

EILEEN CARSON SCHATZ
Founding Director, Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble
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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Choreographer, dancer, vocalist, songwriter, and teacher. Founder and Artistic Director of Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble, 1979-present. With strong roots in Southern Appalachian culture and a continuing interest in traditions related to these roots, Ms. Carson presents live music and dance as a celebration of cultural diversity and traditional arts. Her work is known for its irresistible appeal to a wide range of the general public including enthusiasts of folk and traditional arts as well as theater concert audiences, and also to young audiences due to Ms. Carson's ongoing dedication to arts-in-education. In 1999-2015, Ms. Carson performed in theater, festival, college and school settings with Footworks in thirty-eight states, three Canadian provinces and Finland. She has conducted residencies at several universities across the United States and completed eleven tours of the United Kingdom with Footworks. In 1996, Ms. Carson choreographed for and performed in the London production of *Riverdance* with Footworks and the company was also chosen in 1994 by the Smithsonian as one of eight groups representing American culture in Japan. Other highlight performances include the 2006 creation and presentation of a citywide residency for the Smithsonian in Long Beach, CA, the 2008 Vale International Dance Festival, 2010-14 "Steps and Stripes" throughout MD, and the 2014 International Bluegrass Music Association's Award Show that aired nationally on PBS in 2015.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2014 Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award for Choreography
2011 Guest Artist on Grammy nominated recording, "Memories of John" on Compass Records
2010 Recipient of Commission from Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts to create "Steps and Stripes" for the 50th Americans for the Arts Conference
2006 Artist of the Year Award from Young Audiences of Maryland
2000 Annie Award from The Arts Council of Anne Arundel County
2000 Honored by Young Audiences of Maryland for over 20 years of service in Maryland schools
1998 Frances Hughes Glendening's Celebration of the Arts in Maryland Award
1997 Best Gospel Song, Chris Austin Song Writing Competition
1997 Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award for Choreography
1994-1996 National Endowment for the Arts Choreography Fellowship
1992-1998 Baltimore Community Foundation funding for school residencies
1980- present, Maryland State Arts Council General Operating annual grant and Arts-in-Education funding for school residencies
1980- present, Arts Council of Anne Arundel County General Operating annual grant and funding for youth programming and residencies

WORK EXPERIENCE

-Founder and Artistic Director, Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble, 1979-present
- Director, Footworks Student Company, 2001- 2010
-Executive Director, Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble, 1979-2003, 2008 – present
-Featured Vocalist, 1980 – present with Footworks internationally, with "Mark Schatz and Friends," and with the "Gratitones" locally.
-Producer, 1997- present: Conceives and produces concert productions
-Choreographer, 1979-present: Choreography highlights include "Hot Strings and Flying Feet", 2015, "Appalachian Suite" for the Berea College Country Dancers, 2015, "Southern Neighbors" for Companie de la Danse Manigance, Quebec, 2015, the opening number for the 2014 International Bluegrass Music Association's Award Show televised nationally on PBS in 2015, the 2010-14 production "Steps and Stripes", the 2003-04 production "SoleMates," the 2001-02 production "The Crossing," a piece for the 1996 production of "Riverdance" in London, and the 1994 "Smithsonian in Japan" project.
-Performing Artist, 1974-present: Dancer and Vocalist, most often appearing with Footworks, also as guest artist with many other projects and ensembles
-Certified Teaching Artist in Md, 2007-present: planning and presenting of arts integrated residencies in MD schools
-Dance teacher, 1975-present. Teaching internationally, across the United States and throughout Maryland. From Master Classes for ballet companies to classes for the general public at major festivals and dance camps including: Peabody Prep, Baltimore Folk Music Society, Augusta Heritage Workshops, Vancouver and Mission Folk Music Festivals (British Columbia, Canada), Pinewoods, The Cecil Sharpe House (London, England), RockyGrass Academy (Lyons, Colorado), and Common Ground on the Hill, McDaniel College (Westminster, MD)
-Designs residency programs, 1980-Present, including "Clogging and Movement for Teens", a culturally diverse dance intensive for teenagers with or without previous dance experience; and "Roots and Rhythm", a one-week

youth program presented in schools and summer camps.

- Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts: Teaching classes, summer programs and producing, directing and choreographing semi-annual concerts with Footworks.
- Created and presented "Community Rhythm Project" in 2003 – 2009 through funding from Parole Rotary and Cultural Arts Foundation of Anne Arundel County.
- Ensemble member, Green Grass Cloggers, 1974-1979: Noted for popularizing traditional Southern Appalachian clogging with performances throughout the North American folk festival circuit, the Green Grass Cloggers also performed at Carnegie Hall and appeared on the CBS Dance Special.