

• McCARTER THEATRE CENTER •



2005 • 2006 season

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

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

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,

JP Morgan Chase Foundation, The Howard Gilman Foundation, Independence Community Foundation,
The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Starr Foundation, and
Target.

The Mark Morris Dance Group New Works Fund is supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and
the Gladys Krieble Delmas 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.

McCarter Theatre Center requests that all electronic devices including beepers, cellular
phones and watches be turned off for the duration of the performance.

*The use of recording equipment or the taking of photographs during the performance is strictly
prohibited. No food, drink or smoking is allowed in the theater at any time.*

This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council
on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the
Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

-PROGRAM-

Choreography by Mark Morris

I

SOMEBODY'S COMING TO SEE ME TONIGHT

Music: Stephen Foster - "The Hour for Thee and Me," "Beautiful Dreamer,"
"Gentle Annie," "Soirée Polka," "Somebody's Coming To See Me Tonight,"
"Linger In Blissful Repose," "Wilt Thou Be Gone, Love?," "Katy Bell,"
"Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming" (1850-1864)

Costumes: Susan Ruddie

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

Jamet Pittman, soprano; Emily Eyre, alto; Michael Kelley, tenor;
Jesse Blumberg, baritone; Jesse Mills, violin; Jessica Troy, viola;
Wolfram Koessel, cello; Steven Beck, piano;

Craig Biesecker, Joe Bowie, Amber Darragh, Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham,
David Leventhal, Bradon McDonald, Maile Okamura, June Omura

Premiere: June 6, 1995 - Emerson Majestic, Boston, Massachusetts

-pause-

II

ALL FOURS

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

Costumes: Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting: Nicole Pearce

Jesse Mills, violin; Jennifer Curtis, violin;
Jessica Troy, viola; Wolfram Koessel, 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, Majorie Folkman, Bradon McDonald, Julie Worden

IV. Allegretto pizzicato

Marjorie Folkman, Julie Worden

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-

III

ROCK OF AGES

Music: Franz Schubert - *Piano trio in E flat, Adagio, D897* (1828)

Costumes: Katherine McDowell

Lighting: Nicole Pearce

Jesse Mills, violin; Wolfram Koessel, cello; Steven Beck, piano

Craig Biesecker, David Leventhal, Bradon McDonald, Michelle Yard

Commissioned in part by Cal Performances.

Premiere: October 28, 2004 - Cal Performances, Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley, California

-pause-

IV

GRAND DUO

Music: Lou Harrison - *Grand Duo for Violin and Piano* (1988)

Prelude

Stampede

A Round

Polka

Costumes: Susan Ruddle

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

Jesse Mills, violin; 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

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 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 for 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 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. 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. 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.

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.

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.

JESSE BLUMBERG (*baritone*) recently returned from his second season at Glimmerglass Opera, where he performed the role of the Hotel Waiter in Britten's *Death in Venice*. Equally at home on opera and concert stages, he has been recognized in several vocal competitions, including the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and the International Johannes Brahms Competition. In addition to his debut with MMDG, this season Mr. Blumberg also joins the artist roster of the Marilyn Horne Foundation, which will present him on its *On Wings of Song* series.

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 1*, 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 Harkarvy. 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 Houghland on various schools and Companies, including the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

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.

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.

EMILY EYRE (*alto*), born in New York and raised in Hawaii, is known for her lyrical style in performing concert repertoire ranging from Monteverdi to Meredith Monk. Solo performances include Handel's *Messiah* and Vivaldi's *Gloria* with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Meredith Monk's *Atlas*, *Celebration Service*, and

Expeditions in Concert with the Houston Grand Opera, Spoleto Festival, and Lincoln Center Festival.

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 began dancing with Mark Morris in 1996.

LAUREN GRANT, raised in Highland Park, Illinois, has danced with the Mark Morris Dance Group since 1996. She has appeared in thirty-four of Mark Morris' dances, originating thirteen roles. She has played the role of Marie in *The Hard Nut* since 1998. At age 3 she began studying ballet and later, character dance. She attended New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, graduating with a BFA.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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. She graduated from Barnard College in 1986 with honors in Dance and English; she first performed with Mark Morris that summer, as a workshop student. In 1988, June joined the Mark Morris Dance Group, and in 2005 she was awarded a New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie) for her career with the company.

JAMET PITTMAN (*soprano*) is a native of Washington DC. At an early age she studied piano and violin, and eventually majored in Piano Performance at Oberlin Conservatory. However, she realized her love for singing, and went to earn both her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Vocal Performance from The Catholic University of America. Upon graduation, Jamet pursued her Professional Studies certificate at the Manhattan School of Music. Jamet made her Carnegie Hall debut under the direction of Sir Neville Marriner in a concert celebrating his 75th birthday. She performed with the Washington Army Band and chorus singing the role of Bess, in *Porgy and Bess Suite*, in a program honoring Gershwin's Centennial birthday.

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.

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.

Thanks to Maxine Morris.

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

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

General Manager: Aaron Mattocks

Studio Manager: Karyn Treadwell

Administrative Assistant: Kathleen Cannucci

Management Assistant: Adrienne Bryant

Production Manager: Matthew Eggleton

Facility Manager: José Suarez

Maintenance: David Baez

Office Assistant: Jay Selinger

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Special Projects Manager: Alexandro Pacheco

Development Associate: Jenna Parks

Marketing Manager: Laura Wall

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Finance Assistant: Liz Bloomfield

EDUCATION

Director of Education: Eva Nichols

School Administrator: Diane Ogunusi

Administrative Assistant: Marc Castelli

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

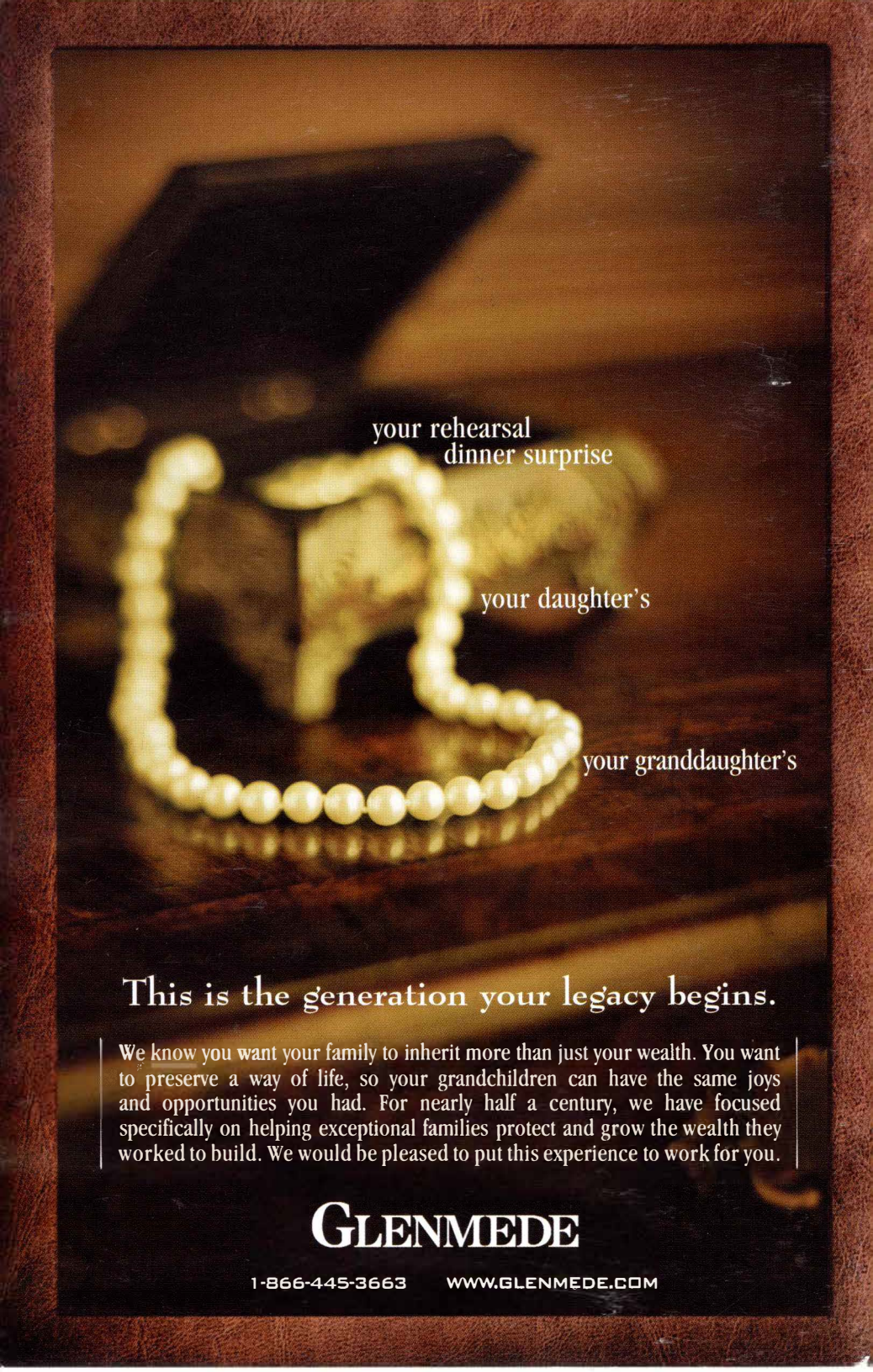
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William Murray (Better Attitude, Inc)

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

Accountant: Kathryn Lundquist, CPA

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

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A photograph of a pearl necklace resting on a dark, polished wooden surface. The necklace is made of large, round pearls and is arranged in a loose, rectangular shape. The background is dark and out of focus, with some light reflecting off the wood and the pearls. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

your rehearsal
dinner surprise

your daughter's

your granddaughter's

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