

5th Annual Marble Summer Arts Festival
June 13 – 18, 2021

Artists Bios



Karla Hendrick is a NYC-based actor, voice over artist, director and teaching artist, committed to work that supports and promotes education, empathy and social justice. Karla appeared at Marble with the inaugural production of The Theatre Upstairs, downstairs@marble in the world premiere, *A Light in the Night*. As a member of The Drilling Company (TDC), Karla can be heard in the premiere season of “Good Noise”, where she was featured in the just-released audiocast *On Time*, commissioned at the heart of the shutdown ([Good Noise - On Time Audio Cast](#)). A frequent collaborator with TDC on both their Shakespeare and new works, Karla created the role

of Betty in the Off-Broadway NY Times Critic’s Pick hit *The Norwegians*, for which she was cited by the *New York Times* as one of the top 25 Magical and Quirky performances of 2013. Other TDC roles include Emilia in *Othello* with Bryant Park Shakespeare, Mistress Ford in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Gertrude in *Hamlet*, Ellie in *Inheritance* (a play exploring reparations) and the Doctor in *Reservoir*, a modern-day retelling of *Woyzeck* (exploring PTSD). Karla appears with No Epilogue Productions in *Not So Quiet*, based on Evadne Price’s novel following British women ambulance drivers during WWII and which will soon be released on YouTube. Karla’s film appearances include *Household Accounts* and *Avow* by the late Bill C. Davis, and the animated musical feature, *The Champion*, in which she sang the role of Meg S. As a director, Karla’s productions of *Hamlet* in Bryant Park (with a female Hamlet), *All’s Well That Ends Well*, and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* have played to audiences of over 800 nightly. As a voice over artist Karla narrates audiobooks and records corporate and educational voice overs; she is a Lead Teaching Artist with the Metropolitan Opera Guild and Roundabout Theatre Company, which just completed the first season of its Refocus Project, redefining the American theatrical canon to include the voices of BIPOC and other marginalized artists, and help influence reform on the national stage. As a teaching artist, Karla works with NYC students, teachers, administrators, audiences and artists; during the past year when she wasn’t performing on Zoom, in her home studio or in a remote classroom, she conceived and produced a three-video series that explores the adaptation, music and design of Gounod’s opera *Roméo et Juliette*, served on the team of Roundabout creators partnering with the NYC Dept. of Ed to develop the city-wide Remote Arts Learning Curriculum, *Using Your Voice*, and most recently supported work at Roundabout’s inaugural remote Reverb Theatre Festival, uplifting the voices of artists with disabilities from around the world. Karla received her BA from Mount Holyoke College, an MFA in Acting from Brooklyn College and studied at the British American Drama Academy, Oxford.

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Rene J. Navarro is an acupuncturist, herbalist, martial artist, teacher, healer, and alchemist. His poetry and essays have been published in the US, Europe and Asia. He has taught Taoist Yang-Sheng/Nourishing Life regimen in four continents. He was a disciple of Grandmasters Lao Kim and Johnny Chiuten in Shaolin/Buddhist Kung-Fu. He is a senior student of Grandmaster Gin Soon Chu and a 6th generation practitioner of Classical Yang Family Tai chi chuan with intensive training in the 108 movement solo fist form, Dao/Broadsword (2 sets), Jian/Straight sword (2 sets), Staff-

Spear, Sansou (2-person sparring set), Push Hands and the Tai chi chuan Chang Chuan (the old form of Tai chi chuan). He is a senior instructor of the Universal Healing Tao under Grandmaster Mantak Chia certified to teach Microcosmic Orbit, Tai chi chi kung, Healing Love (Taoist sexology), Chi Nei Tsang internal organs massage, Fusion of the 5 Elements and Kan and Li (neidan/internal alchemy). His teachers include Jeffrey Yuen (Chinese medicine and classics), David Verdesi (Thunder Path), Kiiko Matsumoto (Japanese acupuncture), Yao Zhang (Chinese herbs), Johnny F. Chiuten, Guiling Tinga and Amante “Mat” Marinas (arnis de mano) and Vincent F. Chu and Chan Bun Te (Yang Family Tai chi chuan). He holds a Bachelor of Arts (MLQ University), a Law degree (University of the Philippines), a diploma in acupuncture and a certificate in Chinese herbalism (New England School of Acupuncture). He lives in the foothills of the Appalachian mountains, Pennsylvania, USA. For more information, please go to his website: www.renenavarro.org

-- “Rene is a magical, gentle and powerful being.” Comment from a student.

Victoria Pepe Pepe LuminSonics



Victoria Pepe is a multimedia visionary artist and musician. In addition to creating her visual arts, she is a lifelong creator of original music. To date she has created approximately 3000 music compositions. Some of them are mastered and in worldwide distribution through CD Baby and Route Note under the name of Pepe LuminSonics. Her music is found on Amazon, Spotify, iTunes Apple Music, YouTube music sales, content ID and more. Victoria's compositions are originally created on the piano. To orchestrate and perform many of her pieces she uses high quality sampled sounds (the recording of original instrumental notes) as well as synths and uniquely created sounds in computer programs.

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Victoria composes music for educational and documentary videos: The Philadelphia Museum of Art, The University of the Arts, Pa; The Philadelphia School, Pa; The McKinney Gallery, Pa. and a TV series, "Ultimately You."

The digital music/art videos Victoria creates are synchronistic harmonious videos combining her art and her music. Victoria's music/art videos have been shown in venues such as: The Audio-Video and Film Festival Gallery X; Gallery 49; Digital Bridges at the Westbeth Gallery Digital Arts Video Show, NY; The Godseye Exhibit, NY; many Marble Art shows including The Arts Renewal Program and The Film/Video Showcase at the Marble Arts Showcases and the Puzzle; The Atlantic City Art Center, NJ and The LGTripp Gallery, Pa. She has performed in various venues in NY. and was accompanist for soloists and choirs in NY and Long Island, and served as musical director for the New Seminary, NY. Victoria is a member of ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers).

Victoria has been playing the piano and composing her own compositions from a very early age. She studied with various prominent private music teachers and attended North Shore Conservatory of Music. As an accomplished opera singer, Victoria studied and sang with various maestros of the Met Opera, City opera, Juilliard and Manhattan School of Music Master Classes and in the adjunct to the Vienna Academy of Music in Vienna.

Victoria has a family background in music as her paternal grandfather was a child prodigy violinist from Italy and her maternal grandmother a Russian opera singer. Her father was a singer, drummer and band leader. She learned to play the drums from her father and she would also accompany him on the piano as he sang. There was always music in her home and at all large family gatherings where she was encouraged and respected as a performer, especially of her own music. Although she had a vast musical training, experience, exposure, Victoria feels her compositions come through her from a higher Source.

The video "Breath of God" is a dialogue of words and music presented at the Marble Summer Arts Festival June 2021. It is a unique art form where the music created by Victoria expresses a dialogue. Victoria orchestrated the piano music and the words of the poem spoken in "Breath of God", came to her. Victoria collaborated with actor, performer, Karla Hendrick. The music speaks like different beings in the dialogue and Karla speaks as different beings as well, interacting with the music. Karla naturally speaks in pitches relative to the music and is in sync, rhythm and harmony with the music and expresses deep and diverse emotional relationships in the narrative. The digital backgrounds Victoria created relate to and enhance the meanings of the dialogue. The music and voice are very rich and dynamic with subtle nuances. Please listen with the best speakers available to really fully appreciate the depth it presents. "Breath of God" is a story of challenge, questioning, faith, hope, redemption, and, through God,-- the Way. Contact Victoria and visit her website: www.LuminSonics.com