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2001–2002 season



Mark Morris Dance Group

January 6, 2002

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JEMISON INVESTMENT CO., INC.

present

Mark Morris Dance Group



Sunday, January 6, 2002

2:30 pm and 7:30 pm

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The Birmingham News
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On the Program

Mark Morris Dance Group

JOE BOWIE CHARLTON BOYD MARJORIE FOLKMAN
SHAWN GANNON LAUREN GRANT JOHN HEGINBOTHAM
DAVID LEVENTHAL BRADON McDONALD AMBER MERKENS*
GREGORY NUBER MAILE OKAMURA* JUNE OMURA GUILLERMO RESTO
MATTHEW ROSE ANNE SELLERY* JULIE WORDEN MICHELLE YARD

*apprentice

Artistic Director
MARK MORRIS

General Director
BARRY ALTERMAN

Executive Director
NANCY UMANOFF

Program:
Canonic 3/4 Studies
 Bijoux
Dancing Honeymoon
-intermission-
Peccadillos
Grand Duo

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and The Howard Gilman Foundation.

The Mark Morris Dance Group's performances are made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts Dance Program and the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency.

Mark Morris Dance Group *New Works Fund* is sponsored by Philip Morris Companies Inc.



Choreography by Mark Morris

CANONIC 3/4 STUDIES

Music: Piano waltzes - various composers, arranged by Harriet Cavalli

Lighting: James F. Ingalls

ETHAN IVERSON, *piano*

MARJORIE FOLKMAN, SHAWN GANNON, LAUREN GRANT, DAVID LEVENTHAL, BRADON McDONALD,
AMBER MERKENS, JUNE OMURA, MATTHEW ROSE, MICHELLE YARD

Premiere: July 29, 1982 – Washington Hall Performance Gallery, Seattle, WA

-pause-

BIJOUX

MUSIC: Erik Satie ("Quatre petites melodies", "Ludions")

THEO BLECKMANN, *baritone*

ETHAN IVERSON, *piano*

JUNE OMURA

Premiere: December 8, 1983 – Bessie Schoneberg Theater, New York, New York

-pause-

DANCING HONEYMOON

Music: "Limehouse Blues," "You Were Meant for Me," "Do Do Do," "Someone to Watch Over Me,"
 "A Cup of Coffee, A Sandwich, and You," "Wild Thyme," "Experiment," "Dancing Honeymoon,"
 "And Her Mother Came Too," "Fancy Our Meeting," "Who," "Two Little Bluebirds," "Goodnight, Vienna,"
 "It's Not You," "There's Always Tomorrow"

Transcribed and arranged by Ethan Iverson from historical recordings of Gertrude Lawrence and Jack Buchanan.

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

Costumes: Elizabeth Kurtzman

THEO BLECKMANN, *baritone*

LISA LEE, *violin*; ETHAN IVERSON, *piano*; STEFAN SCHATZ, *percussion*

JOE BOWIE, CHARLTON BOYD, MARJORIE FOLKMAN, SHAWN GANNON,
 JOHN HEGINBOTHAM, MAILE OKAMURA, JULIE WORDEN

Premiere: September 22, 1998 – Meany Hall, Seattle, Washington

This dance was created under the auspices of the Mark Morris Dance Group *New Works Fund*, sponsored by Philip Morris Companies Inc.

-intermission-

PECCADILLOS

Music: Erik Satie

("Menus propos enfantins," "Enfantillages pittoresques," "Peccadilles importunes")

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

ETHAN IVERSON, *piano*

MARK MORRIS

Premiere: June 7, 2000 – Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn, New York

This dance was created under the auspices of the Mark Morris Dance Group *New Works Fund*, sponsored by Philip Morris Companies Inc.

-pause-

GRAND DUO

Music: Lou Harrison (Grand Duo for Violin & Piano)

Prelude

Stampede

A Round

Polka

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

Costumes: Susan Ruddie

LISA LEE, *violin*; ETHAN IVERSON, *piano*

JOE BOWIE, CHARLTON BOYD, MARJORIE FOLKMAN, LAUREN GRANT, JOHN HEGINBOTHAM,
 DAVID LEVENTHAL, BRADON McDONALD, AMBER MERKENS, GREGORY NUBER, MAILE OKAMURA,
 JUNE OMURA, MATTHEW ROSE, JULIE WORDEN, MICHELLE YARD

Premiere: February 16, 1993 – Fine Arts Center, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

After the performance, Mark Morris will engage in a question and answer session with the audience from the stage.

On the Stage

Mark Morris was born on August 29, 1956, in Seattle, WA, where he studied as a young man with Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson. He performed with a variety of companies in the early years of his career, including the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Hannah Kahn Dance Company, Laura Dean Dancers and Musicians, Eliot Feld Ballet, and the Koleda Balkan Dance Ensemble. He formed the Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) in 1980, and has since created over 100 works for the Dance Group, and over a dozen commissions for ballet companies, including San Francisco Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, and American Ballet Theatre. From 1988–1991 he was Director of Dance at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, the national opera house of Belgium. During his tenure there, he created 12 pieces including three evening-length works: *The Hard Nut* (his comic book-inspired version of *The Nutcracker*); *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*; and *Dido and Aeneas*, and founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Mr. Morris is noted for his musicality—he has been described as “undeviating in his devotion to music”—and for his “ability to conjure so many contradictory styles and emotions.” He has worked extensively in opera. He directed and choreographed a Royal Opera, Covent Garden production of Rameau’s *Platée* that premiered at the Edinburgh International Festival in 1997 and had its New York debut with The New York City Opera in April 2000 at Lincoln Center. Most recently, he directed and choreographed the June 2000 English National Opera production of *Four Saints in Three Acts*. Mr. Morris was named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991, and he is the subject of a biography by Joan Acocella (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).

Mark Morris Dance Group was formed in 1980 and gave its first concert that year in NYC. In the following years, the company’s touring schedule steadily expanded to include cities in the US and in Europe and, in 1986, the Dance Group made its first national television program for the PBS Dance in America series. In 1988, the Mark Morris Dance Group was invited to become the national dance company of Belgium. During its three years as resident company of the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, the Dance Group was the subject of several television programs, including the UK’s *South Bank Show*. The company returned to the US in 1991 as one of the world’s leading dance companies, performing across the US and at major international festivals. The Dance Group has maintained and strengthened its ties to several cities around the world, most notably Berkeley, CA where, for the past several years, the Dance Group has performed twice annually at CalPerformances, including presentations of *The Hard Nut* each December from 1996–2000. Audiences have also become accustomed to the Dance Group’s regular and frequent appearances in Boston; Seattle; Fairfax, VA; London; and at the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival in Becket, MA. The Dance Group was named the official dance company (2000–2005) of the Virginia Waterfront International Arts Festival. In addition to a full international touring schedule, the Dance Group has completed three film projects: an Emmy Award-winning collaboration with cellist Yo-Yo Ma entitled *Falling Down Stairs* using Bach’s Third Suite for unaccompanied cello, a film version of Mr. Morris’ *Dido and Aeneas* and a video of *The Hard Nut*. In fall 2000, MMDG was the subject of a second documentary for London’s *South Bank Show*. In 1997 the Dance Group won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production for their British premiere performances of *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* with English National Opera. MMDG celebrated its 20th anniversary with a 3-week season at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in March 2001. In fall 2001, MMDG opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn. This 30,000 square-foot facility features three studios, and is the company’s first permanent headquarters in the US.

Theo Bleckmann (baritone) is a most versatile vocalist and composer of jazz, contemporary music and performance art who has been called a virtuoso jazz improviser by the *Village Voice* recently. As a leader, soloist and in ensembles he has performed and recorded worldwide with musicians, composers and choreographers such as Anthony Braxton, Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Mark Dresser, Dave Douglas, Philip Glass, John Hollenbeck, Sheila Jordan, Ben Monder, Mark Morris, Kirk Nurock and Bang On A Can’s Michael Gordon. David Lang and Julia Wolfe. Theo Bleckmann has been a principal performer in the highly acclaimed Meredith Monk Vocal Ensemble since ’94. His work with percussionist John Hollenbeck can be heard on the duo “static still” (earrelevant music, 2000) and on Hollenbeck’s *Quartet Lucy* (CRI, 2001). The highly acclaimed recordings with long time collaborator guitarist Ben Monder are captured on Songlines’ “No Boat” and Ben Monder’s “Excavation” (Arabesque). The duo will return to perform at the Yokohama Jazz Festival in Japan this May. Bleckmann also appears on Sheila Jordan’s CD “Jazz Child” (High Note) and Ikue Moria’s “one hundred aspects of the moon” (Tzadik). His most recent CD “Origami” (Songlines, 2001) received 4.5 stars (out of 5) from *Downbeat Magazine*.

Joe Bowie, born in Lansing, Michigan, began dancing while attending Brown University. After graduating with honors in English and American Literature, he moved to New York and performed in the works of Robert Wilson, Ulysses Dove, and danced with The Paul Taylor Dance Company for two years before going to Belgium to work with Mark Morris in 1989.

Charlton Boyd was born in New Jersey where he studied and performed with Inner City Ensemble Theater & Dance Company. He is a graduate of the Juilliard School and has danced with the Limon Dance Company. He appears in the Jose Limon Technique Video, Volume 1, and other music videos. He first appeared with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1989 and became a company member in 1994.

Marjorie Folkman graduated summa cum laude from Barnard College. She has danced for Amy Spencer and Richard Colton, Sally Hess, Neta Pulvermacher, Kraig Patterson, the Repertory Understudy Group for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, and Sara Rudner. She began dancing with Mark Morris in 1996.

Lauren Grant was born in Highland Park, Illinois, and began dancing at age three. She continued training, primarily in classical ballet, through high school. At New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Lauren received her modern dance training and graduated with a BFA. Lauren joined MMDG in 1998.

John Heginbotham grew up in Anchorage, Alaska. He graduated from The Juilliard School's dance division in 1993 and since then has performed with artists including John Jasperse, Ben Munisteri, and as a guest artist with Pilobolus Dance Theater. He was a member of Susan Marshall and Company from 1995–1998. He joined MMDG in 1998.

Ethan Iverson (piano/music director) took his place at the feet of the Mark Morris Dance Group in January 1998. A modern jazz pianist, Iverson's recordings for the Fresh Sound label include *Construction Zone (Originals)*, *Deconstruction Zone (Standards)*, *The Minor Passions*, *Live at Smalls*, and most recently *The Bad Plus*. These recordings have been placed on *The New York Times* "Ten Best of the Year" lists for 2000, 1999, and 1998, and they caused the prestigious Penguin Guide to Jazz on CD to say that Iverson was "likely to be a major force." In the year 2001, Iverson's regular trio with Reid Anderson and Billy Hart toured Italy and America. Recent sideman appearances include gigs with the Dave Douglas Sextet and the Mark Turner Quartet, and last April he performed the Patrick Zimmerli Piano Concerto with Metamorphosen in Boston. In August, he played a week at the Village Vanguard with the Kurt Rosenwinkel Quartet. His piano teachers are Sophia Rosoff and Fred Hersch.

Lisa Lee (violin) made her debut with the San Francisco Symphony at the age of 16 and has received numerous honors and awards, including first place in the Seventeen Magazine/General Motors National Concerto Competition, first prize in the Pacific Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, first prize in the National Hennessy Cognac Scholarship Awards, a Fulbright Foundation Award, and most recently, first prize in the International Sheffield Violin Competition. Ms. Lee has been invited to such distinguished chamber music festivals as Marlboro Music Festival, Ravinia Festival, Caramoor Rising Stars/Virtuosi Festival, and the Prussia Cove Chamber Music Sessions Festival. Performances have taken her throughout Europe, Croatia, Japan, China, and the US. Ms. Lee began her musical training at the age of five in San Francisco. She received her bachelor of music from the Curtis Institute of Music where she studied with Arnold Steinhardt. Other mentors include Donald Weilerstein, David Takeno, Zaven Melikian, and Joey Corpus. She currently resides in New York City.

David Leventhal, a native of Newton, MA, began his dance training at Boston Ballet School, and continued his studies with Boston-area teachers and at Brown University, where he received a BA with honors in English Literature. He danced with the companies of Marcus Schulkind, Spencer/Colton, Ben Munisteri and Zvi Gotheiner before joining the MMDG January 1998.

Bradon McDonald received his BFA from the Juilliard School in 1997. After graduation, he won the Princess Grace Award and joined the Limón Dance Company where for 3 years, he performed such roles as "Eros" in Limón's *The Winged*, "Iago" in Limón's *The Moor's Pavane* and the third and fifth solos in Tudor's *Dark Elegies* as well as works by Jiri Kylian, Doug Varone, Igal Perry, and Donald McKayle. Bradon has choreographed and presented his own works internationally and has served as choreographer for seven Juilliard Opera Company productions under the director Frank Corsaro. Recently Bradon was the choreographic assistant to Donald McKayle for his new work on the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Bradon joined Mark Morris Dance Group in April 2000.

Amber Merkens was raised in Newport, Oregon. She received her BFA from The Juilliard School in 1999 and was a member of the Limón Dance Company from 1999–2001. Her own choreography has been presented in such New York City venues as The Juilliard Theater, Alice Tully Hall, Joyce SoHo, St. Mark's Church, and the Clark Studio Theater. She is a recipient of the 2001 Princess Grace Award. She joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in August 2001.

Gregory Nuber began working with MMDG in 1998 and became a company member in 2001. He was a member of Pascal Rioult Dance Theatre for three years, has appeared as a guest artist with New York City Opera, Cleveland Opera and Tennessee Repertory Theatre, and has worked with numerous New York based choreographers. Gregory is a graduate of Arizona State University where he studied acting and dance.

Maile Okamura was born and raised in San Diego, CA. She was a member of Boston Ballet II and Ballet Arizona before moving to New York in 1996. Since then she has had the pleasure of dancing with Neta Pulvermacher, Zvi Gotheiner, Gerald Casel, and many others. Maile began working with MMDG in 1998 and became an apprentice in 2001.

June Omura spent her first six years in New York City and then grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, appearing in local dance and theater productions from the age of eight and studying under the Grebels and Edie Barnes at Ballet UAB. She returned to New York to attend Barnard College, graduating in 1986 with honors in dance and English. She first studied with Mark Morris that summer and happily joined the Dance Group in 1988.

Guillermo Resto has danced with Mark Morris since 1983.

Matthew Rose received his BFA from the University of Michigan. He has appeared with the Martha Graham Dance Company, Pascal Rioult Dance Theater, and Ann Arbor Dance Works. Matthew began working with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1997 and became a company member in 1999.

Stefan Schatz (percussion) is a 1995 graduate of New York's prestigious New School Jazz and Contemporary Music Program, with degrees in Performance and Creative Writing. He has performed with some of the finest names in jazz, including Dakota Staton, Jon Hendricks, Milt Hinton, Mark Turner, Ray Bryant, and Buster Brown. As a member of The Glenn Miller Orchestra and an accompanist for the dance troupe Manhattan Tap, Stefan toured extensively throughout the US, Canada, Central and South America, and Europe. In 1998, he was featured in a jazz trio and traveled to over 30 different countries on the Crystal Symphony World Cruise. Stefan has studied with Vernel Fournier, Marvin "Bugaloo" Smith, Kenny Washington, Lewis Nash, and Bernard Purdie.

Anne Sellery attended the University of Washington, Seattle, where she studied Piano Performance and received her BA in Dance. Anne began working with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1998 and became an apprentice in 2001.

Julie Worden, from Naples, Florida, is a graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts. She worked with Chicago choreographers Bob Eisen, Jan Erkert, and Sheldon B. Smith. She has been dancing with Mark Morris since 1994.

Michelle Yard was born in Brooklyn. She began her professional dance training at the New York City High School of the Performing Arts. Upon her graduation, she received the Helen Tamiris and B'nai Brith awards. For three years she was also a scholarship student at The Alvin Ailey Dance Center. She attended New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Michelle began dancing with the Dance Group in 1997.

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP STAFF

Technical Director: Johan Henckens
Music Director: Ethan Iverson
Rehearsal Director: Guillermo Resto
School Director: Tina Fehlandt
Lighting Supervisors: Rick Martin
Wardrobe Supervisor: Cat Buchanan
Sound Supervisor: Emanuele Corazzini

Director of Development and Marketing: Michael Osso
General Manager: Eva Nichols
Fiscal Administrator: Lynn Wichern
Associate Director of Development: Lesley Berson
Management Associate: Lisa Belvin
Assistant Development Director: Alex Pacheco
Finance Manager: Elizabeth Fox
Marketing and Development Assistant: Cristin Foley
Administrative Assistant: Karyn LaScala
Booking Representative: Michael Mushalla
(Double M Arts & Events)
Media Representative: William Murray
(Better Attitude Media, Inc.)
Legal Counsel: Mark Selinger
(McDermott, Will and Emery)
Accountant: Kathryn Lundquist, CPA
Orthopaedist: David S. Weiss, M.D.
(NYU-HJD Department of Orthopaedic Surgery)

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