the Technical Leg in the Harmony Division.

Film a performance of this sequence with your dog.

Behaviors may be repeated, and any other moves/movements may be incorporated into the sequence. There is no minimum or maximum time for this option.

HALS4 – Performance With Props – Create and perform a short routine with your dog that features the use of multiple props.

Props may be used to feature movement and enthusiasm, and tricks and behaviors may be carried out on, or with, the props. Teams are encouraged to incorporate prop options from the Handling Leg, but that is not strictly required.

Be sure that your dog is safe and comfortable with all use of props.

Performance should be between 15 seconds and 1 minute long.

HALS5 – Traveling the Floor with Transitions

Devise one specific pattern that you and your dog can trace on the floor as you move together, which requires at least three changes of side as you and your dog carry out the pattern. This need not be highly complex – it can be as simple as diagonals across the floor in a zig zag, but should consist of more than a single straight line.

Precise positioning and heelwork is not required as part of this option – you and your dog need only move together.

Props may be incorporated and used as part of your transitions.

Move through the pattern with your dog at least one time, performing at least two different transitions at logical changes of direction or path.

Your dog may begin in on your right, left, or in front of you. No behaviors or moves, other than the transitions, should be used in this exercise.

You may have food visible to your dog and may reinforce wherever needed, but try to maintain as much flow as you can through the patterns.

HALS6 – Sling Shot – Precise positioning is not required for this option. As long as your dog moves from one side of you to another, the criteria is met. Emphasis in this option is on comfort level.

1. Send your dog around a prop that is at least two feet away (or more!)

Remain facing the prop so that your dog is in center position (roughly) upon return to you.

As your dog returns, cue any Freestyle move. This move need not happen close to you. The move can be carried out at a distance, or close to you, but the move should happen “in flow”. There should not be a significant pause before your dog begins the move.

2. Again, send your dog around the prop. Cue the same move as you did the first time, and then transition your dog into heel or side position. Again, this should happen “in flow”.
3. Finally, send your dog around the prop a third time. Cue the same first move, the same transition, and then a move in heel or side position, again “in flow”.

This can be presented as one single video clip, or three separate video clips. In either case, you may reinforce your dog and/or take a break in between the three steps.

HALS7 – Transitions in Movement - Perform for 10 – 30 seconds, having your dog perform at least three different transitions of position. Positions may include: center, heel, side, criss-cross in front of you, behind you, or in heel or side, but flipped “backward”. However, it is sufficient for this exercise to have your dog only in center, heel, or side position.

You may have your dog perform any other movements or moves, as well, but only the transition moves count toward your total of four.

Be sure to include some movement through your performance space in this exercise. A large space is not needed, but this should not be a stationary performance.

HAS8 - Duration of Behavior

With an emphasis on comfort level, have your dog carry out one of the following:

- ✚ Dog backs away from handler (any direction) for at least one of the dog's body lengths.
- ✚ Dog makes at least two consecutive circles around the handler. If you choose to do three consecutive circles you may stop and treat your dog after the second circle.
- ✚ Dog makes consecutive circles around a prop (near handler or at a distance) at least two circles. If you choose to do three consecutive circles you may treat your dog after the second circle.
- ✚ Dog moves in heel or side position, with at least 75% focus for 15-30 seconds (handler can change direction, but no transitions or moves should be included).

HALS8 – Combined Transitions - Create a movement sequence that is made up entirely of two or three transitions that can be performed in a small space.

One of the transitions can consist of handler movement alone (example, the handler movement from a Scallop).

The sequence of transitions can be completed with the handler stationary, or the handler can move up to two steps in either direction from the starting point. There is no restriction on dog movement in this exercise.

You and your dog may perform any moves or movements prior to the transition sequence (although none or required), and the sequence can be started from a stand-still, or with movement.

Music and Choreography Category

Choose **five** of the following options. Each box contains one option.

For this section, food may be held in hand, but should not be used to lure the dog, nor to prompt behavior, unless such use is specified within a particular option.

Unless otherwise specified, performances in this category may be up to one minute long. No minimum time is required, as long as criteria for the option is met.

HALC1 – Hand Held Prop - Create a short performance in which you hold a hand-held prop (cane, "sword", "wand" etc.) throughout the performance. Your dog should interact with the prop in some meaningful way (moving around it, putting paws on it, jumping over it, etc.) at least twice times within the performance.

The handler may use the prop to cue the dog, and the dog may follow the prop as if it were a target, but this is not required

HALC2 - Theme Through Choreography - Choose music that has an obvious theme.

Create a performance that includes choreography that expresses that theme.

Every move and movement does not have to convey the theme. The choreography segment overall should convey the theme.

Props may be used, but presence of the prop alone cannot convey the theme. However, particular use of the prop may do so.

HALC3 – Theme Through Setting – Choose music that has an obvious theme.

Choose, or create, a setting that expresses that theme in some way. Setting can include decoration or props. The entire area need not be a "set", but props or decorations should clearly communicate the theme.

Natural settings may also be used.

Create and perform a short performance in that setting. If props are present that can be used by the dog and handler team, they should be used at least once. Background decorations need not be incorporated into the performance.

HALC4 - Opening Pose - Create and demonstrate an opening pose that demonstrates the connection that you and your dog share as a team.

Team should hold the pose for at least a couple of seconds.

HALC5 – Dance - Choose a song or piece of music that is strictly a “dance” piece. Although a dance really can be created to any music, for this option, please avoid songs that tell a story.

Create a short performance with your dog that features your dog’s movement, flow, and musical artistry. Any tricks incorporated should demonstrate these qualities, rather than stand out in their own right.

HALC6 – Arms - Demonstrate a sequence of at least three moves and/or movements and change your arm position as your dog transitions from one move/movement to another. A prop move may be incorporated into this option.

HALC7 – Contrast – Perform a sequence, or set of sequences, that demonstrates the use of contrast in the performance. Contrast may be shown through: use of different movement paths (ex. straight lines vs. curves), pace changes, close work and distance, movement and stillness, etc.

Maximum time for this option is 1 minute.

HALC8 – Outdoor Performance – Design and perform a short routine and film the performance with your dog outdoors. A leash may be used, but may not be held tight, nor used to move your dog through moves or sequences.

Props may be used, and items in the environment may be incorporated into the moves, as long as they are used safely.

No particular moves or movements are required.

HALC9 – Holiday or International Theme – Design and perform a short routine to a piece of music that either has a clear holiday theme (any holiday) or from a country or culture other than your own.

Incorporate any one of the following artistic skills into the performance:

- ✚ At least two transitions of position, or a complex transition of position, or a prop transition of position
- ✚ A clear element of contrast (pace change, pause and movement, etc.)
- ✚ Synchronized movement
- ✚ Use of a prop to feature your dog's movement

Other than that, no particular moves or movements are required.

HALC10 – Something About Your Dog – Create a short performance that expresses something about your dog, such as: athleticism, grace, smoothness, sweetness, eagerness, etc.

Expression can be made through use of movement, props, choreography, attire, etc.

Please express positive attributes, and be sure to identify what you are expressing in the title of your video, or with your entry

Laude Class
Dynamic, Master Performer, and Category Specialist Divisions

Guidelines for the Laude Class in the Dynamic, Master Performer, and Category Specialist Divisions can be found in the individual guidebooks for those Divisions.