

fall 2024 - summer 2025

# Swing on the Move

Mechelen - Ghent Performance group

## About the project

Swing on the Move is a new project supported by Danspunt's [Code Dans+](#). The project strengthens the swing dance communities in **Mechelen and Ghent** by creating a **performance group** that puts together a show with an out-of-the box show moment. Thanks to a financial, organizational and artistic boost, there is room to experiment.

## About the initiative taker

Hi, I'm **Ann-Sofie!** I am as much at home in Mechelen (where I live and dance) as in Ghent (where I work and dance). You can find me on the dance floor, in class, in training and at many festivals - as a participant or as an organizer. I submitted this proposal because I saw an opportunity to give an extra push to our beautiful blossoming dance scene!

## About you as a performer

The performance group is for those who are curious and eager to work towards a show together!

- You are a **swing dancer** in 1 or more of these social dance styles with Afro-American roots: Lindy Hop, Balboa, Solo jazz, Shag, Blues, Tap dance, Charleston, Boogie Woogie
- **Your dance experience doesn't matter!** Just starting out or semi-professional? Everyone is welcome. Better yet, we specifically welcome amateur dancers who have never performed before.
- You sometimes swing by **Mechelen or Ghent**: you take classes there, go to socials, participate in training.... you don't have to live there.
- You are **motivated and you can make time** to get together on a regular basis over the next few months. We will create a performance together, rehearse it and perform in summer 2025.

## About the performance group

The goal? To put together an original, swinging performance of about **15 minutes** with about **twenty dancers** from **Ghent and Mechelen** and show it to the general public in **summer 2025**. Picture an **out-of-the-box location**: we will perform in (the vicinity of) Ghent-Sint-Pieters station and then travel by train to Mechelen, where we will perform again. 🚆

To achieve this, we meet **once or twice a month** at a time that is convenient for participants, alternately in Ghent (Danspunt) and Mechelen (Radar). We work intensely on the performance and under the guidance of a professional choreographer during **1 or 2 weekend residencies**: in Ghent in March or April, and in Mechelen in May or June. The specific dates for these moments will be decided on together.

Because swing dance includes so many diverse dance styles and we are with a large group, I see the performance as a kind of “**medley**”: a puzzle of multiple, smoothly clicking together pieces of choreo in different dance styles. This also makes it practical to work together with a large group. The performance reflects **values** such as creativity, collaboration, sense of community, musicality and respect for the African-American roots of swing dance styles.

Following the final show moment in summer 2025 (likely in August), there will be opportunities to **test** the performance, e.g. as a pop-up on the streets, or during social dance events and festivals.

### Timeline (subject to change)

- November 2024: launch open call
- December 2024 - May 2025: regular co-creation and practice moments. We meet alternately in Mechelen and Ghent. Residential weekend in Ghent with coaching.
- February 2025: additional open call for late entry performance group
- May - June 2025: regular co-creation and practice moments. We meet alternately in Mechelen and Ghent. Residential weekend in Mechelen with coaching.
- July 2025: finalizing the choreo, multiple pop-ups on the streets and during events as a try-out
- August 2025: showcase performance in Ghent & Mechelen
- September 2025: evaluation

## Why join?

Here are 15 solid reasons.

## Create & learn together

- You **get in touch** with other dancers and a new dance community.
- Nothing beats **team spirit**: you work together toward a unique show moment.
- You learn to **choreograph** a blissful performance together. Hello, creativity!
- You develop **performance skills**.
- You sharpen your **dance skills** in all areas.
- In the run-up to the final showpiece, we test a few things on **try-outs**.
- You can shine in a **unique performance** to be proud of, for a wide audience.

## Cost reimbursements

- Participation is **free**. The only investment on your part is time and enthusiasm! Since the project runs over several months, there is no rush and we can take our time to experiment.
- We will pay for your **transportation** by public transportation as part of this project.
- There is a budget to purchase **materials and costumes** for the performance.
- **No room rent**: we can use the comfortable dance studios in Danspunt and RADAR for free.
- Sabam? Permits? Other **administrative shizzle**? We got it covered, you can relax.

## Professional support

- The project reimburses up to 9 hours of **artistic coaching** by a professional choreographer who is not from the swing dance world. Undoubtedly an enriching experience!
- Danspunt provides free **organizational advice**. Thank you, code dans+
- I facilitate the project **logistically and communicatively** from my experience as an organizer and planner in the dance scene

## Let's go?!

It's a resounding yes for you? Fill out [this form](#) to get started!

I will add everyone to a WhatsApp group for further arrangements.

Questions? Call or message me on **+32 491 08 37 41** or mail to **annsofie\_v\_a@hotmail.com** .

Speak & dance soon!

*A project by plan a (Ann-Sofie Van Enis), with the support of Danspunt re: CODE DANS+.*

