



RICA ANDERSON believes the arts build empathy and compassion and provide a convening point for raising the quality of community relations and personal development. Rica is the Manager of Student Engagement at Cal Performances where she develops and implements arts education programs. She is an instructor with Alameda County Office of Education's Integrated Learning Specialist Program, and is a Multicultural Education Program Diversity Facilitator for UC Berkeley's Office of Equity and Inclusion. She has taught at the NorCal affiliate of the Lincoln Center Institute, and toured as a manager/performer/educator with Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre program. She has performed with many Bay Area companies, and for 15 years has produced the free monthly series, Actors Reading Writers.



RHONDA BENIN'S impressive resume includes performances at SF Jazz, Yoshi's, MOAD, The Healdsburg, Sonoma, Burlingame, Sausalito, Fillmore, and Calistoga Jazz Festivals. In addition to singing, Rhonda is producer and founder of the Women's History Month's show "Just Like A Woman" a tribute to Bay Area Women In Music. She is a member of the Grammy nominated vocal ensemble Linda Tillery and The Cultural Heritage. She appears on the CHC's seven Cd's and has toured 30 countries performing and recording with legendary artists such as Taj Mahal, Wilson Pickett, Richie Havens, Odetta, Al Green, Keb Mo, Santana, Patti Austin, Janis Ian, Jackson Brown, Hugh Masekela & Sweet Honey In The Rock. Rhonda is on the teaching staff of Healdsburg Jazz's Operation Jazz Band, San Francisco Arts Project, LEAP, Cal Performances, Youth In Arts, The Bay Area Jazz Society and conducts her own school assemblies and workshops.



ARMANDO CASTELLANO and his wind quintet, Quinteto Latino, are dedicated to expanding the cultural boundaries of classical music, and to make that music available, relevant, and inspiring to entirely new audiences. Armando is a French horn player and educator, and has taught throughout the Bay Area in both English and Spanish and is currently an adjunct faculty member at San José City College.



MELANIE DEMORE has a remarkable voice, weaving all the fibers of African American folk with soulful ballads, spirituals and original music. Melanie facilitates vocal workshops for professional choirs, community groups and for people who just need to raise their voices. Her Sound Awareness program has been presented in prisons, schools and youth organizations through-out the US and New Zealand. Melanie was a California-Artist-in Residence with the Oakland Youth Chorus as a conductor, musical director/conductor for the Bay Area Woman's Chorus and a capella singing teacher at St. Paul's School in Oakland.



JULIE DOUGLAS celebrates the empowering, connecting, expressive, collaborative, playful power of theater and the arts. Making theater can change the world and how we experience what is possible. She holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts from the U. C. Santa Cruz and an MFA from Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre. She gets to be silly on a regular basis as a hospital clown with The Medical Clown Project. She teaches students of all ages in theater companies, schools, summer camps and community groups around the Bay.



MOEKETSI GIBE, percussionist and musician, grew up in post-apartheid South Africa. He obtained his Performers Diploma in African Music and Dance with a focus on drumming at the University of Cape Town. Since moving to the U.S., Moeketsi has worked as teaching artist for organizations such as Destiny Arts Center, Attitudinal Healing Connection and Get Empowered. He has been an accompanist and performer with Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp, and performs with Zulu Spears Band of South Africa, and Chinyakare Ensemble Music and Dance of Zimbabwe. Moeketsi also toured with *Zuma Zuma*, an African acrobatic music and dance show. Moeketsi's philosophy is based on an African proverb "Motho ke motho ka batho" meaning "a person is a person because of people."



DOLORES R GRAY holds an MFA in photography and printmaking from the University of Michigan and is a multimedia studio artist with numerous solo and joint exhibitions. She has developed and taught educational art programs in K-12 schools across the Bay Area, and also teaches art fundamentals as basis for storytelling, photography, digital photography and Adobe Photoshop to children and adults. Dolores was a recipient of a multi-year grant “Artist in Schools Residency” from the California Arts Council. She applies arts education to diverse programs such as “Language & Visual Arts Reading Improvement” and “Art + Math in the Classroom.”



THAMSANQA HLATYWAYO learned traditional dance and singing growing up in South Africa. A performer, choreographer, drummer, and a cappella singer, he enjoys sharing aspects of South Africa with people of other national and ethnic backgrounds. Thamsanqa was co-founder, Artistic Director and performer with Uzulu Dance Theater of South Africa. He performed with the Broadway show *Sarafina*. He founded Jikelele Dance Theater, and wrote and directed a stage play *Shanty Town* which Jikelele performed at San Francisco ethnic Dance Festival.



STEPHEN KENT is a multi-Instrumentalist and composer whose musical career has taken him across five continents and includes the UK, Spain, East Africa, Australia and the US. As a performer on the Australian Aboriginal Didgeridoo he has pioneered its use in contemporary music across the globe in collaboration with numerous musicians. He has composed musical scores for theatre, circus and dance companies, which has established him in the world music scene, exploring a broad range of playing styles and musical genres



MANDJOU KONÉ was born into a well-known *griot* family in Mali and studied traditional West African singing, dancing and playing of instruments like the Djembe, Bala, Dundun, Kora and Tama. She also danced and performed with the National Ballet of Burkina Faso. She is a dance educator and has been teaching and performing over the past twenty years throughout the US, most recently as a lecturer at UC Santa Cruz.



ERIK LEE was born and raised in Oakland, California. He received his formal dance training in modern dance and BA degree in Dance Performance Studies from U.C. Berkeley. Since 2009, Erik has danced with Covenant Worship Center's Worship In Arts Ministry, and has served as Artistic Director since 2014. In 2011, he joined Dimensions Dance Theater and continues to work as a company member. Erik holds an MFA in Dance from Mills College. Erik has served as a Berkeley-Oakland AileyCamp Group Leader for three years, and is now Co-Managing Director.



DAVID W. McCAULEY starts his opening of the annual Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp with, "remember who you are, imagine who you wish to be, and give it your all!" David enjoyed almost 15 years with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Foundation, as a student, instructor, and performer. Recently David became an adjunct faculty member of the Center for Art, Religion, and Education. He has been directing AileyCamp at Cal Performances since its inauguration in the fall of 2001 and is one of Cal Performances master teaching artists.



CHARLOTTE MORAGA began her study of Kathak with Pandit Chitresh Das in 1992. She joined the Chitresh Das Dance Company in 1996 and has been a featured solo artist in his award-winning works. She has choreographed many works for the company and currently serves as Artistic Director. Charlotte has performed solo concerts in Kolkata, Mumbai, and Pune India, and in many Classical Indian Dance and Music Festivals across the US. Charlotte is dedicated to educating people about, and promoting, Kathak –both as a performer and a teacher. She is largely responsible for development of the Chitresh Das Dance Company arts education programs in California schools. Charlotte has given many lecture demonstrations at museums and universities throughout India and the US.



MICHEAL MPYANGU'S unique approach to dance, and his take on dancers' interaction with music, relates complex nuances of timing, footwork, and rhythm to the strengths of each participant. Micheal views individual learning differences as strengths for developing superior dance dynamics. His diverse dance background (Ugandan tribal and contemporary, roots rumba, Cuban rumba, salsa, cha-cha, Argentine tango, Dominican bachata and merengue) has influenced his critical study and analysis of poly-rhythms and contributes to his keen understanding of musicality and corporal awareness. He has performed, instructed and conducted workshops to all ages and levels in Africa, Great Britain and the United States.



RICKI NELSON currently works with public and private school music programs, as well as El Sistema-inspired after school programs. Drawing upon his experience from the Sistema Fellows Program in 2014 at the New England Conservatory in Boston, Ricki is working to develop after-school music programming for Bay Area youth that not only inspires musical excellence, but also promotes a passion for community engagement. Ricki's most recent community engagement collaborations have been with the Carnegie Hall National Youth Orchestra of the USA, NPR's From the Top, and Cal Performances. Ricki holds a Master's Degree and Professional Studies Degree in Clarinet Performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, as well as a post-graduate certificate from the Sistema Fellows Program at the New England Conservatory.



PAULA PARKS is a bilingual Spanish/English educator with a passion for community building. She received a graduate degree in Education, and then decided to run away with the circus. Her journey as an acrobat and coach started in Argentina, then led to her living and teaching in 3 countries and traveling to 26 more. As co-founder of Circus of Smiles, she oversees school-based enrichment programming and supports developing educators. Her strong belief is that any skill can be taught with a social-emotional focus and a little imagination.



TYLER PARKS loves to laugh and is thrilled to be spreading joy through the performing arts. He holds a Masters in Education from UC Santa Cruz and a rubber chicken from the Clown Conservatory in San Francisco. Tyler co-founded the internationally acclaimed physical comedy troop Pi, and has taught for many circus institutions including: The Prescott Circus, Kinetic Arts Center and Circus Smirkus. Through Circus of Smiles, Mr. Mustache (as he is known on stage) has performed family-friendly circus shows for thousands of families in the US and as well as on tour through Asia, Central America, and South America.



JEFF RAZ explores the intersection of circus, theater and music from many different angles - as a clown, an actor, a teacher, a director and a playwright. Jeff founded The Clown Conservatory in San Francisco, the only comprehensive professional clown training program in the United States, and he directed the program until 2010. Jeff is now the Bay Area Casting Partner for Cirque du Soleil, the Artistic Director of the Medical Clown Project and a director with the global consulting firm Stand & Deliver.



GALEN ROGERS is a taiko and dance professional based in the Bay Area. He studied taiko at the San Francisco Taiko Dojo under Grand Master Seichi Tanaka, the person who brought modern taiko to America in the 1960s. Galen co-founded Oberlin College Taiko and is now the director of Jiten Daiko, a taiko ensemble based at the Buddhist Church of San Francisco. He also teaches taiko, gamelan, and ethnomusicology to high school students at Ruth Asawa School of the Arts and Marin Academy. He studies Balinese dance and gamelan with Gamelan Sekar Jaya, a Berkeley-based Balinese performing arts ensemble, and he practices capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian martial art, and gaga, Ohad Naharin's dynamic movement language.



STEPHEN TEXEIRA believes there is a memory between one moment and the next; a memory that no amount of posing or smiling for the camera will ever reveal. It is in those moments that we are most real, most vulnerable, most beautiful, most ourselves. He takes pictures. He pays attention. Stephen has been a journalist, marketing consultant, a non-profit communications manager, and has taught schoolchildren all over the Bay Area how to focus ideas and images in photographs that move others to action.



LUCCA TROUTMAN is an electro-acoustic composer, director and performer originally from Hartford, Connecticut. She holds a BA in psychology and music from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts and recently graduated with her MA in composition from Mills College where she refined her compositional and performance techniques under the tutelage of renowned experimental artists. She currently teaches and performs throughout the Bay Area and enjoys creating in all of its forms.



JESSE WIENER is a teaching and performing artist. She spent her early years exploring various forms of movement in Minneapolis, MN including modern dance, musical theater and aerial arts. She got her BA in Environmental Studies at Oberlin College where she minored in Dance and expanded her movement practice to include taiko drumming. Past dance projects include works with Nina Haft, Kyoungil Ong, Holly Handman-Lopez, Ann Cooper Albright, and Lili Weckler. Jesse currently delves into dance creation and performance with Nina Haft and Company and Molly Rose-Williams and Company, and is a co-artistic director and performing member of Jiten Daiko, a Bay Area based taiko ensemble. Her passion for child development and the performing arts informs the ways she cultivates encouraging and explorative environments for children. When Jesse is not dancing or drumming she teaches creative movement and artistic literacy to preschool and elementary age children.



PHIL PICKERING (FOUNDER), CAROLE ONO AND CHERYL MOCHALSKI, are members of Tatsumaki Taiko of Richmond, CA. They find great joy in creating taiko music with the group and in sharing that music with the greater Bay Area community, in festivals, school assemblies and classrooms (elementary and high school) all over the Bay Area. They have hosted many taiko workshops with members of other noted professional companies such as Kodo and Ondekoza from Japan.