

## **SANDY SILVA**

Just as Aaron Copland and Belà Bartok took traditional tunes and interwove them into refreshingly new musical genres, Silva does the same with percussive dance. Through improvisation and original choreography, she draws from the drum and dance traditions of Celtic stepdance, Spanish flamenco, American tap, Hungarian legenyés, Appalachian buck dance and modern dance. The result is rich and riveting, full of rhythmic and visual inventiveness.

### **Selected Performances**

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Project Fibonacci with Les Sept Doigts de la Main, Mexico City, 2007  
Womad Festival and Commonwealth Games with La Bottine Souriante, Australia, 2006  
Montreal International Jazz Festival, 2005, Bobby McFerrin  
Montreal International Jazz Festival, 2005, Remi Bolduc  
Dance Mission Theater, San Francisco, 2005, Guy Klucsevsek

### **La Bottine Souriante** 1997-present

Solo dance percussion with nine piece instrumental vocal band  
December tours throughout Quebec (Canada) and frequent festival, theatre and television appearances in the USA, United Kingdom and Canada  
Celtic Connections (Glasgow, Scotland)  
USA Western tour (California, Utah, Colorado, Oregon)  
Live at Rideau Hall and Canada Day (CBC Television, live from Ottawa)  
United Kingdom-Ireland tour  
Annual European tours (Spain, Portugal, Norway)  
Glen Gould Studio (concert recorded and broadcast by CBC radio), Toronto, Canada

### **Sandy Silva and Laura Risk** 2002-2005

Solo dance percussion with solo violin  
Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival (Maine, USA)  
Chico World Music Festival (California, USA)  
Makor Center (New York City, USA)  
University of Minneapolis (Minnesota, USA)  
Erie Art Museum (Pennsylvania, USA)  
Philadelphia Art Museum (Pennsylvania, USA)

### **Open House:** 1990-1995

Sandy Silva (percussive dance), Kevin Burke (violin), Mark Graham (harmonica, vocal), Paul Kotapish (guitar)  
Annual summer tour (United Kingdom)  
Celtic Connections (Glasgow, Scotland)  
Vancouver Folk Music Festival (Canada)  
Avante Festival (Lisbon, Portugal)  
Purcell Theatre (Paris, France)  
WOMEX (Brussels, Belgium)  
Falun Festival (Sweden)  
NPR's A Prairie Home Companion (Minneapolis, USA)  
Winnipeg Folk Music Festival (Manitoba, Canada)

### **Independent Projects:**

2007 Zebratones band tour, Mexico, June 2007  
2005 Artist in Residence with New York composer Guy Klucsevsek  
Exploration and Creation, Villa Montalvo, Saratoga, California  
2004 Canada Council for the Arts grant recipient for choreography  
2003 Canada High Commission Gala, Edinburg, Scotland  
2001, 2003 *KLAK Percussive Dance Ensemble* with five independent percussive dancers  
(Festival d'été de Quebec and Francofolies Festival in Montreal)  
2001 *Txalapata Concert* - guest artist for televised concert (San Sebastian, Spain)  
2000 *My Dance* - self-produced independent dance performance with Laura Risk (violin) and Francis Covan (accordion)  
1999 *Human Rhythm Project* - guest performer  
1998, 1999, 2000 *Appalachian Strings* theatre project - performer in musical history of immigration from Ireland to Appalachia

1990, 1995	Belfast and Sligo Folk Festivals - guest performer with Altan and Martin Hayes
1992	North American Folk concerts - guest dancer with local North American musicians (Minnesota, USA)
1990	RTE Gaelic television special - Sandy Silva travels to Ireland (Dublin, Ireland)
1989	Project Troubador tour - PBS documentary film (Amazonia, Recife, Sao Paulo, Brazil)

## **Recordings**

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Sandy Silva has participated in the following recordings providing sound through percussive dance, hand claps and body percussion

2004	<i>Magneto</i> , Rick Haworth CD released May 2004
2003	<i>Les Triplettes de Belleville</i> - Oscar and Grammy nominated original soundtrack by Benoit Charest for feature animation
2003	<i>J'ai jamais tant ri</i> - La Bottine Souriante (Productions Mille Pattes)
1990, 1992, 1994	<i>Open House, Second Story, Hoof n'Mouth</i> , Open House (Green Linnet Records)

## **Dance Education**

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Sandy Silva has spent the last twenty years honing her skills by seeking out music and dance masters from various cultural backgrounds. With a tape recorder and notebook she travelled across North America and Eastern Europe immersing herself in distinct traditional cultures for weeks and months at a time. After transcribing steps, rhythmic patterns and music, Sandy would transpose these elements into her performance work with musicians, developing in the process her own innovative style. Through her current work with contemporary choreographers, she not only explores the quality and intention of sounds but also the visual content of the space between them and the finished line of the body itself in space, adding emotional depth to her work as a body percussionist and percussive dancer.

### **Selected Teachers:**

2006-2007	Dave Laing, jazz rudiments for body percussion
2001-2004	Movement choreography with Howard Richard (Montreal, Canada)
2002-2003	Tap with Brenda Buffalino (New York, USA)
1998-2000	Choreography with Julie Lachance (Montreal, Canada)
1994, 1996, 1998	Body music with Keith Terry (California, USA)
1992, 1994	Flamenco with Robina Carmona (Washington, USA and Seville, Spain)
1992, 1994	Hungarian legenyes with Orban Lazlo and Roman Sandor (Budapest, Hungary)
1988, 1992	Buck dancing/hambone with John D. Holman (North Carolina, USA)
1986, 1988	Stepdancing with Minnie MacMaster (Cape Breton, Canada)

### **Selected Teaching:**

2005, 2006	The National Circus School (Montreal, Canada) - Music and rhythm
2005	Cirque du Soleil - Rhythm workshops
2004	Choreography for Vishten, international touring music and dance group
2003	Erie Art Museum (Pennsylvania, USA) - public school and community lectures
2003	Wyoming State Arts Council and University of Wyoming, USA -public schools, senior centers, world music class lectures and demonstrations
2002	University of Minnesota (USA) - Lecture and demonstration: ethnomusicology program
2002	University of Limerick, (Ireland) - Lecture and demonstration: ethnomusicology program
2001	The National Circus School (Montreal, Canada) - Body percussion and choreography Experience Music Project Museum (Seattle, USA) - Roots of body percussion workshop Evergreen State College (Olympia, USA) - Lecture and demonstration for World Arts in Culture program
2000-2004	Vanaver Caravan dance and choreography workshop (New York, USA) - Traditional elements of percussive dance and choreography
1999	Human Rhythm Project (Minnesota, USA) - Roots of body percussion workshops
1995	Association of Professional Dancers (Dublin, Ireland) - Percussive dance styles of North America
1994	Augusta Heritage Dance Festival (Virginia, USA) - Cape Breton stepdance, buckdance workshops