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Mark Morris Dance Group



CRAIG BIESECKER SAMUEL BLACK* JOE BOWIE CHARLTON BOYD
ELISA CLARK AMBER DARRAGH RITA DONAHUE LORENA EGAN*
LAUREN GRANT JOHN HEGINBOTHAM DAVID LEVENTHAL
LAUREL LYNCH* BRADON McDONALD DALLAS McMURRAY*
MAILE OKAMURA JUNE OMURA^ NOAH VINSON JENN WEDDEL*
JULIE WORDEN MICHELLE YARD

*apprentice
^on leave

Artistic Director
MARK MORRIS

Executive Director
NANCY UMANOFF

MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE

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

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Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by
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The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation,
and the Ellsworth Kelly 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.

Saturday, October 28, 2006

program



THE ARGUMENT

Music: Robert Schumann - Fünf Stücke im Volkston (1849)

Costumes: Elizabeth Kurtzman

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

- I. "Vanitas vanitatum." Mit Humor
- II. Langsam
- III. Nicht schnell, mit viel Ton zu spielen
- IV. Nicht zu rasch
- V. Stark und markiert
- VI. "Vanitas vanitatum." Mit Humor

WOLFRAM KOESSEL, cello

STEVEN BECK, piano

CHARLTON BOYD & JULIE WORDEN
JOHN HEGINBOTHAM & MICHELLE YARD
CRAIG BIESECKER & MAILE OKAMURA

Premiere: February 26, 1999 – Bank of America Celebrity Series,
The Wang Center for the Performing Arts, Boston, MA

— PAUSE —

CANDLEFLOWERDANCE

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

Costumes: Katherine McDowell

Lighting: Nicole Pearce

STEVEN BECK, piano

CRAIG BIESECKER, CHARLTON BOYD, RITA DONAHUE,
LAUREN GRANT, BRADON MCDONALD, JULIE WORDEN

For Susan Sontag

Commissioned in part by Cal Performances

Premiere: September 22, 2005 – Cal Performances, Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley, CA

— INTERMISSION —

ROCK OF AGES

Music: Franz Schubert – *Piano Trio in E Flat, Adagio, D897* (1828)

Costumes: Katherine McDowell

Lighting: Nicole Pearce

GEORGY VALTCHEV, violin

WOLFRAM KOESSEL, cello

STEVEN BECK, piano

JOE BOWIE, AMBER DARRAGH, DAVID LEVENTHAL, BRADON MCDONALD

Commissioned in part by Cal Performances

Premiere: October 28, 2004 – Cal Performances, Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley, CA

— PAUSE —

GRAND DUO

Music: Lou Harrison – *Grand Duo for Violin & Piano* (1988)

Costumes: Susan Ruddle

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

Prelude

Stampede

A Round

Polka

GEORGY VALTCHEV, violin

STEVEN BECK, piano

CRAIG BIESECKER, SAMUEL BLACK, ELISA CLARK, AMBER DARRAGH,
RITA DONAHUE, LORENA EGAN, LAUREN GRANT, JOHN HEGINBOTHAM,
DAVID LEVENTHAL, BRADON MCDONALD, MAILE OKAMURA,
NOAH VINSON, JULIE WORDEN, MICHELLE YARD

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

Biographies



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 repertoire 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, Bard College, Bates 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, MMDG 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 its west coast home, Cal Performances in Berkeley, California. It appears regularly in Boston, Massachusetts; Fairfax, Virginia; Seattle, Washington; Urbana, Illinois; at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket, Massachusetts; and at BAM in

Brooklyn, New York. MMDG made its debut at the Mostly Mozart Festival in 2002 and at the Tanglewood Music Festival in 2003 and has since been invited 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 MMDG; 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, MMDG 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. He is an Artist Presenter and frequent performer of 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 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 MMDG in 2003.

SAMUEL BLACK is originally from Berkeley, California, where he began studying tap at the age of 9 with Katie Maltsberger. He recently received his B.F.A. in Dance from SUNY Purchase, where he performed works by Mark Morris, Paul Taylor, Zvi Gotheiner, Sean Curran, and Kevin Wynn. During a semester at the Rotterdamse Dansacademie in Holland, Sam had the opportunity to dance in several Dutch cities and in Germany. He has performed in New York with David Parker, Takehiro Ueyama, and Nelly van Bommel. Sam first worked with MMDG in 2005, and joined the company as an apprentice in 2006.

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 MMDG in 1989 and became a company member in 1994.

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. 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. 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 and became a full company member in September 2006.

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 MMDG 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 MMDG 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 MMDG as an apprentice in 2005.

LAUREN GRANT, raised in Highland Park, Illinois, has danced with MMDG since 1996. Before graduating with a B.F.A. from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Lauren studied ballet from the early age of 3. Later, she also trained in character dance, acting, and singing. She teaches master classes in ballet and modern technique at schools and universities around the world, at MMDG's school in Brooklyn, and for the company as well. Lauren 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 MMDG in 1998.

WOLFRAM KOESSEL (cello) made his debut at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 1994. Based in New York City, 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, Koessel has performed 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. 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 City's Island). He served until recently as cellist with the award-winning Meridian String Quartet. 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 MMDG since 1997. 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.

LAUREL LYNCH began her dance training in Petaluma, California. After a few too many *Nutcrackers*, she moved to New York to attend The Juilliard School where she performed works by Robert Battle, Margie Gillis, José Limón, and Ohad Naharin. Since graduation in May 2003, Laurel has danced for Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre, Sue

Bernhard Danceworks, Pat Catterson, Stephan Koplowitz, and TEA Dance Company (Transpersonal Education and Art). She performed at the Festival Oltre Passo in Lecce, Italy, and appeared as a guest artist with Petaluma City Ballet. Laurel joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2006.

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 MMDG in 2000.

DALLAS McMURRAY, from El Cerrito, California, began dancing at the age of 5 with Katie Maltsburger, studying jazz, tap, and acrobatics. He went on to study ballet with Yukiko Sakakura at the Duane Dance Academy. He received a B.F.A. in dance from the California Institute of the Arts, where he studied ballet and modern with Tina Yuan, Colin Connor, Lyndon Branaugh, Laurence Blake, Glen Eddy, Clare Duncan, Cynthia Young, Jeffrey Gerodias, and Rachel Berman. In Los Angeles, he performed José Limón's *Missa Brevis* with the Limón Dance Company at the Ahmanson Theater, and also performed in Hong Kong at the Hong Kong Dance Festival in a work by Jonathan Fredrickson, *Pas de [SIKS]*. He has also performed works by Alonzo King, Jiri Kylian, and Robert Moses. Dallas joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2006.

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 MMDG 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 MMDG, and in 2005, she was awarded a New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie) for her career with the company. June is a proud mother of three children, and is grateful to her husband, her family and MMDG for their love and support.

GEORGY VALTCHEV (violin) has been honored with a number of awards, among them the First Price of the Ducrest International Competition in Lafayette, Louisiana, and the Special Prize of the Tibor Varga International Violin Competition in Switzerland. Mr. Valtchev has appeared as a soloist, recitalist and chamber musician throughout the United States and Europe, and is a frequent soloist with the Lyric Orchestra in Hoboken, New Jersey, and the Sofia Soloists in Bulgaria.

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 MMDG in 2002, and became a company member in 2004.

JENN WEDDEL grew up in Longmont, Colorado, and received her early training from Boulder Ballet Company. She holds a B.F.A. from Southern Methodist University and also studied at The Boston Conservatory, Colorado University and the Laban Center, London. Since moving to New York in 2001, Jenn has performed with RedWall Dance Theatre, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, Vencl Dance Trio, Rocha Dance Theatre and with various choreographers including Alan Danielson and Connie Procopio. She has presented her own work in Manhattan, and continues to collaborate with TEA Dance Company under the direction of Ella Ben-Aharon and Sahar Javedani. Jenn joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2006.

JULIE WORDEN graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts and joined MMDG 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 B.F.A. Michelle joined MMDG in 1997. Mom, thank you.

Mark Morris Dance Group



PRODUCTION

Technical Director Johan Henckens
Music Director Wolfram Koessel
Assistant to the Choreographer Matthew Rose
Lighting Supervisor Leo Janks
Wardrobe Supervisor Katherine McDowell
Sound Supervisor Jim Abdou

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Administrative Assistant Kathleen Cannucci
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USArtists International; and the Friends of the Mark Morris Dance Group.

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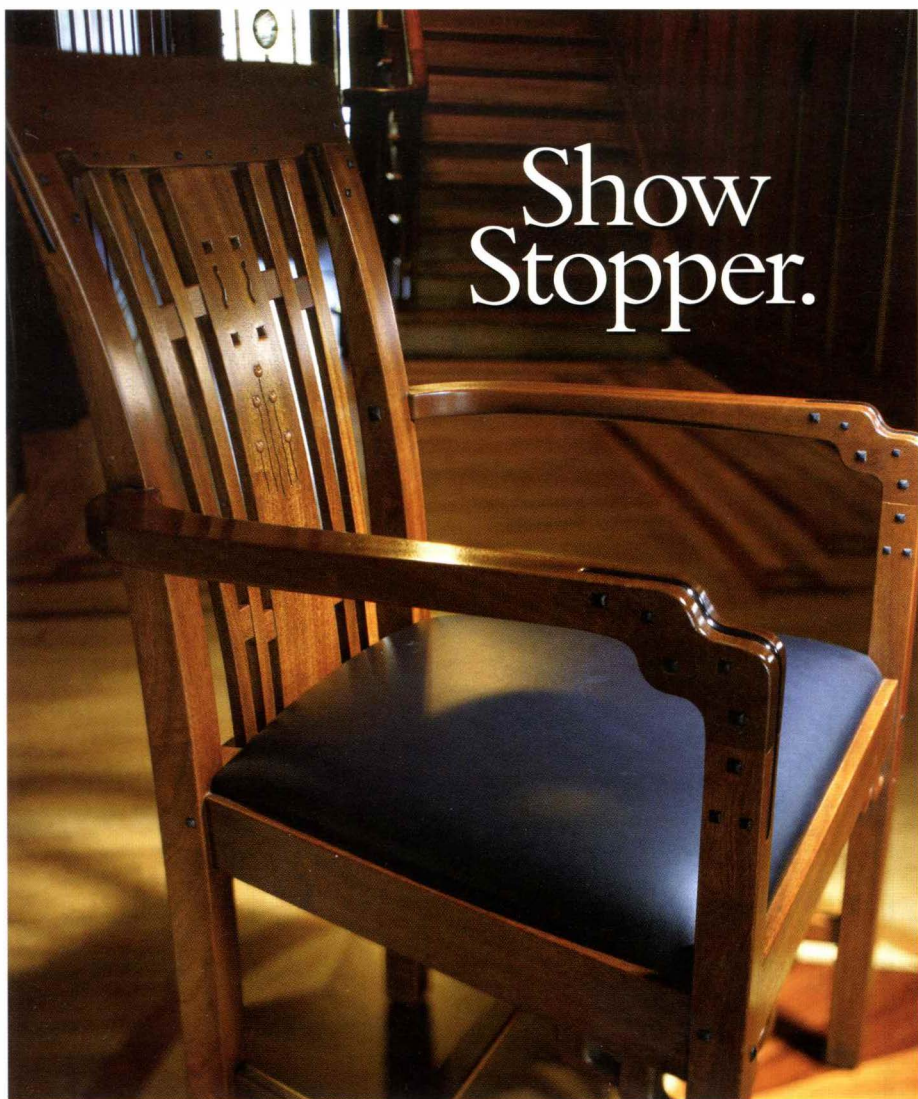
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