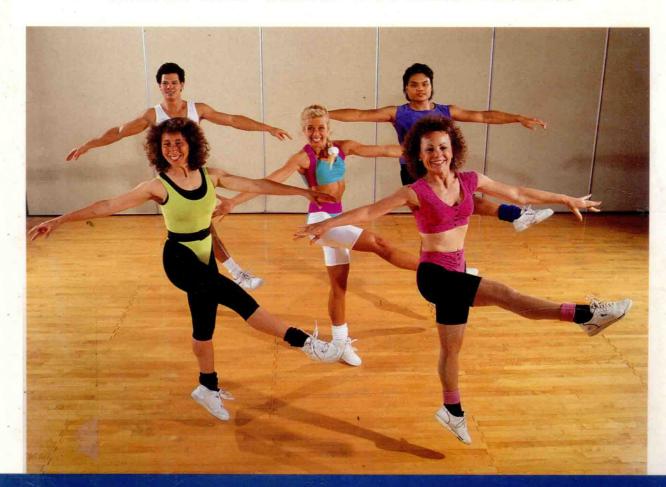
# Keep Moving!

## It's Aerobic Dance SECOND EDITION

#### Esther Kan • Minda Goodman Kraines



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#### It's Aerobic Dance

SECOND EDITION

Esther Kan

SOLANO COLLEGE

#### Minda Goodman Kraines

MISSION COLLEGE



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### **Foreword**

Keep Moving! It's Aerobic Dance is an excellent book for anyone interested in fitness. I've been teaching Aerobic Dance since 1976. It has been my pleasure and reward to watch it grow into a multi-million-dollar-a-year industry . . . You can't stop a good program!

Naturally, in any field that is growing at such a tremendous rate, it is difficult to keep participants well informed. That is what this book aims to do—provide good, up-to-date information.

Esther Kan and Minda Goodman Kraines have produced a well-written, practical, and educational book—truly one of the best I've read on the subject. They completely break down all the elements of aerobic dance, from why an aerobic workout is important to what the various components of an aerobic dance class are. This includes movement tips, how to add variety to your workout, precaution boxes so you can avoid injury, and even a glossary to help you learn and remember important aerobic dance terms. Nutrition, body composition, components of fitness, and much more are addressed in *Keep Moving! It's Aerobic Dance*.

Joanie Greggains "Morning Stretch"

#### Foreword

Your personal lifestyle choices, experts say, greatly affect your health. For a long and healthy life, you need to maintain an ideal body weight, avoid smoking and substance abuse, watch your intake of saturated fats and salt, and include substantial amounts of fruits, vegetables, and fiber in your diet. Above all, you need exercise. With its intrinsic benefits and its ability to moderate many risk factors, exercise is the key to your personal health program.

At first inspection, these new prescriptions for a healthy life may seem terribly limiting and disagreeable. But no perception could be further from the truth. Health requires autonomy, personal independence, voluntary selection of options, and assumption of the power to change your own future. Good health allows you to freely experience joy, beauty, and triumph.

In this book, written with both joyous expression and scientific accuracy, Esther Kan and Minda Goodman Kraines provide the feeling as well as the substance of an important form of exercise that can help you achieve good health. Aerobic dance can help you control many specific risks to good health and at the same time provide enjoyment in its purest sense. *Keep Moving!* provides a solid, scientific background necessary for the beginning student of aerobic dance to understand what happens to the body during the early months of aerobic training. Description of the warm-ups and dances will help the beginner become familiar with unfamiliar exercises and routines that are the basis of a successful dance program.

I liked this book very much in the first edition. Now, it is even stronger and better. The chapter on introduction of variety is useful—we want lifetime aerobics. Sections on low-impact aerobics and avoidance of nagging injuries further will help keep exercise a long-term part of your life. Many other chapters and improvements have been added.

I hope that many will read and use this book and embark successfully on new experiences.

James F. Fries, M.D.
author of *Take Care of Yourself, Taking Care of Your Child, Aging Well,* and *Comprehensive Guide to Arthritis*Associate Professor, Stanford University School
of Medicine

## **Preface**

We have been extremely gratified by the success of the first edition of *Keep Moving!* Since its publication in 1987, more than 50,000 college students have found it an invaluable resource for getting the most out of their aerobic dance classes.

Our goals remain the same in this second edition: To provide lucid, accurate coverage of the basic scientific and physiological principles that underlie aerobic dance; to describe the most popular aerobic dances clearly and with an abundance of illustrations; and to offer brief discussions of such vital topics as injuries, nutrition, stress, posture, and flexibility so that class time can be spent dancing.

The second edition of *Keep Moving!* offers the following features:

- Completely revised and updated coverage of the important scientific and physiological principles that underlie aerobic dance;
- Clear, well-illustrated descriptions of dozens of popular, contemporary aerobic dance movements. Keep Moving! includes more than 300 how-to illustrations;
- A new chapter on nonimpact and low-impact aerobics (Chapter 9);
- More than thirty precautions boxes that help students avoid injury;
- Movement tips, which have been added to help students master particularly challenging dance moves:

- Two chapters on the important cool-down phase of the aerobic workout (Chapters 10 and 12);
- A new chapter on how to add variety to your aerobic workout (Chapter 16);
- Three new appendixes, covering video cassette workouts (Appendix E), music resources (Appendix C), and answers to frequently asked questions (Appendix A);
- A separate chapter on what to expect in an aerobic dance class (Chapter 5);
- A new glossary to help students learn and remember important aerobic dance terms.

Minda Goodman Kraines wishes to thank her husband, Guy Kraines, and her daughters, Denaya and Marissa. Without their love and support she could not have completed her work on this book. Esther Kan would like to thank Mariam Combs for her assistance and encouragement.

We would like to express our appreciation to those who served as models for the illustrations in this book and on the cover: Christopher Anasco, Lisá Marie Austin, Prescillo Baltar, Robin Bertz, Guillermo Garcia, Kelly Garcia, Michael Kan, Julia Kimsey, Stuart McGee, Patrice Rackstraw, Antonio Silva, and Karen Stenger. Special thanks also to Karin Biyens and Phil Sienna.

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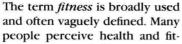
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## Keep Moving!



## What Is Fitness?

#### Chapter



ness as one and the same, yet there is a definite distinction between the two concepts. Health reflects a person's state of being; it is typically viewed as the presence or absence of disease. Fitness, on the other hand, is the ability to do physical activity or to perform physical work (29).

Health and physical education experts generally agree about the expanded (but incomplete) definition of fitness as an ability to carry out daily tasks with vigor and alertness, without undue fatigue, while still maintaining ample energy to enjoy leisure-time pursuits and to meet unforeseen emergencies.

Although not scientifically proven, it is generally agreed that fitness makes a major contribution to a healthier, longer, and more productive life.

Characteristics of a healthy lifestyle include regular exercise, a nutritious diet, and plenty of rest

and relaxation. But what actually is the definition of fitness? What aspects are important for a healthy body? To define fitness we must understand the terms *strength*, *flexibility*, and *endurance*. It is the combination of these three components that leads to the achievement of fitness.

#### **STRENGTH**

**Strength** is the ability of a muscle or a group of muscles to exert force. Maximal strength is when a group of muscles exerts a force against a resistance in one all-out effort (32), such as one maximum lift in a weight-lifting exercise.

The body needs muscular strength for several reasons. First, strong muscles increase joint stability, which in turn makes the body joints less susceptible to injury (32). Second, improved muscle tone also helps prevent common postural problems. For example, stronger abdominal muscles can help alleviate postural problems associated with the lower back. Often, lower back problems occur because the strength in the spinal muscles is greater than that in the abdominal muscles: this muscular imbalance causes the postural deviation lordosis (swayback). Weakened muscles of the upper back can cause the postural deviations termed kyphosis (rounding of the upper back) and/or round shoulders. By building strength in the weakened muscles, these postural deviations may be modified or alleviated. Finally, the body needs muscular strength because it contributes to agility, helps control the weight of the body in motion, and helps the body maneuver quickly (32).

In developing muscular strength, the muscles must be contracted against a heavy resistance with a minimum of exercise repetitions. It is important that minimum repetitions and maximum resistance be used in order to improve muscular strength. Many repetitions with light weights will not increase muscular strength. As the muscles become stronger, the resistance applied must be increased (32) if muscular strength is to continue to increase.

#### FLEXIBILITY

Although **flexibility** is generally associated with the elasticity of muscles, the total concept of flexibility is denoted by the range of motion of a certain joint and its corresponding muscle groups. Flexibility is influenced by the structure of the joint's bones and ligaments, the amount of bulk that surrounds the joint, and the elasticity of the muscles whose tendons cross the joint (32).

The range of motion of the body's various joints is called *joint mobility*. Joint mobility is measured by the amount of movement that exists where two joint surfaces articulate with each other. The greater the range of motion at the joint, the more the muscles can flex and extend. This range of motion or joint mobility is specific to each joint in the body. For example, your hip joint may be extremely flexible, whereas your shoulder joint may be inflexible (42).

There are several reasons why good joint mobility and muscular elasticity should be maintained. The movement range of muscles and joints not used frequently and regularly throughout their full range of motion becomes limited. Many movement experts claim that a lack of flexibility is a cause of improper movement performance in simple motor activities such as walking and running (32). Good joint mobility and muscular elasticity can also increase resistance to muscular injury and soreness; it is the person with inflexible muscles and joints who may experience muscular soreness or who may be more easily injured during activity because of the limited range of motion (32). However, too much flexibility in certain joints-such as the weight-bearing joints of the hips, knees, or ankles-may make a person more susceptible to injury or hamper performance. Loose ligaments may allow a joint to twist abnormally, tearing the cartilage and other soft tissue. In general, it is advisable to achieve and maintain a "normal" amount of flexibility throughout the body. Normal range varies with each individual.

For flexibility to be increased, the muscles must be stretched beyond their normal range of motion for at least 10 to 30 seconds (15). As flexibility increases, the range of the stretch must also be increased for continued improvement in flexibility. An in-depth discussion of proper stretching techniques are discussed in Chapter 12.

#### **ENDURANCE**

Endurance is the ability of a muscle or group of muscles to perform work (repeated muscular contractions) for a long time. With endurance, a muscle is able to resist fatigue when a movement is repeated over and over or when a muscle is held in a static contraction (the muscle generates a motionless force for an extended time) (22).

There are two types of endurance: muscular and cardiorespiratory. **Muscular endurance** is the ability of local skeletal muscles to work strenuously for progressively longer periods of time without fatigue, such as during the execution of 50 sit-ups. Note that muscle endurance is highly specific; it will be attained only by the specific muscles exercised (32).

Using light weights and doing many repetitions of an exercise will increase muscular endurance. This task will tone the muscle but, unlike strength building, will not create large muscle bulk. Increasing muscular endurance is often termed body sculpting, or body toning.

The other type of endurance is cardiorespiratory endurance. This is the aspect of fitness that involves the heart and the lungs—the most important muscles of your body. Cardiorespiratory (also called cardiovascular) endurance is the ability of the cardiovascular system (heart and blood vessels) and the respiratory system (lungs and air passages) to function efficiently during sustained, vigorous activities, such as running, swimming, and cycling. To function efficiently, the cardiorespiratory system must be able to increase both the amount of oxygen-rich blood it delivers to the working muscles and its ability to carry away carbon dioxide and other waste products.

To enhance cardiorespiratory endurance through exercise, the activity must fulfill certain criteria. It must be of sufficient intensity, duration, and frequency; involve large muscle groups; and be continuous, rhythmic, and repetitive. These criteria are termed intensity, duration, frequency, and mode. Without their proper application, cardiorespiratory endurance will not improve. Activities that adhere to these guidelines are termed aerobic activities. Walking, jogging, running, swimming, biking, cross-country skiing, stair climbing, trampolining, and, of course, aerobic dance are all aerobic activities.

#### Aerobic Exercise versus Anaerobic Exercise

To fully understand aerobic exercise, we must define the energy systems that occur in the body and how the energy from these systems is utilized for movement. In order for the muscles in our body to contract, which is necessary for movement, a substance termed ATP (adenosine triphosphate) must be present in the muscle cell. The initial burst of energy for muscular contraction requires no nutrients or oxygen. This energy system is called the phosphagen system, named after the compound creatine phosphate, which exists in the muscle cell. Creatine phosphate breaks down the ATP to release energy for immediate muscular contraction. Since there is a limited amount of ATP that is always present in the cell, this energy system can contract the muscles for only 10 seconds or less. At the end of that time, either nutrients or oxygen must be delivered in order to resynthesize the ATP for continued muscular contraction. A vertical jump or maximum weight lift are examples of activities utilizing the phosphagen energy system.

After the initial burst of energy, the nutrient glycogen (the storage form of glucose) that is present in our muscle cell is used to continue the resynthesis of ATP. Like creatine phosphate, there is a limited amount of glycogen stored in our muscles. The supply of glycogen present in a muscle cell can continue muscle contraction for up to 2 minutes. The energy system that uses only the stored glycogen in our muscle cells to resynthesize the ATP is termed anaerobic glycolysis. Anaerobic means "without oxygen," and glycolysis refers to the breakdown of glycogen (a form of carbohydrate). This energy system, like the phosphagen system, is only used for intense bursts of energy. Windsprints or ten repetitions of a bench press are examples of activities utilizing this energy system.

Unlike the phosphagen system, which has no end product, anaerobic glycolysis produces lactic acid. As lactic acid builds up in the cell, the muscle will fatigue and muscular contraction will become increasingly more difficult. You have probably heard the term "going for the burn." This burn occurs when oxygen cannot be delivered to the cell to adequately meet the needs of the working muscle. At this point, the anaerobic energy system has been depleted and the aerobic energy system starts to function. Oxygen must now be supplied to the muscle cells in order for muscular contraction to continue.

Along with oxygen, nutrients are also needed to continue the resynthesis of ATP. The initial phases of aerobic exercise will utilize the nutrient glycogen-the same nutrient that was used in anaerobic glycolysis. When exercise continues for 20 minutes or more, fat will also be utilized to resynthesize ATP to continue muscular contraction.