

Max Pollak

Curriculum Vitae

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Awards & Nominations

- 2016 Flo-Bert Award
- 2011 Hooper Award winner
- 2011 Bessie Award nominee
- 2010 Individual Artist Grantee of the Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance
- 2008 Fellow in Choreography from the New York Foundation of the Arts
- 2007 Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch"
- 2001 Arts International Grant

Performance Credits

New York Stage Performances

- **The Duke on 42nd Street: Rhythm In Motion, Soloist (2017)**
- **St. Stephen's Church: Jazz Nativity (2016)**
- **14 St Y: Rhythm In Motion, Soloist, composer, arranger (2016)**
- **Sheen Center for Thought and Culture: The Art of the Duo, Cyro Baptista & Max Pollak (2016)**
- **Columbia Medical Center: MCNS Jazz Festival (2012-2017)**
- **St. Mark's Church: ISC & Accademia D'Estate Internazionale LUCCA**
- **"Sopra La Folia" (2016)**
- **St. Stephen's Church: Jazz Nativity (2015)**
- **DiMenna Center, Cary Hall: Eclectic Bands (2015)**
- **Brooklyn Conservatory of Music: Music Beyond Benefit (2015)**
- **Symphony Space: Sinatra @ 100 (2015)**
- **Kingsborough College: Tap City (2015)**
- **New Victory Theater: Victory Dance (2015)**
- **College of Staten Island: RumbaTap (2015)**
- **City Center: Career Transitions for Dancers Gala (2014)**
- **Hostos College: Larry Harlow Orchestra 40th Anniversary Concert (2014)**
- **St. Peter's Episcopal Church: Concert with String Orchestra of New York City (2014)**
- **West Point Eisenhower Hall/Hunter College: Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert (2013)**
- **Lincoln Center – Jazz at Lincoln Center, Alice Tully Hall, Meet The Artist, RumbaTap, Manhattan Tap, Feet 2 The Beat, Beat The Donkey (1995 – 2008) (Soloist w/ Cyro Baptista; Ray Brown, Danilo Perez, John DiMartino, Yosvany Terry, Dafnis Prieto, Bobby Sanabria's Quarteto Aché)**
- **Central Park Summer Stage: RumbaTap (2008), Beat The Donkey (2000)**
- **Joyce Theater: RumbaTap (2005), Urban Tap (2002)**
- **Joyce Soho: RumbaTap (2007, 2006)**
- **Apollo Theater: Dana Leong's Life After Dark (2009)**
- **Doris Duke Theater: RumbaTap (2001 – 2007), Dejelaba Groove (2005), Global Jam (2004), Tap City (2001 – 2007)**
- **New Victory Theater: Urban Tap (2001)**
- **Public Theatre: Shakespeare Sonnets on Tap (2007), Global Fest w/ Roxane Butterfly (2006)**
- **Symphony Space: Guest Soloist w/Los Muñequitos de Matanzas (2011), RumbaTap (2010, 2008, 2007), Jazz Nativity as Third King (usually played by Jimmy Slyde) w/ Paquito D'Rivera, Slide Hampton, Dave Valentin (2005)**

- **Town Hall:** Barry Harris Spring Concert w/ Jimmy Slyde (2002), Super Son Cubano w/ Jose Fajardo, J.P. Torres (1999), Manhattan Tap (1992)
- **Hudson Theater,** RumbaTap (2010)
- **Tribeca Arts Center:** Lost Jazz Shrines featuring Phil Woods, Roxane Butterfly (2008)
- **92nd Street Y:** RumbaTap (2007), Kathak Ensemble (2006)
- **La Mama:** RumbaTap (2007)

New York Club Performances

- **Meridian 23:** RumbaTap (2016)
- **Joe's Pub:** Beateez N'The Beat Revival (2015)
- **Drom:** RumbaTap CD Release concert (2015)
- **Joe's Pub:** RumbaTap (2012, 2007), Dana Leong (2009), Los Muñequitos de Matanzas (2002)
- **Jazz Standard:** TrioNada (2008), Grupo Los Santos (2008)
- **BB King's:** Jazz Nativity (2012, 2011, 2010, 2009)
- **DROM:** RumbaTap (2012, 2010, 2009)
- **Zinc Bar:** Samuel Torres Forced Displacement Band (2013), TrioNada (2010)
- **Cachaça:** The Paul Carlon Octet (2008)
- **Birdland:** Jazz Nativity (2006)
- **Makor:** RumbaTap (2003), Beat The Donkey (2003)
- **Bacchus Room:** Host of regular Jazz and Tap jam (2006)
- **Les Gamins:** Regular Weekly Tap Show (2003)
- **Bacchus Room:** Host of regular Jazz and Tap jam (2006)



National Performances

- **South Miami Dade Cultural Center:** RumbaTap (2017)
- **Santa Fe Fine Arts Hall, Gainesville, FL:** Bulla Cubana, RumbaTap with Gainesville Orchestra (2017)
- **Philadelphia Percussion Festival:** All In One (Solo show) (2016)
- **San Francisco Cuban Festival, CA:** All In One (Solo show) (2016)
- **St. Benedict/St. John's University, MN:** RumbaTap residency, performance (2016)

- **Northampton Jazz Workshop, MA:** Guest Jazz Artist (2016)
- **Opera North, Lebanon, NH:** All In One (Solo show) (2016)
- **University of Wisconsin Stevens Point:** RumbaTap - All In One (solo show and residency) (2016)
- **Rittenhouse Soundworks, Philadelphia** presents Max Pollak & friends (2016)
- **University of Wisconsin:** Stevens Point Tap Festival (2015)
- **The Arts Center Chapel Hill:** North Carolina Rhythm Tap Festival (2015)
- **The Loft @ The Clarion Hotel:** Northampton Jazz Workshop (2015)
- **Ordway Center, St. Paul, MN:** RumbaTap Residency & Performance Flint Hills Int. Children's Festival (2013)
- **Cowan Center, UT** at Tyler, TX: East Texas Symphony Orch. (2013)
- **Eisemann Center, Richardson/Dallas, TX:** Plano Symphony Orch. 30th Anniversary Gala (2012)
- **Symphony Hall at DECC, Duluth, MN:** Duluth Superior Symphony Orch. (2011)
- **Galvin Fine Arts Center, St. Ambrose University, Davenport, IA:** RumbaTap Residency & Performance (2011)
- **Concerts On The Hudson, Weehawken, NJ:** RumbaTap (2010)
- **Kennedy Center, Washington D.C.;** Beat The Donkey (2003) Urban Tap (2001)
- **Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival:** RumbaTap (2007, 2005) Jimmy Slyde and Friends (1996)
- **Chicago World Music Festival, Chicago IL;** Beat The Donkey (2003)
- **Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C.;** Lalo's Urban Myth (2008)
- **Festival International, Lafayette LA;** Beat The Donkey (2004)
- **Wesleyan University, Middletown CN;** Beat The Donkey (2003)
- **Battel Chappel, New Haven CN;** Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert (2003)

International Performances

- **Swinging Hannover Jazz Festival, Germany: Soloist with Hannover Big Band (2017)**
- **Vimma Arts Center, Turku, Finland: Ritmäbo, Soloist (2017)**
- **Zürich Tonhalle, Switzerland: Dance N’Rhythm, contemporary chamber music concert (2016)**
- **Ottawa Chamber Music Fest, Canada: Duo concerts w Michel Strauss, Dafnis Prieto (2016)**
- **Montreal University, Salle Claude Champagne: Orchestre Nouvelle Generation (2015)**
- **Montpellier Tap Festival (2015)**
- **Stockholm Tap Festival (2015)**
- **Het Veem, Amsterdam: Camerata Cubana de Amsterdam presents “Cuba Goes Tap” (2015)**
- **Turku, Finland: Ritmäbo (2014)**
- **Zürich, Switzerland: ART ATelieR, Duo Concert (2014)**
- **Giverny, France: Musique de Chambre á Giverny (2014)**
- **Schwaz, Austria: Outreach Festival (2014)**
- **Hamburg, Germany: Schleswig Holstein Musik Festival, Solo Show (2014)**
- **Vienna, Austria: Porgy & Bess (2014)**
- **Athens, Greece: Rhythm Summit Festival (2014)**
- **Quebec, Canada: Orford Festival, Les Violons Du Roy (2013)**
- **Kitchener, Ontario: Center In The Square, Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orch. (2013)**
- **Tokyo, Japan: Kokuritsu Olympic Center, Tokyo International Tap Festival (2013)**
- **Istanbul, Turkey: Akbank Jazz Festival - Nardis Jazz Club; International Body Music Festival - Notre Dame de Sion Concert Hall (both 2012)**
- **Moscow, Russia: Durov Club; St. Petersburg, Russia: Jagger Club, (both 2012)**
- **Rio De Janeiro: Rock In Rio & SESC Copacabana (2011)**
- **London, UK: Ronnie Scott’s Club (2010), Sadler’s Wells, Peacock Theater (1998)**
- **São Paulo, Brasil: Centro Cultural, Centro Cultural da Juventude Ruth Cardoso, Teatro Nair Belo (2010)**
- **Berlin, Germany: Filmbühne am Steinplatz: Jazz ‘ N Tap (2008)**
- **Barcelona, Spain: Mercat de les Flors: Max Pollak en Vivo (2008)**
- **Athens, Greece: Philipos Nakas Conservatory: Solo Concert (2008)**
- **Lefkada Island, Greece: Founder of annual Rhythm Summit Festival (2007-2014)**
- **Riga, Latvia: International Tap Dance Festival: RumbaTap (2007)**
- **Düsseldorf, Germany: Tap Ahead Festival (2007, 2006, 2003)**
- **Bern, Switzerland: Köniz Castle: Solo Concert (2007)**
- **Havana, Cuba: RumbaTap (2006) (2001) Cuban Tap Festival, Tambo Cuba (2001)**
- **Helsinki, Finland: Feet Beet Tap Festival (2006, 2005, 2003, 2002)**
- **Tokyo & Kyoto, Japan: RumbaTap (2013, 2009, 2005)**
- **Vienna, Austria: Konzerthaus, Guest Soloist (2004)**
- **Agadir, Morocco: Timitar Festival; Beat The Donkey (2004)**
- **Talinn, Estonia: Russian Theatre; Talin Tap Festival (2004, 2003)**
- **Berlin, Germany: International Tap Festival; Solo Concert (2002)**
- **Kuopio, Finland: Kuopio Dance Festival (2001)**
- **Lisbon, Portugal: Cool Heat/Urban Heat (2001)**

International Tours

- **Solo Concerts (1995 – 2016):** Austria, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Japan, Latvia, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine
- **RumbaTap (2004 – 2013):** Austria, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Monaco, Switzerland, Turkey
- **TrioNada (2008, 2007):** Austria, Germany
- **Beat The Donkey (2000 – 2006) w/Cyro Baptista:** Belgium, France, Holland, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Switzerland
- **Cool Heat – Urban Beat (1998 – 2001) w/ Tamango & Rennie Harris:** Australia, Denmark, England, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Portugal, Scotland

- **Feet 2 The Beat** (1997 – 2001) w/ Rod Ferrone: Canada, Colombia, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Venezuela
- **Manhattan Tap** (1992 – 1997): Canada, England, France, Scotland, Switzerland

Films / Documentaries

- **Tap Or Die** (2013) US Documentary
- **Da Me La Mano** (2003) Dutch Documentary
- **La Historia de la Rumba** (2002) Cuban Documentary
- **Como Se Forma Una Rumba** (2001) US Documentary, featured at “Latin Beat Film Festival”, Lincoln Center
- **Latido Latino** (2000) Spanish Documentary
- **The Tango Lesson** (1997) Tap coach for lead actor Pablo Veron

Discography

- **RumbaTap** (2015) Max Pollak
- **Clave Heart** (2013) Grupo Los Santos
- **TrioNada** (2008) TrioNada
- **Roots Propaganda** (2008) Paul Carlon Octet
- **Lalo’s Urban Myth** (2008) Lalo’s Urban Myth
- **Lo Que Somos Lo Que Sea** (2008) Grupo Los Santos
- **Other Tongues** (2007) Paul Carlon Octet
- **Love The Donkey** (2005) Beat The Donkey
- **Cyro Baptista & Beat The Donkey** (2002) Beat The Donkey
- **El Otro Lado** (2001) Syotos Band, members of Tito Puente Orchestra
- **Cool Heat – Urban Beat** (1999) live at Spoleto Festival, Italy

Published Articles

- **Dance Magazine**
 - ❖ *What I love about Tap*: Max Pollak reflects on his favorite moments in Tap history (May 2008)
 - ❖ *Tap Dance Technique* (September 2007)
 - ❖ *Global Tap* (May 2007)
- **Ballet Tanz Magazin, Germany**
 - ❖ *A Brief History of Tap Dance* (2002)
 - ❖ **On Tap** (International Tap Association Newsletter)
 - ❖ *Making Money To Cabaret With Vaudeville Generations*: Phace Roberts, Rod Ferrone (2001)
 - ❖ *Closing The Gap – Tap Generations*: Buster Brown, Roxane Butterfly (1999)
 - ❖ *Interview with a Tap Diva*: Tina Pratt (1999)
 - ❖ *The Real Jimmy Slyde* (1997)

University Lectures/Residencies (1995 – 2016)

- Royal Dutch Conservatory, Den Haag, NL, 2016
- Prince Claus Conservatory, Groningen, NL, 2016
- Wesleyan University: Dance Masters (2016)
- Special Music School at Kaufmann Center (2016)
- Barnard College (2015)
- Juilliard (2015)
- Hunter College (2014)
- Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY
- University of Minnesota, Minneapolis & Duluth
- New School for Social Research, NYC
- Australia: Worawa Aboriginal College, Melbourne
- Cuba: Instituto Superior de Arte, Escuela Nacional de Arte; Havana
- Germany: University at Leipzig

Updated as of June 2017