



MUSIC  
FROM THE  
SOLE

**Leonardo Sandoval & Gregory Richardson**  
Artistic Directors  
Bookings/ info: [musicfromthesole@gmail.com](mailto:musicfromthesole@gmail.com)

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## The New York Times Best Dance Performances of 2022



Photo by Titus Ogilvie Laing/ Works & Process at the Guggenheim

*"A jolt of good energy"* - **The New York Times**

*"An unforced crowd-pleaser, original and true to itself... Fall for Dance at its finest. [...] this sense of togetherness and collective joy extended throughout the work."* - **The New York Times**

*"A marvelous feast of rhythm, both visual and aural"* - **DanceTabs**

**Music From The Sole** is a tap dance and live music company that celebrates tap's Afro-diasporic roots, particularly its connections to Afro-Brazilian dance and music, and its lineage to forms like house dance and passinho (Brazilian funk). Led by Brazilian dancer/ choreographer **Leonardo Sandoval** and by bassist/ composer **Gregory Richardson**, their work embraces tap's unique nature as a blend of sound and movement, incorporating wide-ranging influences like samba, passinho, Afro-Cuban, jazz, and house.

As part of its mission to bring tap, America's original vernacular dance, to new audiences, the company appears as both a dance company and percussive-led band at dance and music venues, including recently at Harlem Stage, Lincoln Center, Jacob's Pillow, The Yard, Caramoor Jazz Festival, Bryant Park, and the Guggenheim. They partner frequently with organizations like the National Dance Institute and Lincoln Center Education, engaging with communities across NYC and beyond through dance and music activities.

## **Leonardo Sandoval (Artistic Director & Choreographer, Dancer)**

Brazilian tap dancer and choreographer Leonardo Sandoval is renowned for blending America's great tap tradition with Brazil's rich rhythmic and musical heritage. A true dancer-musician, he was one of Dance Magazine's "25 To Watch", is the recipient of a 2022 Vilcek Foundation Prize for Creative Promise, and was recently named a 2022 NYSCA/ NYFA Artist Fellow in Choreography. In 2015, he founded Music From The Sole with composer Gregory Richardson, after meeting through Dorrance Dance, of which he has been a core member since 2014. In addition, he is also in demand as a solo artist, appearing at the National Folk Festival, Caramoor Jazz Festival, and the 92Y.

## **Gregory Richardson (Artistic Director, Band Leader)**

Gregory Richardson is a composer and multi-instrumentalist focusing on upright and electric bass, and guitar. He is the co-founder and co-artistic director of Music From The Sole, and the musical director of Dorrance Dance. As a composer for dance, he's created work at Lincoln Center Education, Jacob's Pillow, The Yard, National Dance Institute, Works & Process, BAM, The Joyce, and New York City Center, most recently in collaboration with actor Bill Irwin. Recent credits include performing with Toshi Reagon in her opera *Parable of the Sower*, touring with indie band Darwin Deez, and playing with Grammy-winning artists Keyon Harrold and Marcus Gilmore.

## **Bookings/ info**

Noé Kains, General Manager

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## Currently Touring Works

### *I Didn't Come to Stay (2022)*

**NEFA National Dance Project US Touring Subsidies available 2022-2025**

Tap, percussive dance, samba, house, and live music come together in *I Didn't Come to Stay*, commissioned by Works & Process at the Guggenheim and first supported with a bubble residency in summer 2020. In the work, Brazilian tap dancer and choreographer Leonardo Sandoval and bassist and composer Gregory Richardson lead eight dancers and a five-piece band in a performance that explores tap's lineage and connections to other Afro-Diasporic forms. Together the pair embrace shared roots across the diaspora and reflect on racial and cultural identity, while also celebrating the joy, strength, depth, and virtuosity of Black dance and music.

#### **Touring Cast**

8 dancers

5-piece band

1 Lighting Designer

1 Audio Engineer

#### **Premiere**

April 11, 2022

Peter B. Lewis Theater at the Guggenheim Museum



Photo by Titus Ogilvie Laing/ Works & Process at the Guggenheim

## ***Partido (2021)***

*Partido* is an evening-length work of tap dance, body percussion, and live music, that explores the convergence of percussive dance with contemporary urban dance and music in the US and Brazil. Developed for Music From The Sole, and initially spurred by Leonardo Sandoval's experience as an Afro-Brazilian immigrant in the United States, the piece celebrates and highlights the deep connections between Afro-rooted culture in both countries, connecting tap with styles like samba and house dance through shared rhythms and footwork.

### **Touring Cast**

6 dancers  
4-piece band  
1 Lighting Designer  
1 Audio Engineer

### **Premiere**

June 22, 2019 at The Yard, Chilmark, MA (work-in-progress)  
November 12, 2021 at Harlem Stage, New York, NY



*Photo by Marc Millman, courtesy of Harlem Stage*

## **Sample Community Engagement Activities**

- Community jam sessions - open to the public, musicians/ dancers
- Body percussion & rhythm workshops
- Afro-Brazilian rhythm workshops
- Tap and percussive dance classes (all levels)
- Post-show Q&As
- Panel discussions (e.g. about tap history, tap's diasporic roots, tap as music and dance, composing choreography & music)
- Lecture-demonstrations with cast members (e.g. illustrating interplay between movement and music, tap history, influences on the company's work)