



Lara Gonzalez



Yael Shacham

# MaRaFaNyI

*Drum, Dance and Song from the Heart in Poetic Motion*

## percussion

With big hearts and open minds, international Performing, Touring, Recording and Teaching Artistes, **Lara Gonzalez** and **Yael Shacham**, fell in love with West Africa. They frequently travel to Guinea and focus on the dynamic and lyrical music and dance from a variety of ethnic groups.

Together, these pioneering ladies present an artistic expression combining rhythm, movement, song and spoken word in poetic motion. Their original music is inspired, fueled and infused by their experiences with indigenous artistes in the capital region of Guinea. As an opening act they have supported musicians from multiple genres including ~

**World:** Dominic Kanza, Fula Flute

**Jazz:** Perry Robinson

**Folk:** Odetta

**Rock:** Hamell on Trial

**Metaphysical:** Ram Dass

**"dripping with style"**

— Dr. E. Shacham, PhD

**"The energy, joy and inspired performance were just the kind of balm I needed"**

— P. Skiffi, poet & recording artist

As headliners they have performed in a variety of venues from intimate house concerts to multi-media performance art events. Marafanyi Percussion enjoys frequent television, radio and benefit appearances.

**"Marafanyi added great energy and panache . . . your music was terrific"**

— Jana La Sorte, Director of Marketing, South Orange Performing Arts Center

**"Your music created a wonderful ambience"**

— Lucas Van Den Broeck, Executive Director, Action Against Hunger

**Performance, Workshops & Residencies,**

All Ages/Populations/Educational/Therapeutic,  
with a Focus on Well-Being, Empowerment and Creativity  
Honoring Diversity, The Community Spirit and Our Ancestors



**CONTACT MARAFANYI PERCUSSION**

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web [RootsHeartPulse.com](http://RootsHeartPulse.com) and

[MySpace.com/MarafanyiPercussion](http://MySpace.com/MarafanyiPercussion)

references [MatchBook.org](http://MatchBook.org)

photos by Erin Mills



# Marafanyí

*Drum, Dance and Song*

*from the Heart in Poetic Motion*

*featuring Yael Shacham & Lara Gonzalez*

## Resumé Highlights

**"...Your professional, dependable, and consistently high quality work has made you an integral part of our healing arts work."**

**— Karen Carbonello, M.A., President, Creative Heartwork**

### Co-Bills

- Odetta
- Fula Flute
- Famoro Dioubate's Kakande
- Dominic Kanza and African Rhythm Machine
- Mesgana Dancers of Ethiopia
- Squonk Opera
- Hamell on Trial
- Tony Vacca
- John Kruth
- Glen Fittin
- Perry Robinson
- Rio Clemente
- Rodney Yee
- Ram Dass

**"... You were unbelievable!"**

**— Dominic Kanza, African Rhythm Machine**

### Benefits

- Action Against Hunger USA, NYC
- Guinea Artiste Fundraisers
- Sierra Leonean Surgical Effort, NJ
- Kopeyia Ghana School Fund, NJ
- Benefit For Babatunde Olatunji, NY
- Louison House, MA
- Genesis Farm Learning Center for Earth Studies, NJ
- American Cancer Survivors, NJ
- Arthritis Foundation, NJ
- World Music Benefit for American Red Cross, NJ
- Underground Concerts WTC Disaster Relief, NJ

**"I thought you were outstanding in both your music and your manner. You match or surpass all of the music therapists that I have worked with."**

**You are both incredible!!"**

**— Christine Harris, Board Certified Art Therapist**

### Venues/Performances

- Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA)
- Knitting Factory, NYC
- Topia Arts Center / Cafe / Inn, MA
- South Orange Performing Arts Center, NJ
- Bodles Opera House, NY
- First Night Albany, NY and Summit, NJ
- Myhelan Cultural Arts Center, NJ
- Watchung Arts Center, NJ
- The Morris Museum, NJ
- The Bickford Theater, NJ
- Arts Council of Princeton, NJ
- Grounds For Sculpture, NJ
- The Loft / VT Jazz Center, VT
- Jersey City Artists Studio Tour, NJ
- North Adams Open Studios Tour, MA
- Eclipse & Beaver Mill Galleries, MA
- Natural Bridge State Park, MA
- Summer Concerts at Centennial Park, NJ
- Easton Shad Arts Festival, PA
- People's Voice Cafe, NYC
- Concerts at the Crossing, NJ
- Underground Concert Series, NJ
- Home Grown Radio NJ Music Fest, NJ

### Therapeutic Affiliations

- Creative Heart Work, NJ
- Wellness Arts Enrichment Center, NJ
- Music For All Seasons, NJ
- Center for Prevention & Counseling, NJ
- New Bridge Behavioral Health Care, NJ
- Richard Hall Community Health Center, NJ
- St. Peter's Orphanage, NJ
- St Clare's Hospital and Center for Complementary Medicine, NJ
- UBHC/Child & Adolescent Services, NJ
- Austen Riggs Center, MA
- Montgomery Academy, NJ
- Studio Yoga, Adaptive Yoga, Yoga West, Soma Center and Naturally Yoga, NJ
- Frog Lotus Yoga, MA

### Educational/Community Affiliations

- NJ Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), resident dance accompanists
- Wolftrap Early Learning Through The Arts™, NJPAC resident teaching artist
- Northern Berkshire Creative Arts, MA resident teaching artists
- Music Together™, NY, NJ
- Rhythms Center for Movement Arts, MA
- Berkshire Dance Theater, MA
- Lenox Community Center, MA
- Villanova University, PA
- Sussex County Community College, NJ Women's Center & Center for Cultural Diversity
- NJ State/Regional Teen Arts Festivals
- Ridge High School, NJ
- Delbarton Prep School, NJ
- Highpoint Regional High School, NJ
- New Providence Middle/High Schools, NJ
- Pine Cobble Elementary School, MA
- Hadley Elementary School, MA
- Riverview Elementary School, NJ
- Salt Brook School, NJ
- Allan W. Roberts School, NJ
- The Willow School, NJ
- Garden Pre-School, NJ
- The School House, NJ
- Montessori Schools, Cambridge, MA and Morristown, Madison, Basking Ridge, NJ
- Somerset County, Roselle and Montclair Libraries, NJ
- Madison, Montclair YMCA, NJ
- Roanoke Valley YMCA Magic Place, VA
- Adult Schools of Montclair, Maplewood and the Chatham/Madison/Florham Park, NJ
- Railroad Street Youth Project, MA
- Neighborhood House/NJ After 3, NJ
- Girl Scouts of America
- Sussex County Coalition for Healthy and Safe Families, NJ
- Sussex County Red Ribbon Day, NJ
- Sussex County REBEL, NJ
- Plainsboro Traditions Showcase, NJ
- First Church of Religious Science, NJ
- Unitarian Universalist Congregations of Marlboro, MA, Princeton, Titusville, Morristown, NJ

**"Thank you for working with us toward enriching the lives of children"**

**— Sanaz Hojreh, Assistant V.P. Arts Education, New Jersey Performing Arts Center**

### CONTACT

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