

# Performing Arts Fellowship



Utah Division of  
**Arts & Museums**

# 2021

## Sarah McCaffery

*Manager of Interdisciplinary Arts,  
Asia Society Museum*

### FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS:

Katlyn Addison

Anthony Chen

Solange Gomes

Lorin Hansen

Cristhian Hernandez

Mauro Romualdo

Performing Arts Fellowship Juror Sarah McCaffery,  
Manager of Interdisciplinary Arts, Asia Society Museum

The artists who applied for the 2021 Performing Arts Fellowship demonstrated extraordinary talent. Applicants represented many roles across Utah's dance field, including dancers, choreographers, educators, arts organizers, dance filmmakers, interdisciplinary artists, and more.

The six fellowship awardees possess bold visions for the future of dance. Not only are the awardees exceptional dance professionals, but they are leaders and advocates for their respective forms. Recognizing the transformative power of dance, they have harnessed it to impact the lives of countless students, audiences, and community members. In the midst of extreme challenges, including a global pandemic and reckoning with systemic racism, the awardees find themselves at a pivotal moment of their careers. I look forward to following the work of these visionary dance artists and leaders to see how they will continue to inspire communities in Utah and beyond.





**KATLYN ADDISON** is an exceptional dancer who is committed to the future of ballet. As a choreographer, she has created works for Ballet West and University of Utah's dance department. As a leader, she serves as board member and coordinator for the newly formed non-profit group Utah Black Artists Collective. She is also a mentor to Black youth in dance, with the aspiration to "prepare students to be part of the ballet world." Addison is not only mentoring youth, but blazing a trail for future generations. She was recently promoted to the highest rank at Ballet West marking a historic moment—she is the first Black principal dancer in Ballet West's 58-year history. I look forward to following the next stage in Addison's career and seeing how she continues to inspire through her dancing, choreography, and leadership.



**ANTHONY CHEN** is a dancer and choreographer, and an advocate for Lindy Hop and other swing dances. Chen believes Lindy Hop to be "joy embodied in dance" and is passionate about sharing this joy with others. He founded Salt City Swing to spread awareness of swing music and dance, and their deep roots in Black American history. Through his teaching, he shares his vision of dance as a language that transcends barriers, including those of race and culture. The fellowship award would support him as he continues to foster social dance communities: "My aspiration is to continue supporting the growth and health of this community on both a local and international level, because there is nothing more thrilling than being in a dance hall full of diverse smiling faces doing the most joyous dance I know." I look forward to watching Chen continue to harness the transformative power of dance by spreading joy and building community through Lindy Hop and other swing dances.



**SOLANGE GOMES** is a flamenco artist, choreographer, and educator with a commitment to preserve and promote the traditional art of flamenco. In 2001, Gomes founded the Tablado Dance Company where she is the artistic director, choreographer, and principal dancer. As an educator, Gomes teaches a powerful approach, "I want to teach my dancers to shape and fill the movement not only with a technical virtuosity but, mainly with passion, individuality, truth, and personality." This fellowship award would support Gomes as she continues to spread her vision for flamenco through her dancing, choreography, and teaching. I look forward to following Gomes' important work in fostering a community and passion for flamenco.



**LORIN HANSEN** is an instructor, performer, and choreographer. For the past 15 years, Hansen has dedicated her life to building a samba community in Utah. She founded and is artistic director of Samba Fogo, a music and dance ensemble. Hansen is passionate about the transformative power of dance, she "utilizes art as a mechanism to create community, build self-esteem, spark change, and enhance the connectedness of our community." The fellowship would support Hansen to choreograph new works. As artists navigate COVID-19 and this pivotal moment in history, Hansen questions, "Who will lead us home, and how will they place their foot on the ground when they dance?" I look forward to following Hansen's dynamic work, and experiencing her visions for relating to our Earth and environment through her choreography.



**CRISTHIAN HERNANDEZ** is a dancer, choreographer, and educator with a commitment to preserve and promote the traditional arts of Mexico. In 2014, Hernandez founded Ballet Folklórico Quetzacoatl of Utah where he is the director and choreographer. Hernandez views the group's artists as stewards of Mexican culture, "Teaching the history of each dance to the members of the group is essential so that they can value it and transmit it in the performances." Hernandez has expanded the number of dancers in the group and integrated regional Mexican vocalists since its founding. The fellowship award would support Hernandez as he continues to cultivate a community of artists. I look forward to following Hernandez's important work in promoting the traditional arts of Mexico.



**MESTRE JAMAICA (MAURO ROMUALDO)** performs and teaches capoeira. In 2005, Mestre Jamaika founded Salt Lake Capoeira which he continues to lead. He also founded the Volta Miúda capoeira group. A passionate advocate, Mestre Jamaika is committed to sharing Afro-Brazilian culture and strengthening community through capoeira, "My purpose today remains the same...to honor my ancestors and capoeira's roots in its fight against injustice and oppression." The fellowship would support Mestre Jamaika as he continues to teach capoeira, "While I've always used capoeira to change the world for the better, 2020 was the first time I saw so many people open to hearing my experience. This grant would help me continue to share capoeira and its lessons in equality and community—especially in this moment when people are more receptive to the message." I look forward to following Mestre Jamaika's important work as he continues to spread capoeira and his message to communities across Utah and beyond.

# 2020

## Brian Wagner

*Former Community Arts  
Coordinator for the Oregon  
Arts Commission*

### FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS:

Corey Christiansen

Dee-Dee Darby-Duffin

Gavin Ryan

Joshua Strauther - Joshy Soul

Performing Arts Fellowship Juror Brian Wagner,  
former Community Arts Coordinator for the Oregon  
Arts Commission

With regard to the "Now." It is also important to recognize that world was changing during the time of my review in ways that I could not have imagined when I accepted the opportunity to review the Fellowships. Nor could the applicants have integrated these changes into their proposals. During the months of January and March the spread of COVID-19 throughout the world and the unfolding impact on our arts and culture community became more significant and "real" each day. Performance venue went dark day after day, production seasons were canceled, and orchestras dismissed their musicians. Even now, as I write this, people are grappling with the unknown and working to find ways to share the healing power of music in the face of these changes. These factors did bear some weight in my review. But I don't have answers on what these changes will bring for the discipline. It is my hope that all of these fellowship applicant artists will find a way to continue their important work and have their creative voices positively shape our future after we settle in to life beyond the crisis. I thank them all for the work they contribute to the lives of those around them. And once again, I thank you for the opportunity to hear their music!





**COREY CHRISTIANSEN** teaches at the Caine College of the Arts at Utah State University where he influences generations of musicians through his teaching. However, for the purpose of this fellowship, he is an independent artist of the highest caliber. Corey's work as an active performer, a composer and recording artist, who self-funds his recording projects and holds creative control and responsibility for what he produces, makes his submission so compelling.

To quote from a letter of support for Corey's application, Corey's "...musical material (is) representative of the American West and reimagines it in a modern jazz idiom. In so doing, the listener focuses on the innate vibrancy of the western tunes themselves and the ingenuity of their manipulation at the hands of Christiansen." Corey is an outstanding improviser, composer and performer.

I believe that Corey's work will help expand, deepen and shape music listener's impression of Utah's great musical vitality and richness.



**DEE-DEE DARBY-DUFFIN** recently completed a performance during a regional performing arts consortium that drew tremendous interest in her work and she needs the Fellowship support to fulfill the opportunities that her talent has made possible. In spite of so many challenges ahead for individual performing artists right now, Dee-Dee's career seems uniquely positioned to "take flight" when people can assemble again for the positive and powerful voice she brings to her performances. From letter of support, "Her presence on stage is warm and inviting and combined with her charm and wit her audience is drawn into a truly personal experience. As if all this weren't enough, she is also phenomenally talented. She not only has an amazing voice, but has an intuitive grasp of music and rhythm that audiences respond to enthusiastically."



**GAVIN RYAN** studied western percussion practice and is a full time performer. His commitment to a refined performance practice, his intellectual and musical curiosity, his appreciation of musical traditions & genres all caught my attention during the early phase of review. A seasoned performer of western music, Gavin also has broad interest in the music of other cultures, most especially in Indonesian Gamelan. He is careful and respectful to understand the culture from which this music grew. He avoids cultural appropriation by making sure that the traditions of the music are understood and preserved as part of his sharing of a musical tradition. His theses, "Ethical Performance of Indonesian Music" during a Fulbright is a good indicator of his commitment and caring for another musical and cultural tradition while working to bring it to new audiences.



**JOSHY SOUL** is singer, songwriter, pianist, and performer. His music is inspired by broad international travel, his own activism, and paying respect to different songwriters of the past. Joshy demonstrates tremendous musical leadership in the groups of musicians that he assembles and with whom he performs. While he is Utah based, Joshy has an opportunity to embark on the biggest tour of his career, performing in eight major cities in the US and Canada. While the immediate future is uncertain for all touring and performing musicians at this time, this fellowship at this time will undoubtedly provide the needed support for Joshy Soul's growth as an exemplary Utah performer. From letter of support, "Josh is one of the most thoughtful and confident artists we have worked with, and we have worked with many Utah artists, and with many different styles. From the beginning he had a clear vision of what he wanted to accomplish. When his band takes the stage, they are wellrehearsed and serious. From the way he and his players are dressed, to the arrangements, to the organization of the set list, to the choreography, the shows are professional."