

Press Release

July 9, 2025

Music and Dance Performance by Locomotors ensemble: Dawn Pratson and Michael Joviala, with special guests Sarah Slifer Swift, dance, and Derick Merlander, visual artist.

at **Windhover Center for the Performing Arts**, 257 R. Granite Street, Rockport, MA

Friday, September 5, 2025, 8pm

Admission is \$20 and **TICKETS** can be purchased at <https://windhover.org/>

Contact m.joviala@yahoo.com for more information about the performance or workshop.

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

Locomotors is a collaborative music and dance group rooted in the practice of Dalcroze Eurhythmics and open-form improvisation, with a special focus on the somatic relationship between sound and movement. The core members are pianist and composer Michael Joviala, and dancer and choreographer Dawn Pratson.

This fall, Locomotors will explore new artistic ground through a dynamic interaction with the work of visual artist Derick Melander, whose large-scale sculptures made from secondhand clothing confront the intersection between global consumerism and the intimate relationship we have with what wear.

A special performance will take place on Friday September 5th, 2025, at 8pm at the Windhover Center for the Performing Arts, Rockport, MA, when Locomotors will be joined by Sarah Slifer Swift, dancer and director of Movement Arts Gloucester Massachusetts.

Workshop

The following day, Saturday, September 6th, the artists will lead a public workshop on improvised movement and music from 1-4 pm at MAGMA – Movement Arts Gloucester, MA. The workshop is open to participants of all levels, and will be followed by an informal, free performance at MAGMA at 7:00 in the evening.

Workshop fee is \$50. Registration and payment: <https://magma.center/>

Bios:

Michael Joviala, DMA is a composer/improviser/performer and teacher in New York City. He holds the Diplôme Supérieur from the Institute Jaques-Dalcroze in Geneva, Switzerland and directs the Professional Studies Program for Dalcroze Eurhythmics at the Lucy Moses School in New York. In addition, he works with students of all ages at the Diller-Quaile School of Music, The Dalcroze School of Music and Movement, Columbia University and offers workshops worldwide. He is the creator and music director of the improvising music and dance ensemble, *Locomotors*. He has called Brooklyn, New York home since 1992. <http://joviala.com/>

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 co-founded Dancers Courageous studio in Gloucester and also was the founder and director of 'LEVEN, a Cape Ann women's a cappella group. Dawn was the founding music specialist at the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures charter school in Philly and has been on the faculties of the University of the Arts, The Dalcroze School of Music and Movement, and Longy School of Music of Bard College.
dawnpratson.com

Derick Melander was born in Saratoga Springs, NY. He earned his B.F.A. from The School of Visual Arts, where he was the recipient of the Chairman's Grant. His work has been reviewed in The New York Times, Vogue, GQ and NPR. He has shown extensively in the U.S. with special projects for The City of San Francisco and The City of New York.

Recently, Derick had a solo show at CAS in Livingston Manor, NY and was a visiting artist at Fashion Institute of Technology and Parsons School of Design. He completed commissions for The Chapman Perelman Foundation in NYC, Circular Library in Los Angeles, Swire Properties in Hong Kong, and Diesel in Paris, France. Derick spends his time in Queens and Callicoon Center. <https://derickmelander.com/>

Sarah Slifer Swift is a dancer, educator, and the director of MAGMA Dance Center in Gloucester. She has taught at Boston Conservatory, Boston Ballet School, Boston Conservatory, Salem State University, George Washington University, Amsterdam College of Art/School for New Dance Development, and Scotland's National Center for Dance (Dance Base). She created dance curricula for Gloucester Public Schools, directed the Gloucester New Arts Festival and the Live Art Series in collaboration with Matthew Swift Gallery. Slifer Swift performed as a dancer with several contemporary dance companies and choreographers in the US and in Europe. Her choreography has received several grants and awards, including a Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship for Choreography. www.magma.center.com