

Walton Arts Center

# OnStage

Volume 4 / Issue 2

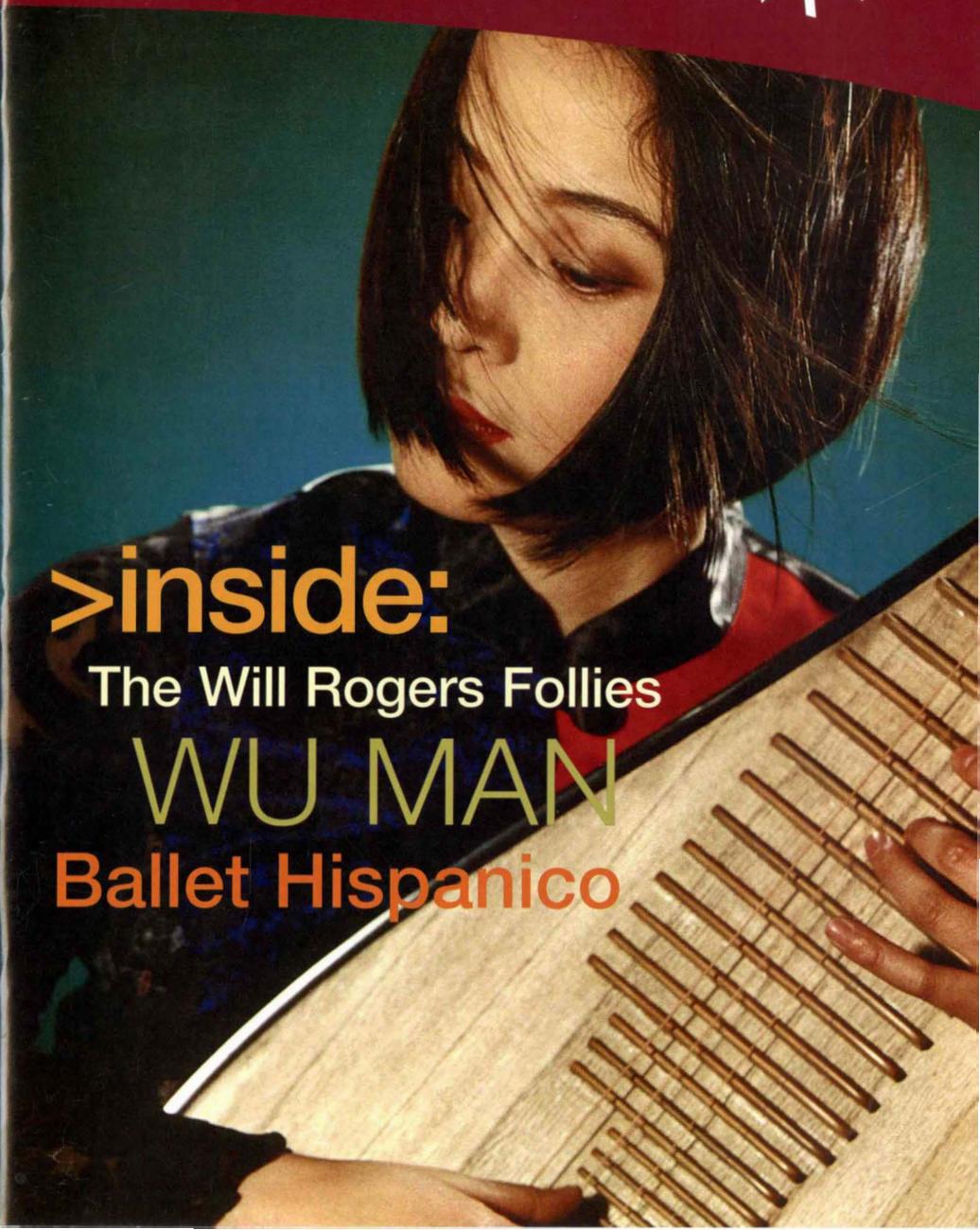


>inside:

The Will Rogers Follies

WU MAN

Ballet Hispanico





Walton Arts Center  
life is sweet

# mark morris

## DANCE GROUP



Photo by Robbie Jack

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**M M D G**  
**25**

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

*\*apprentice*

*Artistic Director*  
**MARK MORRIS**

*Executive Director*  
**NANCY UMANOFF**

with the  
**MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE**

Program  
***Going Away Party***  
***All Fours***  
**-intermission-**  
***Three Russian Preludes***  
**V**

Altria Group, Inc. is the Lead Sponsor of the Mark Morris Dance Group's 25th Anniversary Season.

MetLife Foundation is the Official Sponsor of the Mark Morris Dance Group's 25TH Anniversary National Tour.

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by Carnegie Corporation of New York, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The Shubert Foundation and Target.

The Mark Morris Dance Group New Works Fund is supported by The Howard Gilman Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon 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.

*Choreography by Mark Morris*

## **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" (1935-73)

*Costumes:* Christine Van Loon

*Lighting:* Michael Chybowski

**CHARLTON BOYD, LAUREN GRANT, JOHN HEGINBOTHAM, DAVID LEVENTHAL,  
GREGORY NUBER, MAILE OKAMURA, JULIE WORDEN**

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

**-pause-**

# ALL FOURS



Photo by Katuyoshi Tanaka

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

*Costumes:* Martin Pakledinaz

*Lighting:* Nicole Pearce

MARC ROVETTI, *violin*; JENNIFER CURTIS, *violin*;  
JESSICA TROY, *viola*; SUSAN BABINI, *cello*

## **I. Allegro**

JOE BOWIE, AMBER DARRAGH, RITA DONAHUE, JOHN HEGINBOTHAM,  
DAVID LEVENTHAL, MAILE OKAMURA, JUNE OMURA, NOAH VINSON

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

CRAIG BIESECKER, BRADON McDONALD

## **III. Non troppo lento**

CRAIG BIESECKER, LAUREN GRANT, BRADON McDONALD, MICHELLE YARD

## **IV. Allegretto pizzicato**

LAUREN GRANT, MICHELLE YARD

## **V. Allegro molto**

JOE BOWIE, AMBER DARRAGH, RITA DONAHUE, JOHN HEGINBOTHAM,  
DAVID LEVENTHAL, MAILE OKAMURA, JUNE OMURA, NOAH VINSON

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-***

# THREE RUSSIAN PRELUDES

*Music: Dmitri Shostakovich - 24 Preludes and Fugues, op. 87: Prelude no. 17 in A flat major, Prelude no. 22 in G minor, Prelude no. 15 in D flat major (1950-1951)*

BENJAMIN HOCHMAN, *piano*

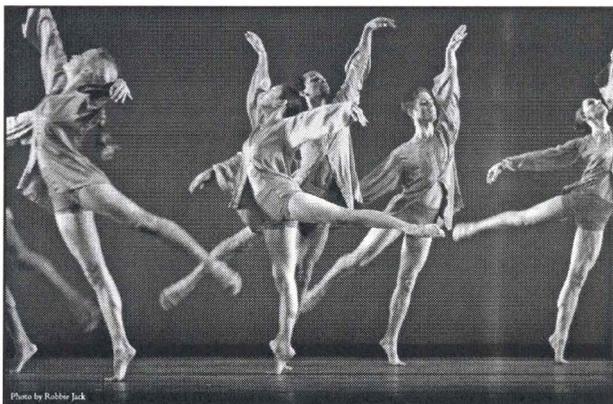
DAVID LEVENTHAL

Premiere: January 1, 1995 - White Oak Dance Project

Company Premiere: February 21, 2006 - Walton Arts Center, Fayetteville, Arkansas

**-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*

MARC ROVETTI, *violin*; JENNIFER CURTIS, *violin*;  
JESSICA TROY, *viola*; SUSAN BABINI, *cello*; BENJAMIN HOCHMAN, *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



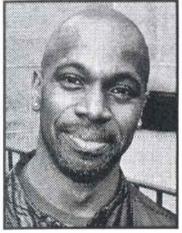
MARK MORRIS was born on August 29, 1956 in Seattle, Washington, where he studied as a young man with Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson. In the early years of his career, he performed with Lar Lubovitch, Hannah Kahn, Laura Dean, Eliot Feld, and the Koleda Balkan Dance Ensemble. He formed the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1980, and has since created more than 120 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. Morris is also much in demand as a ballet choreographer. He has created six works on the San Francisco Ballet since 1994 and received commissions from American Ballet Theatre, and the Boston Ballet, among others. His work is in the repertory of the Geneva Ballet, New Zealand Ballet, Houston Ballet, English National Ballet, and The Royal Ballet, Covent Garden. Morris is noted for his musicality - he has been described as "undeviating in his devotion to music" - and for his "ability to conjure up so many contradictory styles and emotions." 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. 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, Bowdoin College, and George Mason University. 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.

The MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP, now celebrating its 25th Anniversary, 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; at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket, MA and at BAM in Brooklyn, NY. 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 fall 2001, the Dance Group opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn, New York, the company's first permanent headquarters in the U.S, housing rehearsal space for the dance community, outreach programs for local children, as well as a school offering dance classes to students of all ages.

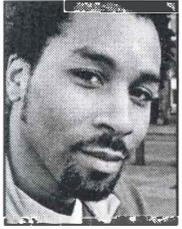
MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE was formed in 1996 and since that time has joined the Mark Morris Dance Group on tour throughout the U.S., U.K., Australia and Japan. The Ensemble's repertory ranges from 17th-century works by John Wilson and Henry Purcell to more recent scores by Lou Harrison and Henry Cowell. In 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 under the direction of Wolfram Koessel.



**CRAIG BIESECKER**, from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, received a B.S. 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. Craig joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2003.



**JOE BOWIE** was born in Lansing, Michigan, and began dancing while attending Brown University where he graduated with honors in English and American Literature. In New York, he has performed in the works of Robert Wilson and Ulysses Dove and also 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 the Inner City Ensemble Theater and Dance Company. He graduated from The Juilliard School. He went on to dance with the Limón Dance Company and appears in Jose Limón Technique Video, Volume I, among other music videos. He first appeared with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1989 and became a company member in 1994.



**ELISA CLARK** received her early training from the Maryland Youth Ballet, and her BFA from the Juilliard School, under the direction of Benjamin Harkavy. She has danced with the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company,

the Nederlands Dans Theater, the Peridance Ensemble, and Battleworks Dance Company. Ms. Clark has staged works by Robert Battle, David Parsons, Igal Perry and Adam Hougland on various schools and Companies, including the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. She has been on the faculty of the American Dance Festival, and currently works closely with Carolyn Adams and the American Dance Legacy Institute, as well as serves on an advisory panel for Capezio. She first appeared with the MMDG in *L'Allegro* in August 2005.

**JENNIFER CURTIS** (violin) a recent graduate of the Juilliard School, gives her New York Debut at Carnegie Hall's Weil Recital Hall next May 6th, 2006. Jennifer recently performed Dutilleux's violin concert *l'Arbre des Songes*, in Alice Tully Hall with the Juilliard orchestra. Last fall the New York Times recognized Jennifer's "fine solos" from her performance as concert master of the Juilliard Orchestra for Mahler's 9th symphony in Avery Fisher Hall. Jennifer is also a composer and her music has been performed throughout the US, Central America and Europe. Her recent endeavor, Tres Americas Project, began with a tour in Panama, where Jennifer performed several of her own works for violin, mandolin, guitar and vocals. In 2000-2001 Jennifer was the percussionist for Strong Current Dance Company in San Francisco, California. This is Jennifer's first season with the MMDG Music Ensemble.



**AMBER DARRAGH** is originally from Newport, Oregon, where she began her dance training with Nancy Mittleman. She received her B.F.A. from The Juilliard School in 1999 and then danced with the Limón Dance Company for two years. She is a recipient of the 2001 Princess Grace Award and has presented her own choreography both in New York and abroad. Amber joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2001.



**RITA DONAHUE** was born and raised in Fairfax, Virginia, and attended George Mason University, where she graduated with honors in Dance and English in 2002. She danced with bopi's black sheep/dances by kraig patterson and joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2003.



**LORENA EGAN** began her training at the Phoenix School of Ballet in Arizona. She graduated from the Juilliard School in 1998 and went on to dance with Buglisi/Foreman Dance and the Pascal Rioult Dance Theater (1999 - 2005). Lorena joined the Mark Morris Dance Group as an apprentice in 2005.



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



**LAUREN GRANT** was raised in Highland Park, Illinois, and has danced with the Mark Morris Dance Group since 1996. She has appeared in thirty-two of Mark Morris's dances, originating thirteen roles. Lauren has played the role of Marie in *The Hard Nut* since 1998, the same year she became a company member. At age three, she began studying ballet and character dance. She attended New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, graduating with a B.F.A. She teaches master classes in ballet and modern

technique, as well as Mark Morris repertory, at schools and universities around the world, and MMDG's school in Brooklyn. She is married to fellow dancer David Leventhal.



**JOHN HEGINBOTHAM** is from Anchorage, Alaska, and graduated from The Juilliard School in 1993. He has performed with such artists as Susan Marshall and Company, John Jasperse, and Ben Munisteri; he was 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.

**BENJAMIN HOCHMAN** (piano) is a native of Jerusalem currently residing in New York City. His 2005-2006 season includes debuts with the Seattle, Chicago, Cincinnati and Vermont Symphony Orchestras and a reengagement with the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa. He also plays recitals at the Klavierfestival Ruhr in Essen, the Jerusalem Voice of Music Series, and throughout New England, including the Brattleboro Music Center in Vermont. He is a member of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society Two program and a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and the Mannes College of Music in New York.



**DAVID LEVENTHAL**, raised in Newton, Massachusetts, has danced with the Mark Morris Dance Group since 1997. He has appeared in thirty-five of Mark Morris's dances, including eleven premieres. He studied at Boston Ballet School and has danced with José Mateo's Ballet Theatre and the companies of Marcus Schulkind, Richard Colton/Amy Spencer, Zvi Gotheiner, Neta Pulvermacher, and Ben Munisteri. He graduated with honors in English Literature from Brown University in 1995. He teaches master classes in technique and repertory at schools and colleges around

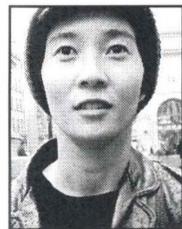
the country. He gives classes regularly at MMDG's school, including one for people with Parkinson's Disease. He is married to fellow dancer Lauren Grant.



**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.



**GREGORY NUBER** graduated from Arizona State University, where he studied acting and dance. He danced with Pascal Rioult Dance Theatre for three years; appeared as a guest artist with New York City Opera, Cleveland Opera and Tennessee Repertory Theatre; and worked with numerous New York-based choreographers. Gregory began working with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1998 and became a company member in 2001. He is on the faculty at the School at the Mark Morris Dance Center and teaches master classes in the United States and abroad.



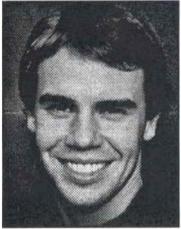
**MAILE OKAMURA** is originally from San Diego, California. She was a member of Boston Ballet II in 1992-93 and Ballet Arizona in 1993-96. She has danced with choreographers Neta Pulvermacher, Zvi Gotheiner, and Gerald Casel, among others. Maile began working with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1998 and became a company member in 2001.



**JUNE OMURA** is originally from New York City and grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, where she began her performing career with Ballet UAB. In 1986 she graduated from Barnard College with honors in Dance and English, and that summer she first performed with Mark Morris as a workshop student. June joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1988 and won a New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie) in 2005 for her work with the company. She is the proud mother of twin girls.

**MARC ROVETTI** (violin) recently appeared with the Sacramento Philharmonic in addition to performing at the Kennedy Center and the Tenri Cultural Institute at New York University (NYU). Mr. Rovetti is a member of the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), and the Rothko String Quartet, winner of the Third Prize of the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition of 2004. He has attended the Tanglewood Music Center for the past four summers, most recently as a member of the New Fromm Players, the resident contemporary ensemble. Rovetti's 2003 performance of Augusta Read Thomas' violin concerto "Spirit Musings" was included on a CD celebrating the tenth anniversary of Seiji Ozawa Hall. Marc Rovetti recently completed an Advanced Certificate from NYU as a student of Pamela Frank, and as a recipient of the Alberto Vilar Global Fellowship in the Performing Arts. Mr. Rovetti has also attended the Juilliard School where he received both his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees as a student of Ronald Copes in addition to receiving chamber music coachings from the Juilliard String Quartet. At Juilliard, Marc Rovetti served as concertmaster of the Juilliard Orchestra numerous times under Sir Roger Norrington, David Atherton and Julius Rudel. This is his first season performing with MMDG as a member of the MMDG Music Ensemble.

**JESSICA TROY** (viola), a native New Yorker, has played with the Mark Morris Dance Group Music Ensemble since 1998. She wears a wide variety of freelance hats; a member of the Brooklyn Philharmonic, she has recently performed with Sequitur, the new music ensemble, on baroque viola with Renee Fleming on the David Letterman Show, and everything in between. She has participated at many illustrious chamber music festivals, including Prussia Cove and Marlboro-- she can be heard on the latter's 50th anniversary CD. She is a proud resident of MMDG's own Fort Greene neighborhood in Brooklyn.



**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 began working with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2002 and became a company member in 2004.



**JULIE WORDEN** graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts and joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1994.



**MICHELLE YARD** was born in Brooklyn, New York, and 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 a scholarship student at the Alvin Ailey Dance Center, and attended New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Michelle joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1997. Mom, thank you.

# 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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