SCHOOL OF **MUSIC**

TEXAS TECH

J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts

GUEST ARTIST RECITAL

Sandy Silva, *dancer, choreographer & composer*

Tech Folk Orchestra

Saturday, April 25th, 2026 | 4:00pm
Hemmle Recital Hall

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Sandy Silva was among the first to combine body percussion techniques and contemporary movement with percussive dance. Over the past three and half decades, Sandy has developed a personal dance vocabulary based on the percussive movement practices of Hungary, Appalachia, Cape Breton, and Andalusia, and the idioms of circus, contemporary dance, and theater. Silva's choreography weaves a dialogue between these gestural and rhythmic repertoires, blending the local and global in a contemporary corporeal response to her world. Born in Riverside California, Sandy studied dance anthropology at Evergreen State College. As part of her studies, Sandy traveled to Spain, Hungary, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Ireland, Turkey, Morocco, and Brazil to engage ethnographically with world percussive dance forms. In the late-1990s she began sharing her anomalous approach to percussive dance through workshopping and performing throughout Québéc, before making Montreal her home in 2004 to work as a featured performer with La Bottine Souriante and 7 Doigts de la Main's Fibonacci Project. Sandy also began her teaching career at Québéc's world-renowned National Circus School/ École Nationale de Cirque and as a visiting artist at five International Body Music Festivals. In 2023, Sandy was the recipient of the McKnight International Choreographer award. Sandy's compositions and body percussion draw upon traditional art practices of Turkish *Usul* rhythms, African-American juba, Québécois gigue, Celtic mouth music, Andalusian *palmas*, and Hungarian *legényes*. Her choreographies integrate voice with rooted sounds and gestures to

evoke themes of travel, journey, and migration. In her teaching, Sandy grounds collective experience through a common pulse, always with an aspiration towards nourishing personal practice suited to each participant's skill, capacity, and genre. In 2014 Sandy began creating and producing films with acclaimed filmmaker Marlene Millar. Their ongoing collaboration, the Migration Dance Film Project has yielded seven international award-winning films combining body percussion, song, rhythm, movement, and story.

In today's concert-workshop, Sandy will share several of these films, discuss her creative process, and lead both the TFO, and the audience, in a demonstration of her creative practice!

TECH FOLK ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL

Christopher Smith, *director*; Elisia Arrieta, *dance, voice, flute*; Corban Beauchamp, *baritone saxophone*; Matthew Blomstrom, *clarinet*; Luke Carp, *trumpet*; Peyton Culp, *dance, voice*; Jackson Dunivan, *horn*; Natalie DeChaine, *bass clarinet*; Ethan Do, *clarinet*; Roger Dominguez, *soprano saxophone, co-section leader*; Cam Faught, *fiddle*; Tara Findley, *dance, voice*; Anthony Flores, *drums, percussion*; James Fludd, *tenor saxophone*; Cassidy Forehand, *fiddle, section leader*; Edith Frank, *flute, co-section leader*; Brendan Funk, *trumpet*; CJ Goodyear, *fiddle*; Libby Herring, *viola*; Django Jones, *mandolin, mandola*; Emma Mankowski, *fiddle*; Rylan Partin, *bass guitar;* Marisol Manzanares *alto saxophone*; Raven Matthews, *clarinet*; Porter McClellan, *alto saxophone*; Adeline Morrison, *dance, voice*; Connor Oliver, *horn*; Ethan Peacock, *cello, mountain dulcimer*; Rafi Quilpas, *horn*; Marta Rodriguez, *dance, voice*; Allison Sessom, *flute, co-section leader*; Jared Sherman, *euphonium*; Ricky Soliz, *trumpet;* Steve Stallings, *guitar, section leader*; Kaity Swecker, *dance, voice, dance captain*; Erick Valle, *fiddle*; Thea Willner, *mandolin*; Malik Winston, *fiddle.*

www.eternalstalwartsorchestra.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Texas Tech Music Theatre and Opera Theatre Collaboration: Sweeney Todd (SOLD OUT)
2:00 PM, Sunday, April 26th
Maedgen Theatre

University Band
2:00 PM, Sunday, April 26th
Hemmle Recital Hall

Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Orchestra
7:30 PM, Sunday, April 26th
Hemmle Recital Hall