

*Smith Fine Arts Series*

# Mark Morris Dance Group

April 17, 2006



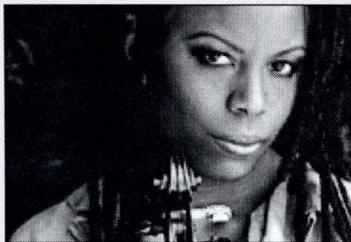
photo by Rosalie O'Connor

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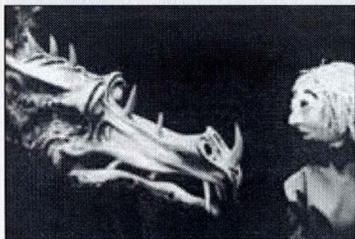
2006  
2007 Season



**Regina Carter**  
October 6, 2006  
7:30 p.m.  
Rice Auditorium



**Alonzo King's  
LINES Ballet**  
December 8, 2006  
7:30 p.m.  
Rice Auditorium



**Tears of Joy**  
January 11, 2007  
7:30 p.m.  
Rice Auditorium



**Boston Brass**  
February 15, 2007  
7:30 p.m.  
Rice Auditorium



**Obo Addy**  
March 20, 2007  
7:30 p.m.  
Rice Auditorium

Monday, April 17, 2006

**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**

**Program**  
Going Away Party  
Candleflowerdance

Rock of Ages  
Grand Duo

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



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Program

*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, Marjorie Folkman, Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham, David Leventhal,  
Gregory Nuber, Maile Okamura

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

**Candleflowerdance**

**Music:** Igor Stravinsky - Serenade in A (1925)

**Costumes:** Katherine McDowell

**Lighting:** Nicole Pearce

Steven Beck, piano

Craig Biesecker, Charlton Boyd, Rita Donahue, Marjorie Folkman, Lauren Grant,  
Bradon McDonald

***For Susan Sontag***

Commissioned in part by Cal Performances

Premiere: September 22, 2005 - Cal Performances, Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley, California

Igor Stravinsky's Serenade in A is performed by arrangement with Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., sole agent in the United States, Canada and Mexico; for Editions Max Eschig, a BMG Editions Company, publisher and copyright owner.

-intermission-

**Rock of Ages**

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

**Costumes:** Katherine McDowell

**Lighting:** Nicole Pearce

Sarah Kapustin, violin; Wolfram Koessel, cello; Steven Beck, piano

Amber Darragh, Rita Donahue, Bradon McDonald, Michelle Yard

Commissioned in part by Cal Performances

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

**Grand Duo**

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

Prelude

Stampede

A Round

Polka

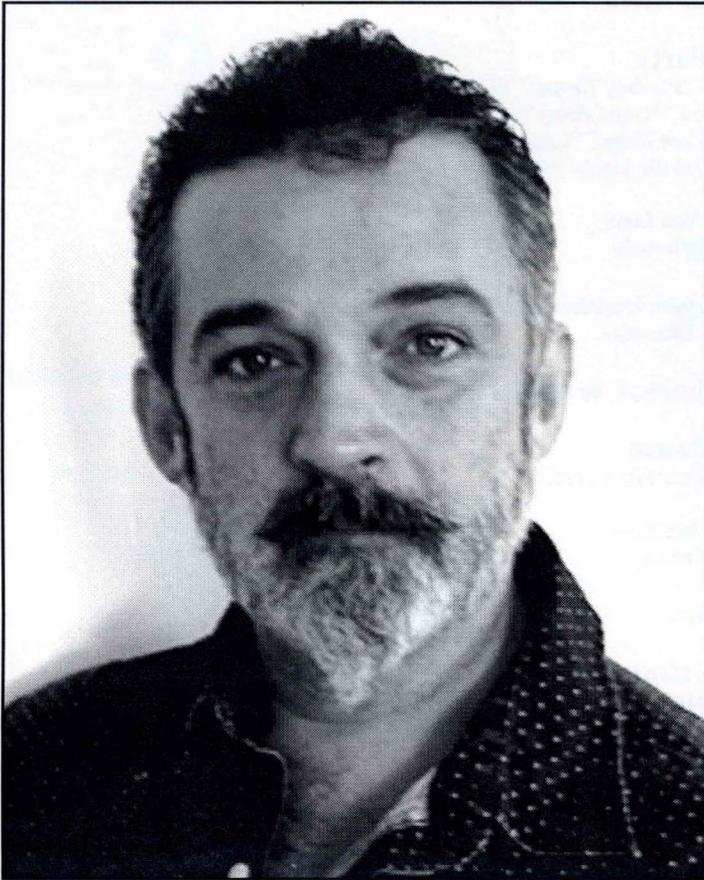
**Costumes:** Susan Ruddle

**Lighting:** Michael Chybowski

Sarah Kapustin, violin; Steven Beck, piano

Craig Biesecker, Charlton Boyd, Amber Darragh, Rita Donahue, Marjorie Folkman,  
Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham, David Leventhal, Bradon McDonald, Gregory Nuber, Maile Okamura, June Omura,  
Noah Vinson, Michelle Yard

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



**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 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.



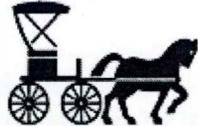
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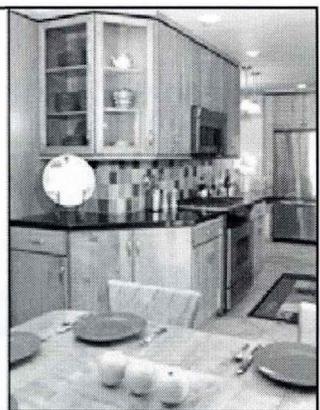
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**The Mark Morris Dance Group**, now celebrating its 25th Anniversary, was formed in 1980 and gave its first concert that year in New York City. The company's touring schedule steadily expanded to include cities both in the U.S. and in Europe, and 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.



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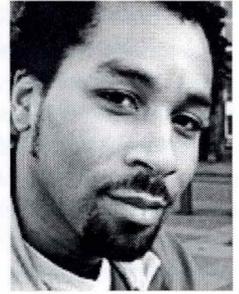
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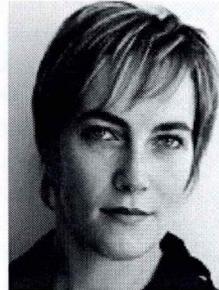
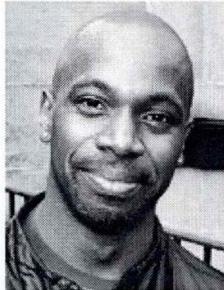


**Craig Biesecker**, from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, received a B.S. in Music Education from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. While teaching music in Philadelphia, he studied ballet with John White, Margarita de Saa, and Bryan Koulman and worked with choreographers Tim and Lina Early. In New York 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.

**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.

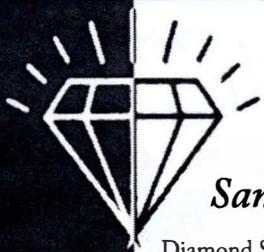


**Joe Bowie** was born in Lansing, Michigan, and began dancing while attending Brown University where he graduated with honors in English and American Literature. In New York he has performed in the works of Robert Wilson and Ulysses Dove and also danced with the Paul Taylor Dance Company for two years before going to Belgium to work with Mark Morris in 1989.



**Elisa Clark** received her early training from the Maryland Youth Ballet, and her B.F.A. 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. Elisa 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 MMDG in L'Allegro in August 2005.



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**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.



**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.



**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.



**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 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, at MMDG's school in Brooklyn, and for the company as well. She is married to fellow dancer David Leventhal.



**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.



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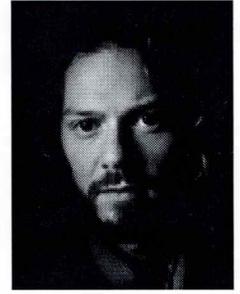
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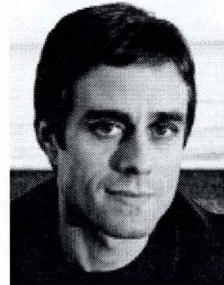


**John Heginbotham** is from Anchorage, Alaska, and graduated from The Juilliard School in 1993. He has performed with such artists as Susan Marshall and Company, John Jasperse, and Ben Munisteri; he was a guest artist with Pilobolus Dance Theater. John's choreography is featured in the performances and Emerge music video of recording artists Fischerspooner. He joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1998.

**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.



**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.



**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.

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*Dr. Epple was the former Chair of the Smith Fine Arts Series Board, the Western Foundation Board and the Wolfpack Board.*



**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. June is also the proud mother of twin girls, born in 2003, and is grateful to her husband, her family and MMDG for their love and support.

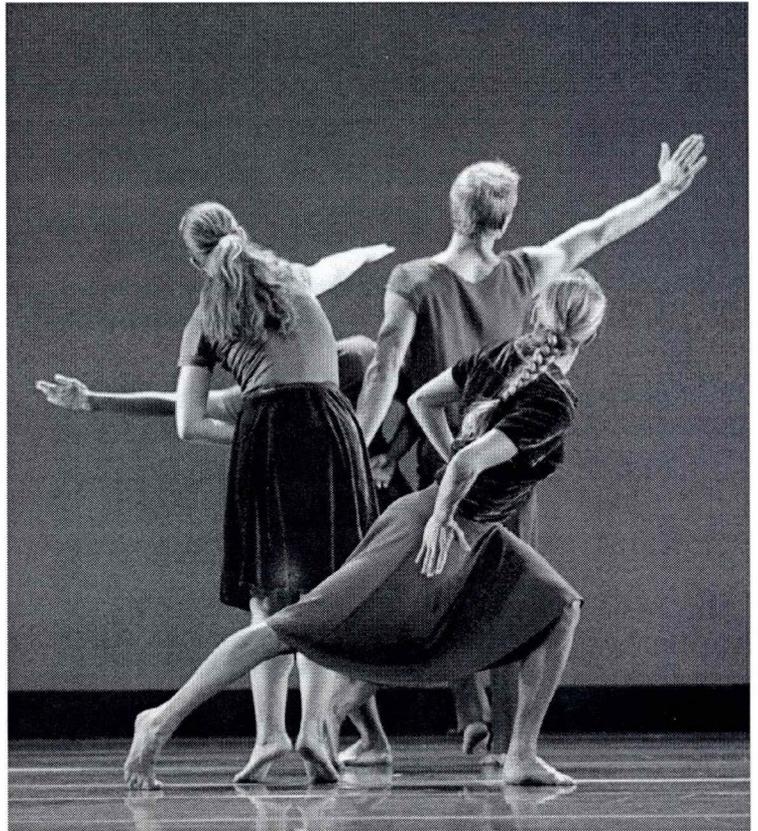


Photo by Susana Millman

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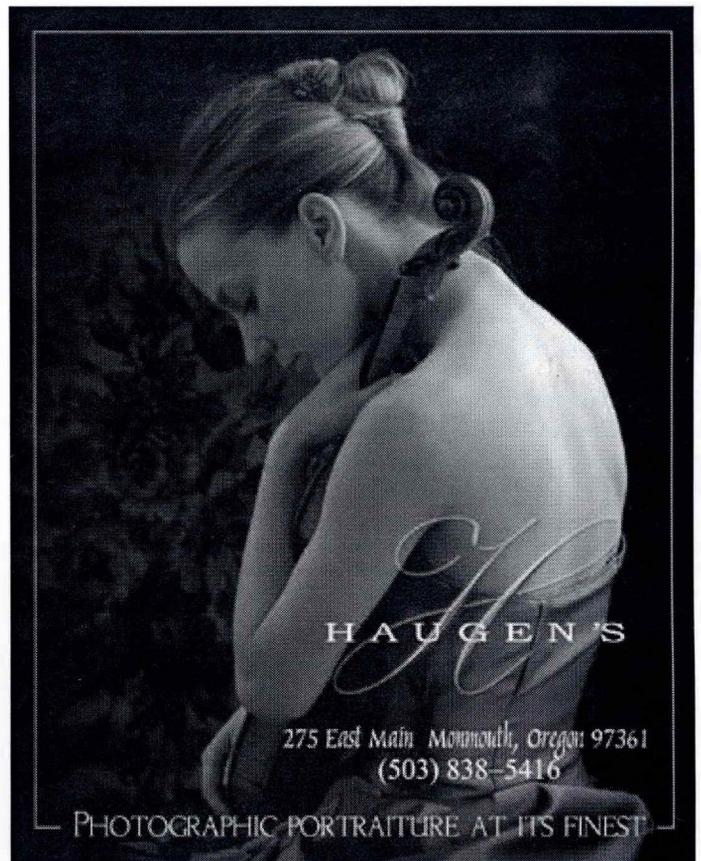


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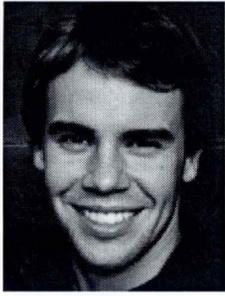
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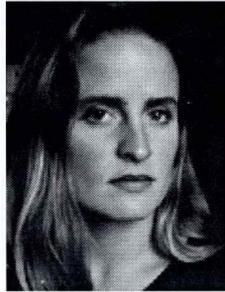
**Noah Vinson** received his B.A. in dance from Columbia College Chicago, where he worked with Shirley Mordine, Jan Erkert, and Brian Jeffrey. In New York, he has danced with Teri and Oliver Steele and the Kevin Wynn Collection. He began working with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2002 and became a company member in 2004.



**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.

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



Headshots by Amber Darragh



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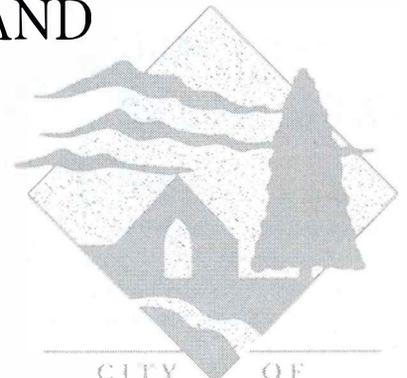
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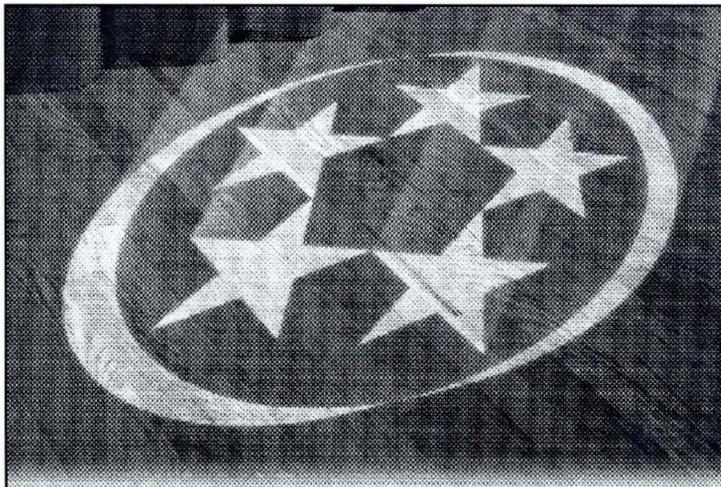
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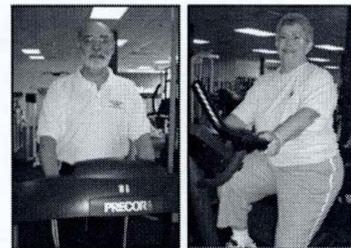
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**MMDG Music Ensemble** was formed in 1996 and since that time has joined the Mark Morris Dance Group on tour throughout the U.S., U.K., Australia and Japan. The Ensemble's repertory ranges from 17th-century works by John Wilson and Henry Purcell to 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. 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.

**Sarah Kapustin's** (violin) musical activities have taken her across North America, Europe and Australia, in performances as both soloist and chamber musician. Born in 1981 in Milwaukee, WI, she has performed with such orchestras as the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Indiana University Philharmonic, Orquesta del Festival at Sala Nezahualcoyotl in Mexico City, and the Pasadena Symphony, and has participated in masterclasses with many distinguished musicians, including Joshua Bell, Midori, Leonidas Kavakos and William Preucil. An avid chamber musician, Sarah has participated in Marlboro and Sarasota festivals, and the Giverny Hors Les Murs chamber music festival in France. She is currently a member of the Atlas Piano Trio, which made its New York recital debut in Nov. 2005, and she also performs regularly in Boston with the Arcturus Chamber Ensemble. Sarah received a Masters degree in violin performance at The Juilliard School with Robert Mann in May 2005, and previously studied with Mauricio Fuks at Indiana University. Future engagements include appearances with the Atlas Trio, performances with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and a tour with the Brandenburg Ensemble in March 2006.

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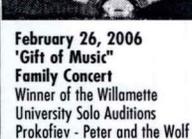
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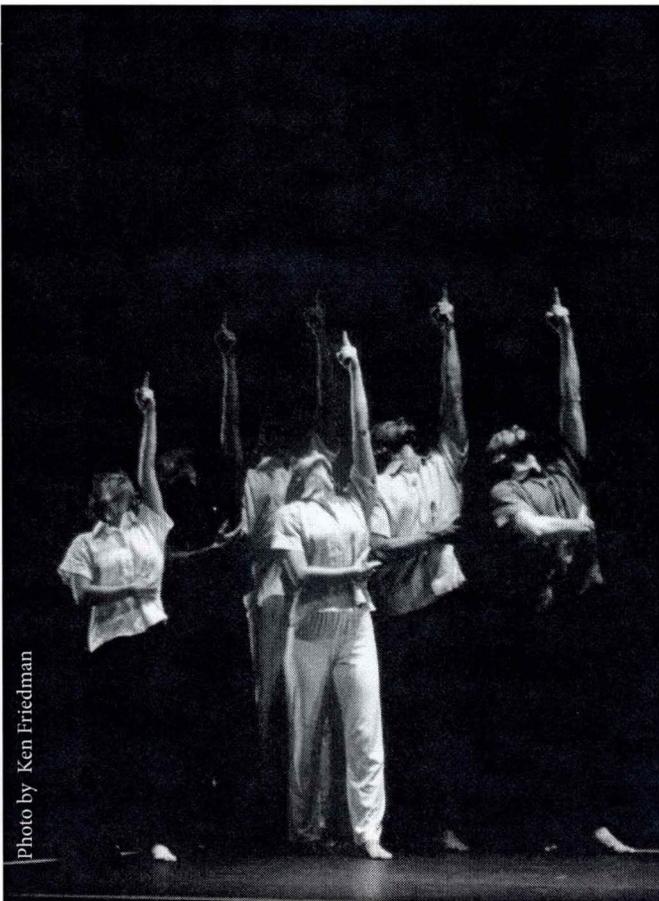
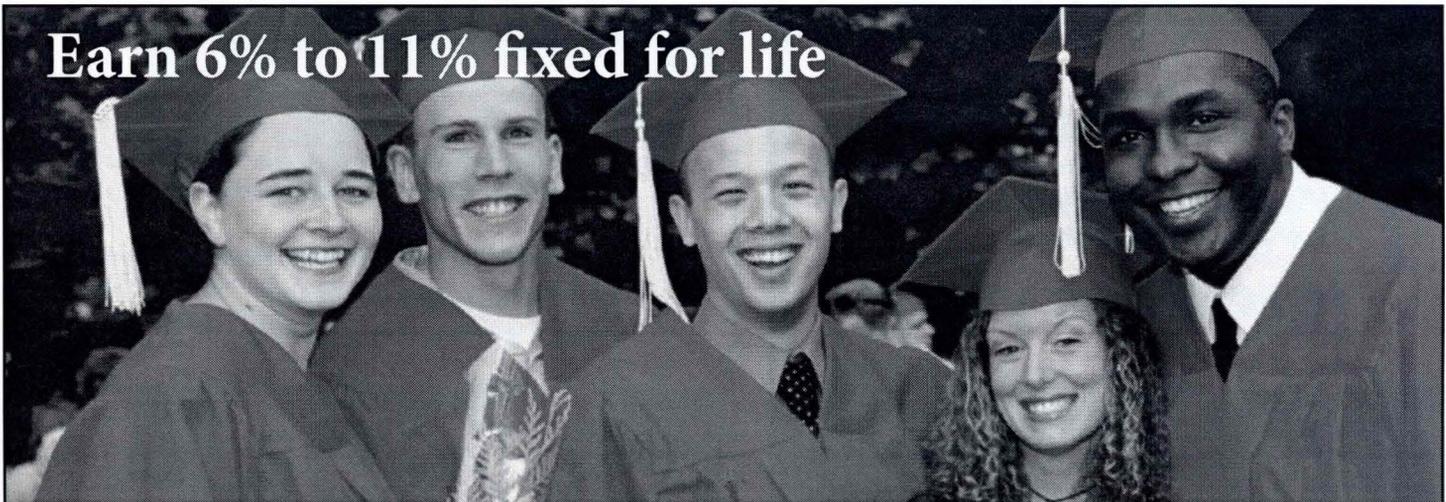


Photo by Ken Friedman

**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.



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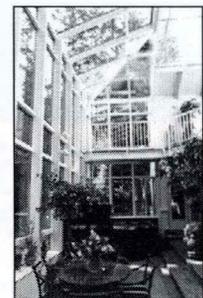
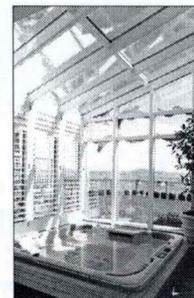
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