The Dance

“live in technicolor” is a choreographic project that brought together the elements of sound and light to create a dynamic atmosphere.

Tap dance is a classic American dance form that incorporates rhythm and percussion. Tap has recently experienced a come back in popularity because of the influence of artists like Michelle Dorrance.

The dance represents my personal style of tap choreography. I hope it also communicates the feeling of excitement I get from attending a music concert.

The Tap Boards

Most studio dance floors today are covered in Marley (a rubbery surface) which muffles tap sounds. To combat this I used square boards, made out of medium density fiber board, to help amplify and clarify the sounds.

For visual effect the boards were arranged in a geometric pattern and had neon colored tape that lined the edges.

Choreographically, I used the variation between dancing on the Marley and wood to create two different soundscapes and movement qualities. When the dancers are on the Marley their sounds are quieter and movements more fluid. When they are on the boards they become more impactful and loud.

Lights and Bracelets

The dancers’ costumes are basic black and white so that the lights, designed by Sarah Seitz, can project many different colors on to them, as well as on the boards, so that it appears like they are changing color.

The dancers each have two LED bracelets that respond and flash with the sounds of their taps and the music. This added a different visual element to the piece that contrasted and worked with the percussive elements. At one point the dancers are actually dancing in the dark. I wanted to focus the audiences’ attention on the complex sounds they were making, and the bracelets helped achieve that.

Choreographic Notebook

The image above is a page out of my choreography notebook where I kept track of notations that describe the steps and count, sections that I wanted to edit, comments from work in progress showcases, and my own feedback to my dancers. I used these notes to help me effectively organize rehearsals.

This specific page has information ranging from arm position, time marks in the music, lighting, spacing, and style notes.