

Press Release

Loft Performance in Old City

October 14, 2023, 7:30 pm

Dance and music performed in an intimate loft space in old city!

\$15 - 20 sliding scale admission

Space is limited; reservations are required at which time location, payment, parking and other details will be provided.

To reserve a space, send an email with # of guests to Dalcrozephilly@gmail.com

Program:

Two dancer-musician improvisation duos:

- Christina Gesualdi and Jesse Kudler
- Dawn Pratson and Michael Joviala of the group “Locomotors”

Plus “Armchair Duet” choreographed by long-time Philadelphia dancer and choreographer Madeline Cantor, performed by Cantor and Dawn Pratson

More Details:

The duo of Christina Gesualdi and Jesse Kudler explores the inter-dependence of movement and sound, with the boundaries between dancer and accompanist deliberately troubled; hierarchies between audio and visual constantly shift as byproducts of either medium become examined or picked up for elaboration in the other. The duo has been performing in art galleries, dance spaces, and concert venues since 2018.

More information:

Locomotors is a music and dance group inspired by both the practice of [Dalcroze eurhythmics](#) and the jazz tradition of open-form improvisation, sometimes known as ‘free jazz’. The group also has a special interest in the somatic connection between sound and movement, and in using that connection as a basis for artistic creation and exploration. The core members are Michael Joviala, piano and composition, and Dawn Pratson, dance and choreography. The group has been in residence as part of a pilot program of the [New York Chapter of the Dalcroze Society of America](#) during the calendar-year of 2023. Some of that work has been collected on a Youtube [playlist](#).

More at <https://joviala.com/jovialaworks/locomotors/>

Bios:

Christina Gesualdi is a Philadelphia-based dancer, choreographer, improviser and teacher. She has danced in projects of Annie Wilson, Dawn Pratson, Megan Bridge, Curt Haworth, and Nicole Bindler. All into the process soup: attending to sensation, gentleness, listening, failing/flailing, queering, patience, indirectness and collaboration. Christina is a past member of Mascher Space and a community member at The Art Room Studio. **Jesse Kudler** is a musician, composer, performer, and sound artist who plays and works with guitar, electronics, pipe organ, recordings, synthesizers, radios, tapes, movement, and text. His work is based in listening, improvisation, and collaboration (with people, devices, sites, and spaces) to explore ambiguous affects, perception, time, authorship, intention, agency, and modes and practices of listening.

Madeline Cantor recently finished a long stint at Bryn Mawr College where she taught in the dance program. As a choreographer she is interested in the intersection of the abstract poetry of dance with the specificity of language. She has investigated these ideas through movement essays, through a series of choreographed folktales for young audiences, and through memoir pieces. She is delighted to have this opportunity for dance with Dawn!

Dawn Pratson is a dancer, musician, choreographer and educator with a background in creative arts in therapy. Formal training includes a BA in music and dance, a master's degree in dance/movement therapy and a license in Dalcroze Eurhythmics. She was the founding music specialist at the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures charter school in Philly. Currently she teaches and performs with Michael Joviala in the group *Locomotors*, and on a free-lance basis, dividing her time between Philadelphia and Cape Ann, MA. More at dawnpratson.com

Michael Joviala is a composer/improviser/performer and teacher in New York City. He teaches Dalcroze eurhythmics to students of all ages at the Diller-Quaile School of Music and the Lucy Moses School of Music and in workshops worldwide. In 2020 he earned the Diplôme Supérieur from the Institut Jaques-Dalcroze in Geneva. He directs the Dalcroze Program at the Lucy Moses School in New York and has been on the faculty of the Dalcroze School of the Music and Movement in Dallas, Texas since 2019. He is the creator and music director of the improvising music and dance ensemble, *Locomotors*, which is currently in residence at the New York Chapter of the Dalcroze Society of America. He has called Brooklyn, New York home since 1992.