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Global Arts Live presents
Subject:Matter
Songbook

February 05, 8pm
**Crystal Ballroom at Somerville
Theatre**

Global Arts Live: 617.876.4275
globalartslive.org

Boston, MA — Global Arts Live presents Boston-based tap sensations [Subject:Matter](http://globalartslive.org) performing *Songbook* on Saturday, February 05, 8pm at the [Crystal Ballroom at Somerville Theatre](http://globalartslive.org), 55 Davis Sq., Somerville. Tickets are \$28–\$35, cabaret seating. For tickets and information call Global Arts Live at 617.876.4275 or buy online at globalartslive.org.

Subject:Matter explores where tap dance has been, where it's going, and what it looks like right now. The company and its touring band perform *Songbook*, a reimagining of beloved tunes from the Great American Songbook featuring some of New England's best tap dancers and musicians.

Subject:Matter is a tap dance company based in Boston, MA. Since its founding in 2015, the company has created and performed almost 20 different pieces in over 50 different venues across the East Coast, Midwest, and Canada. The company has been featured at the Institute of Contemporary Art and Museum of Fine Art in Boston, The Inside/Out Stage at Jacob's Pillow, Joe's Pub in New York City with Dance Now, House of Blues Boston, Musikfest in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, The Montreal Fringe Festival, Stage 773 in Chicago, Illinois, and with a residency at MASS MoCA and The Yard. Subject:Matter is a staple of Boston's tap dance community, holding jams and community events for all ages. Working through both the dance and music sides of the tap dance genre, Subject:Matter offers pieces that are suitable for the concert dance stage and music festival.

Songbook, a collection of dances made to songs from the Great American Songbook, explores contemporary tap dance rhythms over new arrangements of these classic tunes. The piece is performed by tap dancers Jackson Clayton, Ian Berg, and Samantha Emmond with a live band featuring Max Ridley on bass, Tyson Jackson on drums, and Chase Morrin on piano.

Songbook contains six improvised group pieces and three improvised solos. Songs include

"Mack the Knife," "Billie's Bounce," "If I Were a Bell," "Just You Just Me," "But Not for Me," and "Seven Steps to Heaven." The arrangements and the dances are filled with references to influential tap dance and jazz artists. For example, the arrangement of "Mack the Knife" is based around an Ella Fitzgerald arrangement ("Ella in Berlin") with a pulse pulled from Boston tap dance legend Leon Collins's work "Tappapella." This piece is a tribute to the dancers and musicians who created this artform and is filled with references to artists like Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald, Dr. Jimmy Slyde, and Baby Laurence. Since 2017, Dianne Walker has been teaching the work of master Boston tap dancer Leon Collins in Boston, and the members of Subject:Matter are staples in her class. Much of Songbook is a tribute to those two dancers specifically and celebrates how tap dancing and taking a solo to a jazz standard is such a critical part of tap dance's history and the coming of age as a tap dancer.

Songbook has been featured at MASS MoCA, Jacob's Pillow, The Museum of Fine Art in Boston, and Joe's Pub in New York City. It has been performed with guest artists Derick Grant and Dianne Walker.

Subject:Matter has toured this piece to dance and music festivals alike, and recently has decided to record it as an album. This performance will be recorded live for use on part of the upcoming record.

For more information:

[Website](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)

High resolution images [here](#).

Please note: Masks will be required indoors for all patrons, and staff. All must present either [proof of vaccination or negative COVID test](#) in order to enter the venue. For details see globalartslive.org/covid-safety-protocols.

[Global Arts Live](#) is a nonprofit organization that brings inspiring music and dance from all corners of the world to stages across greater Boston. By putting the spotlight on exceptional artists and reflecting the diverse and vibrant community that is Boston, we aspire to transcend borders, cultivate community, and enrich lives. A trusted curator for almost 30 years, Global Arts Live has made live, international music, and dance a vital part of Boston's cultural scene by featuring more than 800 artists from 70+ countries in over 1,500 performances attended by more than one million people. To be as inclusive as possible, foster experimentation, and support a diverse community of artists, Global Arts Live is not bound by walls. Instead, it brings outstanding artists to the most appropriate setting—from intimate 200-seat clubs to 2,500-seat theaters and everything in between. Each year, it presents over 60 concerts in more than 15 different venues across the city.

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