



Chicago Human Rhythm Project to Present '25th Rhythm World'

by

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The Chicago Human Rhythm Project (CHRP), celebrating 25 years of creating community through American tap and contemporary percussive arts in world-class, innovative performance, education and outreach programs, presents the 25th annual Rhythm World. The oldest and most comprehensive festival of American tap and contemporary percussive arts in the world takes place July 6-August 2 at CHRP's American Rhythm Center in Chicago's historic Fine Arts Building, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and the Jazz Showcase. Rhythm World is presented in association with the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.

In the fifth year of a five-year international focus (Canada, Japan, Brazil, Europe), CHRP's annual festival, directed by CHRP Founder and Director Lane Alexander, spotlights Chicago and U.S. artists in an extraordinary roster of virtuoso performers and master teachers. Activities and events include performances at the Jazz Showcase and the Edlis Neeson Theater at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; a tap jam and a student showcase; and a wide range of residencies, courses, workshops, master classes and conferences for the field at the American Rhythm Center, located in the historic Fine Arts Building. Returning this year is Bessie Award winner and STOMP star Nicholas Young and his Institute For The Rhythmic Arts (IFTRA).

Performances: Tony Award Winner Tommy Tune and Master Teaching Artists

The crowning events of Rhythm World are performances by the world's leading percussive dance artists during the final week. On July 27 at 8 p.m., Rhythm World's virtuosic master artists perform with the Greg Spero Trio at the Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Court. Tickets are \$10-25 in advance at 312-542-2477 or at the door.

CHRP's 25th Anniversary Jubilee gala benefit takes place Thursday, July 30 at the Museum of Contemporary Art. The evening, which includes a reception and dinner, welcomes nine-time Tony Award-winning performer (which will become 10-time Tony winner when he receives the 2015 Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement June 7), choreographer and director Tommy Tune, who performs his one-man show Taps, Tunes and Tall Tales, accompanied by his music director, Michael Biagi. CHRP also presents Tune with its 25th Anniversary JUBA! Award for Extraordinary Lifetime Achievement. For more information, call 312-542-2477 or visit chicagotap.org.

The JUBA! Masters of Tap and Percussive Dance concerts, the grand finale of CHRP's 25th anniversary season, feature a host of extraordinary foot drummers and percussive arts masters July 31 and August 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Edlis Neeson Theater at the MCA, 220 E. Chicago Avenue. The programs, accompanied by the Greg Spero Trio, are as follows:

July 31-Up-and-coming and international masters of American tap connect with the singular Billy Strayhorn, the late legendary pianist, composer and Duke Ellington collaborator, for new arrangements by Greg Spero as well as new choreography set to Strayhorn's cherished songbook, including "Take the 'A' Train." Headliners include Martin "Tre" Dumas and Nico Rubio of Jus'LiTeN, tour de force soloists Star Dixon and Jumaane Taylor, Daniel Borak (Switzerland), Marina Coura (Brazil), Yukiko "Smilie" Misumi (Japan) and more.

August 1-The rousing closing performance features performers who hail from Chicago and across the U.S. CHRP resident ensemble BAM! performs Michelle Dorrance's Princess Grace Award-commissioned choreography Push Past Break and CHRP Founder/Director Lane Alexander's sublime works Reflections and Prisms. Virtuosos gracing the stage include Derick K. Grant of Broadway's original Bring In 'Da Noise, Bring In 'Da Funk, Sarah Savelli, Dianne "Lady Di" Walker and Jay Fagan.

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