

## PERFORMANCES



Students clap to the beat of an Asefa song.

BAC Arts in Education performances inspire the imagination in audiences of all ages, share a range of cultures and traditions from around the world, explore a colorful spectrum of performing arts disciplines, and engage audience members in interactive learning experiences.

## OUR GOALS

Through our artist residencies, workshops, and performances, BAC provides and promotes quality arts education programs that:

- Foster creativity and imagination
- Expand verbal and non-verbal communication skills
- Enhance capacities for critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Fortify social-emotional skills

## WHAT ARE SCHOOLS SAYING?

"A great show! The loud, clear history of each dance and costumes were wonderful! Older students were quietly fascinated while younger students clapped and tapped along to the drum beat."

"The students lit up when they heard music from their home countries. The audience participation was great!"

"We loved the audience participation! Many students had an opportunity to perform with them on stage."

"Our students thoroughly enjoyed the performance! They loved learning about the instruments and comparing the variety of sounds they heard."

## ABOUT OUR PERFORMANCES

Many of our performances feature artists that share the history and traditions of their native countries or cultures through song, storytelling, and dance. Our professional artists regularly perform in auditoriums for large groups, as well in intimate settings for smaller audiences.

All performances support the NYC Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts and Common Core State Standards, providing students with the opportunity to develop 21st century skills, and audience participation skills, such as listening, paying focused attention, analyzing what they see, watching for non-verbal cues, and asking relevant questions.

Performances are approximately 45 minutes and can be scheduled back-to-back in order to reach larger audiences.

**NYC DOE Vendor #: BRO096000**

**Contract #: QR8910D**

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### **Aeilushi Mistry: Traditional Indian Dance** *(small ensemble rate)*

Aeilushi Mistry was born and raised in India and holds advanced degrees in Bharatnatyam dance. Whether on stage or in a classroom, Aeilushi draws young audiences in with her expressive performance with detailed hand gestures, commanding percussive elements and imaginative movements, bringing India alive. She excels at evoking the natural dancer in every participant.

### **Asefa Music** *(medium ensemble rate)*

*Asefa (ah-say-fah): (noun, from Hebrew) A collective, assembly or gathering, with purpose.* This collective of musicians shares in a discursive language of song and presents for their audience a musical text. On stages worldwide, Asefa blends Middle Eastern culture, North African grooves and Sephardic sounds with jazz and popular music sensibilities. Vocals in Arabic and Hebrew, along with sax, guitars, oud, bass, guimbri and percussion, rock the house and get the crowd moving every time.



### **Astrograss** *(medium ensemble rate)*

At the forefront of New York's acoustic and bluegrass scene is Astrograss' unique sound: earthy, bluegrass-inspired yet decidedly un-twangy. Equally passionate in vocal harmonies and surging improvisations, Astrograss wows audiences with an eclectic yet rooted mix of original material, choice covers ranging from Jimmy Webb to Guns n' Roses, and foot-stompin', "yee-haw"-inspiring fiddle hoedowns. Astrograss has performed in prestigious New York venues such as Joe's Pub, BAM Harvey Theatre, BB King's Blues Club, and Symphony Space.

### **BombaYo** *(medium ensemble rate)*

BombaYo ignites the ancestral drumming and dance of Bomba, Puerto Rico's oldest African derived music and dance form. Bomba is a dynamic improvisational expression, in which the dancer interacts with the drummer to create a musical dialogue. BombaYo leads participants in basic songs and draws from their Latin American, Caribbean and African roots to weave history, culture and storytelling into their performances to create cross cultural connections and appreciation.





### **Calpulli Mexican Dance Company** *(large ensemble rate)*

Calpulli celebrates the rich, regional dance traditions of Mexico's diverse cultural history. The fresh repertoire honors Mexico's past and immigrant life in the United States. The company has toured nationally and is featured in premiere venues in NYC and beyond, including Carnegie Hall, Symphony Space, CalTech University, Dollywood's Festival of Nations, and the Schimmel Center for the Arts at Pace University. Calpulli Mexican Dance Company (aka Calpulli Danza Mexicana) celebrates Mexican culture through performance and interactive engagement.



### **Chinese Theatre Works** *(medium or large ensemble rates)*

Experience the richness of Chinese culture including music, dance, shadow theatre, puppetry and opera! Chinese Theatre Works have performed all over the world and are known for its traditional as well as original cross-culture productions. They have received awards in both the U.S. and China for the quality of all aspects of their performances, from writing, narration and direction to design and puppet construction.



### **Cirkulock** *(medium, large, or expanded ensemble rates)*

Cirkulock is the first street dance circus, mixing traditional circus acts with the street dances of yesterday and today. Through superb execution of dance moves, they show how hip-hop draws upon genres such as salsa, funk, martial arts, and the smooth moves of ballroom dance. Performers are trained in street dance incorporating unique acrobatics, rhythmic contortion (bone-breaking), mime, and unique blends of street dance theater, including stepping, character robotics, Brukup, waacking, and krump. Cirkulock's simple, yet powerful purpose is to serve by "exploring creativity". These enthusiastic performances are appropriate for all ages.



### **Darrah Carr Dance** *(small, medium, or large ensemble rates)*

Join champion Irish step dancers for a whirlwind introduction to Irish dance including its history, costumes and traditions. Enjoy lightning-fast demonstrations of hard shoe & soft shoe styles, as well as live music on the accordion and spoons. **Irish Step Duets** features two dancers performing traditional Irish step dances, while **ModERIN** showcases the full company in a unique blend of traditional Irish step and contemporary modern dance. Enthusiastic students are invited onstage to learn the first step of the jig, while the entire audience enjoys clapping along to the bouncy rhythms of jigs & reels.

### **The Dixie Rascals** *(medium or large ensemble rates)*

Dynamic musicians trace the origins of tap-your-feet, clap-your-hands, grin-on-your-face Dixieland music. They perform in period costume on traditional Dixieland instruments (trumpet, trombone, clarinet, banjo, tuba, and drums) and focus on the role of each instrument in the ensemble. Emphasis is given to the importance of listening to each other in music and life. Special attention is devoted to music's place in life events: weddings, funerals, and a celebration of the human spirit.



### **Egyptian Celebration Company** *(small, medium, or large ensemble rates)*

Egyptian Celebration Company celebrates the culture of Egypt and the Middle East through folkloric music and dance infused with modern streaks of inspiration. Shows include a variety of dances including: **Tahtib**, a stick from upper Egypt; **Whirling Dervish**, a spectacular continuous spinning dance part of a special meditation of the Sufis, set to the backdrop of bright colors, exciting music, and drum props; **Horse Dance**, which imitates the movements of the famous Arabic Dancing Stallions using a life-sized horse puppet; and **Wings of Isis**, which boasts graceful dancers wearing large colorful wings imitating Isis, one of the famous goddesses of Ancient Egypt.

### **Feraba African Rhythm Tap** *(small, medium, or large ensemble rates)*

Feraba, an award-winning multicultural and multiethnic performance group, fuses the traditional sounds and movements of West Africa with American forms of tap dance. ***The Roots of Tap*** traces the history of tap dance, in a story encompassing early African slave dances as they fused with dances of Irish and English immigrants who settled in America. Contemporary pieces push boundaries, reintegrating tap with its roots in African dance. ***BIASHI: The Journey*** fuses tap, hip-hop, body percussion, and traditional West African songs and dance into an electrifying art form that reflects the American melting pot. ***Sounds/Dance of the Mandingo Empire*** focuses on “exotic” West African instruments originating from this area, including the Krin, Bolon, Balafon, N’Goni, Kora, drums, and many more. As an incredible musical journey to Africa the show also features West African dances from the early 13th century (note: there is no tap in this show).



### **Fintan O’Neill Jazz Ensemble** *(small or medium ensemble rates)*

Students discover the joy of music-making with Fintan O’Neill and his group of talented jazz musicians. This jazz group gives a fun, interactive, musical experience in which the students take part through a series of games and clapping. It’s entertaining, high energy, and the students learn not just about jazz but also about working as a team and being creative.

### **Folk Tales from Around the World with Storyteller Tammy Hall**

*(small ensemble rate)*

Get ready for an enchanting journey, as storyteller Tammy Hall weaves folk tales from across the globe in the oral tradition. Hall educates audiences on the art of storytelling and the lands from which her stories come. A former NYC teacher and advocate for literacy, Hall conducts storytelling and writing workshops throughout the NYC area. As an African American and native of Clarksville, Tennessee, she draws on her heritage to deliver unforgettable tales. Storytelling is an artistic, expressive way of bringing people together and guiding them on a journey of the world’s cultures, peoples and landscapes through imagination.





### **Folk Tales of Asia & Africa** *(small ensemble rate)*

While she is baking bread, the hostess and her guests wait for the dough to rise while she tells them the Zimbabwean story *The Dragon with Five Heads*, the Japanese tale *The Lantern and The Fan* and the Burmese tale *The Old Man and the Moon*. Egg beaters hop into cloth napkins to become Japanese sisters in kimonos, a flour sifter becomes an old man and the cookie cutter is his pet rabbit. These are just a few of the notable characters you'll meet in this exciting found-object puppetry show by Jane Catherine Shaw.

### **Irka Mateo** *(small or medium ensemble rates)*

**Irka Mateo Dominican Folk Music** This AfroTaino-Dominican folk music group performs Caribbean ancestral music and illustrates the variety and richness of the Dominican Republic. Irka Mateo's group plays an array of folkloric music genres with roots in the African, Native, and Hispanic beats that gave birth to this unique culture. **Storytelling and Music from the Caribbean** This interactive storytelling and music program immerses children in the history of the people of the Caribbean. Making music from the Native and African populations from the Caribbean brings the rare opportunity to sing and play their ancient traditional instruments and songs. Through the storytelling the children get carried away listening to and participating in the fantastic mythology and legends of these people.



### **Kaina Quenga Polynesian Dance** *(small ensemble rate)*

This master Hawaiian dancer has performed at social and ceremonial occasions throughout her native state. Her Hawaiian repertoire incorporates hula, which simply means "dance" with its chanted narratives passed on by the kupuna, or elders. Learn about how dancers' movements bring the narrative song to life. Often accompanied by musicians playing traditional instruments, Quenga also shares the shapes, dances and traditions of Tahiti.

### **Kotchegna Dance Company** *(medium or large ensemble rates)*

Experience traditional dance & drumming from the Ivory Coast! Kotchegna, a multi-ethnic dance company, performs from a repertoire of 60 regional dances and songs, sharing the rich traditions of the peoples of this West African country. During his 15+ years with the *Ballet National de Cote d'Ivoire* (National Ballet of the Ivory Coast) Kotchegna's Artistic Director and master drummer & drum-maker Vado Diomande performed and choreographed throughout Africa, Asia, Europe and Australia.



### **Linda Russell: Historical Music & Timeless Tales** *(small ensemble rate)*

From boisterous 18th century ballads to sentimental Victorian melodies, Russell recreates a lost national treasure. While playing guitar, dulcimer, penny whistle and limberjack, her rich singing voice illuminates American heritage through anthems, broadsides, hymns and dance tunes. Take a historic journey of music punctuated by anecdotes & facts. The pioneers, patriots, and other figures of America's past come to life as Russell shares stories of their joys and hardships.

### **Loop 2.4.3 Percussion Ensemble** *(small ensemble rate)*

This ensemble creates original music steeped in percussion and electronics. Their compositions are rooted in the classical chamber music tradition, but with strong improvisatory jazz and rock foundations; music embraces the notion of journeyed storytelling, creating a kind of alternate universe. Program offerings include: **Music from the Time-Machine**, A rhythmically charged journey through space and time featuring original music and instrumentation. The synthesis of electronic soundscapes and acoustic percussion makes an instant connection with young audiences. **Poetry & Sound**, Loop 2.4.3 collaborates with NYC poets, featuring the spoken word within a narrative musical context. **World Tour**, Using familiar and exotic percussion instruments, the group creates new works that draw inspiration from around the globe.





### **Momentum** *(medium ensemble rate)*

This dynamic group of steppers takes their audience on a journey through Step and Spoken Word. The group loves to share the history of stepping, what it means to pursue a passion, and the beauty in the creative process as they use their bodies as instruments and encourage the audience to do the same. Through pioneering professionalism in the art of Step, Momentum makes a difference in the lives of young people, fostering self-esteem and teaching life skills such as determination, teamwork, creativity and resilience.

### **Myths from Ancient Times told by Tom Lee** *(small ensemble rate)*

Storyteller Tom Lee tells myths from ancient cultures, engaging students with compelling stories and fascinating historical background. Some of the world's oldest stories, including myths from Mesopotamia, Greece, and Mexico bring the distant past into vivid focus. Tom Lee is a frequent guest artist with the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archeology and Anthropology; his stories are carefully researched from primary sources and told with rich historical context.



### **Pearls of Wisdom** *(small ensemble rate)*

Elders Share the Arts (ESTA) presents this touring ensemble of elder storytellers led by artistic director Thelma Ruffin Thomas. In richly told presentations, the Pearls present stories that illuminate their individual pasts and, in turn, our collective histories. Their lively, spirited, interactive, authentic presentations promote the tradition of elder folk stories while inspiring audiences to share stories of their own. Presentations are flexible and include an introduction, story presentation and discussion. These performances are a great way to foster discussion during awareness months such as Black History Month, Women's History Month, and Older American's Month.

### **Rhythm of the Arts** *(medium or large ensemble rate)*

This group showcases the cultures of Mexico and Spain. **Mexico Beyond Mariachi** brings students on a 2000 year journey that begins in the fascinating world of Mesoamerican civilization. Continuing chronologically we illustrate through music, dance, and storytelling how time, geography, climate, and foreign influences have affected folk traditions to the present day. The show represents the folk traditions of Mexico as an intelligent and vital part of American history and culture. **Flamenco: Inside/Out** This troupe of musicians and dancers present an exciting program that introduces the traditional Spanish art form of flamenco with a fresh and innovative twist. As a living art form, flamenco is constantly evolving, borrowing from other cultures and traditions, but making them its own. This show explores this evolution and how different cultures have influenced and enriched its development.



### **Rita Silva Brazilian Dance** *(medium ensemble rate)*

The rhythms, sounds, and movements of Brazil come alive as Rita Silva, a native of Bahia, Brazil, and her company present a captivating interactive performance that both enchants and educates as it connects students to the elements of nature through the use of dance (including capoeira), instruments, and music of this vibrant and mystical culture.

### **Robin Bady Storytelling** *(small ensemble rate)*

Award-winning storyteller Robin Bady has been called "gutsy, big hearted and street smart." Hailing from Brooklyn, her repertoire encompasses world tales, current events, oral histories, ghost experiences and personal stories. Her interactive programs cut to the heart of the matter, connecting to curricula and themes throughout the year: folklore in literature, pourquoi tales and science, NY ghost tales and social studies, or holiday celebrations. Programs are designed to deepen and broaden students' comprehension, making literacy fun.





### **Shakespeare Sings** *(medium ensemble rate)*

An introduction to Shakespeare for students of all ages and backgrounds — in one unforgettable concert! The music is slammin' fun, and deeply thoughtful and emotional. Students discover Shakespeare as understandable and modern, no matter their prior experience. The show features cast members from Broadway shows such as *The Lion King*, *Jersey Boys*, *Shrek!*, and *The Color Purple*.

### **Story Pirates: Greatest Hits** *(expanded ensemble rate)*

This nationally respected education and media organization has worked with over 200 schools across the country and performed with the likes of Conan O'Brien and Jon Stewart. The Greatest Hits program showcases creative writing by students from NYC adapted for the stage and performed by professional actors. These award-winning shows are funny enough to make teachers and parents laugh along with students, while at the same time reinforcing New York State standards and Common Core values in the arts and English Language Arts. When students leave, their minds are racing with their own creative ideas for story writing.



### **Thunderbird American Indian Dancers** *(medium ensemble rate)*

Rich in history and wide in appeal, these dancers have made a colossal contribution to the efforts to preserve Native American culture. Thunderbird entralls both native and non-native audiences with the diverse traditions of America's indigenous peoples. The ensemble performs songs and dances from the Northwest Coast, Eastern Woodlands (especially Iroquois), Plains (Sioux and Winnebago) and the Southwest (Hopi and Santo Domingo).



### **Trilok Fusion Arts** (*medium or large ensemble rates*)

Trilok's Sudha Seetharaman is a trained dancer in bharatanatyam, an ancient form of highly stylized classical South Indian dance that dates back to the 2nd century B.C. She performs with members of Trilok to demonstrate classical Indian dance, music, instruments and songs. Trilok preserves tradition while inspiring audiences to develop a deep appreciation for world cultures.

### **The Young Hoofers** (*medium ensemble rate*)

Named one of Dance Magazine's Top 25 to Watch, The Young Hoofers, under the direction of Traci Mann, offer exuberant precise unisons and virtuosi solos. This group has won twice on Showtime at the Apollo and performers have appeared in national commercials, newscasts, magazines and Broadway shows! In ***Conversations in Rhythm***, performers tap dance to the rhythms of marches, swing, Latin, bebop, and reggae. The use of bucket drums and a percussionist make an impact on any audience. ***Tribute to Tap Giants*** pays tribute to the legends of tap dance including The Original Hoofers™, Maurice and Gregory Hines, Bill Bojangles Robinson and many others. Join the Young Hoofers in keeping tap alive!



### **Zuly in the Last Place on Earth** (*expanded ensemble rate*)

Zuly is musical theater with a message for kids of all ages. The show teaches that through imagination and compassion we can learn to stop violence. The performers bring this story of a junkyard war between two gangs of dogs to life. The life lessons expressed through this lively musical performance can be extended as a springboard to talk about conflict resolution, self-esteem and accepting differences in others.

## PERFORMANCES: GOALS & FEES

### OUR GOALS

Through our artist residencies, workshops, and performances, BAC provides and promotes quality arts education programs that:

- Foster creativity and imagination
- Expand verbal and non-verbal communication skills
- Enhance capacities for critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Fortify social-emotional skills



Dancers from Darrah Carr Dance teach students an Irish jig.

### PERFORMANCE FEES

BAC's Performances are approximately 45 minutes with a maximum audience of 500 students, teachers and/or parents per performance. Performances can be scheduled back-to-back in order to reach larger audiences. Performances are suitable for all age groups. Pricing varies depending on the number of performing artists.

#### **Single Performance:**

\$840 for small ensemble (1-3 performers)  
\$1260 for medium ensemble (4-5 performers)  
\$1600 for large ensemble (6-8 performers)  
\$2250 for expanded ensemble (9-12 performers)

#### **2 Back-to-back Performances:**

\$1260 for small ensemble (1-3 performers)  
\$1600 for medium ensemble (4-5 performers)  
\$2250 for large ensemble (6-8 performers)  
\$2800 for expanded ensemble (9-12 performers)

**NYC DOE Vendor #: BRO096000 Contract #: QR8910D**

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Students prepare to learn Indian dance steps from performer Aeilushi Mistry.

**CONNECT:**

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**To book a performance, contact**

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