

# MAKING MUSIC DANCE



**Making Music Dance** is a collaborative world music and dance performance ensemble based in the NYC area. They are the true meaning of eclectic, coming from diverse stylistic backgrounds: African, Jazz, South American, Reggae, and many styles of physical percussion, including tap dance. The group, spanning 3 generations, has been collaborating since 2012. They've played at music and dance festivals across North America and released their first CD in November of 2015.

The four core members bring their different experience of instinct and groove to the table and celebrate the rich tonalities that are the result. They draw from ancient and modern cultural traditions and genres, and use them to discover new compositional directions. The diversity of this group has led them to a new approach in world music, one that redefines the interpretation of percussive dance and makes the music physical. Making Music Dance defies classification and works equally well in a variety of venues, from small music clubs to large theaters.

For this season, they will be joined by the internationally acclaimed musician and dancer from Peru, Antonio Vilchez, providing a layer of Afro-Peruvian music and dance to their fusion.

# THE ARTISTS



## ▼ Andy Algire

**Andy Algire** is a percussionist, composer and educator specializing in African and jazz music. Mentored by master Guinean balafonist Abou Sylla, he plays with NYC based groups Mandingo Ambassadors, Feraba, Benyoro, and Kakande. He performs regularly with numerous acclaimed recording artists from West Africa, including Sekouba Bambino, Mory Djeli Kouyate, and Oumou Dioubate. He has worked with Heather collaborating, performing and teaching since 2000. He teaches African music at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, NY.



## ▼ Adriel Williams

**Adriel Williams** has been playing both the violin and tap shoes since he was seven years young. He met Heather in a tap class when he was 13, and they have been collaborating ever since. He is an active member of various music scenes from Brooklyn/NY to the DMV area, spanning a variety of genres and styles from reggae and west African music to folk and hip hop. His original music draws from many musical traditions from various parts of the planet and has yet to be formally categorized. Dubbed an "up and coming talent" by the *Washington Post* while still a teenager, Adriel has been refining his craft for over 20 years.

## ▼ Heather Cornell

**Heather Cornell** (Canadian born) was dubbed "the Oscar Peterson of hoofing" (*Globe & Mail*, Toronto, Canada). She is Artistic Director of Manhattan Tap, a force in the rhythm tap renaissance in NYC in the 80's and 90's. Her show "Conversations" toured Canada, Germany and Holland and was presented in the Distinguished Artist series at Bergen CC in Nov. 2014. She was invited to create the first show featuring dance for the London Jazz Festival in 2007, "Finding Synesthesia", where she played the many textures of tap percussion in a blend of piano, Moroccan/jazz vocals and cello. She created CanTap in 2008, an all-Canadian rhythm tap and music improvisational group that tours internationally. She is known for her collaborations with world-class musicians, most notably jazz icon Ray Brown, who was a profound mentor to her. She is a celebrated choreographer and has toured internationally as a soloist and with her projects for 30 years. She teaches at Manhattanville College and annual master classes at Capilano University in Vancouver, Canada. Awards: Hooper's Award 2015 (NYC), FloBert 2012 (NYC), JUBA 2011 (Chicago), Tapestry 2010 (Boston) and Living Legends 2009 (Vancouver) for her excellence in teaching, choreographing and directing, and for her mentorship of tap communities around the world. Heather's love is to teach artists to be bilingual in music and dance. Thank you to her mentors who inspired her with their living history and their passion, keeping them vulnerable in a difficult world. Improvisation is the conversation that heals.



# THE ARTISTS



## ◀ Tony Romano

Tony Romano has been active in the NYC music scene for many years as a guitarist, music director, composer, arranger, and teacher. *Just Jazz Guitar* magazine wrote "His tone is beautiful and soulful, and his remarkable technique is a servant to his rich musical imagination and broad harmonic palette." With a wide range of playing styles, Tony has toured worldwide and performed and recorded with many notable Latin, Jazz, Pop, and Broadway artists, including Randy Brecker, Joe Locke, Joe Bataan, Dave Valentin, Candido Camero, Yomo Toro, Joel Frahm, Brit Woodman, Santi DeBriano, Stanley Jordan, Debbie Gibson, Alex Gemignani, Chuck Cooper, and Frank Wright. He can be heard on 52 episodes of the BBC series *3rd & Bird*, has performed for the Discovery Channel miniseries *Going, Going, Gone!*, as well as on NPR Broadcasts, and has appeared on NBC's *The Today Show*, Telemundo, and the *ABC Morning Show*. Tony is adjunct faculty at Five Towns College, a Teaching Artist for the Kupferberg Center at Queens College, and was an instructor for the National Guitar Workshop for 12 years.

## Guest Artist:

## Antonio Vilchez ▶

Antonio Vilchez holds a bachelor degree in Arts and Pedagogy by the National Graduate School of Folklore José María Arguedas. Recognized as an innovative artist in 2014 by The United Nation's magazine *Americas Quarterly*, he has been invited to the ceremony recognizing the 'cajón' [drum box] as cultural patrimony of the Americas arranged by the Organization of American States [Organización de Estados Americanos]. In 2011 Antonio was featured as a percussionist and step dancer in NYC with the *Afro-Peruvian Jazz Sextet*. He was presented as an artist who is the future of tap dance by Ms. Cornell at the 20th anniversary celebration of *Tap Ahead* in Dusseldorf, Germany in May of 2017. Antonio's art integrates traditional coastal dances from Peru, contemporary dance and tap dancing. He is an important exponent of the diverse fusions characterizing Peruvian art today, and of the quest for a Peruvian identity discovered through movement and flow.



## Making Music Dance

**Heather Cornell:** tap, wood and sand dance; cajon, balafon | **Andy Algire:** balafon, conga, percussion |

**Adriel Williams:** violin, v-bass, electric cajon, tap | **Tony Romano:** guitar | **Antonio Vilchez:** zapateo, tap, cajon, cajita

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## Selected Performance History

### With Guest Artist, Antonio Vilchez (Lima, Peru):

"Gateway: Q", CBC Radio, National roll out starting Aug 1st, 2017

"Toronto International Tap Festival", Fleck Dance Theater, Harbourfront, performance and master class, Toronto, Canada, June, 2017

Maureen's Jazz Cellar, Nyack, NY, May, 2017

"Tap Dance Days", Dusseldorf, Germany, May 2017

"Culture dans Peter-McGill", Salle Le Sanctuaire, Eglise St. Jax de Montreal, PQ, May 2017

"Heartbeats", Loft #314, Montreal, PQ, May 2017

Master Class, Studio BIZZ, Montreal, PQ, May 2017

"First International Zap Festival", Lima, Cincha, Peru, April, 2017

### With Guest Artist, Anna de la Paz:

"Walk to the Beat", Nyack, NY, mainstage performance, July 2015

"Music Series", Haverstraw King's Daughter's Public Library, Garnerville, NY, July 2015

"Music Series", Glen Rock High School, Glen Rock, NJ, May 2015

"First Fridays", Casa del Sol, Nyack, NY, Monthly, July 2013 - Aug 2015

"WTTB Benefit", Rockland Conservatory, Pearl River, NY, April 2015

"Walk to the Beat", Nyack, NY, mainstage performance, July 2014

"Culture dans Peter-McGill", Salle Shatford Hall, Eglise St. Jax de Montreal, PQ, November 2013

"Walk to the Beat", Nyack, NY, mainstage performance, July 2013

"Jazz en Rafale", La Chapelle Historique du Bon-Pasteur, Montreal, PQ, March 2013

Master Class, Studio 303, Montreal, PQ, March 2013

Master Class, Université du Québec a Montréal, March 2013

"Benefit to aid Homeless", Nyack Center, October 2012

"First International Zap Festival", Lima, Cincha, Peru, April, 2017

### Commissions

"One More Clap", New Music USA, National commission, premiered Walk to the Beat, 2015

### CD's

Making Music Dance (with Anna de la Paz), Release date November 2015

Making Music Dance (with Antonio Vilchez), Release date TBA

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**HYPNOTIC  
AND  
MEDITATIVE,  
WITH A LIVE-  
WIRE GROOVE  
THROUGHOUT**  
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*Pamela Hetherington, director  
Sound Space  
Philadelphia, PA*