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CONTACT: Jill Chukerman
773-392-1409/jchuk@ren.com

**CHICAGO HUMAN RHYTHM PROJECT PRESENTS SECOND ANNUAL STOMPING GROUNDS
FEATURING SIX COMPANIES AT SIX VENUES APRIL 4–MAY 21;
AUDITORIUM THEATRE PRESENTS GRAND FINALE CHICAGO RHYTHM FEST JUNE 4**

The [Chicago Human Rhythm Project](#) (CHRP), the nation's premier presenter of American tap dance and international contemporary percussive arts and lead collaborator in the American Rhythm Center, spotlights Chicago's exceptional and diverse percussive dance community with the second annual citywide **STOMPING GROUNDS** series, culminating with the [Auditorium Theatre](#)'s grand finale **Chicago Rhythm Fest**. Showcasing African, Irish, Mexican, Spanish, Japanese and American cultural traditions, this multi-performance event is a celebration of the rhythmic arts that connects diverse communities through rhythm.

Opening in April is STOMPING GROUNDS, a series of *free* events in six distinct communities showcasing five of Chicago's most accomplished percussive dance companies: CHRP's resident ensemble [BAM!](#), [Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theatre](#), [Mexican Folkloric Dance Company of Chicago](#), [Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago](#) and [Trinity Irish Dance Company](#), along with special guest [Tsukasa Taiko](#). Each event features a host company, a guest company and featured artists, along with a Q and A with the artists, food trucks and costume exhibitions:

- **April 4, 6 p.m., Chicago Cultural Center**, 78 E. Washington Street: kickoff event featuring the five dance companies engaging in conversation about the rhythmic arts; each company performs a duet
- **April 16, 7:30 p.m., Irish American Heritage Center**, 4626 N. Knox Avenue: Trinity Irish Dance Company, host company; Muntu Dance Theatre, guest company; Mexican Folkloric Dance Company, featured artists
- **April 27, 5 p.m., Garfield Park Conservatory**, 300 N. Central Park Avenue: special guest Tsukasa Taiko in a solo performance of Japanese percussion
- **May 2, 7:30 p.m., Northeastern Illinois University**, 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue: Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theatre, host company; BAM!, guest company; Trinity Irish Dance Company, featured artists
- **May 15, 3 p.m., National Museum of Mexican Art**, 1852 W. 19th Street: Mexican Folkloric Dance Company, host company; Trinity Irish Dance Company, guest company; Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theatre, featured artists
- **May 21, 7:30 p.m., DuSable Museum of African American History**, 740 E. 56th Place: Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago, host company; Mexican Folkloric Dance Company, guest company; BAM!, featured artists

STOMPING GROUNDS events are free and open to the public; reservations are available at chicagotap.org.

As the culminating event, the Auditorium Theatre presents the five percussive dance companies—BAM!, Ensemble Español, Mexican Folkloric Dance, Muntu Dance and Trinity Irish Dance—in **Chicago Rhythm Fest June 4 at 7:30 p.m.** as a part of the Auditorium Theatre's "Made in Chicago" Dance Series. Tickets start at \$28 and are on sale at AuditoriumTheatre.org, 312-341-2300 and the Auditorium Theatre's Box Office, 50 E. Congress Parkway. Discounts available for groups of 10 or more.

Funding

STOMPING GROUNDS is made possible with major support from the Chicago Free For All Fund at The Chicago Community Trust and Engaging Dance Audiences (a program managed by Dance USA and funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation) with additional funding from The Saints and National Endowment for the Arts. Chicago Human Rhythm Project is supported by The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince, Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, BMO Harris, The Arlen and Elaine Cohen Rubin Charitable Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City, The Jeanette & Jerome Cohen Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City, Phil and Marsha Dowd, National Endowment for the Arts, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Broadway in Chicago, Illinois Arts Council Agency, City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, , L&L Hardwood Flooring, Peoples Gas, The Service Club of Chicago and generous individual donors. Chicago Rhythm Fest is made possible in part by Auditorium Theater Dance Sponsor, NIB Foundation.

Chicago Human Rhythm Project

For 25 years, Chicago Human Rhythm Project (CHRP) has helped to foster the revival of American tap dance throughout North and South America, Australia, 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.

During the last 25 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 300 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.

The Auditorium Theatre

The Auditorium Theatre, located at 50 E. Congress Pkwy, is an Illinois, not-for-profit organization committed to presenting the finest in international, cultural, community and educational programming to Chicago, and to the continued restoration and preservation of the National Historic Landmark. In September 2014, the Auditorium Theatre was awarded the inaugural Fifth Star Award by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

The Auditorium Theatre is generously supported by the MacArthur Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council, the Sage Foundation and the Palmer House Hilton. For more information about programming, volunteer and donor opportunities or theatre tours, call 312.341.2310 or visit AuditoriumTheatre.org.

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