



**Introduction to Poised for Success Freestyle
Welcome!**

I am so very excited to be developing and launching this new Canine Musical Freestyle venue.

This is something that I have been considering, and working on in the back of my mind, for many, many years.

I have created this titling program, very deliberately, to be quite different from any of the other Musical Freestyle titling venues.

It is my hope that this program will provide those who are unable to participate in any of the other venues with a titling program that is accessible to them.

Or, in the case of teams who hope to go on to participate with other venues, or who currently do so, it is my hope that this program will provide a means to hone your skills and go on to continued success in the Freestyle venue of your choice.

I have a high regard for all of the Freestyle venues. I believe that each of them serve distinct populations within the Canine Musical Freestyle community. I enjoy participation in several of them!

And yet over the years I have observed several distinct needs that still need to be met in the "Freestyle world".

Performance Space

All of the current Freestyle titling venues require at least a 30 X 40 performance space, and most require more for titling submissions.

For some teams, securing regular access to these spaces for training, practice, and video, is difficult, and for some, impossible!

In addition, for those who do not have access to a videographer, shooting self-video in a large rectangular ring space does not create an optimal artistic picture.

It is my hope that in this titling venue, we can explore the different performance space, and filming, options, that are available to us!

If you literally have only a living room to work in, you and your dog can create your art in that space. If your dog works well on your patio, or in your yard, you can explore those options. Some of you might have beautiful outdoors spaces where you can film using the amount of space provided by the lens of your camera!

Some of you may have training buildings and videographers, and I encourage those of you who have that to run with that, too!

Incremental Learning and Growth through Titling

Canine Musical Freestyle is a highly complex discipline that involves a dizzying array of skills.

In addition, many handlers who are new to Freestyle are not at all sure how to integrate music and choreograph sequences and routines.

Therefore, in the Poised for Success Freestyle Titling Program, I am providing tests of the most basic Freestyle skills from every perspective that I can think of. The first four levels, called "Divisions" provide a framework to prepare both yourself, and your dog, to create full routines by the time you get to the fifth level, Master Performer.

In the "Handling" legs in Divisions 1 – 4, you and your dog will complete tasks that will test Freestyle training skills, development of cue style, and introductory skills with props. Or, if you prefer, you may choose to demonstrate fitness skills in place of prop skills (or mix and match!).

In the “Technical” legs in Divisions 1 – 4, you and your dog will develop heelwork and movement skills and train Freestyle tricks and moves.

And, in the “Artistic” legs in Divisions 1 – 4, you and your dog will work with music, and – in bits and pieces – start to create choreographed movement sequences.

In Master Performer – the fifth level – you and your dog can put it all together to create different types of Freestyle routines, right in the spaces that are readily available to you!

Equal Acceptance of all Cue Styles

Finally, I believe that there is a place in Canine Musical Freestyle to allow dog and handler teams to develop whatever cue style works best for them.

In the Poised for Success Freestyle Titling Program, you will always have the option to develop the cue style that works best for you and your individual dog.

Do you have a passion for verbal cues? You can hone your dog's verbal skills and use verbal cues.

Do you prefer to incorporate physical cues, even those that clearly support the movement of the dog? You can develop that cue style, as well.

In addition, you may choose to incorporate props into your repertoire of Freestyle cues!

And, if it is your preference, you may mix and match all of those!

Finally

Some of you may know this, but some do not. The dog who is my Poised for Success “Logo” is Speedy. He was my first Freestyle dog and he was my first teacher in this discipline.

He was my first performance dog and he provided me with challenge after challenge. And yet, he was an incredible artist, and he always put his whole and entire heart into his dancing. Whether we were training a spin in the living room, or gliding around together in a ring while his front feet tip tapped to the beat of the music, or performing a routine for demonstration or titling, he put the best of himself into it.

I hope, in the spirit of that amazing artist and dancer, to create a platform that will allow those of you who participate to come to appreciate your dogs as

artists. And that you will look to your dog as a working partner who has as much to teach you through Freestyle as you have to teach.

I hope that you and your dog will enjoy this Titling Program. I hope that you will take time with each of the tasks and experience them to the fullest with your dog as you prepare to create titling videos for submission and savor every step of the experience.

I hope you will consider joining us!

- Kristine C. Hammar
Founder and Owner
Poised for Success