



**For immediate release:      June 24, 2019**

**WORLD'S PREEMINENT, ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN TAP DANCE —  
RHYTHM WORLD — COMES TO CHICAGO JULY 22 - 28**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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[Chicago Human Rhythm Project](#) (CHRP) will present the 29<sup>th</sup> Rhythm World, Chicago's annual education and performance festival dedicated to American tap from July 22 – 28, featuring Chicago's finest tap dancers and companies joined by national and international masters. Rhythm World is the oldest, largest and most comprehensive presentation of American tap in the world and will feature more than 225 hours of education programs and 6 unique concerts featuring 24 master teachers and more than 150 performing artists in a perennial gathering of global tap virtuosos.

[Rhythm World](#), known globally as the preeminent education and performance festival dedicated to American tap, will take place in multiple venues in the South Loop including the CHRP's shared dance space/incubator, the American Rhythm Center, the historic Jazz Showcase, Navy Pier's Polk Bros Performance Lawns Lake Stage and the Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago. Directed by CHRP Founder and Director, Lane Alexander and Artist in Residence, Dani Borak, this perennial summer festival features world renowned performers, choreographers and teachers who have led and transformed the field of American tap for five decades including the Ella Fitzgerald of tap – Dianne “Lady Di” Walker; the Glenn Gould of tap, Sam Weber; Chicago masters, Lane Alexander, Bril Barrett, Martin “Tre” Dumas; international visionaries Dani Borak and Charles Renato; and cutting edge innovators Nico Rubio, Jason Janas and Demi Remick, among others.

Rhythm World's education programs, attracting hundreds of students from around the globe, will include scores of courses, master classes, workshops, the 19th Annual Youth Tap Ensemble Conference — which trained MacArthur “Genius” Michelle Dorrance — a comprehensive Teacher Certification program, a KIDS Tap program, and the Tap Scholar program, which has awarded more than \$350,000 in scholarships over the last 26 years. *(See more on the Rhythm World Education Program below)*

Concerts will feature three generations of tap masters performing improvisational, traditional, classical and post-modern works. Six completely distinct performances will present the most eclectic collection of tap dances in the history of the art form including: an opening night of improvisation; the Youth Tap Ensemble Conference concert featuring pre-professional companies from around the U.S.; Nico Rubio's company 333; Charles Renato's CHR Project\* (which is different from CHRP); Jason Janas' Co.Mitt; Bril Barrett's M.A.D.D. Rhythms; CHRP's resident ensemble Stone Soup Rhythms; Dani Borak's Swiss-based new music ensemble, 9-Point-Inc performing *Kick the Square*; and a grand finale showcase featuring virtuoso soloists and special guests. This will be an unprecedented exposition of American tap dance.



**Monday, July 22, 7:30pm, Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Court.**

Virtuoso performers from the concert, Broadway and commercial stages come together to kick off the 29th annual Rhythm World Festival at the historic Jazz Showcase. This annual celebration at Chicago's finest jazz club presents some of the world's most celebrated tap dancers, including Tre Dumas, Dani Borak, Star Dixon, Nico Rubio, Demi Remick, Charles Renato, Cartier Williams and more special guests alongside the renowned Eric Hochberg Trio.

**Tuesday, July 23, 7:30pm, Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago**

The first night of JUBA! at the Dance Center of Columbia College features two long-form works by Brazilian artist, Charles Renato's CHR Project\* and Nico Rubio's 333 and Friends.

Charles Renato's company, CHR Project\*, presents *VIRTUOSO*.

“VIRTUOSO is an exploration of solo music instruments in relationship with tap dance. Those two elements intertwine to produce a combination of sounds and rhythms where there are no boundaries between the two.”

*\*PLEASE NOTE: Charles Renato's company name, "CHR Project" correlates to CHarles Renato and should not be confused with Chicago Human Rhythm Project (CHRP) which shares a similar acronym.*

Nico Rubio's 333 and Friends will perform *By Way of Taps: A J Dilla Tribute*.

*By Way of Taps: A J Dilla Tribute* is just that, 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. 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.

**Wednesday, July 24, 7:00pm, Navy Pier Polk Bros Lawn**

Pre-professional Youth Tap Ensembles from across the US, Canada, South America and Asia perform repertory works alongside a mix of curated student works followed by an electrifying jam session followed by the spectacular Navy Pier Fireworks display. This event is free and open to the public.

**Thursday, July 25, 7:30pm, Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago**

The second night of JUBA! at the Dance Center of Columbia College features performances by Jason Janas' Co.MMIT, and Chicago Human Rhythm Project's own Stone Soup Rhythms led by CHRP Artist in Residence, Dani Borak.

Co.MMIT will be performing *Essentials*.

“The show is about rhythm and energy and the power of rhythm to heal. We find our expression through music and in this show we are expressing three things through the art of tap dance: Patience, Understanding and Peace. Tap dance is the vehicle to express hope.” —Jason Janas

Stone Soup Rhythms is the resident ensemble of the Chicago Human Rhythm Project and is a collective of emerging and established multi-form artists. The name refers to a European fable in which a wayfaring stranger leads a community to create a feast by enticing each member to make a unique contribution. This performance will be a compilation of all the works that Dani Borak has set and created during his three year residency at Chicago Human Rhythm Project. The evening will also feature Borak's critically acclaimed work: *Alien/Rytme/Fusion*.



**Friday, July 26, 7:30pm, Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago**

The third night of JUBA! at the Dance Center of Columbia College features two long-form works by M.A.D.D. Rhythms and artist in residence, Dani Borak's 9-Point-Inc.

**M.A.D.D. Rhythms** presents an excerpt from its critically acclaimed *Feeling Good: A Mad Tribute to Nina Simone* featuring jazz legends Dee Alexander, Joan Collaso and tap virtuosos Star Dixon and Donnetta Jackson. Founded by Bril Barrett, Martin “Tre” Dumas, and Jumaane Taylor, M.A.D.D. Rhythms is comprised of dancers sharing one common trait: a love and respect for the art of tap dance.

“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.”

**9-Point-Inc. presents *Kick The Square*.**

*Kick the Square* is 9-point-Inc.'s first program and was laid out to encompass 105 minutes. The dramatic arc 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. These 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.

**Saturday, July 27, 7:30pm, Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago**

The last night of JUBA! will feature multiple well-renowned and up-and-coming tap dancers in a spectacular finale! They will be joined again by the Eric Hochberg Trio with Tim Mulvenna and Vijay Tellis-Nayak in what will be an amazing night of music and dance.



**Rhythm World Education Programs at the Fine Arts Bldg. and American Rhythm Center, 410 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago.**

CHRP is proud to shine a special spotlight on a new generation of dancers who have grown up with the inspiration of these great masters for more than a quarter century.

This is the fifth year of CHRP's "Root and Branch" initiative which focuses on dancers who trained in Rhythm World's immersion programs 10, 15 or 20 years ago. These accomplished young artists have grown up and are winning MacArthur Fellowship Awards (Michelle Dorrance), choreographing on Broadway and with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra (Jared Grimes), and making new works that are revolutionizing our art form (Nico Rubio, Davon Suttles, Tristan Bruns, Time Brickey). Most notably, Dani Borak, CHRP's multi-year Artist in Residence, is unapologetically exploring multiple dimensions of tap dance including entertaining works, hard-core hoofing and post-modern fusions that connect tap's roots as sacred dance, theatrical entertainment and contemporary innovation.

**Tap Scholar Awards**

Each year, CHRP awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to deserving, talented teens so they may participate in Rhythm World's immersion programs. This year, ten students have earned full or partial scholarships to study at Rhythm World. "These scholarships support CHRP's mission to build community by bringing together students from different backgrounds and places to meet their local and international peers and study with great and emerging masters," said Lane Alexander, CHRP's Co-founder and Director

Established in 1995 to honor the life of CHRP Co-Founder Kelly Michaels, the Rhythm World Tap Scholar Award program has provided more than \$350,000 in financial aid to more than 300 talented, deserving young dancers from Chicago and throughout the United States as well as international exchange students.

**Festival Education Programs, July 22 - 28**

Rhythm World's education programs include 15, 4-day courses; 6 workshops; the Youth Tap Ensemble Conference which will feature an entirely new structure and focus this year; a robust Teacher Certification program that helps to fill a void left by America's race and culturally biased academic culture; and a KIDS Tap program encompassing technique, historical dances and urban beats; and 40 master classes led by special guests Dianne "Lady Di" Walker and Sam Weber, and our highly-respected faculty including Linda Sohl- Ellison, Monti Ellison, Lane Alexander, Bril Barrett, Dani Borak, Marty Bronson, Tristan Bruns, Ja' Bowen Dixon, Star Dixon, Martin "Tre" Dumas, Donnetta Jackson, Jason Janas, Sean Kaminski, Demi Remick, Charles Renato, Nico Rubio and Cartier Williams.

**To register for classes or to purchase tickets to performances, visit: [www.chicagotap.org](http://www.chicagotap.org)**

**Or call 312-542-CHRP (2477) or write to [registration@chicagotap.org](mailto:registration@chicagotap.org).**



**Funding** Rhythm World is made possible by support from the National Endowment for the Arts' Art Works, The Illinois Arts Council Agency and Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. Chicago Human Rhythm Project is supported by The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Chicago Free for All Fund, MacArthur Fund for Arts & Culture at Prince, The Joyce Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Dance USA/Engaging Dance Audiences, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, The Saints, US Bank, BMO Harris, Northern Trust Charitable Trust, DeKalb Community Foundation, Elaine Cohen and Arlen Rubin, Phil and Marsha Dowd, Charles Gardner and Patti Eylar, Jane Ellen Murray Foundation, The Oppenheimer Family Foundation, Joyce Chelberg, Lyon Family Foundation, The Weinberg Family Foundation, Jeannette & Jerome Cohen Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas and Ingenuity's Creative Schools Fund.

### **Chicago Human Rhythm Project**

The Chicago Human Rhythm Project (CHRP) has helped to foster the revival of American tap dance in Chicago. Through its leadership for three decades, CHRP has helped to support new tap organizations throughout North and South America, Europe and Asia. CHRP presents the oldest and largest annual festival of American tap and percussive dance in the world—Rhythm World—and has expanded through community outreach, ongoing education programs in public elementary and high schools, commissions of new work, innovative conferences for the field and a commitment to social reconciliation and local investment. CHRP led the development of Chicago's shared dance/arts space, the American Rhythm Center, which offers daily dance classes for children, teens, adults and seniors and functions as a social enterprise and business development incubator for independent artists and small companies.

For nearly 30 years, CHRP has educated and performed globally for millions of people; received an Emmy Award nomination, as well as national airings, for *JUBA! Masters of Tap and Percussive Dance*, which was co-produced with ITVS and WTTW/Channel 11; earned an NEA American Masterpieces grant administered by the Illinois Arts Council Agency; curated the first full-length tap concert in any of the Kennedy Center's three largest theaters for a sold-out audience of 1,100 in the Eisenhower Theater; provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in tap dance scholarships to more than 400 deserving, talented teens; and, most recently, led a collaborative effort to establish a shared dance/arts space in the center of the Chicago Cultural Mile: the American Rhythm Center (ARC). 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](http://chicagotap.org).

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CHICAGO  
human  
rhythm  
PROJECT



Founded in 1988, **Chicago Human Rhythm Project** presents percussive dance and rhythmic expression in performance, education and community development programs that foster art making, social reconciliation and economic development serving more than 25,000 children, teens, adults and elders throughout Chicago **throughout the year.**



The **AMERICAN RHYTHM CENTER** is a collaborative space for sustainable development that provides diverse classes for the general public and business development services to independent artists and small to mid-sized companies.



**STOMPING GROUNDS** is a 10-week, City wide performance and education festival featuring Chicago-based, percussive dance/arts companies in community cultural centers, elementary and high schools and many of Chicago's finest performing arts venues like the Harris Theater, the Auditorium Theatre and the Pritzker Pavilion.



**RHYTHM WORLD** is the oldest and largest festival of American tap dance in the world. Presented annually in July and August, Rhythm World brings together students from around the globe to study with the greatest living masters of the art form and to enjoy nightly performances by students and masters alike. Recognized internationally as the "mother ship" of American tap, Rhythm World has helped to develop a global culture of more than 70 festivals in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, Australia and South America.



Our innovative youth education programs, **WE ALL GOT RHYTHM**, have provided high caliber arts experiences for more than 24 years benefiting hundreds of thousands of Chicago elementary and high school students. Since 2004, CHRP has deepened its commitment to youth education through partnerships with many public schools and community organizations and programs with ignition, engagement and immersion programs delivering lecture demonstrations and master classes, multi-week residencies and intensive scholarship programs that change lives and strengthen our community.



**STONE SOUP RHYTHMS** is our project-based, percussive arts collective that creates new work, supports the highest level of rhythmic expression and represents Chicago Human Rhythm Project throughout the region, nation and world.