



PROGRAM



03-04



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PROGRAM

Check out our newest playbill addition:

**ArtsWORD**—Your source for  
information, articles, and insights  
on topics relating to the Mondavi Center's  
upcoming events. (p. 25).

Arts  
**WORD**

# Mark Morris Dance Group

Tuesday, September 16, 2003, 8 pm  
 Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center, UC Davis

There will be one intermission

A Landmark Dance Series Event

*Videotaping, photographing, and audio recording is strictly forbidden.  
 Violators subject to removal.*



## Program

*Choreography by Mark Morris*

### All Fours

Music: Béla Bartók (*String Quartet No. 4*)

#### I. *Allegro*

Joe Bowie, Charlton Boyd, Rita Donahue, Shawn Gannon,  
 David Leventhal, Amber Merkens, Maile Okamura, Michelle Yard

#### II. *Prestissimo, con sordino*

John Heginbotham, Gregory Nuber

#### III. *Non troppo lento*

Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham, Gregory Nuber, Brynn Taylor

#### IV. *Allegretto pizzicato*

Lauren Grant, Brynn Taylor

#### V. *Allegro molto*

Joe Bowie, Charlton Boyd, Rita Donahue, Shawn Gannon,  
 David Leventhal, Amber Merkens, Maile Okamura, Michelle Yard

Lighting: Nicole Pearce

Costumes: Martin Pakledinaz

Jonathan Gandelsman, violin; Andrea Schultz, violin;  
 Jessica Troy, viola; Wolfram Koessel, cello;

Commissioned in part by Cal Performances

Premiere: September 12, 2003, Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley, California

### Pause

### Going Away Party

Music: Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys ("Playboy Theme",  
 "Yearning", "My Shoes Keep Walking Back to You", "Goin' Away  
 Party", "Baby, That Sure Would Go Good", "Milk Cow Blues",  
 "Crippled Turkey", "When You Leave Amarillo, Turn Out the Lights")

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

Costumes: Christine Van Loon

Charlton Boyd, Shawn Gannon, Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham,  
 Maile Okamura, Matthew Rose, Julie Worden

Premiere: April 14, 1990, Halles de Schaerbeek, Brussels, Belgium

### Intermission

### A Spell

Music: John Wilson ("Where the Bee Sucks", "Stay, O Stay",  
 "Do Not Fear to Put Thy Feet", "Take, O Take Those Lips Away")

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

Costumes: Susan Ruddle

Eileen Clark, soprano; Andrea Schultz, violin; Ilan Rechtman, piano

Charlton Boyd, Amber Merkens, Gregory Nuber

Premiere: August 17, 1993, Meadowbank Centre, Edinburgh  
 Festival, Edinburgh, Scotland

Pause

V

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

Jonathan Gandelsman, violin; Andrea Schultz, violin;  
 Jessica Troy, viola; Wolfram Koessel, cello; Ilan Rechtman, piano

Joe Bowie, Charlton Boyd, Marjorie Folkman, Lauren Grant,  
 John Heginbotham, David Leventhal, Bradon McDonald,  
 Amber Merkens, Gregory Nuber, Maile Okamura,  
 Matthew Rose, Brynn Taylor, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

Dedicated to the City of New York.

Choreographic material for the final movement of V was  
 commissioned by Thirteen WNET's *Dance in America* series  
 for its program, *Born to Be Wild: The Leading Men of American*  
*Ballet Theatre*.

Premiere: October 16, 2001, Sadler's Wells, London, England

**Mark Morris Dance Group**

Craig Biesecker*	Bradon McDonald
Joe Bowie	Amber Merkens
Charlton Boyd	Gregory Nuber
Rita Donahue*	Maile Okamura
Marjorie Folkman	June Omura+
Shawn Gannon	Matthew Rose
Lauren Grant	Brynn Taylor *
John Heginbotham	Julie Worden
David Leventhal	Michelle Yard

Artistic Director  
**Mark Morris**

General Director  
**Barry Alterman**

Executive Director  
**Nancy Umanoff**

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.

The Mark Morris Dance Group *New Works Fund* is supported by The  
 Howard Gilman Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation,  
 as well as Altria Group, Inc; The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation;  
 The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation; and the May and Samuel Rudin  
 Family Foundation.

\*apprentice  
 +maternity leave

**Biographies**

**M**ark Morris was born on August 29, 1956 in Seattle,  
 Washington, where he studied as a young man with Verla  
 Flowers and Perry Brunson. In the early years of his career, he  
 performed with Lar Lubovitch, Hannah Kahn, Laura Dean, Eliot Feld,  
 and the Koleda Balkan Dance Ensemble. He formed the Mark Morris  
 Dance Group in 1980, and has since created more than 100 works for  
 the company. From 1988–91, he was director of dance at the Théâtre  
 Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, the national opera house of Belgium.  
 Among the works created during his tenure were three evening-length  
 dances: *The Hard Nut*; *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*; and  
*Dido and Aeneas*.

In 1990, he founded the White Oak Dance Project with  
 Mikhail Baryshnikov. Morris is also much in demand as a ballet  
 choreographer. He has created four works on the San Francisco  
 Ballet since 1994 and received commissions from such companies as  
 American Ballet Theatre, Boston Ballet, and the Paris Opera Ballet.  
 His work is in the repertory of the Geneva Ballet, New Zealand  
 Ballet, English National Ballet, and the Royal Ballet, Covent Garden.  
 He has worked extensively in opera, directing and choreographing  
 productions for the New York City Opera, English National Opera,  
 and the Royal Opera, Covent Garden. Mr. Morris was named a  
 Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991. He has received  
 honorary doctorates from The Boston Conservatory of Music, The  
 Juilliard School, Long Island University, Pratt Institute, and Bowdoin  
 College. Morris is the subject of a biography by Joan Acocella (Farrar,  
 Straus & Giroux). In 2001, Marlowe & Company published Mark  
 Morris' *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato: A Celebration*, a  
 volume of photographs and critical essays.

**Mark Morris Dance Group** was formed in 1980 and gave its first  
 concert that year in New York City. The company's touring schedule  
 steadily expanded to include cities both in the US and in Europe,  
 and in 1986 it made its first national television program for the PBS  
 series *Dance in America*. In 1988, the Mark Morris Dance Group  
 was invited to become the national dance company of Belgium, and  
 spent three years in residence at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie  
 in Brussels. The company returned to the US in 1991 as one of the  
 world's leading dance companies, performing across the country and  
 at major international festivals. It has maintained and strengthened  
 its ties to several cities around the world, most notably Berkeley,  
 California, where Cal Performances presents the company in two  
 annual seasons, including engagements of *The Hard Nut* each  
 December. It is the official dance company (2000–05) of the Virginia  
 Arts Festival, and appears regularly in Boston, Massachusetts;  
 Fairfax, Virginia; Seattle, Washington; Urbana-Champaign, Illinois;  
 and at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket, Massachusetts.

The company's London seasons have garnered two Laurence Olivier  
 Awards. Mark Morris Dance Group is noted for its commitment to  
 live music, a feature of every performance on its full international  
 touring schedule since 1996. Cellist Yo-Yo Ma has frequently  
 collaborated with the Mark Morris Dance Group; their projects  
 include the 1997 Emmy Award-winning film *Falling Down Stairs*,  
 using Bach's Third Suite for Unaccompanied Cello, and the 2002  
 dance *Kolam*, created for *The Silk Road Project* in collaboration with  
 Indian composer Zakir Hussain and jazz pianist Ethan Iverson of The  
 Bad Plus. Mark Morris Dance Group's film and television projects  
 include *Dido and Aeneas*, *The Hard Nut*, and two documentaries for  
 the UK's *South Bank Show*. In 2001, the Mark Morris Dance Center  
 opened in Brooklyn, New York. The 30,000-square foot facility  
 features three studios and a school for dance students of all ages.

**Craig Biesecker**, from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, received a BS in music education from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. While teaching music in Philadelphia, he studied ballet with John White, Margarita de Saa, and Bryan Koulman, and worked with choreographers Tim and Lina Early. In New York City, he has worked with Pascal Rioult, Carolyn Dorfman, New York Theater Ballet, Mark Dendy and Gerald Casel. This is Biesecker's first year with the Mark Morris Dance Group.

**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 Limón Dance Company. He appears in the Jose 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) has sung with the Mark Morris Dance Group for seven years in works of Monteverdi, Purcell, Bach, Brahms, and old Broadway. She has sung Queen of the Night (*The Magic Flute*) and Naiad (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) with Syracuse Opera, Adina (*Elixir of Love*) with Commonwealth Opera and the baroque dance role Galatea (*Pygmalion*) with Concert Royal. Clark has also enjoyed singing for the dancers of the Limón Dance Company, Anita Feldman Tap, Toby Twining Music and at Kaatsbaan and Jacob's Pillow. This year Clark is a winner of a JPF record award for her CD *Lemons Descending* with cellist Matt Haimovitz (Oxingale records).

**Rita Donahue** was born and raised in Fairfax, Virginia. She graduated with a BFA in dance and a BA in English from George Mason University in 2002 and joined bopi's black sheep, dances by Kraig Patterson. She began working with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2003.

**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 Dance Group in 1996.

**Jonathan Gandelsman** (violin) most recently played with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble at the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival in Washington DC. He has also toured with the ensemble to the West Coast and Toronto. Other chamber music collaborations have included performances with Lynn Harrell, Nigel Kennedy, James Levine, Franz Helmerson, Sylvia Marcovici, Pavel Vernikov, Sergey Babayan, Gilbert Kalisch, Daniel Gortler, and his father Yuri Gandelsman, the violist of the Fine Arts Quartet. A recording on EMI of works by Bach and Bartók with Nigel Kennedy was released in January 2003. Since 1990, Gandelsman has been a student of Maya Glezarova, and in 1999 he graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music.

**Shawn Gannon** is from Dover, New Jersey, 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, Illinois, and began dancing at age three. She continued training, primarily in classical ballet, through high school. Grant received her modern dance training and graduated with a BFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Grant joined MMDG in 1998.

**John Heginbotham** is from Anchorage, Alaska, and graduated from the Juilliard School in 1993. He has performed with artists including Susan Marshall and Company, John Jasperse, Ben Munisteri, and as a guest artist with Pilobolus Dance Theater. Heginbotham's choreography is featured in the performances and Emerge music video of recording artists Fischerspooner. He joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1998.

**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.

**David Leventhal**, raised in Newton, Massachusetts, has danced with the Mark Morris Dance Group since 1997. Previously, he worked with José Mateo's Ballet Theatre and the companies of Marcus Schulkind, Amy Spencer/Richard Colton, Ben Munisteri, and Zvi Gotheiner. He graduated from Brown University in 1995 with honors in English literature.

**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 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. McDonald has choreographed and presented his own works internationally and has served as choreographer for seven Juilliard Opera Company productions under director Frank Corsaro. Recently McDonald was the choreographic assistant to Donald McKayle for his new work on the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. McDonald joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in April 2000.

**Amber Merkens** began her dance training with Nancy Mittleman in Newport, Oregon. She received her BFA from the Juilliard School in 1999 and went on to dance with the Limón Dance Company for two years. She is a recipient of the 2001 Princess Grace Award and has presented her own choreography in various venues, including Alice Tully Hall and the Joyce Soho. Merkens joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in August 2001.

**Gregory Nuber** began working with Mark Morris Dance Group 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. Nuber is a graduate of Arizona State University where he studied acting and dance.

**Maile Okamura** was born and raised in San Diego, California. She was a member of Boston Ballet II and Ballet Arizona before moving to New York in 1996. Since then she danced with Neta Pulvermacher, Zvi Gotheiner, Gerald Casel, and many others. Okamura began working with Mark Morris Dance Group 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 eight. 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 joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1988.

**Ilan Rechtman** (piano) has performed with major orchestras throughout the world, including the London Symphony Orchestra, the Montreal Metropolitan Orchestra, New Zealand Symphony, Szeland Symphony (Denmark), the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the San Diego Symphony, the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, the New World Symphony (Miami), the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops. Active as a recitalist and chamber musician, Rechtman has performed internationally and has appeared in more than 80 cities throughout the US. He has frequently performed in New York City with appearances at Carnegie Hall, the 92nd Street Y, Town Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Merkin (Abraham Goodman) Concert Hall, and Weill Recital Hall. In piano competitions, Rechtman won first prize at the Francois Shapira Competition in Israel and at the first San Antonio International Competition. He also won the Maurice M. Clairmont Piano Prize and the America Israel Cultural Foundation's Norry scholarship. Rechtman is recognized as a composer of note and has made important contributions in this field. Music directors Zubin Mehta and Lorin Maazel each commissioned and performed Rechtman's compositions. "Sailor's Rhapsody", a composition for piano and orchestra, has been performed by numerous orchestras including the Pittsburgh, New World, Annapolis and Cape Cod Symphony Orchestras. His chamber work, Three Movements for Cello and Piano, has had performances in Washington at the Kennedy Center as well as in New York City's Weill Hall. Two works received orchestral premieres at Carnegie Hall: "America, Suite Popular, 1994", for woodwind quintet and orchestra, commissioned and performed by the Woodwind Quintet of America with the Manhattan School of Music Sinfonietta. Ilan Rechtman's works are published by Theodore Presser Company and are released on the Omega/Vanguard, Meridian, MMC, Newport Classics, Cembal dAmoure and Well Tempered Productions labels.

**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. Rose began working with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1997 and became a company member in 1999.

**Andrea Schultz** (violin) currently performs and tours with a number of groups, including the Cabrini Quartet, New York Chamber Ensemble, Sequitur, Brandenburg Ensemble, and the Orchestra of St. Luke's. She has also appeared with the Apple Hill Chamber Players, Da Capo Chamber Players, Sospeso, Ensemble 21, Eberli Ensemble, Cygnus, Mostly Mozart, and the Limón Dance Company. Schultz 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 has recorded for the Phoenix, CRI, and New World labels. A graduate of Yale University, she has also received an MM and artist diploma from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a DMA from SUNY Stony Brook.

**Brynn Taylor** raised in San Diego, California, graduated from UC Berkeley with a double major in molecular biology and dance. As a member of the Bay Area Repertory Dance Company she performed in works by Marni and David Wood, Martha Graham and Joe Goode. Taylor joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2002.

**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 American 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 Gyorgy Kurtag.

**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, New York. 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 BFA. Yard began dancing with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1997.

**Mark Morris Dance Group Staff**

**Production**

Technical Director                   Johan Henckens  
 Assistant Technical Director       A.J. Jackson  
 Lighting Supervisor                 Nicole Pearce  
 Wardrobe Supervisor                Katherine McDowell

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Orthopaedist                         David S. Weiss, M.D.  
 (NYU-HJD Department of  
 Orthopaedic Surgery)

Thanks to Maxine Morris.

Sincerest thanks to all the dancers for their dedication,  
 support and incalculable contribution to the work.

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**Beyond the Lion's Roar**

The *Lion King* is not all that roars for Garth Fagan. Not by the longest shot.

Choreographer Garth Fagan won every award on Broadway for his stunning work in *The Lion King*, but his most acclaimed creation remains *Griot New York*, a seminal work in modern dance and one of the rare evening-length masterworks in modern repertory. *Griot New York*—a collaboration among Fagan, musician Wynton Marsalis and sculptor Martin Puryear—is being taken on tour by Fagan to celebrate the anniversary of his company, Garth Fagan Dance. The swinging Wycliffe Gordon Septet will provide live accompaniment for what the *New York Times* calls “dances of such natural purity the audience is moved to roars.”

—Jon Hartley Fox

Garth Fagan Dance  
 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour: *Griot New York*  
 Live music by Wycliffe Gordon Septet  
 Wednesday, April 21, 2004, 8 pm  
 Jackson Hall  
 Landmark Dance series



**Arts  
WORD**

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