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STEOLOGY Presents the
2010 BAY AREA RHYTHM EXCHANGE
August 20-21, 2010 at the Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

WHAT: STEOLOGY presents the **2010 BAY AREA RHYTHM EXCHANGE**

STEOLOGY, a San Francisco-based nonprofit corporation, presents the 2010 Bay Area Rhythm Exchange. Included in the San Francisco Chronicle's "Top Ten Dance Performances of the Year" in multiple years, this concert event returns to celebrate the joy and wonder of the uniquely American art form of tap dance. In this annual production, Bay Area Tap Festival artists perform to live musical accompaniment at San Francisco's historic Herbst Theatre.

A diverse roster of today's tap stars from Broadway, film, and the concert stage features Music Director Channing Cook Holmes (*Riverdance*, *Gangs of New York*, *Bojangles*), Director John Kloss (*Tap Heat*), Mark Mendonca (*The Polar Express*; *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk*), Jason Rodgers (*Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk*), Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards (*Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk*; *Bamboozled*), tap dancing juggler Lukas Weiss, and more.

WHEN: Friday and Saturday, August 20 - 21 at 8:00pm

WHERE: San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center, Herbst Theatre
401 Van Ness, San Francisco, CA 94102

TICKETS: \$17-25. Student/senior/group/early purchase/multiple-night discounts available.
CHARGE-BY-PHONE/INFORMATION: (415) 392-4400 and cityboxoffice.com
In person: CITY BOX OFFICE, 180 Redwood Street

NOTE: This event is a program component of STEOLOGY's 2010 Bay Area Tap Festival, which also features a week-long workshop with Festival artists hosted by Alonzo King LINES Dance Center. More information is available online at stepology.com.

This project has been made possible in part by awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the S. F. Arts Commission, the Alliance for California Traditional Arts, the Zellerbach Family Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, and the support of the Best Western Americana Hotel, and generous individuals. STEOLOGY is supported in part by Grants for the Arts/The San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund.



ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES FOR THE 2010 BAY AREA RHYTHM EXCHANGE

CHANNING COOK-HOLMES (Music Director/Drums)

An Inglewood, CA native representing the West Coast, Channing Cook Holmes is blessed with talents that have taken him around the world. His drumming ability, his syncopated rhythmic tap dance style, his singing, and his natural audience appeal, have taken Channing from dance company (Jazz Tap Ensemble), to stage (Riverdance, tour and Broadway), to small screen, (Bojangles), to big screen, (Gangs of New York). He is the consummate entertainer. Channing is adding directing and producing to his repertoire with the production of his current, award winning children's show Lil' Chan Can Tap Dance. Channing Cook Holmes is a "must watch" artist with more to come.

JOHN KLOSS (Artistic Director)

John Kloss started to tap inspired by early performances of tap on film, and gained his first training in Chicago with many of tap's masters. John has appeared in the short film *Tap Heat*, as an ensemble member and soloist with Jazz Tap Ensemble and Especially Tap Chicago, as a founding member of the tap duo The Swift Brothers, and in festival productions such as the St. Louis Tap Festival, the Chicago Human Rhythm Project, and the Maui Tap Experience. John has also been a featured performer at San Francisco's Bay Area Dance Awards.

Inspired also by the many incredibly gifted performing artists and variety of styles in tap, John's interests have led to a performing resume that includes a notable list of tap artists and work in a wide range of settings. He has performed in concert ensemble choreography of Gregory Hines and Jimmy Slyde, in film choreography by Danny Daniels and Jason Samuels-Smith, with Samuels-Smith in early incarnations of the group ACGI ("Anybody Can Get It"), and in numerous events alongside many of today's top tap artists. John has also appeared in festival and other events honoring such luminaries as the Nicholas Brothers, Four Step Brothers Maceo Anderson and Prince Spencer, Peg Leg Bates, Arthur Duncan, and Michael Jackson, and at national conferences of corporations such as Wal-Mart and AT&T.

In 2003, John established the California nonprofit STEPOLOGY, San Francisco's Bay Area Tap Festival, and the festival's concert performance component, the Bay Area Rhythm Exchange. In his roles as founder, director, and performing artist, John's efforts have led to programming which has twice been listed in the San Francisco Chronicle's "Top Ten Dance Performances of the Year", earned an "Access to Artistic Excellence" grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and been described by the San Francisco Bay Times as invoking "...an appreciation of tap's history while inspiring an excitement for tap's present and future."

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MARK MENDONCA

Mark Mendonca's extensive career as a performer and choreographer includes performances for the last three U. S. Presidents, as well as performances on Broadway, television, and concert stages around the world. Mark's dancing was motion captured for the animated feature film "The Polar Express" directed by Robert Zemeckis and starring Tom Hanks. In the year 2000, Mark was chosen to open for Barbra Streisand's farewell concert tour with performances at Madison Square Garden in New York and the Staples Center in Los Angeles. On Broadway, Mark danced in the Tony Award-winning production of "Bring in 'Da Noise! Bring in 'Da Funk!", and has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Davies Symphony Hall, the Biennale de la Danse, the Joyce Theater, Jacob's Pillow, The Tiger Palast in Frankfurt, Germany, and the Apollo Theater, among many others.

He has shared the stage with the late tap masters the Nicholas Brothers, Jimmy Slyde, Charles 'Honi' Coles, Eddie Brown, Steve Condos, Chuck Green, Bunny Briggs, Lon Chaney and Buster Brown, and has made numerous appearances with Gregory Hines, appearing with him in "A Gala for the President at Ford's Theater", and in "The Kennedy Center Honors", both televised on ABC. Mark's dancing was featured in the Emmy Award-nominated documentary "Juba: The Masters of Tap and Percussive Dance", aired on PBS, and in "The Summit of the Americas", which aired in Canada. Mark toured both nationally and internationally with his own company, The Steps Ahead Tap Trio and with Jazz Tap Ensemble and has taught and performed at dance festivals throughout the U. S. including the Colorado Dance Festival, Florida Dance Festival, as well as festivals in San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago, Minneapolis, Boston, Portland, and Anchorage.

He has been on the faculty at Loyola Marymount University and Santa Monica College, and has also taught classes at UCLA, Cal State LA, Cal State Long Beach, Los Angeles County High School of the Arts and Orange County High School of the Arts, among others.

Mark has worked with director James Brooks, choreographer Twyla Tharp and fellow tap dancers Bill Irwin, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Elizabeth Berkley, and Christopher Walken. Mark was the first person to receive a Princess Grace Foundation Award for tap dance and was the winner of the 1997 Lester Horton Dance Award for outstanding achievement in individual performance. Mark has also received a Brody Art Fund Artists Fellowship.

JASON RODGERS

Jason Rodgers is a tap dancer/teacher/choreographer and actor who has been working professionally since the age of 10. Under the tutelage of the late Paul & Arlene Kennedy, Jason began teaching tap at age 15. He has worked with Debbie Allen, Donald O'Connor, Eddie Brown, George C. Wolfe, and Danny Daniels (to name a few). Some of his credits include performing on the Academy Awards, the North American tour of "Bring in Da Noise, Bring in Da Funk", and most recently, the European tour of Jerome Savary's "Looking For Josephine". He's also been featured in commercials for Levi's, Hummer, Verizon Wireless V Cast, and Gatorade. Jason is currently teaching & performing throughout the U.S. & Europe.

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DORMESHIA SUMBRY-EDWARDS (*schedule permitting for Bay Area Tap Festival)

Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards has been a part of almost every major Tap movie or show that has appeared in the history of tap dance since the 80's. She was nominated for best actress for her starring role in the award-winning independent film "The Rise and Fall of Miss Thang". In addition to opening the Harlem Tap Studio in NYC, Mrs. Sumbry-Edwards continues to appear as a special guest for shows and festivals around the world. She was also elected to the Advisory Board as the Tap Advisor for Dance Magazine and the official Tap Spokesperson for Capezio along with her family, as well as being featured in their international advertising campaign.

Mrs. Sumbry-Edwards was also the private tap instructor to the iconic Michael Jackson over the course of 11 years.

Mrs. Sumbry-Edwards' career includes acclaimed runs on Broadway and off-Broadway in shows such as Black and Blue, the Tony Award winning "Bring in 'Da Noise! Bring in 'Da Funk!" International Tour of "Bring in 'Da Noise! Bring in 'Da Funk!" (dance captain/principal dancer/understudy to the lead role), and "Imagine Tap!" (featured soloist). Other performances include the national tour of Wild Woman Blues and Debbie Allen's SAMMY (the life and times of Sammy Davis Jr.). Film credits include "TAP" with Gregory Hines, Spike Lee's "Bamboozled" (Assistant Choreographer), and "The Rodgers and Hart Story: Thou Swell, Thou Witty". Mrs. Sumbry-Edwards' choreography has been featured in TAAP: The Art and Appreciation of Percussion and was also utilized in Michael Jackson's music video "Rock Your World". She was also spotlighted in a commercial for Tops and is currently filming for MTV's hit television series MADE.

LUKAS WEISS

An innovator on the European tap dance scene, Lukas Weiss magically blends tap dancing, body language and juggling into one humorous and spectacular performance, displayed with virtuosity and ease. His style is captivating, marked by such rhythmical richness and musicality that any other instrumentation is superfluous.

Lukas Weiss took his first dance lessons at the age of 12. At 16 he was already on stage. Besides tap, his repertoire includes African, jazz, modern dance, and ballet. In 1998 he developed his breathtaking solo act, combining tap dancing and juggling. This led to performances throughout Europe, in India, and the USA, and to special guest appearances in prominent tap dance shows and festivals. In 2008/2009, Lukas Weiss successfully toured Switzerland and Germany with a solo program. In addition to having his own production company, he is a sought-after guest teacher and has a leading role in a documentary film about percussive dance coming to Swiss cinemas in 2010. Lukas Weiss' stay in San Francisco is supported by the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia.

More Artist Bios

ALSO APPEARING AT THE 2010 BAY AREA RHYTHM EXCHANGE

LAMONT KELLER (Bass)

Renowned bassist, teacher/educator, writer and producer, Lamont Keller started his professional career at the young age of 12. Born in Indiana, and the youngest sibling of 10, music transformed itself into an outlet for him. Taught by his uncle, Lamont picked up the bass and never looked back. He displayed an early affinity for all types of music. By the age of thirteen he was working regularly in Los Angeles with various bands. Soon thereafter, he went on a world tour with a heavy metal band, "Garage Pieces" for three years.

In the late 90's, Lamont spent years as a top call Los Angeles studio musician, working mainly with Q-Tip and a Tribe called Quest. He continued working and playing for a veterans list of credits, including Grammy and Dove award winning producers and artists: Digital Underground, Brownstown, Vesta, Kenny Latimore and Kelly Price. Lamont traveled globally, playing for jazz, rock, funk and soul bands, from the Chitlin Circuit to sold-out arenas all over Europe.

Lamont Keller is known for his eclectic groove sound and his improvisational skill and utterly unique, free-spirited approach to performance and composition. He is compared and recognized to be a collective mix between James Jamerson, Ricky Kinchen and Stanley Clarke. Lamont's "take no @#\$\$" approach to the music business, has equipped him with the endurance and focus to maintain during the constant decrease of influential live music. In the past several years, Keller has also turned his attention to teaching and conducting bass workshops for students interested in the enrichment of music education.

He also tours with a group of artists called "Got Rhythm" featuring tapper, Channing Cook-Holmes, teaching the art of rhythm through movement and music. Lamont's passion for music and live performance has become an essential part of his life, but comes second to his family life. Mr. Keller is a devout father of three and committed to them foremost. He lives by his own personal quote, "I am more than just a musician, I am a man first." Lamont's life has been a reflection of the black musician experience in America that at times, seem insurmountable. Lamont is an excellent example of a musician that can stand the test of time.

MAYA KRONFELD (Keys)

24 year-old Maya Kronfeld is a rhythmically driven piano player and keyboardist working in many different genres. Born in Berkeley, CA to Israeli parents, she has performed in venues ranging from Lincoln Center (NY) to the Viper Room (LA). In addition to her work as a leader of the Maya Kronfeld Trio (an original jazz project featured recently on KCSM), Maya can be heard playing jazz and soul music alongside the Bay Area's finest artists, including Dave Ellis, Valerie Truitt and Destani Wolf. On the national scene, Maya currently tours with Grammy Award-winning artist Van Hunt, and with the Memorials, the new rock band led by drummer phenom Thomas Pridgen. She appeared recently as the keyboardist for Taylor Eigsti's band "Free Agency." Maya looks forward to integrating her musical future with her primary interests, which are philosophy and literature.

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