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MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

The Department of Theatre, Film & Dance
College of Arts and Sciences
Cornell University
presents

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

CRAIG BIESECKER SAMUEL BLACK* JOE BOWIE
CHARLTON BOYD ELISA CLARK AMBER DARRAGH RITA DONAHUE
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

Artistic Director
MARK MORRIS

Executive Director
NANCY UMANOFF

MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE

and special guest
THE BAD PLUS

Altria Group, Inc. is the Lead Sponsor of the Mark Morris Dance Group.

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

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by Carnegie Corporation of New York, JPMorganChase 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, Ellsworth Kelly 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, the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

Kiplinger Theatre • Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts
March 14-15, 2007

2006-2007 SEASON
Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts

• PROGRAM •

ALL FOURS

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

Costume Design: Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

JENNIFER CURTIS *violin*; JESSE MILLS *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 sardino

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, CA

Music by arrangement with Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., publisher and copyright owner.

-INTERMISSION-

• PROGRAM •

VIOLET CAVERN

Music: The Bad Plus

Scenic Design: Stephen Hendee

Costume Design: Elizabeth Kurtzman

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

THE BAD PLUS

Reid Anderson, *bass*; Ethan Iverson, *piano*; David King, *drums*

CRAIG BIESECKER, JOE BOWIE, CHARLTON BOYD, AMBER DARRAGH,
RITA DONAHUE, LAUREN GRANT, JOHN HEGINBOTHAM, DAVID LEVENTHAL,
BRADON McDONALD, DALLAS McMURRAY, MAILE OKAMURA,
NOAH VINSON, JENN WEDDEL, JULIE WORDEN, MICHELLE YARD

Premiere: Howard Gilman Opera House, Brooklyn Academy of Music (Brooklyn, NY),
June 8, 2004

CORNELL PRODUCTION STAFF

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Asst. Technical Director Steve Brookhouse

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Master Electrician: Ford Sellers

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Marketing Manager: Leslie Morris

Audience Services Manager: Stephanie Manning

Management/Marketing Associate: Angela Bourne

Load-in Crew: Dan Crawford, LE Odom

Electricians: Abby Quick, Tiffany Ng, Sam Stout, Michael "Tex" Garrett

Light Board Operator: Sam Stout

Stage Crew: Lizz Giorgos, Abby Quick, Michael "Tex" Garrett, Tiffany Ng, Zach Lipton

Wardrobe/Dresser: Jessi Pollack

2006-2007 SEASON

Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts

MARK MORRIS was born on August 29, 1956, in Seattle, WA, 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 also in the repertory of the Geneva Ballet, New Zealand Ballet, Houston Ballet, English National Ballet, and The Royal Ballet. 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

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College, Bates College, and George Mason University. In 2006, he received the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Mayor's Award for Arts & Culture and a WQXR Gramophone Special Recognition Award for exposing thousands of people to classical music of the highest standard coupled with his own approach to dance. Morris is the subject of a biography by Joan Acocella (Farrar, Straus & Giroux) and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. 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 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, CA. It appears regularly in Boston, MA; Urbana, IL; Fairfax, VA; Seattle, WA; 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 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. MMDG collaborates with leading orchestras, opera companies, and musicians including cellist Yo-Yo Ma in the Emmy Award-winning film *Falling Down Stairs* (1997); Indian composer Zakir Hussain, Mr. Ma and jazz pianist Ethan Iverson in *Kolam* (2002); The Bad Plus in *Violet Cavern* (2004); pianists Emanuel Ax and Yoko Nozaki for *Mozart Dances* (2006); and with the English National Opera in *Four Saints in Three Acts* (2000) and *King Arthur* (2006), among others. MMDG's film and television projects also 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, NY, 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. The company's 25th Anniversary celebration included over 100 performances through 26 U.S. cities and ten U.K. cities; five world premieres; and Morris' conducting debut in a performance of *Gloria* at BAM.

The MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE formed in 1996, performs with the Dance Group at home and on tour and has become integral to the company's creative life. The core group, supplemented by musicians from a large roster of regular guests, has helped the Dance Group achieve an unprecedented streak of close to eight hundred performances with live music. 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. The Ensemble also presents concerts at the Mark Morris Dance Center and other venues, and participates in the Mark Morris Dance, Music and Literacy Project in the New York City public school system. Cellist Wolfram Koessel is the Ensemble's director.

THE BAD PLUS features Reid Anderson (bass), Ethan Iverson (piano), and David King (drums). All three musicians hail from the north Midwest. The group first played together in 1990 and their eponymous debut album was released in 2001 on Fresh Sound, a Spanish independent label. A 2002 performance at New York's Village Vanguard led to the group's signing with Columbia Records. The group's major label debut, *These are the Vistas*, was released in February 2003 with glowing reviews from traditional jazz outlets and more: "A bolt from the blue--galvanic, improbable, discrete, unforeseen..." (*JazzTimes*); "Bad to the bone, hot players with hard-rock hearts..." (*Rolling Stone*); "...among the freshest-sounding albums of the year..." (*Newsweek*). The Bad Plus' latest album *Suspicious Activity* was released in late 2005. For more information, visit www.thebadplus.com.

STEPHEN HENDEE (scenic design) has shown his dynamic sculptural environments in numerous museums in the U.S. and abroad since 1997. Recent exhibitions include the New Museum of Contemporary Art, SculptureCenter, Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria, St. Louis Art Museum, The David Smart Museum at the University of Chicago, the Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University, and the Birmingham Museum of Art, AL. He is also the recipient of many prestigious art foundation awards, among them: The Louis Comfort Tiffany award, a Pollock-Krasner grant, an Elizabeth Foundation grant and the Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation Studio Program.

CRAIG BIESECKER, from Waynesboro, PA, 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, CA, 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, MI, 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 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 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 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.

JENNIFER CURTIS (violin), a graduate of the Juilliard School, gave her New York Debut at Carnegie Hall's Weil Recital Hall last May. Curtis performed Dutilleux's violin concert *l'Arbre des Songes* with the Juilliard orchestra. *The New York Times* recognized Curtis's "fine solos" from her performance as concert master of the Juilliard Orchestra for Mahler's 9th Symphony in Avery Fisher Hall. She 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 Curtis performed several of her own works for violin, mandolin, guitar and vocals. In 2000-2001 Curtis was the percussionist for Strong Current Dance Company in San Francisco, California. She first appeared with the MMDG Music Ensemble in 2006.

AMBER DARRAGH is originally from Newport, OR, 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, VA, 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.

LAUREN GRANT, raised in Highland Park, IL, 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, AK, 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) moved to New York in 1991 and established himself as a much sought after chamber musician, soloist, recording artist and contractor in the New York music scene. He has performed with MMDG since 1999 and was appointed their music director in 2004. In 2006, Koessel joined the world renowned American String Quartet with whom he performs in the foremost concert halls throughout the world collaborating frequently with today's leading artists. Koessel appears with a wide range of ensembles and groups, most notably and frequently with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. He has supervised and performed music for Warner Brothers, American Express, and many independent film companies besides organizing hundreds of classical orchestra and chamber music concerts during the last decade in NYC. He is on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music and the Aspen Music Festival. Koessel resides with his wife, pianist and writer, J. Mae Barizo, in Manhattan.

DAVID LEVENTHAL, raised in Newton, MA, 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, CA. 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 Du'an T'nek Dance Theatre, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, Pat Catterson, Stephan Koplowitz, and TEA Dance Company. 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, CA, began dancing at age 4, studying jazz, tap, and acrobatics with Katie Maltsberger, and ballet with Yukiko Sakakura. He received a B.F.A. in Dance from the California Institute of the Arts. Dallas performed with the Limón Dance Company in addition to works by Jiri Kylian, Alonzo King, Robert Moses, and Colin Connor. Dallas joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2006.

JESSE MILLS (violin) graduated with a B.M. from The Juilliard School in 2001. He has performed as a 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. He first performed with the MMDG Music Ensemble in 2005.

MAILE OKAMURA is originally from San Diego, CA. 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 was born in New York, grew up in Birmingham, AL, and graduated from Barnard College with honors in Dance and English. She first studied with Mark Morris in 1986; joined MMDG in 1988. In 2005, she received a New York Dance and Performance Award ("Bessie") for her career with the company. June and her husband are the proud parents of twin girls, born in 2003, and a new baby boy, born in September 2006. When in New Paltz, June studies with Peter Naumann at the New Paltz School of Ballet. She is grateful to her family, Mark Morris, and MMDG for their love and support.

JESSICA TROY (viola), a native New Yorker, wears a wide variety of freelance hats. As the violist of the Mark Morris Dance Group Music Ensemble since 1998 she has toured extensively, from the Brooklyn Academy of Music to the Sydney Festival; with the MMDG Music Ensemble she has performed throughout the U.S. and Japan with Yo-Yo Ma. She is a member of both the Brooklyn and Westchester Philharmonics. Donning her contemporary chamber music hat she has performed and recorded new works with Sequitur and the Meridian String Quartet, and has just performed in the east coast premiere of David Lang's opera "the Difficulty of Crossing a Field" in a string quartet consisting of members of the Flux Quartet and the Bang on a Can All-Stars. On the baroque viola she has performed with the 4 Nations Ensemble, Ensemble Rebel, Concert Royal, and Ars Antiqua among others, and was recently seen with Renee Fleming on the David Letterman Show. A participant at many illustrious chamber music festivals, including Prussia Cove and Marlboro, she can be heard on the latter's 50th anniversary CD in Gyorgy Kurtag's *Microludes* for string quartet, which she prepared with the composer.

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, CO, 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, Vencel 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, NY, 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 STAFF
PRODUCTION**

Technical Director Johan Henckens
Music Ensemble 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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2006-2007 SEASON

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Thanks to Maxine Morris.

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2006–2007 SEASON AT A GLANCE

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Mark Morris Dance Company

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