



Partido

Choreography/ <i>Coreografia</i>	Leonardo Sandoval
Musical Direction/ <i>Direção Musical</i>	Gregory Richardson
Original music/ <i>Composição</i>	<i>Partido</i> Gregory Richardson, Leonardo Sandoval, José Cruzata, Noé Kains
Dancers/ <i>Bailarinos</i>	Brittany DeStefano Jalen Saint Phifer Leonardo Sandoval Lucas Santana Gisele Silva Serena Wong
Musicians/ <i>Músicos</i>	Noé Kains (piano, keyboard) Gregory Richardson (bass) Rodrigo Ursaia (saxophone, flute)
Lighting Design/ <i>Designer de Luz</i>	Kathy Kaufmann & Serena Wong

Partido was developed thanks to a creative residency at The Yard, the artist-in-residence program at the American Tap Dance Foundation, and the Artists in Residence Exchange (AiRE) program at the Center for Flamenco Arts in New York City.



This engagement is supported by Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation through USArtists International in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Howard Gilman Foundation.

About the Company

Music from the Sole is a NYC-based tap dance company and live music ensemble that merges Afro-Brazilian rhythms and music with the great American tap tradition. Led by Brazilian choreographer Leonardo Sandoval, and American composer Gregory Richardson, the 10-member company embraces tap's unique nature as a blend of sound and movement to blur the boundaries of dance and music, opening up new possibilities for both. Their hype, engaging performances incorporate samba, Afro-Cuban, hip hop, jazz, and house music, highlighting connections between Afro-diasporic urban dance in Brazil and the US.

The company has appeared at both dance and music venues, bringing tap dance, America's original vernacular dance form, to new audiences. Recent credits include appearances at Lincoln Center, Jacob's Pillow, The Yard, Caramoor Jazz Festival, Battery Dance Festival, and Tap in Rio. The company has recently received support from the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation and the New England Foundation for the Arts, as finalists of the 2019 National Dance Project.

Driven by a firm belief in the transformational power of both dance and music, any performance engagement can also be paired with outreach activities, focusing on percussive dance that is accessible to all audience members. In partnership with the National Dance Institute and Lincoln Center Education, where they are currently in residence, they have reached thousands of NYC residents through music and dance workshops.



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Biographies

Leonardo Sandoval

Brazilian tap dancer Leonardo Sandoval has established a reputation in the tap world and beyond for his musicality, and for adding his own Brazilian flavor to tap. An artist-in-residence at the American Tap Dance Foundation, and a member of Dorrance Dance, he is in demand as a choreographer, solo dancer, jazz musician, and educator, touring across the United States and abroad. Leo has had his work, including several collaborations with composer Gregory Richardson, presented at venues including the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and the National Folk Festival. A true dancer-musician, Leo's artistry is rooted in America's great jazz and tap dance heritage and in Brazil's rich rhythmic and musical forms, with additional influences from contemporary and urban dances.

Gregory Richardson

Born to a family of musicians where everyone was expected to play and sing, Gregory Richardson is a composer and multi-instrumentalist and the co-creator of Music From The Sole, an Afro-Brazilian tap dance show that is currently in residence at Lincoln Center Education. He is the co-musical director of Dorrance Dance, with whom he has premiered original compositions at New York City Center on three occasions, most recently in collaboration with Bill Irwin. He has played with the band Darwin Deez at music festivals around the world including Glastonbury, Splendor In The Grass, Summer Sonic, and Donauinselfest.

Brittany DeStefano

Brittany DeStefano is a multi-form dancer from upstate New York. She studied under the mentorship of Nicole Aravena and Derick K. Grant, and later became an alumni of The School at Jacob's Pillow for their tap programs of 2012 and 2014. Currently, Brittany is working with New York City based companies, Music from the Sole, Caleb Teicher & Company, Dorrance Dance, and Dorrance Dance Second Company, where she's had the privilege of performing at The Joyce Theater, New York City Center, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, and Jacob's Pillow.

Jalen Saint Phifer

Jalen Saint Phifer (Brooklyn, NY) was recognized for creating “impulses of musicality and rhythm” in Dance Spirit Magazine, and received a special mention in the New York Times for his stylistic contributions during Dormeshia Sumbry-Edward’s, Derick K. Grant’s, and Jason Samuels Smith’s *Tap Family Reunion* 2018. Initially inspired by DeWitt Fleming, Jr. and Jared Grimes, Jalen trained at the American Tap Dance Foundation and The School at Jacob’s Pillow, and has performed for over a decade, with the Dorrance Dance Second Company, Michela Lerman’s ‘Love Movement’, Wynton Marsalis, Music from the Sole, and more, at venues including Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York City Center, and the Apollo Theatre.

Lucas Santana

Originally from Pernambuco in the Northeast of Brazil, Lucas Santana started studying tap at 8 and has since appeared on some of the most important stages and TV shows in Brazil, including as part of the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics celebrations. He is a frequent collaborator with Leonardo Sandoval both in Brazil and in the US, most recently appearing at the Duke on 42nd Street in NYC. He currently lives in Florianopolis, where he teaches and performs as part of the *Trupe Toe* company, and continues to work with the group *Afetos Sonoros* in Rio. Lucas also holds a degree in philosophy from the Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro.

Gisele Silva

Dancer, teacher and choreographer Gisele Silva began her studies at the Dânia Amaral Space in Ribeirão Preto (São Paulo state) and danced with the Ribeirão Preto Cia de Dança and Cia Pé na Tabua. In April 2017, she performed at the *Rhythm Motion* festival in New York, in choreography by Leonardo Sandoval.

Gisele moved to Los Angeles in 2018, to join the Syncopated Ladies, directed by Emmy nominee Chloe Arnold. With the group, she has participated in major events such as the Dance On Youtube Project, TEDx Talk in Sacramento, the Woman in the World in New York, the Essence Festival in New Orleans, We Rise LA, dancing at theaters such as Lincoln Center and the Apollo theater. She is also a regular guest artist with NYC-based company Music from the Sole, directed by Leonardo Sandoval and Gregory Richardson.

Noé Kains

Noé Kains is a pianist and singer currently based in New York City. A classically trained musician, he studied at the Royal Conservatory in Brussels, the UK, and Israel, and has appeared in solo recitals, chamber music, and concertos. Over the last few years, he has expanded his horizons to Brazilian music and jazz, performing at venues including Lincoln Center, the Yard, and Baltimore's Creative Alliance. As a former astrophysicist, Noé has done research with the Hubble Space Telescope, and taught astronomy at Barnard College, Columbia University.

Rodrigo Ursaia

Brazilian-American saxophonist, flutist and composer Rodrigo Ursaia has constructed his musical career between São Paulo, Brazil, and New York, US. He has performed and recorded with artists such as Milton Nascimento, Rosa Passos, Ivan Lins, Toninho Horta, Banda Mantiqueira, Grupo Pau Brasil, Heraldo do Monte, Arismar do Espírito Santo, Nelson Ayres, Dom Salvador, and many more.

He has released two CDs in 2015 as a leader: 'Chamado' with Lupa Santiago and Rodrigo Ursaia Quintet, and 'O Espantalho' with Daniel Marques and Rodrigo Ursaia duo. In 2012 the CD 'The Art of Samba Jazz', with Dom Salvador Sextet, won that same year the Brazilian music award for best instrumental music CD.

In recent years, he has recorded, toured and performed extensively with the Rosa Passos Quintet around the world. He is presently a faculty member at Souza Lima College in São Paulo, and he has also worked at the Tatuí Conservatory in São Paulo.

Serena Wong

Serena Wong is a Brooklyn-based freelance dance and lighting artist. Her designs has been seen at American Ballet Theater, Fall For Dance at City Center, Danspace, and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. Most recently she has designed for choreographers Gemma Bond, Caleb Teicher, Leonardo Sandoval, and Jaamil Olawale Kosoko. She enjoys biking, beekeeping, and bread baking.