

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sound Shadows Digital Concerts Combine Folk Music, Percussive Dance, and Live Drawing Via Zoom and Facebook Live

*In a project supported by the Cambridge Arts Council and The Dance Complex, performing artists **Veronica Barron**, **Julia Friend**, and **Rebecca McGowan** release **Sound Shadows**, a debut EP using cross-disciplinary folk music styles to highlight the relevance of feminine spaces and experiences.*

CAMBRIDGE, MA | March 19, 2021

In digital concerts on [Friday, March 26](#) and [Friday, April 2](#) at 7:30pm, **Sound Shadows** will release a 7-track EP in a pair of digital concerts featuring music, dance, and visual art.

Hailed as “a compelling piece of art” (Dance Informa), **Sound Shadows** was originally created as a theatrical dance concert—an interdisciplinary work that combines shadow puppetry, folk ballads, banjo, and Irish step dance. The project was combines the artistry of singer, puppeteer, and dancer **Veronica Barron** (“the cast’s best voice” —New York Times), banjo player and ballad singer **Julia Friend** (“strong, rich song in a capella” —Dance Informa), and Irish and percussive dancer **Rebecca McGowan** (“an innovator within the authenticity of Irish Step Dancing” —Peter DiMuro, The Dance Complex).



The record — releasing from [Bandcamp](#) on March 26th, 2021 — was recorded during the pandemic at the three artists’s homes with remote support from sound engineer Rafi Singer. It invites the listener into an intimate sonic space, with spare arrangements and ambient sounds that conjure the intimate sonic space in which this music and dance was made: the squeak of dance shoes, the singer’s breath, the clatter of a teacup, approaching footsteps, a dog’s night bark.

ABOUT THE EP RELEASE CONCERTS | MARCH 26 + APRIL 2

The EP is supported by a pair of digital listening party concerts, hosted via Zoom and Facebook Live on **March**

26 at the Mermaid's Tavern, a folk singing digital venue, and on **Friday, April 2** via **The Dance Complex's** virtual channels. Both shows will feature guest artists:

- Visual artist [Madeleine Jubilee Saito](#) will draw live using a digital tablet, creating a new work of art in real-time each night inspired by the Sound Shadows album.
- The evening's program will feature folk music duo [The Vox Hunters](#) (March 26) and dancer/choreographer [Callie Chapman](#) and dancer/digital artist [Rosalie Norris](#) (April 2).

This program is supported in part by a 2021 grant from **Cambridge Arts**, a local agency which is supported by the **Massachusetts Cultural Council**, a state agency. The Sound Shadows live show debuted in January 2019 in a **Catalysts Residency** at **The Dance Complex** in Cambridge, MA, with grant support from the **Cambridge Arts Council / Massachusetts Cultural Council**, and development support from the community of puppeteers at **Puppet Showplace Theater**.

ABOUT SOUND SHADOWS

Knitting together dance and music, visual imagery and song, light and shadow, Sound Shadows draws details into relief and shows the unseen.

"We combine our art forms to celebrate how they enrich our experience of the world: tapping feet give dimension to banjo melodies; shadow pictures bring old stories to life; songs infuse emotion into movement. These dimensions inspire us to look for the invisible presence of where we came from and how it informs where we are going." —Sound Shadows artists Veronica Barron, Julia Friend, and Rebecca McGowan



Through the lyrics, imagery, choreography, and vocal arrangements, Sound Shadows is set in a **domestic, feminine world**—teacups, portraits, a sewing machine, a kitchen table—and aims to reframe this world as nuanced and worthy of attention. The piece's themes of **domesticity, intimacy/yearning for closeness, and distance/longing to escape** are especially evocative after a year in which many of us have spent more time in our domestic spaces than ever before.

"We have a long history with these artists and are thrilled at the potential of hosting them again in our [digital] spaces. That the newest variation of their work is based on an evolution of the work created during a CATALYSTS residency a few years ago is extra icing on the cake."

*—Peter DiMuro, Artistic Director of The **Dance Complex***

"These artists are well known to me as talented, creative women who are serious about their role as artists and deeply committed to their path as tradition-bearers into a new generation."

*—Lynn Noel, Digital Heritage Consulting; Producer and Host of **The Mermaid's Tavern***

“Specificity somehow joined with simplicity...a compelling piece of art in its own right.”

—**Kathryn Boland**, *Dance Informa* review of *Sound Shadows* excerpt

“This work will be an interesting and stimulating modern expression of traditional folk music.”

—**Lynn Feingold**, President, *Folk Song Society of Greater Boston (FSSGB)*



ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

Veronica Barron is a puppeteer, theater artist, & musician. She’s composed music for Central Square Theater, toured internationally as a puppeteer with Canadian DJ Kid Koala, & performed with Huntington Theatre Company, New York Musical Theater Festival, Outside the Box Festival, and others.

Julia Friend plays banjo & sings folk songs from the UK & US. She’s performed at Old Songs Festival & founded Youth Traditional Song Weekend, which has gathered 165 folk singers for 8 years.

Rebecca McGowan is a dancer & teacher of Irish dance. She’s performed at the Kennedy Center, in WGBH’s “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn,” & at many festivals. She’s

earned support from The Dance Complex, a Somerville Artist Fellowship, the Boston Foundation, NEFA, & the Cambridge Arts Council, and others.

Veronica Barron (voice, teacup, breath)

Julia Friend (voice, banjo)

Rebecca McGowan (feet)

Rafi Singer (audio engineer)

AUDIO:

<http://bandcamp.veronicabarron.com>

PHOTOS: (photo credit: Bill Parsons / Maximal Image)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Lifo12uXZxmkiXQ8OuDahM0j9ZiQm3VL?usp=sharing>

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| THE DanceComplex |