

Hannaleena Markkanen is a Finnish Rhythm Artist, Dancer, Teacher and Choreographer who specializes in working with vulnerable people such as immigrant groups, people with mental health challenges, elderly citizens and people with disabilities. She holds two bachelor's degrees; one in Dance Education and the other in Psychology. She has also graduated from the program of the ORFF Music Pedagogy in Finland. Currently she works as a dance and rhythm educator in Dance Department of Live Vocational College for special need students in Espoo, Finland. She has strong background in the Educational system and works on further developing pedagogical processes to better meet the needs of different individuals.

Hannaleena has performed and collaborated nationally and internationally for more than 20 years. In her vision dance is visual music. She is fascinated by the silent music that movement can create, but also the sound dance can produce. Her journey through dance has been strongly coloured by that thought and this led her working with Body Music and Tap Dance which both give her the opportunity to be the music she dances. Her work has been supported by the Arts Promotion Centre Finland and by the Finnish Cultural Foundation.

Working with vulnerable groups for the past 10 years, she has shifted her career into listening and breathing more than before and by doing that she has found new interests in community arts and shared experiences. She works to create trust and open atmosphere and believes that wellbeing begins by opening a dialogue with your own body.

Hannaleena is active in cultural politics and is currently the Vice President of the Union of the Dance and Circus Artists Finland. She takes strong stance on creating equal opportunities and mentally and physically safe work conditions for all.

Martina Jordan is a Swedish Musician, Dancer and Teacher with a Master of Eurhythmics and an Artistic Degree in Dance. During her professional life she has developed artistic projects and works on commission from various institutions of music and teacher education. As a Eurhythmics practitioner, Martina is constantly exploring the multifaceted interactions between music and movement. With that as a starting point she teaches and performs nationally and internationally.

During the last ten years Martina has been involved in community art as well as working with newly arrivals and providing art within health care. In this field of work she has found the act of listening to be of crucial importance. Listening in the sense of giving the other space to tell one's self into the world.

Martina lives in Fisksätra, a local community, largely characterized by migration, with inhabitants from about 125 nations. Here she has engaged herself in community art, collaborating with Fisksätra Museum, a cultural policy laboratory. The projects, mostly 3 year long and supported by the Swedish Arts Council, develop on the basis of the inhabitants own life stories, expressed through poetry, music, dance, performances and exhibitions.

Martina has also worked with Teacher Education at Södertörn University, teaching courses such as “Crisis and conflict management” and “Group processes and communication”. Using Aesthetic Learning Processes as a method, she has facilitated for students to incorporate subject and literature through music and movement. Listening and body awareness also plays an important part of this method.

Natasa Chanta-Martin used dance to approach music and she promotes intercultural dialogue through performing arts. She specialises in dance anthropology and ethnochoreology and she focuses on traditions that use the voice and the body to produce music (body music, body percussion, tap dance). She has participated in projects that promote inclusiveness and as a researcher of the European Network Against Racism (E.N.A.R.). Other projects towards community building and intergenerational work are: MoAM-Moving Around Music, Athens Tap Jam, Body Music Studygroup, as well as her active role at Anasa Cultural Center (GR) and International Body Music Festival (USA). Natasa collaborates with artistic groups, minority groups, schools and institutions.

More specifically, Natasa obtained her dancing and teaching diplomas from the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (I.S.T.D., UK) and the Royal Academy of Dance (R.A.D., UK) while completing her bachelor studies in Sociology (Panteion University). She is the first Greek scholarship holder of the MA in dance anthropology and ethnochoreology called Choreomundus: International Master's in Dance Knowledge, Practice and Heritage. She is a fellow of Robert Bosch Stiftung through which she initiated a community dance project at the Athens Senior Home along with refugee shelters called Moving Around Music. Natasa has collaborated with the deaf theatre team 'Crazy Colors', the inclusive festivals KYMA and Our Festival, and she has been assistant teacher at the Greek National Opera's social dance programme called Connecting Body, led by Yiota Peklari. Natasa is an active advocate for racial equality through her artistic work at Anasa Cultural Center, and a passionate activist for gender equality through her participation in initiatives, such as BodyNatyam dance collective, and QueerInk.