

MoveSpeakSpin

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Release: immediate

***Mosaic, a dance concert about peace, justice, culture, and conflict in the Middle East,* by Karl Schaffer, June 21, 22, 2013 in Santa Cruz at Motion Pacific.**

"After nearly 40 years working actively on Israel/Palestine, I must say the performance was the most powerful on target creative effort I have ever witnessed on the issue." - [Stephen Zunes](#), Prof. of Politics and Chair of Middle Eastern Studies at the Univ. of San Francisco, on the 2011 preview production of *Mosaic*.

Hold the Date - *Mosaic*, the new concert by Karl Schaffer, performs two nights only, Fri/Sat. June 21/22 at 8 PM at Motion Pacific. The title refers to the range of subjects that inspired Schaffer's choreography, from the Palestinian/Israeli struggle to the mosaic tilings common in Middle Eastern art. The concert includes live performance by local women's world choral group [Zambra](#) and Moroccan musician [Fattah Abbou](#) of the group AZA.

Also on the program are a trio of dances set to Jewish Diaspora and Arabic folk songs sung by [Zambra](#). The mathematics of Islamic tiling designs will be portrayed through live "video tessellations," or video mosaics, of dancers projected on screens, accompanied by [Zambra](#), with software created by Kevin Lee. Karl Schaffer will perform a solo exploring his growing up Jewish in the Deep South during the civil rights era and his connecting of these experiences to his opposition to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land.

Other dance works include

"Machine Gun," a tap dance to the rapid-fire machine gun sounds of a Jimi Hendrix song, about the relentless march of death of contemporary warfare.

"Into a Bar," in which two dancers spar via popular online jokes about Palestinians and Israelis.

"A Circle Has No Sides" – a duet in for two dancers bound together and struggling in a small area, set to a piano score composed for the concert by "mathemusician" [VI Hart](#).

"The Mourning After" – a solo set to Bach depicting the loss of a child in war, performed by [Maria Basile](#), co-director of [sjDANCEco](#).

Karl Schaffer is co-artistic director with Erik Stern of the [Dr. Schaffer and Mr. Stern Dance Ensemble](#), which has performed nationally and internationally for twenty-five years. Schaffer and Stern are on the Teaching Artist Roster of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for their work integrating dance and mathematics. In 2012, Schaffer created the concert, *The Daughters of Hypatia: Circles of Mathematical Women*, celebrating the lives, struggles, and work of important women mathematicians, and his choreography appeared in *Harmonious Equations*, directed by National Public Radio's "Math Guy" Keith Devlin and incorporating the songs of [Zambra](#). His concert, *Fallout*, in 2007, included five dances dealing with issues of war, peace, and occupation. His recent math and dance work includes outreach shows currently performed in Alabama and Colorado, a 3-week Mellon residency at the Tri-Colleges Bryn Mawr, Haverford, and Swarthmore in 2012, and an article published in *The Best Writing on Mathematics, 2012*. Schaffer served as an alternate judge and he performed at the 2011 National Society of Arts and Letters Choreography Competition.

Dancers for the show are:

[Maria Basile](#), co-artistic director of [sjDANCEco](#), has danced with Limon West, Spector Dance, and many others. She has choreographed for Cabrillo Music Festival, San Jose Opera, and the Midsummer Mozart Festival, and was a recent Isadora Duncan Award nominee for the best dance performance in the Bay Area.

[Libbey Blumberg](#) has performed with 8 Tens @ Eight, as a dancer and actor with various film and television artists in Los Angeles, and as a dancer in a number of works by Karl Schaffer for over fifteen years.

[Mary Chase](#), based in Monterey, has danced with Stamping Zebra Dance Theatre, Tandy Beal and Co.,

and choreographed for Monterey Peninsula College. She holds an M.F.A. in Dance from the University of Texas at Austin, and her works have been performed throughout the US and internationally.

Erica Freestone, based in Monterey, received the Eisner Award for highest creative achievement and distinguished artistic talent in dance when a student at UC Berkeley. She dances with the Monterey Dance Collective, Atelier5, Tandy Beal Dance Company, and Mary Chase.

Simon Harrison has been dancing for ten years and is a recognized California Arts Scholar. He has danced professionally with Shakespeare Santa Cruz and Tandy Beal & Co.

Jane Real has an MA in Dance and a MS in Elementary Education, has been Rehearsal Director and performer with Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane and Co. and Director of the Dance Network of Brooklyn, NY, and has recently performed with Tandy Beal and Company.

Saki has performed and taught dance, circus arts, theatre and gymnastics with Tandy Beal & Company, New Pickle Circus, West Performing Arts with Terri Steinmann, Gymnastics Learning Center at Santa Cruz Sports Central and for over ten years with the Dr. Schaffer & Mr. Stern Dance Ensemble.

Lila Salhov has a B.F.A. in Dance from Boston Conservatory, has performed as a member of the Windhover Dance Company in Boston and Jessica Danser/dansfolk in New York City, has been on faculty at Ballet Hispanico and the Marymount School in Manhattan, and currently dances and teaches in the Bay Area.

Laurel Shastri served 17 years at Ballet Tennessee in Chattanooga, as Associate Director, company dancer, and faculty. She has an MS in Geology, and is a teaching artist specializing in dance integrated curriculum based lessons.

Music by

Zambra. Based in Santa Cruz, Zambra sings global vocal music in over 15 languages. Founded in 1994, Zambra was originally a bilingual community women's choir, but has since evolved into a smaller performing ensemble of ten accomplished singers who mostly perform a capella. Past performances include the Cabrillo Music Festival, First Night Santa Cruz, First Night Monterey, Santa Cruz Acapellafest, and "Harmonious Equations" with Keith Devlin and Karl Schaffer.

Fattah Abbou, born and raised in Morocco, is a master of traditional Berber and North African music. Proficient on many string and percussion instruments, he is a sought after music and cultural educator who presents at schools and universities throughout the United States, in addition to performing nationally and internationally with the Santa Cruz based group **AZA**.

VI Hart, "mathemusician," is a composer with interests in the mathematics of symmetry, polyhedra, computational geometry. Her online videos integrating math, music, and zany humor have recently become an internet sensation.

"Karl Schaffer is brilliant at combining exciting dance movement with information. *Daughters of Hypatia* is a tremendously important celebration of the many women who have not only triumphed in the mathematical field, but whose work has changed the course of mathematical understanding. *Daughters of Hypatia* exceeds all expectations to create a fast paced and exceptional program of entertainment and vital information." - Ann Simonton, Coordinator and Founder of [Media Watch](#)

Date/time: Friday, June 21, 2013 at 8 PM

Saturday, June 22, 2013 at 8 PM

Location: [Motion Pacific](#), 131 Front St., Santa Cruz, CA

Tickets: available at [MotionPacific.com](#), general: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, students and seniors: \$13 in advance, \$15 at door

Seating is limited, please purchase tickets in advance.

More information: [movespeakspin.org](#)

Photos: [Steve DiBartolomeo](#).

Lighting and Technical Direction: Chip.

Music: [Zambra](#), [Fattah Abbou](#), [VI Hart](#), Bach, Jimi Hendrix, Taschen



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