



2024  
2025

**TEACHING  
ARTIST  
WORKSHOP  
& PERFORMANCE  
DIRECTORY**



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RENAISSANCE 150

# ABOUT THE MUSIC HALL

The Music Hall was commissioned by the Troy Savings Bank as a gift to the community, opening its doors on April 19, 1875; it has showcased performances that reverberate around the Hall's world-renowned acoustics ever since. The Troy Savings Bank Music Hall Corporation, founded 1979, programs the Music Hall.

Troy Savings Bank Music Hall achieves our mission of enriching the community and inspiring passion for the arts through a variety of public programs which each attract unique audiences: 1. Presenting Series ~80 concerts on the Main Stage (includes our Presenting Season, Lift Series, Troy Chromatic Concerts, and more); 2. Arts in Education programs include teaching artist workshops and matinee performances; 3. Free Community Programs including 30+ performances appealing mostly to our local community but attended by people from across the region (includes our summer series: Barker Park and Summer Square as well as Music at Noon and more).

The Troy Savings Bank Music Hall is an anchor cultural institution in the Capital Region and specifically in Downtown Troy, hosting concerts featuring touring acts as well as the Albany Symphony Orchestra, Empire State Youth Orchestra, and Albany Pro Musica. In an effort to ensure relevance into the future and diverse audiences, Troy Savings Bank Music Hall is known for artistic risk-taking including less commercially-known and experimental performances. Troy Savings Bank Music Hall works to reflect the broad local community by programming artists from a variety of genres. Participatory and educational programming bolster those concerts, allowing attendees access to a variety of musicians and art forms.



## OUR EDUCATIONAL MISSION

The Troy Savings Bank Music Hall's mission is to enrich the community and inspire passion for the creative arts by fostering diverse, engaging, inclusive, and transformative cultural experiences through performances, collaboration, community events, and education. By offering free and discounted performances for students, outreach opportunities with artists, and masterclasses, we help to leverage our creative assets to make a difference in the lives of children and adults of all ages.

Each season, we work with teaching artists throughout the community to bring hundreds of interactive arts programming into schools. The Troy Savings Bank Music Hall is committed to integrating the arts into academic curricula, and works to design workshops that best serve our partnering educators in the classroom.

# JORDAN TAYLOR HILL

## Rhythms of the Motherland: A Journey Through the Diaspora

**Rhythm of the Motherland: A Journey through the Diaspora** is an educational program designed to immerse students in the rich musical and dance traditions of the African diaspora. Through interactive performances and workshops led by Jordan Taylor Hill and other experienced artists, this program aims to foster a deep appreciation and understanding of African cultural heritage and its profound global influence.

**WHO:** Ideal for students in grades 6–12 [can be tailored for grades 2–5]



**ABOUT THE ARTIST:** From Long Island, New York, Jordan's passion has been focused on Djembe, Hip-Hop, and Media Development. Since returning from his GoFundMe-led campaign in Senegal, "The Niombato Library Project," his passion for music and culture has been used as a vehicle for education and supporting local arts and activism. Currently, he is working on establishing Not-For-Profit status for the Taylor Hill Foundation to continue educational work in Africa.

# JORDAN TAYLOR HILL

## Rhythms of the Motherland: A Journey Through the Diaspora

### EXPERIENCES:

#### **1-Day Assembly** *[Duration: 75 minutes]*

- Components: Introduction, performance by Jordan and his ensemble, and an interactive segment where students participate.
- Add-ons: Optional breakout workshops for an additional fee.
- Resources: Access to a written resource guide for continued learning.

#### **Multi-week Residency** *[2–3 times/week over a duration of 2–12 weeks]*

- Session Length: 90 minutes per workshop [45 minutes of drumming and 45 minutes of dance].
- Depth: Progressive learning from basic to advanced skills, culminating in performances.
- Resources: Access to written and video resources for extended learning in the classroom.
- Multi-week Option 1: Short Residency (2–4 weeks): Focus on multiple rhythms and dances
  - Short 10–15 minute performance at the end.
- Multi-week Option 2: Extended Residency (5+ weeks): Deeper exploration into multiple rhythms and dances, improvisation.
  - 30–45 minute showcase at the end of program.

# Rhythms of the Motherland: Curriculum Overview

We believe in the transformative power of music and dance to communicate cultural histories and foster community connections. This program teaches artistic skills while enhancing cultural understanding and appreciation of music, culture, and dance.



## OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn to perform basic to complex rhythms and dance moves from the African diaspora and understand the cultural significance of the rhythms and dances they learn.
- Students will develop performance and improvisation skills on varied traditional percussion instruments (djembe, shekere, dun duns) and dance.
- Students will have the opportunity for all youth to explore their personal identities and creativity through music and dance while building community and collaboration.

## CONTENT

- Detailed exploration of the cultural significance of each rhythm and dance taught.
- History of African Rhythms, Brazilian Capoeira, Cuban Rumba Guanguanco.
- Basics of Musicianship: Rhythm, meter, dance technique, integration of music and dance.
- Feedback and improvement, through discussion, peer review, and teacher guidance.

## ACTIVITIES

- Hands-on instrumental instruction: drumming/percussion
- Participatory dance instruction: accompanied by musician(s)
- Discussion and reflection on cultural contexts, relevancy to students' lived experience.
- Participatory demonstrations with drumming and dance
- Preparation and rehearsals for performances (multi-week performances only)

**DETAILED  
CURRICULUM  
PROVIDED AT  
TIME OF  
BOOKING**

### MATERIALS PROVIDED

- 12 djembe
- 15 auxiliary percussion
- PA (if applicable)
- Mics/additional audio equipment
- Printed Materials

**STUDY GUIDE  
& ADDITIONAL  
RESOURCES**

**AVAILABLE AT  
TIME OF  
BOOKING**

# TUTTI

## Traveling Instrument Petting Zoo

**Bring TUTTI instrument petting zoo to your school/organization!** Explore and discover of new and familiar instruments. Listen, learn, and play along on the **guitar, djembe, ukulele, violin, and cello, and more.**

TUTTI is a hands-on, exploratory educational experience. Teaching Artists will begin with an interactive series of music that will introduce the students to each instrument. After the demonstration, students will be interacting with the instruments and playing them, with the assistance of each teaching artist!

- *Students will be able to:*
  - identify each instrument by name and sound,
  - produce a sound,
  - identify how each instrument fits into varying ensembles and genres of music.
- *Students will have an opportunity to:*
  - try out each instrument,
  - learn to make a sound.

**WHO:** Ideal for students in grades 1–8

### THE EXPERIENCE:

- 60-minute Workshop [can be expanded up to 90 minutes for larger groups]
  - *Standard Instrumentation* (exact number varies based on class size): 4–8 djembe, 4–8 guitars, 2–4 ukuleles, 2–4 violins, 1–2 celli
- Add-on instruments (brass/winds, bowed strings) provided in partnership with JKM (for additional fee)
- Resources for continued learning: free classes/Private Teacher list

### PETTING ZOO TEACHING ARTISTS



**Jessica Bowen**  
Strings Specialist



**Brian Brancato**  
Winds/Percussion/Guitar  
Specialist



**Lucy Nelligan**  
Strings/Guitar  
Specialist

# INSTRUMENT CLUBS

## Exploring Music and Creativity

**The Instrument Club Program** brings multi-week, small group instrumental instruction to your program or school. Clubs can be tailored for students at any playing level, from beginning to advanced [Note: it is recommended that students in any given class are at similar levels of skill on their instrument].

This program aims to support pre-existing music programs or stand as a foundational component for music instruction. The clubs aim to provide access to music for all, creating opportunities for all youth to explore their musical talent. Young artists can explore music as a tool to strengthen critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, discipline, and dedication. The welcoming, inclusive environment allows students to deepen their connection to community and explore their identity through ensemble-based and individual music instruction.

**WHO:** (Instrument Specific)

- **Guitar Club:** Grades 5–12
- **Strings Club:** [violin, viola, cello]: Grades 2–12
- **Ukulele Club:** Grades 4–12

**THE EXPERIENCE:**

- **Guitar Club:** (minimum of 4 weeks/4 sessions)
  - Can be tailored to beginner-intermediate guitarists
  - Maximum of 15 students per class
  - Guitars provided by Troy Savings Bank Music Hall
- **Strings Club:** (minimum of 8 weeks or 8 sessions)
  - Can be tailored to beginner-advanced string players
  - Maximum of 10 students per class
  - String instruments loaned from John Keal Music Co. for an additional fee
- **Ukulele Club:** (minimum of 4 weeks or 4 sessions),
  - Maximum of 15 students per class
  - Instruments loaned from John Keal Music Co. for an additional fee

### TEACHING ARTISTS



**Jessica Bowen**  
Strings Specialist



**Brian Brancato**  
Winds/Percussion/  
Guitar Specialist



**Lucy Nelligan**  
Strings/Guitar  
Specialist

# ELLEN SINOPOLI DANCE COMPANY

## Exploring Creative Movement

**Discovering movement through creativity and a child's imagination,** ESDC's Arts-in-Education programming introduces young people to a unique and lasting learning experience. Held on their own or in conjunction with a performance by the company, ESDC movement workshops are designed to nurture the creative potential of each student. Workshops are taught by two ESDC teaching artists accompanied by a Percussionist. Its movement workshops create kinesthetic learning experiences for students to deepen their understanding of modern dance and curriculum taught in the classroom.

**WHO:** Can be tailored for all ages in grades K-12

### **THE EXPERIENCE:**

60-Minute Workshop

- Move, dance, along with live music!

**ABOUT THE ARTIST:** Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company is a 34-year-old not-for-profit arts organization located in NYS's Capital Region. Celebrating its 33rd season as resident company of The Egg, ESDC's commitment to create, collaborate, educate, and partner remains in the forefront as it shares its work with diverse audiences through concerts, showcases, residencies, workshops, and educational and community outreach. Committed to bringing dance to underserved populations in both urban and rural settings through its Arts-In-Education programming, ESDC offers performances and workshops throughout NYS's Greater Capital Region.



# IRA MARCKS:

## Graphic Novels & Comics

### EXPERIENCES:

#### **Program 1: Drawing Faces and Expressions** [One-Hour Workshop]

A hands-on workshop in designing emotive and personal comic characters. Students will learn Ira's step by step process for creating a personalized cartoon face, followed by an insightful look at the role of facial expressions in comic storytelling. Only a pencil, paper, and Sharpie Marker are required to participate.

#### **Program 2: Telling Your Story with Comics** [Presentation and Workshops]

In the style of an 'author visit' Ira will conduct two kinds of programming - a large group presentation in the morning followed by two hands-on classroom workshops. Incorporating elements from Ira's 'Drawing Faces' program, this day-long program elaborates on the other unique elements of comic storytelling: frame, character, setting, and speech bubble. This program will last about three class periods.

**WHO:** Ideal for students in grades 6-8 [can be tailored for grades 3-5]

**ABOUT THE ARTIST:** Ira Marcks is an award-winning graphic novelist and educator whose books have been recommended by the New York Times and American Library Association. When he isn't making comics Ira is teaching on the creative learning app Skillshare where his courses have inspired over 100,000 students.



DETAILED CURRICULUM AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

# MORGAN ELIZABETH

## Intuitive Movement-based Storyteller & Educator

### "Yes, And!"

#### Building Confidence and Emotional Intelligence through Improv

**ABOUT THE PROGRAM:** "Yes, And! Building Confidence and Emotional Intelligence through Improv" is an engaging [after-school] program that teaches improvisational theater techniques to help students develop confidence, boost self-esteem, and cultivate emotional intelligence. Through fun, interactive activities and games, participants will learn to express themselves creatively, listen actively, and collaborate effectively with peers.

The workshop focuses on the foundational principles of improvisation, such as "Yes, And," active listening, spontaneity, and accepting and building on others' ideas. Students will engage in a series of improvisational exercises and scene work that will encourage them to think quickly, embrace mistakes, and trust their instincts. These skills are not only valuable for the stage but are also crucial for personal growth, social interaction, and academic success.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES** students will be able to:

- Demonstrate Increased Self Confidence
- Improve Emotional Intelligence
- Enhance Communication Skills
- Foster Collaboration and Teamwork
- Engage in Creative Problem-Solving
- Show resilience and Adaptability

DETAILED CURRICULUM AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

**WHO:** Ideal for students in grades 4-12.

**ABOUT THE ARTIST:** Morgan Elizabeth is a devising artist with over a decade of experience dedicated to exploring human emotion and foster authentic storytelling through her original work. As an artist and educator with over a decade of experience, her commitment to her craft is driven by a desire to connect with others on a personal and collective level.

Her work is rooted in fostering emotional intelligence, creativity, and self-expression; guiding others to share their stories with confidence and authenticity. Trained in social-emotional awareness, she understands the importance of safe, supportive environments for artistic expression. Somatic practices learned through her theater training at Shakespeare & Co. allow her to emphasize the connection between body movement and emotional release in working with students.

#### EXPERIENCES:

**A. 1-Day Drop in:** 90-minute program

**B. 5 Session mini-residency**

[scheduling of these sessions can be flexible]



# NIKKI ROGERS

## Yoga Activist

# Program announcement coming soon! Stay tuned.



**ABOUT THE ARTIST:** Nikki B. Rogers, a Yoga Activist and mother with a BA in Psychology from Siena College has dedicated her life to making yoga accessible in Albany County and beyond, focusing on communities where yoga is not traditionally found. With over a decade of experience as a trauma-informed, 200-hour certified yoga instructor, she promotes a practice encompassing joyful movement, mindful breathing, and meditation. Her commitment has led her to a diverse range of students, including young children, teachers, incarcerated individuals, corporate teams, and college students. Through her work, Nikki aims to empower individuals to enhance their engagement with life through the transformative power of yoga.

# WORKSHOP RATES

The Troy Savings Bank Music Hall is committed to making the arts accessible for all. **If the pricing below will not fit into your budget, reach out via phone or email to Jessica Bowen, Director of Education & Outreach at (518) 629-4016, [jessica@troymusichall.org](mailto:jessica@troymusichall.org). We will work with you to create a program within a budget range that meets your needs!**

## Rhythm of the Motherland with Jordan Taylor Hill

WORKSHOP/PROGRAM	RATE*	AVAILABILITY
<b>ONE DAY ASSEMBLY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75 minute interactive performance</li> <li>3-5 piece ensemble and 2 dancers</li> </ul>	<b>\$3,000-\$4,000</b> [exact pricing determined at time of booking based on size of ensemble requested]	booking year-round
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Breakout Workshop [add-on]</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60 minute workshop</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>+ \$1,200</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Breakout Workshop [add-on]</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two Hour workshop</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>+ \$1,700</b>	
<b>MULTI-WEEK RESIDENCY OPTIONS</b> 90 minutes per session		booking year-round
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>Program Length: 2-4 weeks</u></b></li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 session per week (2 teaching artists)</li> </ul>	<b>\$650 per session</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 sessions per week (2 teaching artists)</li> </ul>	<b>\$600 per session</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 sessions per week (2 teaching artists)</li> </ul>	<b>\$550 per session</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>Program Length: 5+ weeks</u></b></li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 session per week (2 teaching artists)</li> </ul>	<b>\$500 per session</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 or 3 sessions per week (2 teaching artists)</li> </ul>	<b>\$450 per session</b>	

# WORKSHOP RATES

TEACHING ARTIST PROGRAM	RATE*	AVAILABILITY
<p><b><u>TUTTI: Traveling Instrument Petting Zoo</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90 minute program</li> <li>• 2 teaching artists</li> <li>• <u>Woodwind/brass instruments [add on]</u></li> </ul>	<p><b>\$400 per session</b></p> <p><b>+ \$150</b></p>	<p>booking year-round</p>
<p><b><u>Instrument Club Program</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60 minute session</li> </ul> <p>NOTE: instrument rental fee [IF APPLICABLE] added at time of booking</p> <p>**Rate includes instrument cartage fee</p>	<p><b>\$200 per session</b></p>	<p>booking year-round</p>
<p><b><u>Ellen Sinopoli Dance Co. Creative Movement</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60 minute program</li> <li>• 2 teaching artists, one musician</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$245 per session</b></p>	<p>booking year-round</p>
<p><b><u>Ira Marcks Drawing Programs</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Drawing Faces &amp; Expressions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 60 minute program</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Artist Visit: Telling Your Story with Comics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Half-Day residency (roughly three class periods)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>\$390 per session</b></p> <p><b>\$1,200</b></p>	<p>booking year-round</p>
<p><b>“Yes And!” Building Confidence and Emotional Intelligence through Improv with Morgan Elizabeth</b></p>	<p><b>\$300 per session</b></p>	<p>booking year-round</p>
<p><b>Yoga with Nikki Rogers</b></p>	<p><b>\$171 per session</b></p>	<p>booking year-round</p>

**\*30% administrative fee will be added at time of booking**

Looking for a program or discipline that is not listed? **Reach out!** We can create a program specifically tailored to your needs.

# HOW TO BOOK

**Option 1:** Fill out this [Teaching Artist Request Form](#)



**Option 2:** Contact Director of Education & Outreach, Jessica Bowen with your inquiry. Contact information below.

**PRICING:** It is our goal to make the arts accessible to all. We will work within your budget to ensure we build a program that fits your needs! Inquire via the Teaching Artist Request form or contacting Jessica Bowen for more information.

**Jessica Bowen**

*Director of Education & Outreach*

**(518) 629-4016**

**[jessica@troymusichall.org](mailto:jessica@troymusichall.org)**

**Troy Savings Bank Music Hall**

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