

Saturday
July 12, 2025
8:00pm

PERFORMANCE SERIES 11



ZOHAR STUDIO THEATRE
4000 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD L4 | PALO ALTO, CA

Welcome

Zohar is Splendor in Hebrew

Zohar Performance Series celebrates the splendor of dance through programs that feature a variety of dance genres and styles that celebrate our dance community.

This fall marks our 46th year of sharing our love of dance and building community through programs such as the one you are experiencing tonight. When Ehud Krauss founded Zohar in 1979, it was his vision to make Zohar a welcoming place to learn and experience dance. This past October marked eighth years since he passed, and there are many new faces at Zohar who never knew Ehud nor had the privilege of experiencing his humor, drive and his unique mashugana! But Ehud lives on in the essence of Zohar.... touching lives, creating a space for dance to be created, performed, and experienced.

We thank the artists that made tonight's performance possible. These beautiful performers are all here because they share a passion for dance and the performing arts and rejoice in the opportunity to share it with you. Zohar's Board of Directors, thank you for supporting our vision and Ehud's legacy. The volunteers that make it possible to enjoy the performance. And you, the audience, for your presence and supporting the arts.

Your presence tonight helps uplift Zohar and the incredible artists you've just seen. But your impact doesn't have to end here. By attending future performances, joining our classes, and making a donation, you become a vital part of sustaining Zohar's legacy and supporting the broader artistic community we champion.

Ticket sales and class fees only cover a portion of our expenses – your generous, tax-deductible donation helps bridge that gap and ensures we can continue offering transformative experiences through dance.

To support us, simply follow the donation link at the end of the program. Every contribution makes a difference – thank you

Thank you for your continued support of the Performing Arts. Enjoy and experience the splendor of dance at Zohar!

Daynee Lai-Krauss & Vivian Sam
Co-Artistic & Executive Directors



PROGRAM

TEMPUS FUGIT: DU TEMPS PERDU

Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble

Choreographer: Natasha Carlitz

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, Violin Concerto in D Major,
Op. 61: II: Larghetto ~ David Oistrakh, violin

Costumes: Natasha Carlitz & Karen McWilliams

Prop Master: Steve Bennett & Vince Gabrielsen

Dancer: Skylar Rose Adams, Maggie Hurd-Fleck, Teo Lin-Bianco, Elizabeth Musco, Alyssa Plummer, Avery Rissling, Tatianna Steiner, Brooke Wertwijn, Clara Yang

I THINK ABOUT YOU

Choreographer & Dancer: Andy Nguyen

Music: "no one is coming to save you" & "i think about
you not thinking about me" by far

THE SPIRIT OF FAN

International Performing Arts of America

Choreographer: Xiaomei Zhang

Music: The Spirit of Fan by Yongxin Yin

Dancer: Ruoxi Wang

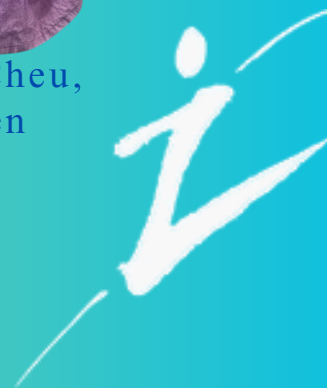
HANDFUL OF KEYS

Tap Explosion

Choreographer: Gayle Greenbrook

Music: Handful of Keys by Joja Wendt

Dancers: Mikala Caton, Christina Chang, Melissa Cheu,
Judi Fusco, Cassandra Huff, Alyssa Laughter, Steven
McLellan



EMPTY POCKETS

Claire Alexander & Dancers

Choreographer: Claire Alexander

Music: Side by Side Performed by Kay Starr

Dancers: Joey Dippel, Mercedes Long

EMENVI World Bachata Teams by Magda & Valeria, directed by Stacey Fong

Choreographers: Magda & Valeria, International Bachata Artists

Music: Herrera, by Yendry

Costumes: Natalia Romanova

Dancers: Stacey Fong & Giselle Tse; Johnny Ploke & Teresa Su; Dominic Dello Buono, Kate Davalos, Larisa Tsololo

TARANA

Choreographer: Smt. Nirupama Rajendra and Shri TD Rajendra

Music: Asavari Tarana, Copyright of Abhinava Dance Company, Bangalore

Costume: Abhinava Dance Company

Dancer: Pooja Ganesh

Break



THE BLUE THREAD

Laya Arts Collective

Choreographer & Dancer: Priya Narayana

Music: Raghunandan Ramakrishna "Jala"

LOVE OR HONOR

Choreographer: Gary McIntyre, with battle sequence by Patrick Chou

Music: Gates of Time, by The Dark Side of the Moon

Dancers: Dominic Dello Buono & Stacey Fong

MEMORIES

Tap Explosion

Choreographer: Rina Ohta

Music: Memories by Charisma Concert Band

Dancers: Mikala Caton, Christina Chang, Melissa Cheu, Suzanne Duval, Judi Fusco, Gayle Greenbrook, Cassandra Huff, Alyssa Laughter, Steven McLellan



perSONal

sjDANCEco

Choreographer & Dancer: Luis Isiordia

Music: Fragments - Johannes Winkler and Rusanda Panfili



MIDNIGHT

Choreographer & Dancer: Brooke Wertwijn

Music: Midnight by Peter Gregson

THE IMPRINT OF TANG

International Performing Arts of America

Choreographer: Siwei Ou

Music: Song of rainbow skirts and feather robes by
Emperor Xuanzong of Tang

Dancer: Eva Fan



SIRENITAS - LOSE CONTROL

Choreographer: Stacey Fong

Music: Lose Control, by Teddy Swims, Bachata remix by
DJ Magic Flow

Costumes: Whitney Anderson

Dancers: Stacey Fong, Giselle Tse, Whitney Anderson,
Ashley Wahnschaff, Abe Kim

FOR THE BIRDS

Claire Alexander & Dancers

Choreographer: Claire Alexander

Music: Brllak! by Zap Mama

Costumes: Giselle Lebedenko

Dancers: Kennedy Bahr, Madelyn Davis, Jenika Fernando,
Mercedes Long, Payton Zemaitis

Thank You



Artists

Priya Narayana | Laya Arts Collective

Priya is a dancer, choreographer, educator, and advocate for Indian classical arts. As the founder of Laya Arts Collective, she leads performances, workshops, and educational programs that bring Indian dance and storytelling to diverse communities. Trained in Bharatanatyam and Kathak, Priya blends classical technique with contemporary themes, focusing on women's empowerment and diasporic identity. She began teaching in 2006 and has worked in both academy settings and public school outreach programs in Chicago and the Bay Area. Her work has been honored with the Naatya Vedha, Naatya Sharaadi, and Nrithya Shiromani awards. Born in the U.S. to Indian immigrant parents, Priya is committed to bridging cultures and expanding access to Indian arts. She holds a Master's in Interdisciplinary Arts from Columbia College Chicago.

<https://www.layaarts.com/>

Claire Alexander & Dancers

Claire Alexander and Dancers is a project-based ensemble led by choreographer, educator, and creative learning practitioner Claire Alexander. Rooted in collaboration and curiosity, her work blends modern, jazz, and theatrical forms with a focus on emotional clarity, playful exploration, and embodied connection. Claire's process centers the individual voice of each dancer, inviting honesty, vulnerability, and joy through movement.

onaclaireday.co

Andy Nguyen

Andy Nguyen (San Jose, CA) began his ballet training at the Jensen Center for the Performing Arts studying the Cecchetti method. He continued to pursue ballet and modern dance in college at the University of California, Riverside under the direction of taisha paggett, where he developed his training in Martha Graham technique. After earning his B.A. in Psychology, Andy returned to ballet and trained under the tutelage of Marny Trounson, a former Royal Ballet dancer under the direction of Sir Kenneth MacMillan and Sir Frederick Ashton. Andy danced as a Studio Company Artist with New Ballet San José and has had works created on him by choreographers such as Dalia Rawson, Keon Saghari, Mariana Sobral, and Erik Wagner.



Artists

Luis Isiordia | sjDANCEco

Luis Isiordia is a dance artist from Turlock, CA. He began dancing at eight with Center for Urban Performance and Service directed by Kylene Murphy. Recently, he received his Bachelor's of Fine Arts from San José State University where he performed repertory work from renowned choreographers Mike Ezperanza, Doug Varone, Camille A. Brown, Shlomit Fundaminsky, Cameron McKinney, and José Limón. Luis is also an aerialist, having training from Kat Hughes, Irina Jang, Rebekah Leach, and Chloe Axelford. In 2021, he received his aerial certification from Jill Franklin of Aerial Physique. Luis has had the opportunity to train in many styles. He has training in ballet, modern, contemporary, lyrical, hip hop, jazz, and tap. Aside from the more classic styles, he has also been trained in styles with cultural influences including Ballet Folklórico, Cumbia, Bachata, African, and Capoeira. Currently, he is excited to be with sjDANCEco for their twenty first season. <https://www.sjdanceco.org/>

Tap Explosion

Tap Explosion is a professional rhythm tap company that was founded in San Jose, CA in 1994. We strive to both honor the history and culture of rhythm tap while also providing a modern experience for the audience. Tap Explosion has had the honor of working with many tap greats and enjoys a special relationship with Mark Mendonca, Dianne Walker, and Sam Weber. We have regular shows and have performed all over the Bay Area. In 2011, Tap Explosion began a series of benefit concerts. We have raised more than \$35,000 in support of 7 organizations that are near and dear to our hearts. Our most recent benefit concert was in April 2025 in support of the Alzheimer's Association. Follow us on social media (@tap_explosion) and join us for our next show on March 14, 2026!



Artists

Zohar Performance Series 11

Pooja Ganesh

Pooja is a Kathak dancer and choreographer from India and has been training over the last 15 years under under Gurus Smt. Nirupama and Rajendra, Shri.T.D.Rajendra. On moving to the US, she continues under Smt. Nirmala Madhava and Parul Shah. She has performed with Abhinava Dance Company(India) at prestigious venues. In the US, she has rendered solo recitals across NYC,WA, NJ, Boston, CA, Chicago. She has also worked with other dance companies on select projects(Navatman in NY,Noorani, Naatak,Pampa in bay area, Alapadma, Arpan in Seattle). Pooja was an AIR for the prestigious Seattle Theater Group(2024) where she presented at the Moore Theater. She also recently premiered her work as a part of the Seattle Office of Arts&Culture. She premiered her other work as a part of YUVA(2023),Houston and at Yuva Bharati,California(Nov 2023).She was one of the 8 chosen artists across the US for a production that got featured on Narthaki. She has also has the opportunity to present her work at the New York Kathak Festival(2024).She recently toured with ADC across 11 cities in the US and Canada. Pooja has been an invited artist for workshops and demos in Kathak across the US.

Stacey Fong

Stacey is a dance instructor specializing in Bachata, having taught and performed at International Bachata Festivals. For the fourth year running, Stacey is director of the Bay Area chapter of the World Bachata Teams EMENVI by Magda & Valeria, and is choreographer/director of her own Femme Bachata team, the Sirenitas. In addition to Bachata, Stacey is also skilled at social dances, ballroom, pole, and chair. She teaches group classes and private lessons at Dance Boulevard (San Jose) and Twirly Studios (Pleasanton). When she is not on the dance floor, Stacey is a voiceover actress whose voice can be heard in videogames, IVR systems, and Cirque du Soleil.



Artists

Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble

Founded in 2005, the Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble presented its inaugural concert in partnership with the internationally acclaimed California Guitar Trio and since then has produced twelve more full-length programs as well as appearing in dozens of showcases and festivals around the Bay Area. Athletic and spirited, NCDE dancers bring both strong technique and emotional depth to their performances.

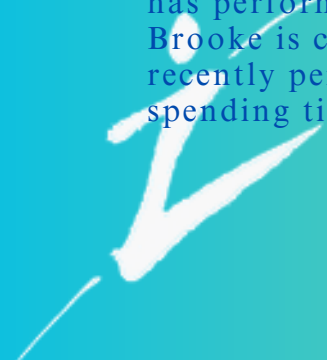
With its strong focus on musicality, the company has commissioned work from a number of composers and seizes opportunities to perform with live musicians, including two invitations from folk-rock duo Emma's Revolution. "Serious and graceful work... displays creativity and talent that are worth seeing... One of the really successful features of Carlitz' work is that the selected music and choreography fit so well together," writes Michael Phelan of baydance.com.

NCDE has received funding from Fort Mason Foundation through "In Performance Series" grants (supported by Grants for the Arts / San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation), has participated in ODC's Pilot series for emerging artists, and is grateful for the ongoing sponsorship of DanceVisions.

<https://carlitzdance.org/about/company>

Brooke Wertwijn

Brooke is a freelance dancer, teacher, and choreographer in the Bay Area. Originally from Minnesota, Brooke trained at Ashley Ballet Arts Academy directed by Ashley Burkland. She graduated from the University of Utah School of Dance with a B.F.A. in Ballet, Ballet Studio Teaching Certificate, and Business Minor. Brooke was a member of SALT Contemporary Dance's Pre-Professional Training Company directed by Courtney Mazeika and a Trainee at Ballet Idaho. She was a Company Artist with San Jose Dance Theatre for the 2022-2024 seasons and was the Academy Director in 2024. She choreographed and directed a brand-new, full-length production of The Little Mermaid and co-directed the 59th Annual San Jose Nutcracker. She has performed internationally in the Czech Republic, South Korea, and Italy. Brooke is currently dancing with Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble and recently performed with eMotion Arts Dance. When not dancing, she enjoys spending time gardening, reading, and crocheting.



Artists

IPAA | Rouxi Wang & Eva Fan

Founded in 2018, International Performing Arts of America (IPAA) is a Bay Area-based non-profit dance organization dedicated to celebrating international culture, with a focus on East Asian traditions through dance and choreography. Our group comprises professionally trained dancers, including graduates of the Beijing Dance Academy, who are well-versed in Chinese classical and folk dance, ethnic dance, ballet and other forms. Coming from diverse backgrounds, our team bonds over dance as our common language to communicate with the world.

We are dance enthusiasts passionate about connecting people through dance and various art forms. Since our inception, we have been organizing an annual 2.5-hour Arts Festival, featuring approximately 60 original IPAA technical productions and showcasing approximately 40 talented guest performing art groups thus far to promote international culture. We are also active in participating in community engagements and prominent events such as the annual ZGZG New Year Gala, World Arts West Dance Festival, and the Peninsula International Dance Festival. <https://intperformingarts.org/>

Eva Fang is a Chinese classical dance and Chinese folk dance dancer. 9 years dance experience. Currently studying at Los Gatos High School.



ZPS Staff

Executive Artistic Director/Producer: Daynee Lai-Krauss

Technical Crew/Lighting: I-Heng McComb

Technical Crew/Sound: Natasha Carlitz

Videographer: Audrey Chang

Photographer: Kyle Adler (kadlerphotography.com)

Stage Manager: Vivian Sam

House Manager: Daynee Lai-Krauss

Volunteers: Audrey Chang, Monika Chock

We hope that you enjoyed tonight's program. Ticket sales and class fees are not enough to cover our daily operation. It is through individual donations that Zohar is able to present these diverse programs for you to experience our amazing dance community in the Bay Area. Make your donation now to support the next performance!

Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Scan the QR code to make a donation!



Zohar Dance Company

Zohar School of Dance and Company is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in Palo Alto, California. Founded by Ehud Krauss in 1979 and under the direction of Daynee Lai-Krauss and Vivian Sam, Zohar is dedicated to making dance accessible, inclusive, vibrant, relevant, and integral to its community.

Zohar offers an open program of dance classes for adults in jazz, ballet, contemporary, tap, and modern dance. Starting in 2022, Zohar added classes and workshops to support our local (musical) theatre community in audition preparation, voice, and acting, to name a few.



ZOHAR DANCE COMPANY UPCOMING EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

July 18-20, 2025 - Luigi Technique Teacher Certification Course
July 19 & 20, 2025 - Luigi Style Master Class taught by Joey Doucette
starting August 3, 2025 - Beginning Ballet Class with Augusto Silva

October 16-19, 2025 - Zohar New York City Getaway

November 8, 2025 - Zohar Performance Series 12

Check our website for more information
www.ZoharDanceCompany.org

Zohar Dance Company

Daynee Lai-Krauss

Co-Founder | Co-Artistic Executive Director

Vivian Sam

Co-Artistic Executive Director

Ehud Krauss (1946-2016)

Co-Founder | Artistic Director

Board of Directors

Elaine Phoutrides, President

Jan Penagos, Secretary

Daynee Lai-Krauss, Treasurer

Susan Bailey

Karen Kwan

Vivian Sam

LeeAnne Sera

Zohar Teaching Artists

Frances Devlin, Voice

Kristine Elliott, Ballet

Daniel Gautier, Accompanist

Daynee Lai-Krauss, Jazz

Lee Ann Payne, Tap

Vivian Sam, Jazz

Augusto Silva, Ballet

Charles Torres, Ballet

