

Showcase

Regional Performing Arts Center

March 2002

*Program Notes for
RPAC Performances*

*RPAC Resident
Company Schedules*



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On the cover: Sir James Galway, photo by Hanya Chlala; Sweet Honey in the Rock, photo by Roland L. Freeman; Anne Sofie von Otter, photo by Denise Grunstein. Projection of Verizon Hall by Rafael Viñoly Architects PC.

Showcase is generously underwritten by
The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation.

Regional Performing
Arts Center Presents

March 8

Friday, 7:30pm

March 9

Saturday, 7:30pm

March 10

Sunday, 2:30pm

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

Artistic Director

Mark Morris

General Director

Barry Alterman

Executive Director

Nancy Umanoff

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.

*apprentice

The use of cameras and recording equipment is prohibited during performances. As a courtesy to the performers and fellow audience members, please turn off all beepers, watch alarms and cellular phones. Latecomers and those who leave during the performance will be seated at appropriate intervals.

Steinway is the official piano of The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts.

Dance Series presented
by American Express



American Express is
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Regional Performing
Arts Center.

PROGRAM

Choreography by Mark Morris

Foursome (Premiere, 2002, Brooklyn)

Music: Erik Satie (Gnossiennes #1, #2, #3) and Johann Nepomuk Hummel (Seven Hungarian Dances)

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

Costumes: Katherine McDowell

Piano: Ethan Iverson

Dancers: Shawn Gannon, John Heginbotham, Mark Morris, Guillermo Resto

This dance was created under the auspices of the Mark Morris Dance Group New Works Fund, sponsored by Philip Morris Companies Inc. Additional support provided by The Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation.

—Pause—

I Love You Dearly (Premiere, 1981, Seattle)

Music: Three traditional Romanian songs

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

Dancer: David Leventhal

—Pause—

Dancing Honeymoon (Premiere, 1998, Seattle)

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

Soprano: Eileen Clark

Violin: Andrea Schultz

Piano: Ethan Iverson

Percussion: Stefan Schatz

Dancers: Joe Bowie, Charlton Boyd, Marjorie Folkman, Shawn Gannon, John Heginbotham, Maile Okamura, Julie Worden

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

—Intermission—

V (Premiere, 2001, London)

Music: Robert Schumann (Quintet in E Flat for Piano and Strings, Op. 44)

Allegro brillante

In modo d'una Marcia. Un poco largamente – Agitato

Scherzo molto vivace

Allegro, ma non troppo

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

Costumes: Martin Pakledinaz

Violin: Lisa Lee

Violin: Andrea Schultz

Viola: Jessica Troy

Cello: Wolfram Koessel

Piano: Ethan Iverson

Dancers: 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

This dance was created under the auspices of the Mark Morris Dance Group New Works Fund, sponsored by Philip Morris Companies Inc. Additional support provided by The Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Mark Morris was born on August 29, 1956, in Seattle, Wash., 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 more than 100 works for the group and over a dozen commissions for ballet companies, including San Francisco Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet and American Ballet Theater. From 1988 to 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*. He founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov. 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. Recently, he directed and choreographed the June 2000 English National Opera production of *Four Saints in Three Acts*. He 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 New York City. In the following years, the company’s touring schedule steadily expanded to include cities in the United States 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 U.K.’s “South Bank Show.” The company returned to the United States in 1991 as one of the world’s leading dance companies, performing across the United States and at major international festivals.



The dance group has maintained and strengthened its ties to several cities around the world, most notably Berkeley, Calif., 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 to 2000. Audiences also have become accustomed to the dance group's regular and frequent appearances in Boston, Mass., Seattle, Wash., Fairfax, Va., London, England, and at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket, Mass. The dance group was named the official dance company (2000 to 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 titled "Falling Down Stairs" using Bach's *Third Suite* for unaccompanied cello, a film version of 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. The dance group celebrated its 20th anniversary with a three-week season at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in March 2001. In fall 2001, MMDG opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. This 30,000 square-foot facility features three studios, and is the company's first permanent U.S. headquarters.

Joe Bowie, born in Lansing, Mich., 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 N.J. 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 Limón Dance Company. He appears in the "José Limón 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.

Eileen Clark (soprano) got her start in the Gregg Smith Singers. She has sung "Queen of the Night" (*The Magic Flute*) with Syracuse Opera Company and "Adina" (*Elixir of Love*) with Commonwealth Opera. She also has appeared in principle roles with Concert Royal, Mark Morris Dance Group and others. In concert she has appeared with Syracuse Symphony, Voices of Ascension, Albany Symphony and Newark Cathedral Symphony, and sung with Limón Dance Company, New York Baroque Dance Co. and Anita Feldman Tap. With Mark Morris Dance Group she sings works of Brahms, Monteverdi, Purcell, Vivaldi and old Broadway. This spring will see the release of her two new CD's: *duo Lemons Descending* with cellist Matt Haimovitz and *Bach Cantata 51* with Gandharvas Ensemble.

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.

Shawn Gannon is from Dover, N.J., where he received his early dance training with Dorothy Wescott Rosen. He joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1995 after dancing with Lee Theodore's Dance Machine, Mark Dendy Dance Group, Laura Dean Dancers and Musicians, and Jane Comfort and Company.

Lauren Grant was born in Highland Park, Ill., and began dancing at age 3. 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 bachelor of fine arts. 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 has performed as a guest artist with Pilobolus Dance Theater. He was a member of Susan Marshall and Company from 1995-1998. He joined the Mark Morris Dance Group 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 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. In April 2001, he performed the Patrick Zimmerli Piano Concerto with Metamorphosen in Boston. In August 2001, he played a week at the Village Vanguard with the Kurt Rosenwinkel Quartet. His piano teachers are Sophia Rosoff and Fred Hersch.

Wolfram Koessel (cello) made his critically acclaimed debut at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 1994. Since then

he has performed as soloist and chamber musician in concert halls throughout the world. *Strings* magazine wrote: "Mr. Koessel, in a very promising debut, played a substantial program with great seriousness, using his excellent technical means only for the music, not for effect or show." Based in New York City, Koessel appears with a wide range of ensembles and chamber music groups, most notably the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and The Jupiter Symphony. As a soloist, Koessel has performed the standard as well as unusual cello concerto repertoire with the Jupiter Symphony, the New York Metamorphoses Orchestra, which he co-founded in 1994, the Mannes Orchestra and the Symphony Orchestras of Cordoba, Mendoza, Costa Rica and Stuttgart. Multifaceted as a chamber musician, Koessel is on the faculty of the New York Youth Symphony Chamber Music Program and is the music director of "Sundays on the Island" (a chamber music series on New York's City Island). He served until recently as cellist with the award-winning Meridian String Quartet. His performance of Tchaikovsky's "Rococo Variations" was featured on WQXR's "Young Artists Showcase." Upon completion of his master's degree at the Mannes College of Music, he was the recipient of the George and Elizabeth Gregory Award for Excellence in Performance. He has played for the Mark Morris Dance Group since the new millennium.

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 first prize in the International Sheffield Violin Competition. 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 United States. She began her musical training at the age of 5 in San Francisco. She received her bachelor of music from the Curtis Institute of Music where she studied with Arnold Steinhardt. Her mentors include Donald Weilerstein, David Takeno, Zaven Melikian and Joey Corpus. She resides in New York City.

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

Bradon McDonald received his bachelor of fine arts from the Juilliard School in 1997. After graduation he won the Princess Grace Award and joined the Limón Dance Company, where for three 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, Ore. She received her bachelor of fine arts

from the Juilliard School in 1999 and was a member of the Limón Dance Company from 1999 to 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, Calif. 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 Pulvermcher, Zvi Gotheiner, Gerald Casel and many others. Maile began working with MMDG in 1998 and became a company member 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 8. 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 bachelor of fine arts 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 United States, Canada, Central and South America, and Europe. In 1998, he was featured in a jazz trio and traveled to more than 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.

Andrea Schultz (violin) performs with a number of groups in New York City, including the Eberli Ensemble, New York Chamber Ensemble, Brandenburg Ensemble and the Orchestra of St. Luke's. She also has appeared as guest artist with the Apple Hill Chamber Players, Da Capo Chamber Players, Sequitor, Sospeso and the José Limón Dance Company. Her chamber group, Eberli Ensemble, active in the commissioning and performance of new works, has been featured on WNYC's "Around New York" and PRI's "St. Paul Sunday" and has recently released a CD of music by Aaron Jay Kernis. Andrea has spent summers performing at the Tanglewood, Aspen, Ravinia, Caramoor, Vermont Mozart, and Cape May Music Festivals, as well as the Pundakit International Chamber Music Festival in the Phillipines. She is a summa cum laude graduate of Yale University and received a

master of music from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a doctorate of music from the State University of New York, Stony Brook.

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

Jessica Troy (viola), a native New Yorker, holds degrees from Amherst College, the State University of New York at Stony Brook and the Musikhochschule in Luebeck, Germany, where her major teachers were Philipp Naegele, Caroline Levine and Barbara Westphal. She is a member of the Brooklyn Philharmonic and plays regularly with the Jupiter Symphony. Her chamber music activities have included performances with Sequitor and the Eberli Ensemble, as well as with the Acacia, Maia, and Meridian String Quartets in venues ranging from the Knitting Factory to the Saratoga Music Festival, and the Violin Society of America Conference, where she also served as a judge in the instrument competition. She has been a participant at many chamber music festivals including Marlboro and Prussia Cove. She has had the opportunity to work with many composers on their own works, including Roger Reynolds, Jacob Druckman, Oliver Knussen and Gregory Kurtag.

Julie Worden, from Naples, Fla, 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, N.Y. She began her professional dance training at the New York City High School of the

Performing Arts. Upon 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 NYU'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**

Lighting Supervisor: **Nicole Pearce**

Wardrobe Supervisor: **Katherine**

McDowell

Sound Supervisor: **Emanuele Corazzini**

Director of Development and Marketing:

Michael Osso

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