RHYTHM WORLD

FESTIVAL PROGRAM

July 22 - 28, 2019
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Welcome to Rhythm World

WELCOME to the Dance Center of Columbia College, the final week of Chicago Human Rhythm Project’s 30th Anniversary Season and our 29th Annual summer festival of American tap – RHYTHM WORLD – and thank you for being here tonight!

For 30 years, Chicago Human Rhythm Project has taught and inspired young men and women from every conceivable background; has educated and ignited the imaginations of elementary and high school students; has grown and taken artistic risks in long-term and new collaborations; has established the American Rhythm Center in the very heart of Chicago and STOMPING GROUNDS throughout Chicago; and has built a sustainable institution dedicated to the American art of tap dance.

This year’s festival – Rhythm World – continues to break new ground with:

• Passionate recommitment to innovative education programs that change lives
• Fearless risk taking as we create and present world class artists and new work
• Pioneering expression of new community through authentic diversity

I’d like to express deep gratitude to Dani Borak, our first three-year Artist in Residence, for his boundless creativity, generosity, and vision. He has helped to reignite our community and we look forward to continuing the collaboration in coming years. Dani’s residency was made possible by leadership gift from Phil and Marsha Dowd as well as additional support from Elaine and Arlen Rubin and Pam Crutchfield. We can’t thank them enough for making Dani’s residency possible.

As CHRP looks forward to its fourth decade of education, performance and community development work, we want to express our profound gratitude to the many supporters in the community and invite you to join them as we continue to build a new American institution dedicated to rhythm . . . and to using rhythm as a shared language to bring diverse individuals and communities together . . . to build a more peaceful and mutually appreciative society.

Thank you once again for being here to share this milestone with us, we’re so grateful for your support and we look forward to sharing more rhythm with you in the coming years!
Opening Night at the Jazz Showcase  
Monday, July 22, 2019  
Program

Virtuoso performers from the concert, Broadway and commercial stages join the Eric Hochberg Trio in the 18th Annual Jazz Showcase opening night!

**Musicians:** Eric Hochberg, Vijay Tellis-Nayak, Tim Mulvenna

- Demi Remick
- Megan Davis and Time Brickey
- Ja’Bowen Dixon
- Bril Barrett and Monti Ellison

~ Pause ~

- Dani Borak
- Donnetta Jackson
- KJ Sheldon and Tristan Bruns
- Martin “Tre” Dumas III
- Sean Kaminski

~ Pause ~

- Charles Renato
- Jason Janas
- Cartier Williams
- Nico Rubio
- Star Dixon
JUBA! Masters of Tap and Percussive Dance  
Tuesday, July 23, 2019  
Program

“By Way of Taps: A J Dilla Tribute”  
333 & Friends

Artistic Director: Nico Rubio  
Music: Variety of songs or samples produced or used by J Dilla  
Composer: James Dewitt Yancey (aka J Dilla)  
DJ’d by: Nico Rubio  
Choreography: Nico Rubio with improvisation by the dancers  

~ INTERMISSION ~

“VIRTUOSO”  
CHR Project

Artistic Director: Charles Renato  
Choreography: Charles Renato  
Costume Design: Alvarenga Design  
Dancers: Rebecca Cannaday, Taytum Buford, Eric Decaminada, Vikas Arun, Tamii Sakurai, Charles Renato

“Prologue – REM”  
Music: based on Clapping Music by Steve Reich  
Dancers: FULL CAST

“Pilot”  
Music: Polyrhythmic 1 by CHR  
Dancers: FULL CAST

“Lush”  
Music: Libertango by Michel Camilo and Tomatito  
Dancers: Rebecca Cannaday, Taytum Buford, Tamii Sakurai

“Strung”  
Music: Four Seasons by Vivaldi  
Dancers: Eric Decaminada, Vikas Arun, Charles Renato
“Ordinary”
Music: Chinatown, My Chinatown by Lionel Hampton
Dancers: Rebecca Cannaday, Taytum Buford

“Evolve”
Dancers: FULL CAST

“First Love”
Music: Love of My Life by Queen
Dancer: Charles Renato

“Blank”
Choreography: Cast
Music: Improvisation by Mark Meadow/Jack Kilby
Dancers: FULL CAST

“Polyrhythms”
Music: Polyrhythms 2.0 by CHR
Dancers: FULL CAST

“Awakening”
Music: Koffa by Detektivbyran
Dancers: FULL CAST

“Virtuoso”
Music: Hooves by Mikael Karlsson
Dancers: FULL CAST
Student Showcase at Navy Pier
Wednesday, July 24, 2019
Program

Pre-professional Youth Tap Ensembles from around Chicago, the US, Canada, South America, and Asia, perform repertory works alongside curated student works followed by a JAM session ending with the Navy Pier Fireworks display.

“Ain’t Nobody”
Dancer: Abi Roppolo (Thrive Center for Dance)
Choreographer: Star Dixon

“Hide nor Hair”
Dancers: Footprints Tap Ensemble
Choreographer: Mark Yonally

“The Bomb”
Dancer: Braeden Cota (Larkin Dance Studio)
Choreographer: Deane Taster

“Sci-Fi Swing”
Dancers: The Tri-Tone Rhythm Ensemble
Choreographer: Tony Merriwether & Tasha Lawson

“Detroit”
Dancer: Hanna Redican (Willow Street Dance Theater)
Choreographer: Tre Dumas

“Tessellate”
Dancers: Footprints Dance Studio
Choreographer: Becca Snow

“That’s It, I Quit, I’m Moving On”
Dancer: Marissa Camper (Addicted 2 Dance Company)
Choreographer: Marissa Camper & Josh Epp

“How Bout You”
Dancers: The Tri-Tone Rhythm Ensemble
Choreographer: Tasha Lawson

“DOWN”
Dancer: Marium Rizyi (Prestige Dance Company)
Choreographer: Jean Linke

“Step It Up”
Dancers: North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble
Choreographer: Ruth Pershing & John Dee Holeman

“Shamisen Desu” (Blown Away)
Dancer: Aoshi Ichimura (ARTN TAP Dance Studio)
Choreographer: Aoshi Ichimura
“Never Never”  
Dancers: Dayton Dance Conservatory Tap Company  
Choreographer: Star Dixon

“AKATSUKI” (Dawn)  
Dancer: Mimoza Kobayashi (ARTN TAP Dance Studio)  
Choreographer: Mimoza Kobayashi & Mayumi Kaneko

“Wamono”  
Dancers: Takuto Hashimoto & Taiga Nagai  
Choreographer: Takuto Hashimoto & Taiga Nagai

“Yellow Moon”  
Dancer: Kate Metz (The Tri-Tone Rhythm Ensemble)  
Choreographer: Tasha Lawson

“Careless Love”  
Dancers: TAP TOO+ (American Rhythm Center)  
Choreographer: Lane Alexander

“Gravy Waltz”  
Dancer: Quinn Fridrich (Nolte Academy)  
Choreographer: Sean Kaminski

“Bach and Fourth”  
Dancers: The Tri-Tone Rhythm Ensemble  
Choreographer: Lane Alexander

“Butterfly”  
Dancer: Catherine Rak (Thrive Center for Dance)  
Choreographer: Star Dixon

“YUP”  
Dancers: Keane Sense of Rhythm – Youth Tap Ensemble  
Choreographer: Nicholas Young

“Jumpin’ at the Woodside”  
Dancer: Cameron Reimers (Nolte Academy)  
Choreographer: Sean Kaminski

“Witchcraft”  
Dancers: The Tri-Tone Rhythm Ensemble  
Choreographer: Laura Donaldson

“Audrey”  
Dancer: Ella Morgan (Nolte Academy)  
Choreographer: Sean Kaminski

“Buck & Wing / Route 66”  
Dancers: North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble  
Choreographer: Josh Hilberman / Gene Medler

“Black Metropolis”  
Dancers: M.A.D.D. Rhythms  
Choreographer: Bril Barrett, Star Dixon, Izaiah Harris, and introducing Tyler Booker
JUBA! Masters of Tap and Percussive Dance  
Thursday, July 25, 2019  
Program  

“Essentials”  
Co.MMIT  

Artistic Director: Jason Janas  
Original music composed by Jason Janas  
Costume design: Bianca Janas  
Choreography: Jason Janas  

Dancers: Jason Janas, Shawn Kurilko, Michelle May, Jeffrey Dawson, Ryan Vettel, Savanah Dynkowski  

Intro / “Cleansing”  

“Everything Old is New Again”  
Ryan Vettel’s Essentials  

“Heals”  
Michelle May’s Essentials  

“Meditation”  
Shawn Kurilko’s Essentials  

“The Closing”  

~ INTERMISSION ~  

Stone Soup Rhythms  

Choreography: Dani Borak  
Costumes: Daniel Borak & Cast  

Dancers: Jessica Tenbusch, KJ Sheldon, Megan Davis, Tristan Bruns, Time Brickey, Davon Suttles, Matt Pospeshil, Daniel Borak  

“When I Look In Your Eyes”  
Music: Outkast  
Dancers: Full Cast, Matt Pospeshil (soloist)
“PJ & Rooster”
Music: Outkast
Dancers: Full Cast and special guest Aleksandr Ostanin (soloist)

“Don’t”
Music: Ed Sheeran
Dancers: Jessica Tenbusch (soloist), KJ Sheldon, Tristan Bruns, Time Brickey, Matt Pospeshil, Daniel Borak, and special guest Donnetta Jackson (soloist)

“Funknroll”
Music: Prince
Dancers: Full Cast, Davon Suttles (soloist)

“Sound & Color”
Music: Alabama Shakes
Dancers: KJ Sheldon (soloist), Megan Davis, Tristan Bruns, Time Brickey, Davon Suttles, Matt Pospeshil, Daniel Borak

“Paradise Circus”
Music: Massive Attack
Dancers: Jessica Tenbusch and Daniel Borak

“Fragile”
Music: Tech N9ne ft. Kendrick Lamar, !MAYDAY! & Kendall Morgan
Dancers: Jessica Tenbusch, KJ Sheldon, Megan Davis, Tristan Bruns, Time Brickey, Matt Pospeshil, Daniel Borak, and special guests Donnetta Jackson and Star Dixon (soloist)

“Movement 11”
Music: Bugge Wesseltoft, Henrik Schwarz, and Dan Berglund
Dancers: Jessica Tenbusch, KJ Sheldon, Megan Davis, Daniel Borak

“Escualo”
Music: A. Piazzolla and Cinzia Merlin
Dancers: Daniel Borak

“Unsquare Dance”
Music: Dave Brubeck and The Dave Brubeck Quartet
Dancers: KJ Sheldon, Megan Davis, Tristan Bruns, Time Brickey (soloist), Davon Suttles, Matt Pospeshil, Daniel Borak

“Yoyk”
Music: Bugge Wesseltoft
Dancers: Full Cast, Megan Davis and Tristan Bruns (soloists)

“Alien”
Music Modul 18 by Nik Barscht
Dancers: Full Cast

“Rytme”
Music: Bugge Wesseltoft
Dancers: Full Cast

“Fusion”
Music: Take a Quick Break by Bugge Wesseltoft, Henrik Schwarz, and Dan Berglund
Dancers: Full Cast, with special guest Samuel Crouch
JUBA! Masters of Tap and Percussive Dance
Friday, July 26, 2019
Program

“FEELING GOOD: A MADD Tribute to Nina Simone”
M.A.D.D. Rhythms

Director: Bril Barrett
Choreography: Bril Barrett, Star Dixon, Donnetta Jackson, Tristan Bruns, Alexandrya Fryson, Megan Davis, Tyler Booker, Time Brickey, KJ Sheldon
Dancers: Bril Barrett, Starinah Dixon, Donnetta Jackson, Tristan Bruns, Megan Davis, Alexandrya Fryson, Andrew Carr, Time Brickey, KJ Sheldon, Carmen Paquete, Caleb Jackson, Izaiah Harris, Dein Moseley, Rachel Perine, Chandler Browne, Ivy Anderson, Tyler Booker
Vocalists: Dee Alexander, Joan Collaso, Maggie Brown, Felena Bunn
Musicians: Benjamin Johnson (Drums, Musical Director), Carmen Stokes (Piano), Curtis Robinson (Guitar), Will Howard (Bass)
Lighting design: Phoenix Ballentine
Costume Design: Star Dixon

“Feeling Good”
Choreography: Star Dixon, Donnetta Jackson, Tristan Bruns, Alexandrya Fryson
Dancers: Starinah Dixon, Donnetta Jackson, Tristan Bruns, Megan Davis, Alexandrya Fryson, Andrew Carr, Time Brickey, KJ Sheldon, Caleb Jackson, Izaiah Harris, Ivy Anderson, Rachel Benzing
Vocalists: Dee Alexander, Joan Collaso, Maggie Brown, Felena Bunn

“Strange Fruit”
Choreography: Bril Barrett
Improvigraphy: Time Brickey, Izaiah Harris
Vocalists: Dee Alexander

“Good Bait”
Choreography: Bril Barrett
Improvigraphy: Star Dixon, Tristan Bruns, Megan Davis, KJ Sheldon, Alexandrya Fryson
Dancers: Bril Barrett, Starinah Dixon, Tristan Bruns, Megan Davis, Alexandrya Fryson, Andrew Carr, Time Brickey, KJ Sheldon, Caleb Jackson, Izaiah Harris, Ivy Anderson, Tyler Booker

“Four Women”
Improvigraphy: Star Dixon, Donnetta Jackson, Alexandrya Fryson, Tyler Booker
Vocalists: Dee Alexander, Joan Collaso, Maggie Brown, Felena Bunn

“African Mailman”
Choreography: Bril Barrett
Dancers: Bril Barrett, Starinah Dixon, Donnetta Jackson, Tristan Bruns, Megan Davis, Alexandrya Fryson, Andrew Carr, Time Brickey, KJ Sheldon, Caleb Jackson, Izaiah Harris, Ivy Anderson, Tyler Booker
~ INTERMISSION ~

“Kick the Square”
9-Point Inc

Founder: Kilian Deissler and Daniel Borak
Stage Direction: Charlotte Joss
Composer: Kilian Deissler
Construction: Raffael E. Hafner
Choreographer: Dani Borak

Ensemble: Dani Borak (dancer), Sebastian Koelman (trombone), Matthias Manser (trumpet), Florian Haupt (saxophone), Isai Angst (clarinet), Lisa Weiss (double/electric bass), Mario Strebel (accordion)
JUBA! Masters of Tap and Percussive Dance
Saturday, July 27, 2019
Program

Leading lights from the global tap community gather to share intimate and boisterous works to live jazz – a festival tradition for 29 years!

Aleksandr Ostanin
Music: You by Brian Mendoza

“Comes Love”
Performed by: Demi Remick
Music: Sam H. Stept

Ja’Bowen Dixon

“You Do!?”
Performed by: Jessica Chapuis Bronson, Martin Bronson
Music: Stevie Wonder
Choreography: Martin Bronson

Sean Kaminski

Martin “Tre” Dumas III
Music: What You Won’t Do For Love

Excerpts from “What It’s Like To Be Human”
Choreography: Tristan Bruns
Music: Pink Floyd
Performed by: Rachel Benzing, Dani Borak, Tristan Bruns, Kaytlin Bush, KJ Sheldon, Jessica Tenbusch

~ INTERMISSION ~

“Dat’s Right” (2004)
Choreography: Linda Sohl-Ellison
Music: Burgess, Belafonte, Span; Arranged by Monti Ellison
Performed by: Linda Sohl-Ellison & Monti Ellison

“Dreamer”
Performed by: Cartier Williams
Music: Eros by Nicholas Britell
Sam Weber
Music: Evidence by Thelonious Monk

“green eyez”
Choreography: Davon Suttles
Music: Green Eyes by Erykah Badu
Performed by: Keane Sense of Rhythm: Davon Suttles, Anna Esposito, Allie Strehle, Roxanne King, Audrey Bartley, Molly Rosaane, Annabell Schreier, Tony Van De Ligt

Lane Alexander
Music: French Suite #2 in C Minor performed by Maria Joaopires
Concerto in D Minor BWV 974: III. Presto performed by Glenn Gould
Composed by Johann Sebastian Bach

Jason Janas
Music: “Unforgettable”

Dianne Walker
ARTIST & COMPANY BIOS:

333 (Three Thirty Three)
333 (Three Thirty Three) is a Chicago based Tap Company, founded by Nico Rubio. 333’s mission, in the spirit of the Ascended Masters, is to approach the art of Tap Dancing with the Mind, Body and Sole’s. Inspiring us all to feel connected to our Universal Energies of Love, Passion and Peace. 333 has performed at Rhythm World, the Motor City Tap Fest, and in Millennium Park to name a few. Rubio’s new show, By Way Of Taps: A J Dilla Tribute features 333 and friends. As the resident company of Shuffle Liife Productions, 333 is here to acknowledge our traditions in Tap, while trying to bring something new to the table as well. (www.ShuffleLiife.com for more info)

Lane Alexander:
Lane Alexander, Chicago Human Rhythm Project’s co-founder and director for 25 years, has performed, choreographed, taught and advocated for American tap and percussive dance for more than 40 years. He has performed Morton Gould’s Tap Dance Concerto with the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall, The London Philharmonic at the Royal Festival Hall, the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra at the Pritzer Pavilion and the Little Orchestra Society at Lincoln Center among many others. Lane co-directed the Emmy nominated PBS documentary JUBA! Masters of Tap and Percussive Dance, curated the first full-length tap concert on a main stage at the Kennedy Center and led more than 80 American tap dancers to China to represent the United States at the 5th Annual Beijing International Dance Festival. Lane has been a driving force behind the development of a new, collaborative dance/arts space in Chicago’s historic Fine Arts Building – the American Rhythm Center.

Marty Bronson:
Martin began his training at his family’s dance school in St. Louis, Missouri under the tutelage of his older sister, and continued his tap education at tap festivals in St. Louis, Chicago, and New York City. Martin performed with Diva La Tap in St. Louis, Chicago Tap Theatre, co-founded The Tapmen tap company, and performed with and served as Rehearsal Director of Chicago Human Rhythm Project’s BAM!  Martin was the recipient of the Artist in Resonance Grant for creation of new tap works in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015. Martin is also a passionate dance educator, regularly teaching master classes around the nation with recent credits including CHRP’s Rhythm World and Dance Masters of America. He has developed education programs for Audible Odyssey and Chicago Human Rhythm Project. Martin is currently the owner and artistic director of Millennium Dance Center.

Tristan Bruns:
Tristan Bruns is a Chicago Tap dancer who has received training under Donna Johnson, Ted Louis Levy, Sam Weber and Martin “Tre” Dumas III. Tristan has been on faculty at the Circle City Tap Festival (Indianapolis) and Rhythm World (Chicago) and is currently a member of M.A.D.D. rhythms directed by Bril Barret, and the Chicago Human Rhythm Project’s resident ensemble directed by Artist in Residence, Daniel Borak. Tristan is the Director of Tapman Productions and has produced two seasons of performances in Chicago, including The Adventures of Tapman, THRUST!, and La Raison d’etre. Tapman Productions has provided production assistance to dance artists Ian Berg (From the Top), Jumaane Taylor (Supreme Love), Kate O’Hanlon (Modern Marvels Dance Co.), Kendra Jorsted (Jorstap) and the Elgin Ties Dance Festival (Elgin Taps). Tapman Productions is currently beginning their 3rd season in Chicago, IL.

CHR Project
CHR Project was launched by Brazilian tap phenom Charles Renato. They are a company in residence at the American Tap Dance Foundation (ATDF) in New York, performing at the foundation’s annual show, Rhythm in Motion, in addition to Rhythm World in Chicago. The company is comprised of STOMP cast members, Jacob’s Pillow alumni, Broadway Dance Center and Steps on Broadway teachers, and many more. This year they are premiering their new work VIRTUOSO!
Co.MMIT:
Jason Janas started his company Co.MMIT (making movement in time) in 2016 in California. The company is based on the principles of hard work, knowledge, the pursuit of perfection, and respect for the art form that is Tap Dance. Co.MMIT has performed at the American Tap Festival, The Stockholm Sweden Tap Festival, The Twin Cities Tap Festival, and the Portland Tap Dance Festival. The company has had as many as 13 members, now with 7, and has always worked to create impactful work while still keeping connected to the history. The company represents the "commitment" that tap dancers must make to being totally immersed in one's work.

Ja'Bowen Dixon:
Ja'Bowen Dixon is a prominent dancer, choreographer, actor, instructor, visual and performance artist that has entertained audiences since the age of six. He first began his performing arts training at Burnham Park Prep, a private elementary school in downtown Chicago. Inspired and passionate, he then began to pursue his career at the tender age of ten, landing work in film, commercials and concert performances. Some of his film and television credits include Save The Last Dance, What About Joan, and Roll Bounce. In addition to his film work, he has also been featured multiple times in the top dance publication in the country (Dance Spirit magazine) and has modeled for Leo's Dance Wear. Even with his success, he also continued his training and learned from internationally known tap dancers such as Savion Glover, Diane Walker and the late Jimmy Slyde. By the age of sixteen Jabowen became a founding member of the internationally renowned company, M.A.D.D Rhythms.

Martin “Tre” Dumas III:
Tre Dumas is a Chicago native and currently works as co-Artistic Director of M.A.D.D. Rhythms. Tap dancing since the age of 8, Tre first began attracting the tap community’s attention by representing Tommy Sutton’s Mayfair Academy of Fine Arts as an instructor at the Chicago Human Rhythm Project. Soon after, Tre was cast in the national touring revival of Broadway’s “The Tap Dance Kid” where he first worked with Bril Barrett. Shortly thereafter, Tre joined Bril's existing group “Steppin' Out” and they started performing together in numerous tap festivals and events. He was then featured in the North American and European tours of “Riverdance”, dancing with the show for nearly 3 years. Upon his return to his home town, he continued his association with Mr. Barrett developing a vision that was once an idea into an internationally renowned company, M.A.D.D Rhythms.

Monti Ellison:
Monti Ellison is an accomplished percussionist/drummer, composer and vocalist. He has performed worldwide as a soloist with Harry Belafonte, Stephanie Mills, Lonnie Liston Smith, Little Steven and others. As a dance musician he spent 15 years at the Alvin Ailey School in New York where he was head staff musician. Monti teaches African dance, hand percussion, drumming and bucket drumming; he is an accompanist and/or faculty member at Loyola Marymount University, Orange Coast College, CSU Long Beach, The Wooden Floor and he teaches master classes internationally. He has composed numerous dance scores: Judith Jamison’s Divining for the Alvin Ailey company, a percussion score for the New York based Urban Arts Corps’ production of Alice in Wonderland directed by Vinette Carroll and choreographed by Talley Beatty, J5A6Z7Z8 for jazz choreographer Jose Meier, as well as Dat’s Right, Espiritu, Riptide, Stroke of the Oarsmen, Deciduous Dances, Wade, Ode To Hummingbirds, Chugarump and FOIL/Copper, Zinc, Brass, for Rhapsody In Taps, plus many compositions for the Monti Ellison Percussion Ensemble.

Footprints Tap Ensemble
Footprints Tap Ensemble, in residence at Talent Forum of Libertyville, is a 501c3 production and performance company. These young dancers actively choreograph, teach, perform and participate in all aspects of dance show production. Company members, as well as commissioned choreographers are preparing Footprints’ for their 25 annual show entitled “Tap Jam”, held at Vernon Hills High School Auditorium on November 10, 2019. Other performances include the Chicago Human Rhythm Project’s Youth Tap Ensemble Conference, Thanksgiving
Day Parade on State Street, Libertyville Days Parade, Harmony Live Music and Dance Festival, Oak Grove School Performing Arts Day, Lambs Farm, Green Oaks Senior Living. Thanks to the “Tap into the Community Grant,” they are ready for any opportunity with their own portable tap floor. They are assisted by Artistic Director Becca Snow, Footprints 2 & Workshop Director Danielle Brooks, Historian and Tap Technician Mark Yonally, Business Manager Nicole Farrell, and Producer Shelley Hoselton.

Jason Janas:
Jason Janas is originally from New Jersey. He began his tap dance instruction under Ms. Deborah Mitchell and was the first charter member of the New Jersey Tap Ensemble. He then found a love for the dance and continued to learn and study the art form. He also trained and was a member of the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble under the direction of Gene Medler. His first professional company after high school was Tapestry Dance Company in Austin TX, under the direction of Acia Gray. He was a principal dancer there for 5 years. His hard work ethic began to take notice and Derick Grant invited Jason to be in his show “Imagine Tap!” which ran for 6 weeks in Chicago, and changed his life. His other show credits include “Souls of our Feet” with Tapestry Dance Company, “Wonderland” with Sara Savelli and Ayodele Casel, and most recently co-choreographed and was featured in “Tap Stars” with Rasta Thomas. He has taught at tap festivals in New Jersey, Chicago, New York, L.A., Charlotte, Austin, San Antonio, Vancouver, Zurich, Curitiba (Brazil), Moscow, and Barcelona! Jason is currently the resident tap instructor for Radix Dance Convention. Tap dance does a body good.

Sean Kaminski:
Sean Kaminski started tap dancing at the age of 9, under the tutelage of Donna Johnson. He received much of his training, both from Johnson and Ashley DeForest Goletz, at DeForest Dance Academy in Elmhurst, Illinois. A scholarship recipient for the Chicago Human Rhythm Project from 2005-10, Sean enriched his tap education by learning from such masters as Jay Fagan, Martin “Tre” Dumas, Jason Samuels Smith, and Derick Grant, among others. At 16, Sean began teaching and choreographing for DeForest Dance Academy’s award-winning competitive team, Steppin’ Out Dance Company. From there, he decided that he wanted to spend the rest of his life creating and teaching others about tap dance.

Keane Sense of Rhythm Youth Tap Ensemble:
The “Keane Sense of Rhythm Youth Tap Ensemble” was launched by sisters’ Ellen Keane and Cathy Wind, after attending the first CHRP YTEC program in 2001. This program is a key investment in the next generation of dancers and provides a forum for talented youth to learn original and historically significant choreography. We strive to create opportunities for the dancers to perform for peers and to educate youth about American Tap Dance and its importance in the cultural heritage of our nation. Students expand their artistic talents, improve their leadership skills and become creative problem solvers and critical thinkers. We aim to go beyond creating dancers, but to develop people who understand the value of arts and arts education. Our company has benefited greatly from our attendance at the Chicago Human Rhythm Project since 1990, and beginning in August we celebrate our 23rd anniversary year.

M.A.D.D. Rhythms:
M.A.D.D. RHYTHMS is a phenomenal TAPdance collective whose “SOLE” purpose is to spread the Love and Joy of TAP worldwide. What started as Bril Barrett & Martin Dumas III’s formula for giving back, is now a full-fledged performing arts company, quickly gaining a reputation for representing the true essence of tap: RHYTHM! The company is composed of young, versatile tap dancers from all over Chicago. Their ages range from 13 to 42, and their backgrounds are as equally diverse. The one thing they all have in common is a love for “the dance”. M.A.D.D. Rhythms’ mission is to preserve, promote and contribute to this artform called tap. We will teach it’s history, represent it’s culture and advocate for it’s future. We will use this beautiful dance/music form to make a difference in the under-served communities of this world by connecting and caring for the youth of this world. We believe that having access and options gives
a child a greater chance at a positive life. Therefore, we will spread the joy, love, discipline and expression of tap to as many children as we humanly can!

**North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble:**

Rhythm...funk...innovation...excitement: that’s the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble (NCYTE). NCYTE features approximately 40 dancers, ages 8 to 18, who hail from throughout North Carolina. Don’t let the word “youth” fool you. These dancers tear up the floor with poise, passion and professionalism. NCYTE honors the traditions of this unique American art form while infusing it with youthful energy, contemporary music, and innovative dances from some of the world’s most talented choreographers. Founded by JUBA award winning artistic director Gene Medler in 1983, NCYTE entertains audiences with cutting-edge contemporary choreography along with traditional rhythm tap. NCYTE has toured throughout the U.S. and the world, with performances in Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, Germany and Mexico. The company has toured or collaborated with the Greensboro Symphony, Squirrel Nut Zippers, Mallarme Chamber Players, and the North Carolina Jazz Repertory Orchestra, among others.

**Aleksandr Ostanin:**

Aleksandr began tap dancing at the age of 10. During his career he became a World Champion for 4 times. Aleksandr also won the 1st season of Ukraine’s “So You Think You Can Dance”. He was dancing in such shows as “Tap Reloaded”, “Wings of Rigolo”, and “Tap United”. He also runs a Dance Studio in the city of Odessa. Besides his dancing career he is a founder and director of Odessa Tap Festival.

Aleksandr is an official face & “legs” of Ruben Sanchez Tap shoes. Now Aleksandr is coach of USA National Tap Dance Team.

**Demi Remick:**

Demi Remick is a YoungArts Gold winner in Dance, one of Dance Magazine’s 2014 Top-25-To-Watch, a Presidential Scholar in the Arts nominee, SUNY Purchase’s Junior Dance Award Recipient and a Capezio Athlete. Demi tours as the tap dance soloist with Postmodern Jukebox and is currently a member of Caleb Teicher & Company. Demi understudied Jason Samuels Smith’s “Chasin’ the Bird” at the Joyce Theatre, was a member of the ‘Bessie’ award-winning company, Dorrance Dance, where she has performed at Danspace St. Marks Church, Fall For Dance at CityCenter, and Jacob’s Pillow to name a few, and has performed in Emma Portner & The Flock’s, “A Primitive Cinema” in NYC. Demi has performed in “A Salute to the Presidential Scholars” at the Kennedy Center and in YoungArts’ Gala both directed by Bill T. Jones, attended Juilliard’s Summer Program and has taught internationally.

**Linda Sohl-Ellison:**

Linda Sohl-Ellison is the Artistic Director, choreographer, and soloist with Rhapsody In Taps, a Long Beach, CA based touring company featuring seven tap dancers and six musicians that she founded with Toni Tack in 1981. Linda has a BFA from Ohio University in Dance and Graphic Design and an MA from UCLA. Her training includes studies under the great tap masters Foster Johnson, Eddie Brown, Honi Coles and Buster Brown. She collaborated with Gregory Hines, staging and performing in his first choreographic work, Toeing the 3rd and Fifth made for Rhapsody In Taps in 1990, and she has re-staged this work several times, most recently in 2016 for the company’s 35th Anniversary. Linda has toured the United States, Mexico, Asia, Indonesia, France and Germany teaching and performing as a soloist, with Rhapsody In Taps, and with her husband, percussionist Monti Ellison.

**Stone Soup Rhythms:**

Stone Soup Rhythms (SSR), the resident ensemble of the Chicago Human Rhythm Project, is a collective of emerging and established tap dance artists who bend time and space to make new work. The name Stone Soup Rhythms refers to a European fable in which a wayfaring stranger brings a small village together to create a communal feast by enticing each member to add a unique ingredient. Led for the last three years by CHRP’s Artist in Residence Dani Borak, the company has a large and eclectic repertoire including works by Borak, MacArthur Genius Michelle Dorrance, Emmy Award winner Ted Louis Levy, CHRP Founder and Director Lane Alexander, sand master Guillem Alonso, Step Afrika! Artistic Director Jakari JcKo
Sherman and others. SSR connects the ancient and sacred roots of percussive dance to the urban vibe of personal expression and innovation to create a feast of sound and movement.

The Tri-Tone Rhythm Ensemble:
Founded in 2013 by Tasha Lawson, The Tri-Tone Rhythm Ensemble provides training and performance experiences for passionate Tap Dancers in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The ensemble members train together 5 hours a week with a strong focus on technique, tap history, music, composition, improvisation, historical repertoire, and in the creation of new works. Tri-Tone artists study and collaborate with guest artists, body percussionists, movement specialists and musicians from around the globe. The Ensemble has performed both locally and abroad at Tap City, Third Coast Rhythm Project, Toronto Rhythm Initiative, The Vancouver International Tap Festival, Alberta’s Feat’s Festival and at International Jazz Day celebrations. The Company will be hosting the 9th Annual Rhythm Body and Soul Tap Festival in Calgary, February 14-17, 2020.

For more information, please visit: www.tashalawson.com or rhythmbodyandsoul.com

Sam Weber:
Sam Weber is an award-winning, internationally acclaimed performing artist, master teacher and choreographer who regularly appears throughout the world. A protege of Stan Kahn in San Francisco, Sam has shared the stage with such tap luminaries as Charles, “Honi” Coles, Steve Condos, and Gregory Hines. Sam continues to teach at tap festivals worldwide. He has taught in the dance departments of UCLA, Cal State L.A., Cal State Fullerton and San Francisco State University and currently teaches regular classes at ODC Dance Commons and City Dance in San Francisco.

Cartier Williams:
Hoofer, Choreographer, Filmmaker and Performer who hails from Washington, D.C., began his tap dancing career at the age of four. Cartier learned his first tap steps from his grandmother Audrey Williams. At the age of six, Cartier performed a piece choreographed by Mýa Cartier and won Apollo Kids at The prestigious Apollo Theater, distinguished as one of The Apollo Theater’s youngest “Apollo Legends”. Later that year, Cartier was invited to the Kennedy Center Honors alongside Robert Downey Jr.
PROGRAM NOTES:

By Way of Taps: A J Dilla Tribute

By Way of Taps: A J Dilla Tribute is just that - an homage to the life, legacy, and music of James Dewitt Yancey. Nico Rubio, Artistic Director of 333 (Three Thirty Three), has choreographed this all Tap show to a score of J Dilla Productions and Samples. Not only performing in the show, Nico DJs the music live, with a few transitions pre-mixed. The cast is 333 and friends, all of whom are either actual family or Tap Family, who grew up dancing together. BWOT highlights the musical similarities between Tap Dance and Hip Hop cultures, while acknowledging Ascended Masters such as J Dilla, Roy Hargrove, Fela Kuti, and Stan Getz. BWOT is supported by a 2018 Chicago Dancemakers Forum Lab Artist Award, as well as the American Rhythm Center, Intuit Dance Center, and Lou Conte Dance Studio.

VIRTUOSO

VIRTUOSO is “le reve” of an unquiet mind that insatiably explores the relationship between singular music instruments with tap dance. Unshackled from the mundane bounds of reality, the dancers are free to conjure rhythms without being enslaved by the downbeat.

Essentials

“Essentials” is based off of music from a hand pan drum started in Trinidad and Tobago. After not being allowed to use musical instruments, the people found old oil drums made from metal and found a way to make beautiful music. Jason saw the connection with tap dance immediately. The hand pan drum is also known to heal people of anxiety, sickness, and exhaustion. These “tones” if listened to can change ones energy, attitude, or physical stress. Tap Dance can do the same and Jason hopes that you all will sit back and enjoy the rhythmic language that Co.MMIT wants to express. This show is about Essentials: happiness, good people, energy, music, Rhythm, and Tap Dance - the willingness to become one sound, one resonating sound, while at the same time maintaining one’s own voice. Tap Dance is a language and sometimes it’s not what you say, but it’s how you say it. We hope to speak with passion and clarity. Tonight Co.MMIT performs this show for the great city of Chicago, CHRP, and for each and every person who loves and cherishes this magnificent art form.
PROGRAM NOTES (cont.):

FEELING GOOD: A MADD Tribute to Nina Simone

Amid a harsh political climate in America, where injustice is brought to light faster than ever, and racist idealisms thrive in indifference, we find so many of the artistic voices we turned to in times of discord lost to the ages. One such voice is that of Nina Simone, whose monumental body of work is so unapologetically forthright in matters of human rights. With Feeling Good: A MADD Tribute to Nina Simone we invite Nina’s creative voice back to the conversation and honor her contributions through the art of Tap Dance.

Nina Simone is held near and dear to many, and her influence transcends musical genres. A champion for civil rights, Nina broke down her barriers simply by being Nina, and never apologizing for it. As much as we all love Ms. Simone, it was only a matter of time before we made a tribute to her!

Kick the Square

“Kick the Square” consists, on the one hand, of the conflict and symbiosis between two musical worlds – the world of Broadway and the world of the composer – on the other hand of the intensifying fusion of music and dance. The dancer is gradually integrated into the music, while the musicians take on roles increasingly closer to tap dance. First with only a few, accentuated steps, which continue to gain musical importance, until finally the musicians leave their places behind the music stands and conquer the stage in rhythmically composed and choreographed steps, while continuing to play their instruments. In the dramatic culmination, the musicians edge the dancer off the tap dance instrument, and the solo of the “squares” begins: seven people, tap dancing in composed steps on seven “squares”, moving past each other. This poses its own new challenges, because classical musicians – unlike the tap dancer – are trained to keep the measure beat with their feet, while showing their virtuosity with their hands on the instrument. In this situation, the rhythmic complexity is shifted to the feet, while the instrument still needs to be played with the hands. This is an extremely unfamiliar and challenging situation for the ensemble.

With this program “Kick the Square”, 9-Point-Inc. invites everyone to dive into an unknown world of music and tap dance!
Kick the Square Notation

In composed pieces for orchestra/ensemble and tap dance, the choice of steps is left to the dancer. The most prominent example for this is probably “Tap Dance Concert” by Morton Gould. 9-Point-In. wanted to go a step further than this. They wanted to treat tap dance as an equal part of the ensemble, and to this end, the development of a notation that defines each step exactly was of paramount importance.

Ten different tap steps were therefore ordered by “pitch” and assigned a line and a note head. The rhythmic values and the dynamics are represented in conventional notation. In addition to these ten step notes, there are “square” specific notational elements, and choreographic instructions (see notation key). Consequently, a notation was created which manages to remain intuitive to the tap dancer while being highly precise.

Every step of the dancer was composed based on the acoustic and not the visual result. This has created a very distinct and unprecedented dance aesthetic.

To the tap dancer, the project “Kick the Square” therefore poses a special challenge. He cannot use the sequences of steps ingrained in his memory, but needs to follow the composed piece, while still creating a choreographically aesthetic final product.
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