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SPRING 2005





Overture Presents

# MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

CRAIG BIESECKER JOE BOWIE CHARLTON BOYD AMBER DARRAGH  
RITA DONAHUE LORENA EGAN\* MARJORIE FOLKMAN LAUREN GRANT  
JOHN HEGINBOTHAM DAVID LEVENTHAL BRADON McDONALD  
DARIO MEJIA\* GREGORY NUBER MAILE OKAMURA JUNE OMURA  
NOAH VINSON JULIE WORDEN MICHELLE YARD

\*apprentice

*Artistic Director*  
**MARK MORRIS**

*General Director*  
**BARRY ALTERMAN**

*Executive Director*  
**NANCY UMANOFF**

## MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE

**MetLife Foundation** MetLife Foundation is the official sponsor of the Mark Morris Dance Group's 2005 national tour.



**Altria**

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by Altria Group, Inc., The Shubert Foundation and Target Stores.

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 and The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation.

The Mark Morris Dance Group's education and performance activities are supported by Independence Community 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.

**Wednesday, March 23, 2005 ■ Overture Hall**

This program is funded in part by the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin.

Sponsored by



The 2004-2005 Community Ticket Program is made possible with generous funding from American Girl's Fund for Children, American Family Insurance, Alliant Energy Foundation, Kraft Foods, Wisconsin State Journal Youth Services, Inc., Wisconsin Arts Board and contributors to the Ovation Fund.



## PROGRAM

*Choreography by Mark Morris*

### **MY PARTY**

*Music: Jean Françaix - Trio in C for violin, viola and cello (1933)*

*Lighting: Michael Chybowski*

YOSUKE KAWASAKI, *violin*; JESSICA TROY, *viola*; WOLFRAM KOESSEL, *cello*

CRAIG BIESECKER, MARJORIE FOLKMAN, LAUREN GRANT, DAVID LEVENTHAL,  
BRADON McDONALD, GREGORY NUBER, MAILE OKAMURA, MICHELLE YARD

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

*-pause-*

### **ALL FOURS**

*Music: Béla Bartók - String Quartet No. 4 (1928)*

*Costumes: Martin Pakledinaz*

*Lighting: Nicole Pearce*

JESSE MILLS, *violin*; YOSUKE KAWASAKI, *violin*;  
JESSICA TROY, *viola*; WOLFRAM KOESSEL, *cello*

#### ***I. Allegro***

JOE BOWIE, CHARLTON BOYD, AMBER DARRAGH, RITA DONAHUE,  
JOHN HEGINBOTHAM, DAVID LEVENTHAL, MAILE OKAMURA, JUNE OMURA

#### ***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***

JOE BOWIE, CHARLTON BOYD, AMBER DARRAGH, RITA DONAHUE,  
JOHN HEGINBOTHAM, DAVID LEVENTHAL, MAILE OKAMURA, JUNE OMURA

Commissioned in part by Cal Performances.

Premiere: September 12, 2003 – Cal Performances, Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley, California

Béla Bartók's *String Quartet No. 4* is performed by arrangement with Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., publisher and copyright owner.

*-intermission-*



**SILHOUETTES**

*Music: Richard Cumming - Silhouettes - Five Pieces for Piano (1993)*

*Lighting: Michael Chybowski*

STEVEN BECK, *piano*

JOE BOWIE, DAVID LEVENTHAL

Premiere: August 2, 1999 – Ted Shawn Theatre, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Becket, Massachusetts

*-pause-*

**V**

*Music: Robert Schumann - Quintet in E flat for piano and strings, op. 44 (1842)*

Allegro brillante

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

Scherzo molto vivace

Allegro, ma non troppo

*Costumes: Martin Pakledinaz*

*Lighting: Michael Chybowski*

YOSUKE KAWASAKI, *violin*; JESSE MILLS, *violin*;

JESSICA TROY, *viola*; WOLFRAM KOESSEL, *cello*; STEVEN BECK, *piano*

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

Dedicated to the City of New York.

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



**MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP**

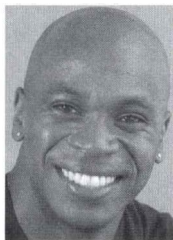
**MARK  
MORRIS** **DANCE  
GROUP**



Mark Morris



Craig Blesecker



Joe Bowie



Charlton Boyd



Amber Darragh



Rita Donahue



Lorena Egan



Marjorie Folkman



Lauren Grant



John Heginbotham



David Leventhal



Brandon McDonald



Dario Mejia



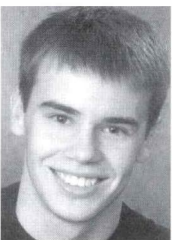
Gregory Nuber



Maile Okamura



June Omura



Noah Vinson



Julie Worden



Michelle Yard



**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 five 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 appears regularly in Boston, MA; Fairfax, VA; Seattle, WA; Urbana, IL; and at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket, MA. MMDG made its debut at the Mostly Mozart Festival in 2002 and at the Tanglewood Music Festival in 2003 and has since returned to both festivals annually. 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* 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.

**MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE** was formed in 1996 and since that time has joined the Mark Morris Dance Group on tour throughout the U.S., U.K., Australia and Japan. The Ensemble's repertory ranges from 17th-century works by John Wilson and Henry Purcell to more recent scores by Lou Harrison and Henry Cowell. In addition, the Ensemble presents concerts at the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn and other venues, and participates in the Mark Morris Dance, Music, and Literacy program in the New York City public school system. The Ensemble is currently under the direction of Wolfram Koessel.

**STEVEN BECK** (piano) 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. Mr. 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. He has played with the MMDG Music Ensemble since 2004.

**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. Craig joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 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. He first appeared with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1989 and became a company member in 1994.

**AMBER DARRAGH** 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 2001.

**RITA DONAHUE** was born and raised in Fairfax, Virginia. She graduated with honors 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. Rita began working with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2003.

**LORENA EGAN** began her training at the Phoenix School of Ballet in Arizona. She attended the Juilliard School and received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1998. She was a member of Buglisi/Foreman Dance and the Pascal Rioult Dance Theater (1999-2005) before joining MMDG as an apprentice in February 2005.

**MARJORIE FOLKMAN** began dancing for Mark Morris in 1996. She graduated summa cum laude from Barnard College and has attended Columbia University's Graduate Program in American Studies. She has also danced with Amy Spencer and Richard Colton, Kraig Patterson, Neta Pulvermacher, Sally Hess, Ellen Cornfield, the Repertory Understudy Group for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, and Sara Rudner.

**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 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.

**YOSUKE KAWASAKI** (violin) is currently the co-concertmaster of the Saito Kinen Orchestra and the Mito Chamber Orchestra of Japan. He was the former concertmaster of the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra from 1999 - 2001. As an active chamber musician, Kawasaki has worked with artists such as, Lukas Foss, Gary Graffman, Karl Leister, and Walter Van Hauwe. He has made duo appearances with Vadim Serebryany in America and Japan which included the complete cycle of Beethoven's *Sonata for Piano and Violin* in the 2000 season. His debut recording was recently released of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos on the King label. He has been playing with the MMDG Music Ensemble since 2002.

**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. 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 with the MMDG Music Ensemble since 2000 and was named its Music Director in 2004.

**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. He danced with the Limón Dance Company for three years and was the recipient of the 1998 Princess Grace Award. He has choreographed and presented his own works internationally, served as choreographer for seven Juilliard Opera Company productions under director Frank Corsaro, and was the choreographic assistant to Donald McKayle at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Bradon joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2000.

**DARIO MEJIA** was raised in Minnesota and graduated with honors from

Mahtomedi High School. He received his primary training at the Larkin Dance Studio and was a recipient of the 2000 ARTS Award in Jazz Dance from the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts before continuing studies at the Juilliard School. This is Dario's first season with MMDG.

**JESSE MILLS** (violin) graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree from The Juilliard School in 2001. He has performed as soloist with the Juilliard Pre-College Chamber Orchestra, the Teatro Argentino Orchestra in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the New Jersey Symphony, the Sarah Lawrence College Symphony, the Plainfield Symphony, the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, and Aspen Music Festival's Sinfonia Orchestra as winner of the Festival's E. Nakamichi Violin Concerto Competition. Mills received an Aspen Music Festival String Fellowship in 1997. As a chamber musician Mills has performed at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, New York City's Merkin Concert Hall and Bargemusic, the Rising Stars series at Caramoor, the Ravinia Festival's Bennett-Gordon Hall, and at the Marlboro Music Festival. He has performed chamber music with such artists as Richard Goode, David Soyer, Donald Weilerstein, Anton Kuerti, Peter Wiley, Miriam Fried, Claude Frank, and Fred Sherry. He was a member of the FLUX Quartet from 2001-2003. Currently, Mills is a member of Nurse Kaya, an ensemble comprised of string quartet plus bass and drums which exclusively plays compositions written by its members. Mills is also a member of the Denali Trio, with cellist Sarah Carter and pianist Ashley Wass. This is his first season performing with the MMDG Music Ensemble.

**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 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.

**JESSICA TROY** (viola) has played for the MMDG Music Ensemble 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 been working with the MMDG since 2002 and became a company member in 2004.

**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

### PRODUCTION

**Technical Director** Johan Henckens  
**Music Director** Wolfram Koessel  
**Lighting Supervisor** Nicole Pearce  
**Wardrobe Supervisor** Katherine McDowell  
**Sound Supervisor** Jim Abdou

### OPERATIONS

**Company Manager** Aaron Mattocks  
**Studio Manager** Karyn La Scala  
**Administrative Assistant** Kathleen Cannucci  
**Facility Manager** José Suarez  
**Maintenance** Jimmy Ribot  
**Office Assistant** Jay Selinger

### EDUCATION

**Director of Education** Eva Nichols  
**School Administrator** Diane Ogunusi  
**Administrative Assistant** Marc Castelli

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**Director of Membership and  
Special Events** Alex Pacheco  
**Marketing Manager** Laura Wall  
**Marketing Assistant** Barbie Insua

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**Finance Assistant** Liz Bloomfield

**Booking Representation** Michael Mushalla  
(Double M Arts & Events)

**Legal Counsel** Mark Selinger  
(McDermott, Will & Emery)

**Accountant** Kathryn Lundquist, CPA

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

Thanks to Maxine Morris.

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contribution to the work.

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