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JANUARY-FEBRUARY
03/04 Season

Fri-Sat, Feb 27-28, 2004 at 8pm
Royce Hall

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

MARK MORRIS / Artistic Director and Choreographer

BARRY ALTERMAN / General Director

NANCY UMANOFF / Executive Director

Dancers: **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 and MICHELLE YARD
* apprentice

-Running time is approximately 120 minutes with one intermission-

Post-performance discussions with Mark Morris, Artistic Director.



This performance is sponsored, in part, by the Royce Center Circle memberships of Bobbi Elliott and Lee Dubin Lasker.

Media Sponsors:



GOING AWAY PARTY

Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys / Music (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)

Christine Van Loon / Costumes
Michael Chybowski / Lighting

Dancers: Charlton Boyd, Lauren Grant,
John Heginbotham, David Leventhal,
Maile Okamura, Matthew Rose, Julie Worden

Premiered April 14, 1990 in Halles de Schaerbeek,
Brussels, Belgium.

-Pause-

ALL FOURS

Béla Bartók / Music (String Quartet No. 4)
Martin Pakledinaz / Costumes
Nicole Pearce / Lighting
Musicians: Jonathan Gandelsman, violin;
Andrea Schultz, violin; Jessica Troy, viola;
Wolfram Koessel, cello

I. *Allegro*

Charlton Boyd, Joe Bowie, Rita Donahue,
David Leventhal, Amber Merkens, Maile Okamura,
Noah Vinson, Michelle Yard

II. *Prestissimo, Con Sordino*

Craig Biesecker, Bradon McDonald

III. *Non Troppo Lento*

Craig Biesecker, Marjorie Folkman,
Bradon McDonald, Julie Worden

IV. *Allegretto Pizzicato*

Marjorie Folkman, Julie Worden

V. *Allegro Molto*

Charlton Boyd, Joe Bowie, Rita Donahue,
David Leventhal, Amber Merkens, Maile Okamura,
Noah Vinson, Michelle Yard

Commissioned in part by Cal Performances.

Premiered September 12, 2003 in Zellerbach Hall,
Berkeley, California.

-Intermission -

A SPELL

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

Susan Ruddle / Costumes
Michael Chybowski / Lighting
Musicians: Eileen Clark, soprano; Andrea Schultz,
violin; TBA, piano

Dancers: Charlton Boyd, Amber Merkens,
Gregory Nuber

Premiered August 17, 1993 in Meadowbank Centre,
Edinburgh Festival, Edinburgh, Scotland.

-Pause-

V

Robert Schumann / Music (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

Martin Pakledinaz / Costumes
Michael Chybowski / Lighting
Musicians: Jonathan Gandelsman, violin;
Andrea Schultz, violin; Jessica Troy, viola;
Wolfram Koessel, cello; TBA, piano

Dancers: Joe Bowie, Charlton Boyd, Rita Donahue,
Marjorie Folkman, Lauren Grant,
John Heginbotham, David Leventhal,
Bradon McDonald, Amber Merkens,
Gregory Nuber, Maile Okamura, Matthew Rose,
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*.

Premiered October 16, 2001 in Sadler's Wells,
London, England.

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 United States 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.

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 Rioult, Carolyn Dorfman, New York Theater Ballet, Mark Dendy and Gerald Casel. This is Craig'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. Eileen 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 Eileen 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 with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2003.

MARJORIE FOLKMAN began dancing for Mark Morris in 1996. She graduated from Barnard College summa cum laude and has cherished dancing for many choreographers including Richard Colton, Amy Spencer, 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, Jonathan 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, Lauren received her modern dance training and graduated with a B.F.A. Lauren 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. John'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, and has since performed as soloist and chamber musician in concert halls throughout the world. Based in New York City, Mr. 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, Mr. 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, Mr. 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 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 Kylián, 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 the Mark Morris Dance Group 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. Amber 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, 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. Maile began working with MMDG in 1998 and became a company member in 2001.

JUNE OMARA 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. June is the proud mother of twin girls, born in July, and is indebted for their love and support to her husband, her family, and the Mark Morris Dance Group.

MATTHEW ROSE received his B.F.A. 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.

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. Ms. 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 M.M. and Artist Diploma from the

Cleveland Institute of Music and a D.M.A. from SUNY Stony Brook.

JESSICA TROY (viola) has played for the Mark Morris Dance Group 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, including performances 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. Michelle began dancing with the Dance Group in 1997.

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP STAFF

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Thanks to Maxine Morris.

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

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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 The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation; The Gladys Kriebel 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.

Additional funding has been received from The Capezio/Ballet Makers Dance Foundation; Carnegie Corporation of New York; Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust; Con Edison; Aaron Copland Fund for Music; Eleanor Naylor Dana Charitable Trust; The Fund for U.S. Artists at International Festivals and Exhibitions; The Harkness Foundation for Dance; Independence Community Foundation; JPMorgan Chase Foundation; Leon Lowenstein Foundation; Materials for the Arts; McDermott, Will & Emery; The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; The New Yorker; Odegard, Inc.; Resnicow Schroeder Associates; Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation; and the Friends of the Mark Morris Dance Group.

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