



flynn mainstage

03-04

Thursday, February 5, 2004

Flynn Center for the Performing Arts
presents

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

CRAIG BIESECKER JOE BOWIE CHARLTON BOYD RITA DONAHUE*
MARJORIE FOLKMAN LAUREN GRANT JOHN HEGINBOTHAM
DAVID LEVENTHAL BRADON McDONALD AMBER MERKENS
GREGORY NUBER MAILE OKAMURA JUNE OMURA
MATTHEW ROSE NOAH VINSON * JULIE WORDEN MICHELLE YARD

Artistic Director
MARK MORRIS

General Director
BARRY ALTERMAN

Executive Director
NANCY UMANOFF

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MetLife Foundation is the official sponsor of the Mark Morris Dance Group's 2003-2004 national tour.

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

The Mark Morris Dance Group's education and performance activities are supported by Independence Community Foundation. Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by Altria Group, Inc. and the Shubert Foundation.

* apprentice

Tonight's Performance

Choreography by Mark Morris

"MY PARTY"

Music: Jean Françaix (Trio in C for violin, viola, and cello)

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

JONATHAN GANDELSMAN, violin; JESSICA TROY, viola;
ROBERT BURKHART, cello

Dancers:

MARJORIE FOLKMAN, LAUREN GRANT, DAVID LEVENTHAL,
BRADON McDONALD, GREGORY NUBER, MAILE OKAMURA,
NOAH VINSON, MICHELLE YARD

Premiere: June 7, 1984 - Washington Hall Performance Gallery, Seattle, WA

-pause-

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"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)*

Costumes: Christine Van Loon

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

Dancers:

CHARLTON BOYD, LAUREN GRANT, JOHN HEGINBOTHAM,
DAVID LEVENTHAL, 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)*

Costumes: Susan Ruddie

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

EILEEN CLARK, soprano; JONATHAN GANDELSMAN, violin;
STEVEN BECK, piano

Dancers:

CHARLTON BOYD, AMBER MERKENS, GREGORY NUBER

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

-pause-

"GRAND DUO"

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

Prelude
Stampede
A Round
Polka

Costumes: Susan Ruddie

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

JONATHAN GANDELSMAN, violin; STEVEN BECK, piano

Dancers:

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

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

About the Artists

MARK 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 over 100 works for the company. From 1988-1991, 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. Mr. 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. Mr. 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 U.S. and in Europe, and in 1986 it made its first national television program for the PBS series *Dance in America*. In 1988, the 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 U.S. in 1991 as one of the world's leading dance companies, performing across the U.S. and at major international festivals. It has maintained and strengthened its ties to several cities around the world, most notably Berkeley, CA, where Cal Performances presents the company in two annual seasons, including engagements of *The Hard Nut* each December. It is the official dance company (2000-2005) of the Virginia Arts Festival, and appears regularly in Boston, MA; Fairfax, VA; Seattle, WA; Urbana-Champaign, IL; and at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket, MA. The company's London seasons have garnered two Laurence Olivier Awards. MMDG 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 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. MMDG's film and television projects include *Dido and Aeneas*, *The Hard Nut*, and two documentaries for the U.K.'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.

STEVEN BECK (pianist) was born in 1978 and is a graduate of the Juilliard School, where his teachers were Seymour Lipkin and Peter Serkin. He made his debut with the National Symphony Orchestra and toured Japan as soloist with the New York Symphonic Ensemble. Other orchestras with which he has appeared include the New Juilliard Ensemble (under David Robertson), Sequitur, and the Virginia Symphony. Beck has performed as soloist and chamber musician at the Kennedy Center, Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall, Miller Theater, Steinway Hall, and Tonic, as well as on WNYC; summer appearances include the Aspen Music Festival, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, and the

Woodstock Mozart Festival. He is an artist presenter and frequent performer at Bargemusic. He has worked with Elliott Carter, Henri Dutilleux, and George Perle, and has appeared with ensembles such as Speculum Musicae, Sospeso, Friends and Enemies of New Music, and Counterinduction, and is also a member of the notorious Knights of the Many-Sided Table. His recordings are on the Albany, Monument, and Annemarie Classics labels.

CRAIG BIESECKER, from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, received a B.S. in music education from West Chester University of PA. 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 Riout, Carolyn Dorfman, New York Theater Ballet, Mark Dendy, and Gerald Casel. He joined MMDG in September 2003.

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. Boyd first appeared with MMDG in 1989 and became a company member in 1994.

ROBERT BURKHART (cello), a native of Minnesota, entered the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a student of Uri Vardi. In the summer of 1995 he was accepted as an artist-in-residence at the Banff Centre for the Arts under Aldo Parisot. Robert resumed his studies in 1998 at the Mannes College of Music, where he earned the master of music degree in May of 2000. Since coming to New York, Mr. Burkhardt has performed on WQXR's "Young Artists Showcase," was a featured soloist in the 1999 Chopin Festival, and had his Carnegie Weill Hall chamber music debut in the spring of 2002. Other chamber appearances include the series at St. John the Divine, New York Public Library, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Flushing Town Hall, and in New Zealand at the acclaimed Waiheke

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Island Jazz Festival with the Speakeasy String Quartet. Mr. Burkhart has held positions in the Louisiana Philharmonic of New Orleans, the Spoleto USA Festival Orchestra, Lyric Orchestra, S.E.M. Ensemble, Syracuse Symphony, and Absolute Ensemble.

EILEEN CLARK (soprano) has sung with MMDG 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 B.F.A. in dance and a B.A. in English from George Mason University in 2002 and joined bopi's black sheep, dances by Kraig Patterson. She began working as an apprentice with MMDG in 2003.

MARJORIE FOLKMAN began dancing for Mark Morris in 1996. She is a graduate of Barnard College, and has enjoyed graduate study of American history at Columbia University. She has cherished dancing for many choreographers including Richard Colton, Amy Spencer, Ellen Cornfield, Kraig Patterson, and Sara Rudner. Among her all time favorite dances are Mark Morris' *Dido and Aeneas* and Frederick Ashton's *The Dream*.

JONATHAN GANDELSMAN (violin) most recently played with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble at the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival in Washington D.C. 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.

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, Grant received her modern dance training and graduated with a B.F.A. She 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 MMDG in 1998.

DAVID LEVENTHAL, raised in Newton, Massachusetts, has danced with MMDG 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 B.F.A. 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 the director Frank Corsaro. Recently, McDonald was the choreographic assistant to Donald McKayle for his new work on the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. He joined MMDG in April 2000.

AMBER MERKENS began her dance training with Nancy Mittleman in Newport, Oregon. She received her B.F.A. 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 MMDG in August 2001.

GREGORY NUBER began working with MMDG in 1998 and became a company member in 2001. He was a member of Pascal

Riolt 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 has had the pleasure of dancing with Neta Pulvermacher, Zvi Gotheiner, Gerald Casel, and many others. Okamura began working with MMDG in 1998 and became a company member in 2001.

JUNE OMURA spent her first six years in New York City, then grew up in Birmingham, Alabama. She returned to New York to attend Barnard College, graduating in 1986 with honors in dance and English, and has been dancing for Mark Morris since 1988. She is the proud mother of twin girls, born in July 2003, and is indebted to her husband, her family, and MMDG for their love and support.

MATTHEW ROSE received his B.F.A. from the University of Michigan. He has appeared with the Martha Graham Dance Company, Pascal Riolt Dance Theater, and Ann Arbor Dance Works. Rose began working with MMDG in 1997 and became a company member in 1999.

JESSICA TROY (viola) has played for MMDG since 1998. A native New Yorker, she 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 has been a participant at many chamber music festivals, including Marlboro and Prussia Cove, performing with Felix Galimir, Nobuko Imai, Isidore Cohen, Siegfried Palm, Ida Levin, and James Tocco, among others. She has had the opportunity to work with many composers on their own works, including Roger Reynolds, Jacob Druckman, Oliver Knussen, and Gyorgy Kurtag; her performance of music by the latter can be heard on a recent Bridge CD celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Marlboro Music Festival. A member of the Brooklyn Philharmonic, she is also an active chamber musician, performing with Sequitor, the Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players, and the Eberli Ensemble, as well as with the Acacia, Maia, and Meridian String Quartets.

NOAH VINSON received his B.A. in dance from Columbia College Chicago, where he worked with Shirley Mordine, Jan Erkert, and Brian Jeffrey. In New York he has danced with Teri and Oliver Steele and the Kevin Wynn Collection. He has danced with MMDG in *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, and *The Hard Nut*, and became an apprentice in 2003.

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 Bachelor of Fine Arts. Yard began dancing with the Dance Group in 1997.

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP STAFF

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Assistant Technical Director A.J. Jackson

Lighting Supervisor Nicole Pearce

Sound Supervisor Perchik Miller

Wardrobe Supervisor Katherine McDowell

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support, and incalculable contribution to the work.

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