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CHICAGO HUMAN RHYTHM PROJECT PRESENTS 2014 RHYTHM WORLD
Guests from Europe and Brazil and Top U.S. Tap Talent Highlight 24th Annual Festival July 7–Aug. 3
Presented in association with the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago

CHICAGO: Highlighting the depth and breadth of Chicago, national and international tap artistry, [Chicago Human Rhythm Project](#), the nation's premier presenter of American tap dance and contemporary percussive arts, presents [Rhythm World](#), the oldest and most comprehensive festival of American tap and contemporary percussive arts in the world, July 7–August 3 in downtown Chicago. Rhythm World is presented in association with the [Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago](#).

CHRP's 24th annual festival of performance, education and community outreach programs, directed by CHRP Founder and Director [Lane Alexander](#), features an extraordinary roster of virtuoso performing artists and master teachers—this year spotlighting talent from Europe and Brazil—with 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. New this year, CHRP [Nicholas Young's Institute For The Rhythmic Arts \(IFTRA\)](#).

Performances

The crowning events of Rhythm World are performances by the world's leading percussive dance artists during the final week. The **opening night July 28** performance at 8 p.m. features Rhythm World faculty and students performing with jazz musicians at the Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Court. Tickets are \$10–25 in advance at playoccasion.com/chicago-tap-american-rhythm-center/jazz-showcase or at the door.

“JUBA! Masters of Tap and Percussive Dance” features a host of extraordinary foot drummers and percussive arts masters **July 30, July 31 and August 2** 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 30—All the World's A Drum:** [Guillem Alonso](#) from Barcelona, [Daniel Borak](#) from Zurich, [Victor Cuno](#) from Paris, [Charles Renato](#) from Brazil and others bring tap back to America infused with their own cultural and rhythmic perspectives. Also on the program are [Star Dixon](#), *STOMP* alumnus [Nicholas Young](#) and [North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble](#).
- **July 31—...a different drummer...:** Austin's [Jason Janas](#), representing the pinnacle of tap's cutting edge, performs his one-man one-act “Pieces of a Man.” Also performing are CHRP's resident ensemble [BAM!](#), Broadway performer [Derick K. Grant](#), Daniel Leveille and more.
- **August 2—1, 2, 3, 25:** The final concert program concludes the 24th Rhythm World festival and looks ahead to the 25th anniversary season. Performers include [Cartier Williams](#) in his new one-act work “Rhythm Remix,” as well as [Jay Fagan](#), Luke Hickey, [Jason Janas](#), Demi Remick, [Sarah Savelli](#), [Jumaane Taylor](#) and more.

Tickets to the “JUBA!” performances are \$25–35 and go on sale May 14.

**Call 312-397-4010 or visit mcacheicago.org. Performances sell out every year, early purchase is advised.
All programming is subject to change.**

Tap Scholar Awards

Each year, CHRP awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to deserving, talented teens so they may participate in Rhythm World. This year, [14 students](#) earned tuition support during CHRP's February 2014 Winter Tap JAMboree and at select auditions around the globe (Tokyo, Zurich, Rio, Stuttgart and Toronto). "These scholarships support CHRP's mission to build community by bringing together students from different backgrounds and places to meet their international peers and study with great and emerging masters," said Alexander. Founded in 1995 to honor the life of CHRP Co-Founder Kelly Michaels, the Rhythm World Tap Scholar Award program has provided more than \$275,000 in financial aid to more than 200 talented, deserving young dancers from Chicago and throughout the United States as well as international exchange students.

Education programs

This year Rhythm World offers a new program, [Nicholas Young's Institute For The Rhythmic Arts \(IFTRA\)](#), which provides up to 25 students (selected by application) with a first-of-its-kind experience for emerging young professionals: a three-week intensive integrating foot, hand and body percussion led by *STOMP* alumnus and tap dancer extraordinaire [Nicholas Young](#), master percussionists [John Angeles](#) and [Doug Feig](#), CHRP Founder and Director [Lane Alexander](#), percussive artist [Jumaane Taylor](#) and more.

Intensive residencies July 21–25 offer students opportunities to learn from international tap performer [Charles Renato](#) from Brazil, tap dancer and body percussionist [Nicholas Young](#), the legendary [Dianne "Lady Di" Walker](#) and Broadway performer [Derick K. Grant](#).

Courses, workshops and master classes take place July 28–August 3. The highly respected faculty of master teachers includes special guests from Europe and Brazil—[Guillem Alonso](#) from Barcelona, [Daniel Borak](#) from Zurich, [Victor Cuno](#) from Paris and [Charles Renato](#) from Brazil—as well as many from the U.S. who have taught at the festival throughout its 24-year history, including [Lane Alexander](#), [Bril Barrett](#), [Martin Bronson](#), [Zada Cheeks](#), [Star Dixon](#), [Martin "Tre" Dumas](#), [Jay Fagan](#), [Derick K. Grant](#), [Jason Janas](#), [Nico Rubio](#), [Sarah Savelli](#), [Jumaane Taylor](#), [Dianne "Lady Di" Walker](#), [Sam Weber](#), [Cartier Williams](#) and [Nicholas Young](#).

The **KIDS Program** July 28–August 1 offers intermediate tappers ages nine through 12 a curriculum including oral and video histories, tap technique classes, improvisation instruction and individual development of style and expressive ability. A new **Adult Program** July 28–31 offers intermediate-level classes and a seminar each day. **After Work Adult Courses** take place July 29–31.

Conferences for the field

Now in its 14th year, CHRP's annual **Youth Tap Ensemble Conference (YTEC)** and **PrepTEC**, now in its seventh year, take place July 28–August 1. YTEC is one of the most comprehensive programs available to tap ensembles. Students work with masters on technique and improvisation, meet with specialists regarding related disciplines and learn new choreography. PrepTEC offers the same opportunities for study to intermediate-level tappers. More than 90 dancers between the ages of 12 and 19, representing 10 youth tap ensembles from the U.S., Brazil and Canada, will gather to study new choreography, technique, improvisation and theatre-related topics. This year's YTEC and PrepTEC participants will learn original choreographies from [Charles Renato](#), [Bril Barrett](#) and STOMP's [Nicholas Young](#).

**All education programs except YTEC take place at the American Rhythm Center,
Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago.
YTEC takes place at the MCA, 220 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago.
To register, visit chicagotap.org or call 312-542-CHRP (2477).**

For complete Rhythm World information, visit chicagotap.org or call 312-542-CHRP (2477).

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Chicago Human Rhythm Project

Founded in 1990, [Chicago Human Rhythm Project](#) (CHRP) builds community by presenting American tap dance and contemporary percussive arts in world-class and innovative performance, education and community outreach programs. During the last 24 years, CHRP has produced multiple community-based collaborations involving shared revenue programs, concerts and touring opportunities, including:

- annual National Tap Dance Day concerts, featuring an array of tap and percussive dance artists
- a shared revenue program designed to assist Chicago's budding tap community to build capacity through audience development, created in 2001
- Thanks 4 Giving, another innovative shared revenue program launched in 2005 as part of its annual Global Rhythms concerts, through which CHRP has partnered with more than 100 Chicago-based nonprofits to raise funds for a wide variety of service agencies
- participation in the 5th Anniversary Beijing International Dance Festival, assembling 70 artists to represent the United States
- establishment of the American Rhythm Center (ARC), providing a shared, affordable and sustainable education, rehearsal and administrative facility for several leading Chicago arts organizations in the historic Fine Arts Building
- curating the first ever, full-length performance of concert tap dance on a main stage of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on December 7, 2012

CHRP's vision is to establish the first global center for American tap and percussive arts, which will create a complete ecosystem of education, performance, creation and community in a state-of-the-art facility uniting generations of diverse artists and the general public. For information visit chicagotap.org.

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