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## Founders

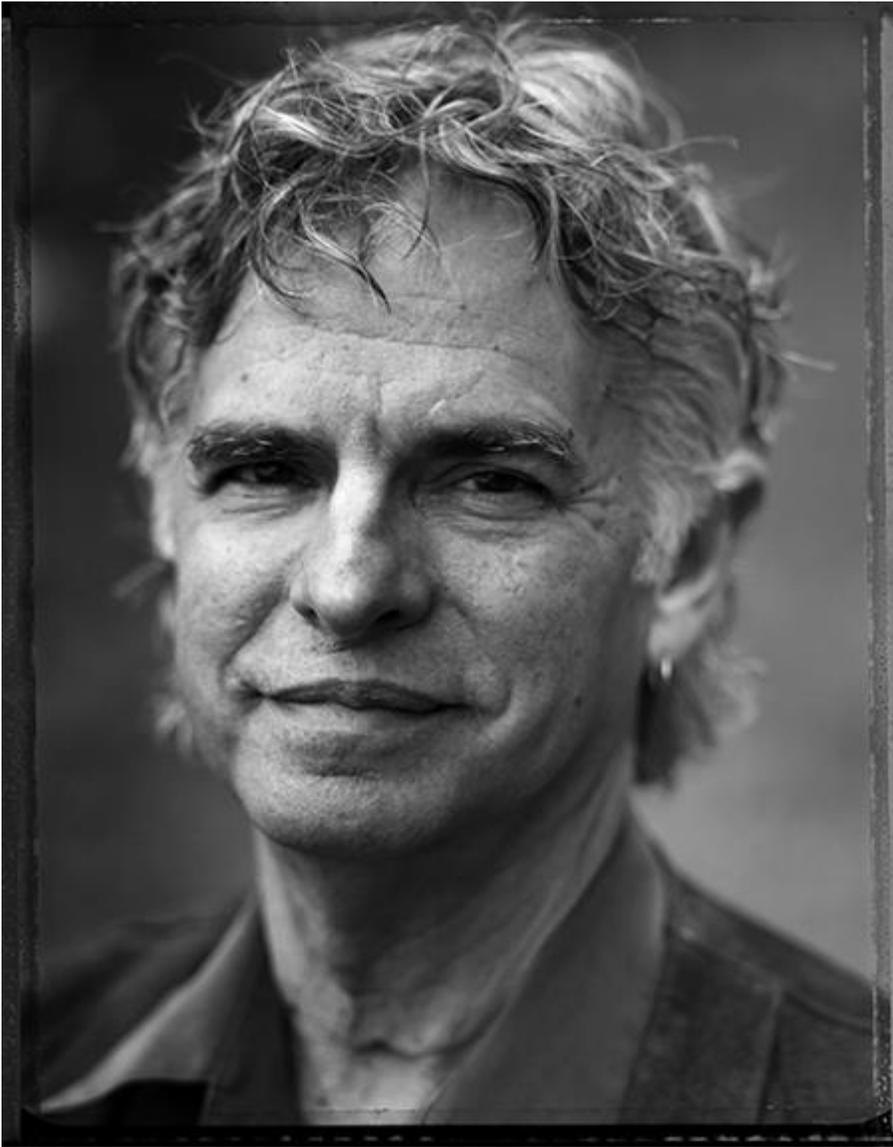


### **Livia Drapkin Vanaver**

(Co-Founder/Co-Artistic Director/Performer)

For the past 45 years Livia has been traveling throughout the US and abroad with her musician/composer husband and Company of extraordinary dancers and musicians, collecting and performing traditional dance and music from many cultures. Her commitment to creating community through the vehicle of dance lead her to work with Friendship Ambassadors Foundation in their Balkan Peace and Reconciliation project and their program working with families of the victims of 9/11.

Livia has been on the cutting edge of Arts Education programs throughout New York State and abroad. A leading authority on dance education, she has pioneered the teaching of world dance styles and Global Citizenry in schools. In the 1970s, she was part of a team with National Young Audiences and taught at the Lincoln Center Institute Summer Programs. She is on the faculty of the Academy for the Love of Learning, working closely with Aaron Stern in their Teacher Renewal Project. Livia has taught dance at Columbia University in the Graduate Theater Program and Hofstra University. Ms. Vanaver holds a BFA in Dance from NYU School of the Arts (Tisch).



## **Bill Vanaver**

(Co-Founder, Co-Artistic Director/Performer)

Well known musician and symphonic composer, Bill has been playing to audiences throughout the world for the past 50 years.

He is known for his stellar instrumental work on 5 string banjo as well a myriad of other folk instruments.

With his vast knowledge of traditional song and musical styles, Bill has enlivened audiences for over 50 years at such venues as the Newport and the Philadelphia Folk Festivals. Bill has taught World Dance and Music at Bard and Skidmore Colleges.

Since 1985, he has brought his American and World Music and Dance into the classroom as a lead Teaching Artist with The Vanaver Caravan. He has worked closely with students as well as classroom and music teachers to broaden their multi-cultural music, song and movement repertoire.

Bill's work on the album "Pastures of Plenty", (a composition of Woody Guthrie's American folk songs) won WKZE's Best Independently Produced Folk Album of the Year Award in the year 2000.