

LayeRhythm *SWITCH*

Friday, November 21
Boroughs Theatre
Prior Presents 2025–26

PRIOR
Performing Arts Center

Program

6:00 p.m. Doors open, DJ set begins
7:00 p.m. Layerhythm *SWITCH*
8:30 p.m. DJ set
10:00 p.m. Evening concludes

Credit

Artistic Direction: Mai Lê Hồ

Improvised dance: Mai Lê Hồ, Joseph "Klassic" Carella, Ashton "Stiggity Stackz" Lites

Improvised music/lyrics: Osyris Antham (MC), Rodney Harrison (drums), Simone Acosta (keys), Peter Henry (bass)

DJ: SC-One

Lighting design: Mai Lê Hồ

Company Manager: Loreto Jamlig

Production Manager: Bailey McFaden

SWITCH was made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and was supported by Works & Process LaunchPAD residencies.

Artist Statement

LayeRhythm is a fusion of street dance, live music and club culture that transcends mainstream boundaries and challenges the status quo. Rooted in the raw energy and creative brilliance of freestyle movements like house dance, lite feet, flexn, breaking, locking, and more, our art defies conventional structures and norms, shining a light on BIPOC creatives and historically underrepresented artists, and showcasing the dynamic power of improvisational music and dance pioneered by Black & Latinx folks, to produce rewarding experiences for all.

In essence, LayeRhythm is a celebration of the pulse of the city—where gritty, vibrant heartbeats foster thriving creativity and innovation. It's an homage to the dancers, musicians, emcees, and vocalists who contribute their talents with fearless authenticity, carving out their own spaces and inscribing their own stories within the cultural fabric.

Drawing inspiration from the genius of freestyle artists, we weave together a tapestry of movement and sound that defies categorization. Each piece is a testament to the power of improvisation and spontaneity, a reflection of the ever-evolving nature of artistic expression.

Yet LayeRhythm goes beyond simply celebrating dance and music—it's a heartfelt vision for a different way of existing, a world where creativity is valued above all else and where art has the power to disrupt, dismantle, and rebuild. Through immersive and collaborative performances, our aim is to create spaces where artists are empowered to thrive, where economic barriers are met with innovative solutions, and where hierarchies are leveled.

At the heart of our artistic narrative lies a fervent conviction: live dance and music serve as powerful agents of healing, not only on a physical plane but also emotionally, traversing the boundaries of social, economic, and cultural divides. By bringing together artists from diverse backgrounds and disciplines, we endeavor to create a community that is inclusive, supportive, and fiercely independent.

In each show, the audience becomes an integral part of the artistic creation, transforming into our muse, their energy and participation shaping the very outcome of the experience. Our performance design is akin to a game, blurring the lines between audience and performers, inviting everyone to co-create and interact within a shared space. Through this dynamic interaction, we forge bonds and cultivate an environment of creativity and joy.

At its core, LayeRhythm is a call to action—a rallying cry for artists to embrace their agency, for institutions to support creative and risk taking visions, and for communities to dance their way towards a future imbued with greater equity and understanding, fostering an ecosystem where performers, presenters, and audiences collaborate in co-creating transformative experiences.

Thank You

LayeRhythm Productions, Inc.'s 2025 programs are made possible in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, by the National Endowment for the Arts, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, Dance/NYC, Hinge, and the Harkness Foundation for Dance. We extend our sincere thanks to our funders and donors for supporting our art-making efforts.

To all the artists who have contributed to this platform, we are profoundly grateful for your existence, passion, and generosity. We also honor the many shoulders we stand on, in this realm and beyond, whose legacies continue to guide and inspire us. To the presenters who believed in our vision and took risks with us, and to our loyal audiences who have fueled nine years of magic and embraced the potential of this movement, thank you for walking alongside us.

Our deepest thanks go to The Prior Performing Arts Center, Works & Process, and the many hands and hearts that shape the exceptional teaching and artistry created within and beyond these walls.

If you've enjoyed this evening's program, we invite you to join us at our upcoming events.

LayeRhythm returns on:

- **January 11, 2026**, at **Public Records (Brooklyn)**,
- **March 29, 2026**, LayeRhythm presents **Triple Thread**: a [street dance x rap x beatmaking] 3v3 invitational battle.

Contact Info

Email

Mai Lê Hồ, Founding Director: maile.ho@layerhythm.org

Bookings: Noé at noe@differentbirds.org

Website

www.layerhythm.org

Social Media handles

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/layerhythm>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LayeRhythm>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@layerhythm>

Biographies

LayeRhythm Productions, Inc. (LPI) highlights **freestyle dance and music** voices under-recognized in the mainstream performing arts landscape while providing entertainment, building community through **play**, educating audiences in cultural history, preserving the legacy of **street & club dance** forms, transforming individuals' relationship to music & dance and supporting emotional & social well-being. LayeRhythm is dedicated to **risk-taking improvisation and interactive audience engagement through performances and educational events**.

"[LayeRhythm is a] brew of partying and performing that unfolds as a series of interactive sessions in which suggestions from the crowd beget songs and steps. Imagine an improv comedy show where dancing, not laughs, is the currency. Then imagine a musicians' jam session where the band is compelled to keep the dancers' pace instead of the other way around. [...] [W]hat's distinct about LayeRhythm is the way it bridges the two groups with crowd participation" (*The New York Times*).

Since 2015, LayeRhythm (LR), led by Founder/Artistic Director Mai Lê Hồ, has offered NYC recurring interactive, improvisational street/club dance and music events at Meridian 23, Nublu, 275ParkBK, Public Records, as well as performances at venues/festivals such as Jacob's Pillow (MA), USC Kaufman School of Dance (CA), Bridge Street Theater, 92NY Harkness Dance Center, Harris Theater (IL), Movement Research at Judson Church, Abrons Arts Center, The National Jazz Museum in Harlem, Spiegeltent at Bard College, NYU Skirball, and was presented by Works & Process at the Guggenheim Museum, Lincoln Center, SummerStage, NY Public Library for the Performing Arts, Gibney, The Church Sag Harbor, Catskill Mountain Foundation, ArtYard (NJ), Manhattan West Plaza, and Wave Hill. LayeRhythm was selected by CUNY Dance Initiative for residencies at Brooklyn College for the Performing Arts (2021-2022) & Baruch College (2023-2024), and was nominated National Dance Institute's Helen Stambler Neuberger Artist-in-Residence (2022-2023). LR has partnered w/ 92NY, Works & Process, Ladies of Hip-Hop, 36 Chambaz of Stylz, Chicago Dancemakers Forum, USC Visions & Voices, Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, Hook Arts Media, Queens County Farm Museum, PotaY, Teatro Verbabruja, Hi-ARTS, Rolling Stone. Its educational and professional development programs have been hosted at/supported by Hunter College, Fordham High School for the Performing Arts, NDI, Ladies of Hip-Hop x Snipes studio and the Brooklyn Arts Council.

LPI incorporated as a nonprofit in 2020, and has since received the support of the New York State Council on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, New Music USA, Harkness Foundation for Dance, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Dance/NYC, Hinge and Club Culture Foundation.

Featuring a rotating cast of top-tier local and international street/club dancers, emcees, singers and musicians, the LR experimental platform layers extemporaneous collaborations of artists working from a diverse cultural palette: hip hop, funk, soul, house music, and popping, Campbellocking, breaking, waacking/whacking, Detroit jit, Chicago footwork, krump, flexN, voguing, litefeet, house dance styles.

LR has offered a platform to 500+ local and international street/club dancers and musicians (ages 21-60). Artists include African American, Latinx, Asian, LGBTQ+, and immigrant communities. In 135+ presentations, LR has served a diverse audience of: patrons of clubs, theaters, parks, festivals (45,000+), and online community (5M+).

Biographies



Ashton "Stiggity Stackz" Lites, dancer

Ashton Lites (aka Stiggity Stackz or Stackz) is one of Boston's leading freestyle dance artists, with over 15 years of training across Krump, Popping, Locking, House, Hip Hop, Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Modern, and Afro-Haitian dance. As founder of StiggityStackz Worldwide, he leads community-based dance and creative entrepreneurship programs in partnership with organizations such as DS4Si, Boston Ballet, Red Bull, Museum of Science, Artists for Humanity, and The Mass Hip Hop Archive. A 2023 City of Boston Artist-in-Residence, Stackz worked with the Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture and Parks & Recreation Department on creative programming and policy. He is also on faculty at Emerson College, Amherst College, and UMASS Amherst, developing curricula on Hip Hop dance and culture, and has collaborated with acclaimed artists including Rashid Johnson, Nick Cave, Mariona Lloreta, and Masary Studios. @stiggitystackzworldwide



Bailey McFaden, production manager

Bailey McFaden is a freelance company manager based out of New York City. She received her masters degree in International Arts Management from HEC Montréal, SMU Dallas, and SDA Bocconi in 2021 and holds a B.A. in Arts Management and Dance with a minor in Spanish from the College of Charleston. Bailey has extensive experience working with artists and cultural organizations in New York City, Denver, Raleigh, Charleston, Atlanta, Montréal, Dublin, London, and Rome. She was most recently the Artist Services Manager at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and is currently the acting Events Manager for Dance Media Publications. Bailey's deepest passions in life include traveling, dancing, performing, and advising artists and arts organizations as they pursue their unique voices in the field. @bailey_mcfaden



Joseph "Klassic" Carella, dancer

Joseph "Klassic" Carella is an internationally recognized flexn artist, educator, and performer known for his creativity, versatility, and dedication to the art form. He has taught and performed around the world, sharing his expertise through workshops and residencies at Guild Hall, Kaatsbaan, Bridge Street Theatre, Catskill Mountain Foundation, Jacob's Pillow, and more. His performances and choreography have been featured on major platforms including So You Think You Can Dance, Showtime at the Apollo, the MTV Awards, BET Awards, and PBS: Third Rail with Ozy. Currently commissioned by Works & Process, Klassic also recently joined the U.S. Embassy's Arts Envoy tour to Belgium, teaching about Hip Hop's cultural roots and the power of community through dance. @klassiccarella

Biographies



Loreto Jamlig, company manager

Loreto “Still1” is a multidisciplinary artist from Sacramento, California, whose work is deeply rooted in Hip Hop culture, dance, and nightlife. Since relocating to New York City in 2012, he has pursued his craft full-time as a DJ, photographer, videographer, and editor, collaborating with institutions such as The Lincoln Center, The Guggenheim Museum, Works & Process, Brooklyn Summer Stage, Spotify, Levi’s, Lego, National Black Theatre, CUMBE, Vineyard Theatre, and Passion Fruit Dance Company. His music has reached audiences in Switzerland, France, Japan, Cyprus, and Canada, and his documentation credits include Rock the Bells, Freestyle Session, Ladies of Hip Hop Festival, Evolution, Juste Debout, and LayeRhythm. Through his many creative outlets, Still1 continues to collaborate, build community, and expand the reach of his artistic expression.

@still1



Mai Lê Hồ, artistic director + dancer

Mai Lê Hồ is a French-Vietnamese dance artist and educator based in NYC. She is the founder and Artistic/Executive Director of LayeRhythm, a nonprofit platform amplifying street and club dance cultures and freestyle artistry. Since 2015, she has produced over 140 editions of LayeRhythm locally and internationally. First introduced to house dance by her late teacher Babson in France, Mai Lê has since won first place in this category at events including Ladies of Hip-Hop (NYC, 2015), Universole (Detroit, 2015), and Step Ya Game Up (NYC, 2013). She has judged competitions such as Sole Open Philly (2024), Footwork Frenzy (2022), House Dance UK (2015), Slick City (Chicago, 2015), and The Blueprint (Houston, 2013). An adjunct professor at Hunter College, she is also a 2023 Dancing Futures resident, a 2024 Bogliasco Foundation Fellow, and a 2025 Simons Foundation & Gibney Open Interval Resident Artist.



Osyris Antham, MC

Osyris Antham is a 2-time world Champion MC who’s performed in 4+ countries and dozens of cities. Brooklyn-bred, he began his music career as a teenage steel pan player, became a poet during college & landed in his home of Hip-Hop as an adult. Osyris has performed at the Guggenheim & the Brooklyn Museum, led Hip-Hop classes at MIT and won rap championships in The U.S., Paris & Prague.

@maroonwaters



Peter Henry, bass

Peter is a 25-year-old bass player, born in Jamaica and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Since picking up the bass in 2016, he has immersed himself in a wide range of musical genres—from Christian Gospel and hip-hop/R&B to Caribbean sounds like konpa, dancehall, and reggae, as well as jazz and rock. For the past two years, Peter has been the rhythmic backbone of the LayeRhythm dance organization, where his love for freedom, creativity, and the joy of performance shines through.

@bassedonpeter_

Biographies



DJ SC-One

DJ SC-One is a NY based DJ & Producer with over 15 years of experience in working with the street dance community and street dance events. With a background in house dance, he produces and provides original music for competitions and club dancers around the country such as "Stackin Styles"(MA), "Block Party"(CO), "Juste Debout"(DC), and many more.
@sconer_owner



Simone Acosta, keys

Simone Acosta is a Bronx born multi-instrumentalist, cultural curator, photographer, & creative consultant, from the Bronx. She developed her deep love for elite instrumentation, alongside connecting community and art, creating her unparalleled and anomalous brand, THATHousePartyTHO. It has become one of the leading jam sessions and hot spots for live improvised music. She brings together the nation's top artists, industry personnel, and art appreciators in one place for unique and unforgettable one-time experiences. Those opportunities allowed her to secure space with the Tony award-winning Broadway cast of Freestyle Love Supreme, created by Lin-Manuel Miranda. Simone is striving to culturally preserve what makes NYC the finest artistic melting pot it is known to be and spread that message worldwide. Recently expanding to Las Vegas, she has already begun creating a critical underground art movement and is looking to harbor community, elite artistry, and grounded culture anywhere she lands.

@simsonkeys



Rodney Harrison, drums

Born and raised in Queens NY and the son of a drummer and a singer, Rodney has been playing professionally since age 8. As a student at Hampton University, Rodney held the drum chair for the university's jazz ensemble and gospel choir and led his own Jazz combo that would play in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. Rodney has played for a number of different artists, including Melba Moore, Andrew White and Peter Gunz. Rodney continues to use his gifts at churches, in wedding bands, and as an active member of the LayeRhythm family.

@gvthdrmmrsm

The Prior Performing Arts Center

An uncommon commons for transformative experiences with the arts

Prior Presents

The keystone of the Prior Performing Arts Center's public-facing programming, Prior Presents merges thrilling live events by visiting artists with robust educational and outreach activities. Defined by exceptional artistic quality, interdisciplinary impulses, and the potential to spark both wonder and reflection, this annual series celebrates artistic risk-taking and the exchange of ideas and perspectives from around the globe. Short- and long-term visiting artist residencies include performances, artist talks, installations, workshops, and experiential learning opportunities for Holy Cross students and the greater Worcester community.

The internationally acclaimed artists of current and previous seasons embody our vision for artist residencies at The Prior Performing Arts Center. Their performances and lectures offer an exhilarating complement to the creativity and innovation of emerging student artists and Holy Cross faculty and staff also featured in our season this year.



1) Rhiannon Giddens in concert | Spring 2024; 2) Compagnie Hervé Koubi | Spring 2024

Stay in touch!



Scan to sign up for our email list and stay up to date with announcements and upcoming events from The Prior Performing Arts Center.

Upcoming Prior Presents Events



Christine Sun Kim | *Deaf Death*

Christine Sun Kim is a Berlin-based artist who works with sound, language, and the complexities of communication. She uses musical notation, infographics, and language—both in her native American Sign Language (ASL) and written English—to create drawings, site-specific murals, paintings, video installations, and sculptures. In her lecture-performance *Deaf Death*, Kim explores the frequent autocorrection of “deaf” to “death” in text-based technologies.

Feb 19 @ 6 p.m. | Free entry, open to all.



Sunny Jain | *Wild Wild East*

Composer, drummer and dhol player Sunny Jain celebrates cultural diaspora and the interconnectedness of global styles with his band in *Wild Wild East*, a raucous, powerful, and jubilant recognition of a truly American spirit. A co-presentation with the Department of Music.

Mar 12 @ 7:30 p.m. | Tickets \$35 | \$45 | \$55



yMusic

yMusic is a genre-leading American chamber ensemble renowned for its innovative and collaborative spirit. Praised by NPR Music as “deeply, profoundly skilled,” yMusic has been tapped to lend their orchestral sound and instantly-recognizable style to recordings and concert projects by a dizzying array of popular artists from John Legend to Paul Simon.

Mar 29 @ 6 p.m. | Tickets \$35 | \$45 | \$55



Scan to purchase tickets and learn more about our schedule of upcoming presentations.

Currently at the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Art Gallery



The Vietnamese Áo Dài in a Time of War: Fashion, Citizenship, and Nationalism (1954-1975)

This exhibition explores the significance of Vietnam's national costume—the áo dài—during the Vietnam War. Honoring the 50th anniversary of a conflict, the legacies of which continue to haunt us to this day, the exhibition highlights the contributions of Vietnamese women to politics, society, and culture.

Open now through Dec 19

Upcoming Events from the Arts Ecosystem at Holy Cross

Holy Cross Laptop Ensemble Federation

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC. Join the Holy Cross Laptop Ensemble Federation (H-CLEF) for a concert of choreographed sound and image showcasing final student projects written for Music 242: Coding Music.

Dec 2 @ 8 p.m.

Forty-Seventh Annual Festival of Lessons & Carols

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC. Join us for the College's Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols for Advent, taking place in the St. Joseph Memorial Chapel. Free and open to the public.

Dec 4 @ 8 p.m.

Gamelan Gita Sari Concert

DEPARTMENTS OF MUSIC AND THEATRE & DANCE. At the end of each semester the students in I Nyoman Catra's Balinese dance and Gamelan classes display what they have learned in a delightful evening showcasing the Balinese performing arts.

Dec 6 @ 7:30 p.m.



Scan to purchase tickets and learn more about our schedule of upcoming presentations.

Prior Performing Arts Center Staff

Jeffrey de Caen, *Nancy Savage Skinner '79* Director

ARTIST & ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Marta Beyer, Manager of Artistic and Engagement Initiatives

PRODUCTION SERVICES

Brenda Shepard, Manager of Production

Matthew Freije, Pro Audio/Video Supervisor

Christine Goguen, Costume Shop Manager

Stephen McGonagle, Technical Director

Judi Olson, Costume Shop Assistant

Mason Parece, Production Technician

Betsy Pierce, Assistant Technical Director

GUEST EXPERIENCE & OPERATIONS

Katrina Lewonczyk, Manager of Operations & Administration

Ethan Bates, Arts Marketing & Communications Manager

Evan Crocker, Event & Front of House Manager

Morgan Fitzpatrick, Office Coordinator

STUDENT STAFF

Students play a crucial role in the operation of the Prior Performing Arts Center, working as Production Assistants, Front of House Assistants, and more: Adele Feldberg, Alyshia Solomon, Andrea Gomez, Angela Almanza, Anna Rowley, Brigit O'Connell, Camila Müller-Juez, Elise O'Neill, Emily Fox, Emma Buchanan, Frank Amuso, Gabriellie De Gouveia, Gracie Lopez, Jamie Schmid, Jazmin Lopez, Kiera Ryan, Laurel Deneen, Maya Pinto, Morgan Kane, Nadia Frempong, Natalia Salinas, Rose Knoll, Sophia Rowley, Adelaide Abstoss, Alejandro Irizarry, Alexa Rodriguez Villatoro, Atiya Woolman, Billy Suter, Brandon Curtis, Daniel Hickey, Eliza Simpson, Emelia Jones, Emily Karlson, Emma Butler, Fiona Nelson, Gail Durkin, Gracyn Epstein, Irene Mandile, Jake Sidell, Joshua Love, Julia Divine, Katelyn Murphy, Lee (Leah) Varela, Lily Jaramillo, Luis Ramirez, Margaret DeWald, Maxim Tereshchenko, Melina Valencia, Meredith Brady, Meredith Shaw, Natalie Gasowski, Nevaeh Fleming, Osmaly Bonilla, Paige Thomson, Phoebe Wong, Piper Guiney, Savannah Rhodes, Scarlett Dawson, Sebastian Torres, Sofia Corvo, Solar (Ciara) Bello, Sophia Tran, Sophia Suffoletto, Sophie Sundaram, Vivian Higgins, Xiaoyi Wang, Yasmin Fernandez