



NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS



MECHANICS HALL | WORCESTER, MA



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New England Foundation for the Arts

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NEFA'S IDEA SWAP

Idea Swap is NEFA's annual event that provides opportunities for New England-based nonprofit presenting organizations to network and share project ideas that may qualify for funding from NEFA's Expeditions grant program.

Expeditions grants are made to nonprofit organizations in New England and support the tour planning or touring of high quality and innovative performing arts projects.

This booklet includes projects submitted as of October 31, 2012, which have the potential to tour New England. These and other projects submitted after press time can be found on MatchBook.org in the Classifieds section. Presentation at the Idea Swap or inclusion in this booklet does not guarantee Expeditions funding support.

For more information about NEFA's Expeditions program or the Idea Swap, please visit **www.nefa.org** or call 617.951.0010 x516.

CONTENTS

2
SCHEDULE

5
PROJECT PRESENTATIONS:
PART 1

9
PROJECT PRESENTATIONS:
PART 2

11
MORE PROJECT IDEAS

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9:30AM-10:00AM

Join us for:

- » **Coffee and networking (Main Hall)**
- » **New to NEFA or the Idea Swap? (Board Room)**
Receive an overview of NEFA and Expeditions from NEFA staff and learn about presenter membership organizations from representatives of New England Presenters and Arts Presenters of Northern New England.

10:00AM-10:40AM

**Welcome & Overview of
NEFA's Expeditions Program**

10:40AM-11:00AM

Break

11:00AM-12:15PM

Project Presentations: Part 1

NOT WHAT HAPPENED

Sara Coffey | Vermont Performance Lab

SO PERCUSSION: WHERE (WE) LIVE

Aimée Petrin | Portland Ovations

L'HISTOIRE DU SOLDAT

Lance Olson | Spruce Peak Arts Center

MARC BAMUTHI JOSEPH'S WORD BECOMES FLESH

Shannon Mayers | Keene State College, Redfern Arts Center

THE MEDIUM

Alix Jones | Hubbard Hall Opera Theater

ETHAN LIPTON + HIS ORCHESTRA: NO PLACE TO GO

Seth Warner | Olin Arts Center, Bates College

RUCKUS: A CIRQUE SPECTACULAR

Serenity Forchion | Nimble Arts

BAREFOOT DIVAS IN CONCERT: WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES

Ranjanaa Devi | University of Massachusetts, Asian Arts & Culture

WAR/PEACE

Seth Lepore | Impossible Solutions

INTERNATIONAL BODY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Drika Overton | The Dance Hall

SHANTALA SHIVALINGAPPA

Cathy Edwards | International Festival of Arts & Ideas

12:15PM-1:30PM Lunch

1:30PM-2:00PM Mini Swap Breakout 1

Participants will break out into small groups to informally discuss project ideas based on the disciplines of music, dance, and theater. These small forums allow a larger number of attendees to share project ideas in quick, two to three minute succession.

2:05PM-2:35PM Mini Swap Breakout 2

2:35PM-2:45PM Break

2:45PM-3:30PM Project Presentations: Part 2

99% STONE

Abe Rybeck | The Theater Offensive

AQUILA THEATER'S FAHRENHEIT 451

Mary Chapin Durling | Fitchburg State University

KRONOS QUARTET

Kathleen Pletcher | FirstWorks

PARTICULAR A MULTIMEDIA DANCE

Jamie Jewett | Lostwax

WHO'S HUNGRY - SANTA MONICA

Jennifer Johnson | Charlestown Working Theater

THE NILE PROJECT

Margaret Lawrence | Dartmouth College, Hopkins Center

3:30PM-3:45PM Wrap-up



With special guests Danish Ali and Ali Gul Pir of VERY LIVE, appearing as part of Center StageSM. Learn more at www.centerstageUS.org.

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS: PART 1

NOT WHAT HAPPENED

VPL is seeking presenters to join a New England tour of *Not What Happened* - a new work by Obie award winning writer/performer Ain Gordon that considers the politics of historical re-enactment in the context of historicizing rural pre-industrial America. *NWH* is a contrapuntal duet for two people who don't meet: the historical re-enactor and the woman she re-enacts. Framing the character's mutual toil are projections of farming ruins and empty landscape by rural documentary artist Forrest Holzapfel.

CONTACT: Sara Coffey | sara@vermontperformancelab.org

WEBSITE: vermontperformancelab.org

SO PERCUSSION: WHERE (WE) LIVE

In their latest, SO Percussion asks, "where do we live?" Drawing on humans' need to create small networks of people and places we identify as "home," SO challenges this concept by inviting in an unknown visitor to join the "artistic home" defined by their quartet. Working with a local artist in your community, the resulting performance contains a society of possibilities: from the loosest improvisations to the most rigidly structured compositions from narrative play-along to abstract co-existence.

CONTACT: Aimée Petrin | ampetrin@portlandovations.org

WEBSITE: portlandovations.org

L'HISTOIRE DU SOLDAT

The Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble production (Steve Klimowski, director) will tour its fully staged production of *L'Histoire du Soldat* along with its newly commissioned *The Crane Maiden* during the fall 2013. *L'Histoire* is Stravinsky's 1918 setting of the Faust story, an extraordinarily emotional work written right after the "war to end all wars." *Crane Maiden* is a beautifully staged Japanese tale of a magical crane that rescues a poor family from poverty, a companion to *L'Histoire*.

CONTACT: Lance Olson | lolson@stowe.org

WEBSITE: vcme.org

MARC BAMUTHI JOSEPH'S WORD BECOMES FLESH

The Redfern is looking for New England partners to tour *Word Becomes Flesh*, an honest and lyrical series of performed letters from a father to an unborn son. With an ensemble cast and DJ, WBF uses spoken word, dance, and live music to create a powerful narrative of race, social, and economic issues, namely fatherhood from a young black man's perspective. WBF speaks to younger audiences and is a great fit for campus presenters, community centers, and school audiences. Diverse and relevant residency activities.

CONTACT: Sharon Fantl | sfantl@keene.edu

WEBSITE: keene.edu/racbp

THE MEDIUM

Hubbard Hall Opera Theater (HHOT) presents Menotti's *The Medium* with chamber orchestra. This touring production is a drama in two acts with a libretto in English, part Puccini and part Twilight Zone cult classic. The eerie tragedy, with its at once haunting and jarring accompaniment, is the perfect juxtaposition of opera and theater as Menotti explores the unraveling of a fake psychic whose alcoholic hallucinations culminate in a dark and paranoid resolution.

CONTACT: Alix Jones | alixjones@hubbardhall.org

WEBSITE: hubbardhall.org/opera

ETHAN LIPTON + HIS ORCHESTRA: NO PLACE TO GO

The corporation where he's worked for the past 10 years is moving to another planet, and Ethan Lipton doesn't want to go. *No Place to Go* is an irreverent and compassionate musical ode to America's work force—and a love letter to friends, family, and country. Steeped in musical traditions including jazz, blues, folk, country, and lounge, *No Place to Go* is "immensely appealing," and Lipton "is expert at keeping music, jokes, and personal narrative tightly knitted together." - *The New York Times*

CONTACT: Seth Warner | olinarts@bates.edu

WEBSITE: batestickets.com

RUCKUS: A CIRQUE SPECTACULAR

Presented on a unique aerial rig designed to fit smaller New England stages, this is an opportunity to bring high level 'cirque' to your not-so-huge theater! Inspired by vaudeville and contemporary circus with an award winning cast whose resumes include Cirque du Soleil, Cirque Eloize, and the Big Apple Circus, this show is perfect for the family & special enough for a date night out! Features New England based trapezists, jugglers, acrobats, and characters so the travel costs are low!

CONTACT: Serenity Forchion | trapeze@sover.net

WEBSITE: nimblearts.org

BAREFOOT DIVAS IN CONCERT: WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES

Australia's most acclaimed female indigenous singers join with their sisters from New Zealand and Papua New Guinea in a powerful, provocative, and endearing evening of music and contemporary songwriting. These remarkable women draw upon their cultural roots and indigenous heritage to illuminate universal truths combining Roots, Jazz, R&B, and Latin infused harmonies and songs that touch the heart.

CONTACT: Ranjanaa Devi | aacp@admin.umass.edu

WEBSITE: fineartscenter.com/asian

WAR/PEACE

This week-long participatory installation allows the community to cultivate a better understanding of war and peace. Information gathered over the course of the week is presented as a 75-minute performance. Participants are interviewed for half hour segments. All points of view are welcome across the spectrum, regardless of political agendas and religious belief systems. Community members are also given the opportunity to create visual representations of their ideas, feelings, and thoughts.

CONTACT: Seth Lepore | seth@impossible-solutions.org

WEBSITE: impossible-solutions.org

INTERNATIONAL BODY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Crosspulse and the International Body Music Festival present Body Music—a touring concert of traditional and contemporary Body Music artists from around the globe. Concert programs are curated from the roster of the International Body Music Festival, the only festival of its kind. Concerts can range from 3–21 performers and can be tailored thematically, geographically, and to suit your budget. Bookings can include Educational Outreach in the community: workshops, family programs, and teacher trainings.

CONTACT: Drika Overton | thedancehallkittery@gmail.com

WEBSITE: thedancehallkittery.org

SHANTALA SHIVALINGAPPA

Shantala Shivalingappa was born in Madras, India, and raised in Paris; she has rigorously trained in the classical Indian dance form Kuchipudi, and performed her work world wide. She has also worked with Western artists such as Peter Brook and Pina Bausch. She is creating a new piece to premiere in spring 2013 that will combine traditional Kuchipudi dance with contemporary choreography, and music performed live by four musicians. Shivalingappa will perform the dance herself as a solo.

CONTACT: Cathy Edwards | cedwards@artidea.org

WEBSITE: artidea.org

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS: PART 2

99% STONE

99% *Stone* takes us on a journey between 2012 and 1969, drawing parallels between the Occupy movement and the original queer occupation of the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village. With book by Letta Neely and music by Melissa Li, this energetic musical tells the story of how young Flame Queens and Stone Butches got fed up, fought back, and sparked an international movement that surges on to this day. The Theater Offensive seeks additional partners to present 99% *Stone* for touring in 2014.

CONTACT: Evelyn Francis | Evelyn@thetheateroffensive.org

WEBSITE: thetheateroffensive.org

AQUILA FAHRENHEIT 451

CenterStage at Fitchburg State University is presenting Aquila Theater's production of *Fahrenheit 451*. 2013 is the 60th anniversary of the provocative and prescient novel/play/film by the notable American writer Ray Bradbury. CenterStage seeks other venues interested in community engagements with their local library, radio station, collegiate classes as well as workshops and a main stage performance. Shared collateral and study guide are also possible.

CONTACT: Mary Chapin Durling | mdurling@fitchburgstate.edu

WEBSITE: fitchburgstate.edu/cultural

KRONOS QUARTET

The Kronos Quartet, "Classical Music's Fab Four" (*Rolling Stone*), is acclaimed as one of the most celebrated and influential groups of our time, performing thousands of concerts worldwide. FirstWorks and Community Musicworks are commissioning a new work for Kronos, a local professional quartet and student musicians. The project is rich with possibilities for workshops, community engagement, artist exchange, and a smashing concert. We are hoping to partner with other presenters on a tour.

CONTACT: Kathleen Pletcher | Kathleen@first-works.org

WEBSITE: first-works.org

PARTICULAR A MULTI-MEDIA DANCE

Critically acclaimed Lostwax Multimedia Dance takes audiences on a flight of wonder, exploring the power of the flock and the quirkiness of the individual. With their signature fusion of striking physicality and high tech visuals, Lostwax's *Particular* provokes, tickles, and poignantly asks what it is to be alone in a crowd. From starling's murmurations, to the Lark Ascending to herds of flamingos - particle systems, mash ups, algorithms, and MTV - Lostwax creates a unique synthesis.

CONTACT: Jamie Jewett | jamie@lostwax.org

WEBSITE: lostwax.org

WHO'S HUNGRY

The Charlestown Working Theater received an Expeditions Planning Grant to plan a 2013-14 New England tour of Dan Froot's *Who's Hungry-Santa Monica*. The performance is part of an ongoing series of puppet plays produced and written by Dan Froot, designed and directed by Dan Hurlin, with music by Amy Denio. The one-hour production weaves together stories based on the lives of five homeless and/or hungry residents of Santa Monica, CA. CWT is currently working with partners in ME, MA, and CT.

CONTACT: Jennifer Johnson | jennifer@workingtheater.org

WEBSITE: danfroot.com/repertory/

THE NILE PROJECT

TED Senior Fellow/popular Ethiopian-American musician Meklit Hadero joins Egyptian ethnomusicologist Mina Girgis and diverse musicians along the Nile River for a boundary-crossing evening of new music raising visibility about our water-based environmental challenges. Inspired by Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project, TNP's a platform to spread musical traditions of - and environmental awareness about - 11 countries touching the Nile. A great opportunity to examine New England's own shared waterways.

CONTACT: Margaret Lawrence | Hop.Programming@Dartmouth.edu

WEBSITE: hop.dartmouth.edu

MORE PROJECT IDEAS

28 FEET

Inspired by Jonathan Mirin's 20-year battle with Crohn's disease, *28 FEET* is a comedic solo performance that draws on universal themes - getting sick, getting better, and growing up. The performance blends 18+ characters, live music, puppetry, clowning, stand-up comedy, and an original sound design. *28 FEET* has toured nationally and internationally to critical and audience acclaim since its 2010 premiere.

CONTACT: Jonathan Mirin | jonathan@ptco.org

WEBSITE: ptco.org

ABDUCTION FROM THE SERAGLIO

Hubbard Hall Opera Theater presents a touring piano production of Mozart's *Abduction from the Seraglio*, fully costumed and staged, sung in German with English supertitles. A military coup in remote Costa Gravas. A pleasure boat crossing newly drawn territories. A lovesick revolutionary leader. With its exotic setting and blend of high comedy with touching tragedy, this is comic tale of capture, rescue and love that will take your audience pleasantly off-guard. www.hubbardhall.org/opera

CONTACT: Alix Jones | alixjones@hubbardhall.org

WEBSITE: thebennington.org

AKOKA – THE END OF TIME

Cellist Matt Haimovitz, clarinetist David Krakauer, and multi-talented Socalled re-imagine Olivier Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*. Opening with an improv by Krakauer that anticipates musical gestures that follow, the "Quartet" is then played in its entirety, concluding with Socalled mixing beats, sequences with samples of the quartet. Bookended as such, the original composition is lifted out of the confines of a typical chamber concert and given a 21st century context and sensibility.

CONTACT: Aimee Petrin | ampetrin@portlandovations.org

WEBSITE: portlandovations.org

ALEX ALVEAR & MANGO BLUE

Original, high-powered ensemble performing a tasteful mix of Funk, Jazz, R&B with traditional and contemporary Afro-Latin musical traditions. Educational programs available and eligible for NEST funding. 2013 availability: February-March, June-August and October-November

CONTACT: Alex Alvear | mangoblue@hotmail.com

WEBSITE: AlexAlvearAndMangoBlue.bandcamp.com

ARMITAGE GONE! DANCE

Portland Ovations seeks presenting partners to bring Armitage Gone! Dance into the region. Choreographer Karole Armitage has a wide range of exciting repertoire available from the beautiful, elegant *Three Theories* and *Ligeti Essays* to the pop culture send-up *Rave* to her latest, NDP-supported work *Fables on Global Warming*. Ovations is particularly interested in a program that includes *Rave*, which holds the possibility of incorporating local dancers.

CONTACT: Aimee Petrin | ampetrin@portlandovations.org

WEBSITE: portlandovations.org

D-GENERATION: AN EXALTATION OF LARKS

Sandglass Theater is looking for New England presenters for a tour of *D-Generation*, a full-length theater piece based on stories told by people in late-stage dementia, which received a National Theater Project grant. Performed by a cast of puppets, residents of a care-facility, it features an original score and video that takes us into the world of people who live with dementia. Recipient of a National Theatre Project grant, *D-Gen*, with humor and playfulness, explores the rich creative potential that exists in people afflicted by this disease.

CONTACT: Bill Menezes | wmenezes736@gmail.com

WEBSITE: sandglasstheater.org/index.html

DEBO BAND

Boston-based Debo Band offers Ethiopian funk music that overflows the limits of the Golden Age of Ethiopian popular music that emerged in the late 60s. Instrumentation includes sousaphone, accordion, violins; arrangements are infused with klezmer, avant-garde jazz, rock, and groove-based musics of multiple provenances. Their process of experimentation is unique and appeal is universal- “Debo” an archaic Amharic word for collective effort. Excellent reviews, affordable fee, and available for a New England tour.

CONTACT: Sharon Fantl | sfantl@keene.edu

WEBSITE: keene.edu/racbp

DR. LONNIE SMITH OCTET IN THE BEGINNING

Legendary and enigmatic, Dr. Lonnie Smith is one of the most original voices on the Hammond B3 organ. He arrived on the scene in the 1950s; now 70, Smith remains an innovative and influential force in modern music, especially as he finds his deeply grooving, soul-laden riffs sampled and remixed by rap, house mix, acid jazz, and dance artists today. Smith’s Octet includes skilled veterans like guitarist Ed Cherry with younger hotshots such as saxophonists John Marshall and Jason Ellis.

CONTACT: Margaret Lawrence | Hop.Programming@Dartmouth.edu

WEBSITE: hop.dartmouth.edu

FIRST LADIES OF JAZZ & POP

What women rock your world? Women are today’s top grossing recording artists, but it wasn’t always this way. Find out how we got here in this fun and inspiring concert with Singer Celia Slattery: from early blues singers like Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday, to sixties singer/songwriters all the way to the present. The music is woven together with a compelling narrative, exploring how these women were affected by their times and how they helped bring about change through their inspiring music.

CONTACT: Celia Slattery | celia@celiaslattery.com

WEBSITE: celiaslattery.com

THE GRAND PARADE OF THE 20TH CENTURY

We are seeking presenting partners for our original performance, *The Grand Parade* (NEFA's National Theater Project grantee). The piece depicts major events of the 20th century in a kinesthetic, imagistic, theatrical style inspired by Chagall's kaleidoscopic vision using circus, dance, puppetry, projections, original music, and historical soundscapes in this non-text, ensemble performance. It premieres at Arena Stage in February 2013. Touring available for 2013-2014 season. Community/university residency activities included.

CONTACT: Matthew Glassman | mglassman@doubleedgetheatre.org

WEBSITE: doubleedgetheatre.org

HEAR WHAT'S IN THE HEART

The play - original script written by Steve Scionti and James Shanta/new draft by Steve Scionti and Anthony Crivello and performed by Scionti (a Middletown, CT, resident) - while single-handedly playing eight members of his Sicilian circle of friends and family, Steve is able to bring to life all the passion, comedy, and drama inherent in a Sicilian-American family! "Family goes across all racial and ethnic lines. You don't have to be Italian to enjoy this show," states Scionti.

CONTACT: Nicole Pryor | nicole@firestarterentertainment.net

WEBSITE: firestarterentertainment.com/steve.html

HEART OF THE MATTER

Our new evening-length dance project, *Heart of the Matter* investigates the distillation of an individual, the process and struggle of unraveling layers, to return to a source of open being and inherent inclination. *Heart of the Matter*, like much of the work of Prometheus Dance, looks at the effect of social structure on the individual. This work comments on specific gender relationships, though the personal pursuit of freedom is the main directive. The work includes original music and video.

CONTACT: Tommy Neblett | info@prometheusdance.org

WEBSITE: prometheusdance.org

HOOP SUITE

The new *Hoop Suite (HS)* is a daring arts initiative that unites modern dancers, violins, cellos, hip-hop dancers, poets, rappers, and actors. It brings youth and adults together to create art that speaks to a vision of hope. *HS*, breaks barriers and unifies communities by blending performance art and personal healing. The work will be performed on basketball courts and theaters. *HS* is a partnership between Anna Myer & Dancers and North American Family Institute. [youtube.com/watch?v=0QUjg9IIIsF](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QUjg9IIIsF)

CONTACT: Anna Myer | annamy@comcast.net

WEBSITE: annamyanddancers.org

HOW TO BE A LESBIAN IN 10 DAYS OR LESS

How To Be A Lesbian in 10 Days or Less is a hilarious coming out story for queers and non-queers alike. Motivational speaker and expert lesbian Butchy McDyke deftly guides her captive audience in an exploration of self-discovery while writer and performer Leigh Hendrix weaves a story that is one part instructional seminar, one part personal story, and one part wacky performance art. Leigh has produced the show in Providence and also performed in Myrtle Beach, New Orleans, Chicago, and New York.

CONTACT: Leigh Hendrix | leigh.hendrix@gmail.com

WEBSITE: howtobealesbianin10daysorless.com

IMANI WINDS

OnStage at Connecticut College is seeking tour partners to present Imani Winds during the 2013-2014 season. They are considered North America's premier wind quintet and has established itself as one of the most successful chamber music ensembles in the United States. Since 1997, the Grammy-nominated quintet has carved out a distinct presence in the classical music world with its dynamic playing, culturally poignant programming, genre-blurring collaborations, and inspirational outreach programs.

CONTACT: Robert Richter | raric@conncoll.edu

KATHY MATTEA

OnStage at Connecticut College is seeking tour partners to present Kathy Mattea. Grammy Award winner Kathy Mattea's unmistakable voice explores music's most basic human essence through timeless melodies and uplifting narratives. Mattea is a singer, musician, songwriter, public speaker, and activist, and is known throughout the world. A dedicated arts and education advocate, Mattea is deeply involved in social and environmental activism.

CONTACT: Robert Richter | raric@conncoll.edu

LA BOHÈME

La Bohème, with its melodic score and poignant story of young love and true friendships, is one of most frequently performed operas worldwide. Set in the students' quarter of Paris circa 1830, where gayety and pathos touch elbows, it laughs as well as weeps. In 2012, HHOT's Don Pasquale took second place in the American Prize, and the NY Times hailed *Magic Flute* as "the best by far. It was an exhilarating event. You couldn't monetize it; you couldn't commodify it; you could only experience it."

CONTACT: Alix Jones | alixjones@hubbardhall.org

WEBSITE: hubbardhall.org/opera

LEAN BACK (WORKING TITLE)

Lean Back is a full-length solo show created and performed by Bronwyn Sims. A Physical Theatre piece that combines virtuosic physical skill, dance, and comedy to tell a story about love, loss, ambition, and life. *Lean Back* explores how someone else's choice changes one's own path. How do we affect and change others? How does the death of a complete stranger change how we perceive our our own journey through life? Booking summer and fall 2013. Physical theatre and other workshops available.

CONTACT: Bronwyn Sims | bronwyn@strongcoffeestage.com

WEBSITE: bronwynsims.com

THE MAGIC SOUP AND OTHER STORIES

Uncle Murray is coming over for dinner, but there's no food in sight! A young man's search for a family recipe ends up bringing folk tales to life...in his kitchen. Based on a collection of traditional Yiddish stories, *The Magic Soup* teaches that it is those with wit, humor, and imagination who have the best chance of filling their bellies - and fulfilling their dreams. This show was created by PST's Artist in Residence Brad Shur, and is a selection for the 2012 National Puppetry Festival.

CONTACT: Isabel Fine | executive@puppetshowplace.org

WEBSITE: puppetshowplace.org

MEDITATIONS FROM A GARDEN SEAT

Nourished by Harriet Beecher Stowe's historic voice of emancipation, interfaced with voices of contemporary women in and out of prison, Judy Dworin Performance Project's newest piece, *Meditations From a Garden Seat*, blends movement, images, texts, music, and spoken word to challenge our notions of freedom and justice while offering hope for a greener, kinder, and more conscious world. Complete study guides are also available.

CONTACT: Carla Corcoran | susan@judydworin.org

WEBSITE: judydworin.org

MINER'S HYMNS

Miner's Hymns is an evening-long suite of music composed and performed by Icelandic composer Johan Johannssen along with ACME String Quartet and a large brass ensemble (which can be local); set to extraordinary historic film footage of British coal miners by Bill Morrison. Celebrating social and political aspects of an extinct industry—and the strong regional tradition of colliery brass bands—the work's "a gorgeous requiem for northeast England's former mining communities," with New England mining ties.

CONTACT: Margaret Lawrence | Hop.Programming@Dartmouth.edu

WEBSITE: hop.dartmouth.edu

OYO ORO AFRO-CUBAN DANCE ENSEMBLE

Based in New York City, Oyu Oro Afro-Cuban Dance Ensemble is committed to the preservation of Afro-Cuban culture through dance, song, and music. Oyu Oro, in the Yoruba Lukumi language, means “a water lily that serves as a crown.” With this in mind, the ensemble’s repertoire demonstrates and honors African heritage that serves as the foundation of its work. Oyu Oro has performed at BAM’s Dance Africa, Lincoln Center, and several international festivals.

CONTACT: Shannon Mayers | smayers@keene.edu

WEBSITE: keene.edu/racbp

RED BARAAT

The dhol ‘n’ brass party juggernaut Red Baraat have made a name for themselves as one of the BEST live bands playing anywhere in the world. Led by dhol player Sunny Jain (who has received commissions from the Aaron Copland Music Fund and Chamber Music America), the nine-piece band melds the infectious North Indian rhythm Bhangra with a host of sounds, namely funk, go-go, latin, and jazz. They were a hit at 2011 GlobalFest and at WOMEX 2012 in Greece. Affordable with strong outreach activities.

CONTACT: Shannon Mayers | smayers@keene.edu

WEBSITE: keene.edu/racbp/

A RELEVANT AND IRREVERENT LOOK AT MENTAL ILLNESS

The Second Step Players are actors in recovery from psychiatric disorders who create and perform socially conscious sketch comedy, stand-up comedy, and musical parodies about mental health issues. Their poignant and funny original material is crafted from their personal mental health histories. This delightful stigma-busting variety show is designed to enlighten and to stimulate discussion on the often taboo topic of mental illness and recovery. Each show includes a Q&A with the audience.

CONTACT: Rebecca Atkins | beccaatkins@gmail.com

WEBSITE: artreachheals.org

THE SETH LEPORE PROJECT

A trilogy on the underbelly of the self-help movement. *Losing My Religion: Confessions of a New Age Refugee*, a top ten selection and Fringe Encore Award winner, is a hysterical romp through America's spiritual enterprise. *SuperHappyMelancholyexpialidocious* turns the happiness industry on its head to unearth the farcical ideology of the positive thinking movement. *Kicking Ass* and *Taking Names* examines our culture's obsession with being successful and our fear of external and internalized failure.

CONTACT: Seth Lepore | seth@sethums.com

WEBSITE: sethums.com

SOUNDS, PICTURES & LEGENDS OF JAPAN

Sounds, Pictures & Legends of Japan is a solo classical music program designed and performed by classical guitarist Aaron Larget-Caplan. Featuring original works, arrangements, and two premieres by Japanese composers of the 20th and 21st centuries, this program traverses Japanese history and folk music to the influence of European and American art and classical music. Composers: Takemitsu, Fujii, Gershwin, Lennon/McCartney and more. Preview video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRsdqstthxA>

CONTACT: Aaron Larget-Caplan | aaron@aaronLc.com

WEBSITE: youtube.com/watch?v=rRsdqstthxA

STAFF BENDA BILILI

Staff Benda Bilili is an extraordinary band from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The acclaimed musicians and vocalists—whose foundation are four paraplegic singer/guitarists—was formed by homeless street musicians who lived in and around a zoo in the nation's capital, Kinshasa. Staff Benda Bilili is celebrated for its exciting rumba-rooted grooves, energetic vocals and unique one-string tin can guitar solos. In Congo's Lingala language, Staff Benda Bilili means "look beyond appearances."

CONTACT: Shannon Mayers | smayers@keene.edu

WEBSITE: keene.edu/racbp/

SUSANA BACA

Susana Baca is an acclaimed Peruvian singer-songwriter and two-time Latin Grammy Award winner who is iconic of Afro-Peruvian music and dance. In 2011 she served as Peru's Minister of Culture, becoming the first black cabinet minister of independent Peru. She tours with a band of five, mixing indigenous Peruvian instruments (cajon, udu, quijada and cheko) with acoustic guitar and electric upright baby bass. She collaborates with Latin America's premier poets to compose her lyrics.

CONTACT: Cathy Edwards | cedwards@artidea.org

WEBSITE: artidea.org

TO BEE OR NOT TO BEE

Piti Theatre Co. seeks New England presenters for a family audiences play with live music about the global disappearance of honeybees. *To Bee* blends puppetry, dance, and audience participation to tell the story of a farmer-beekeeper named James - and the advent of the monoculture and pesticide use in American agriculture. Residency activities can bring together grades K-6, teens, farms/food-based businesses, and beekeepers. Featured on WBUR's *All Things Considered*. Version français premieres in Europe 11/12.

CONTACT: Jonathan Mirin | jonathan@ptco.org

WEBSITE: ptco.org

TRUTH, A NEW FOLK OPERA ABOUT SOJOURNER TRUTH

TRUTH illuminates the life and legacy of this complicated, brilliant woman who, though illiterate, was a relentless and articulate champion of those deprived of justice and freedom, and whose influence has for too long been overlooked. The 90-minute score by Paula M. Kimper and libretto by Talaya Delaney features five singers and seven musicians, and is accessible and down-to-earth, with much of the music derived from folk themes and spirituals, and many of the words Sojourner's own. Available study guide and workshop.

CONTACT: Linda McNerney | lmciner@gmail.com

WEBSITE: truthopera.com

USTAD AMJAD ALI KHAN ENSEMBLE IN CONCERT

Ustad Amjad Ali Khan represents six generations of a legendary musical family lineage. As a musical prodigy, he started his career at age six, and since then the Indian classical music scene has witnessed scintillating bursts of Raga supernovas by this Maestro. In his hands, the Sarod gives new and yet timeless interpretations of classical melodies of India. This concert brings his sons, Amaan Ali Khan and Ayaan Ali Khan, and two tabla players making the concert a power house event.

CONTACT: Ranjanaa Devi | aacp@admin.umass.edu

WEBSITE: fineartscenetr.com/asian

WE CAN DANCE!

A group of physical disabled performers present dances in open spaces and theaters.

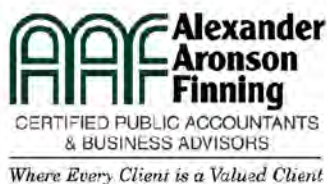
CONTACT: Liusha Hua | marchingtheearth@gmail.com

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