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CELEBRATE BROOKLYN PRESENTS THURSDAY, JULY 31, 8:00 MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

Craig Biesecker

Samuel Black

Joe Bowie

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

MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Steven Beck

Colin Fowler

Lara Marie Hirner

Thomas MeglIORanza

Scott J. Mello

Jamie Van Eyck

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Mark Morris

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nancy Umanoff

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The Mark Morris Dance Group New Works Fund is supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Ellsworth Kelly Foundation, The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, The Untitled Foundation, The Shelby and Frederick Gans Fund, Meyer Sound/Helen and John Meyer, and Poss Family Foundation.

The Mark Morris Dance Group's performances are made possible with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts Dance Program.

All choreography by Mark Morris

EXCURSIONS (2008)

Music Samuel Barber – *Excursions for Piano, op. 20*
Costumes Katherine M. Patterson
Lighting Nicole Pearce

Colin Fowler, Piano

Craig Biesecker, Elisa Clark, David Leventhal, Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, Michelle Yard

{ PAUSE }

NEW LOVE SONG WALTZES (1982)

Music Johannes Brahms – *Neue Liebesliederwalzer, op. 65*
Lighting Phil Sandstrom

Lara Marie Hirner, Soprano

Jamie Van Eyck, Mezzo-Soprano

Scott J. Mello, Tenor

Thomas MeglIORANZA, Baritone

Steven Beck, Colin Fowler, Piano

Joe Bowie, Amber Darragh, John Heginbotham, David Leventhal, Laurel Lynch,
Bradon McDonald, Dallas McMurray, Maile Okamura, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

{ INTERMISSION }

LOVE SONG WALTZES (1989)

Music Johannes Brahms – *Liebesliederwalzer, op. 52*
Lighting James F. Ingalls

Lara Marie Hirner, Soprano

Jamie Van Eyck, Mezzo-Soprano

Scott J. Mello, Tenor

Thomas MeglIORANZA, Baritone

Steven Beck, Colin Fowler, Piano

Craig Biesecker, Samuel Black, Joe Bowie, Elisa Clark, Rita Donahue, Lauren Grant,
John Heginbotham, Bradon McDonald, Maile Okamura, Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel,
Michelle Yard

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 seven works for the San Francisco Ballet since 1994 and received commissions from American Ballet Theatre, and the Boston Ballet, among oth-

ers. His work is also in the repertory of the Pacific Northwest Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, New Zealand Ballet, Houston Ballet, English National Ballet, and The Royal Ballet. Morris is noted for his musicality and has been described as “undeviating in his devotion to music.” He has worked extensively in opera, directing and choreographing productions for The Metropolitan Opera, 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 eight honorary doctorates to date. In 2006, Morris received the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Mayor’s Award for Arts & Culture and a WQXR Gramophone Special Recognition Award. He is the subject of a biography by Joan Acocella (Farrar, Straus & Giroux) and Marlowe & Company published a volume of photographs and critical essays entitled *Mark Morris’ L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato: A Celebration*. Morris is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. In 2007, he received the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival lifetime achievement award.

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. Based in Brooklyn, NY, the company has maintained and strengthened its ties to several cities around the world, most notably its West Coast home, Cal Performances in Berkeley, CA, and its Midwest home, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in Urbana IL. MMDG also appears regularly in New York City, NY; Boston, MA; 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, Garrick Ohlsson 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 the fall of 2001, MMDG opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn, NY, 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. For more information, visit www.mmdg.org.





Dancers



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, California, where he began studying tap at the age of 9 with Katie Maltzberger. He received his B.F.A. in dance from SUNY Purchase, and also studied at the Rotterdamse Dansacademie in Holland. He has performed in New York with David Parker, Takehiro Ueyama, and Nelly van Bommel. Black first appeared with MMDG in 2005, and became a company member in 2007.



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.



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 at 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.



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 Craig Patterson and joined MMDG in 2003.



DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR., a native of Victoria, TX, has recently acquired a B.F.A. in Ballet and Modern Dance at Texas Christian University. Currently, he also works with choreographers Leslie Scott, BODYart Dance; Mary Seidman, Mary Seidman & Dancers; and Christian von Howard, Von Howard Project. He made his debut with the Mark Morris Dance Group during last season's *The Hard Nut* at Cal Performances, Berkeley. This is his first season as an apprentice with MMDG. Domingo would like to thank God, his family and all who support his passion!



LAUREN GRANT, born and raised in Highland Park, Illinois, has danced with the Mark Morris Dance Group since 1996. She has appeared in 40 of Mr. Morris' works and performs leading roles in *The Hard Nut* and *Mozart Dances*. Ms. Grant has been featured in *Time Out New York*, *Dance Magazine* and a recently published book, *Meet The Dancers*, as well as the subject of a photograph by Annie Leibovitz. She holds a B.F.A. from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and teaches dance internationally. Ms. Grant is married to fellow dancer David Leventhal.



JOHN HEGINBOTHAM is from Anchorage, AK, and graduated from The Juilliard School in 1993 and has performed with such artists as Susan Marshall, John Jasperse, and Ben Munisteri; he was a guest artist with Pilobolus Dance Theater. John's choreography is featured in work of recording artists Fischerspooner, and in *Champ: A Space Opera* (New York International Fringe Festival). As a teacher, he works regularly with members of the Brooklyn Parkinson Group. John joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1998.



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 Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, Pat Catterson, Stephan Koplowitz, and T.E.A. (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 first appeared with MMDG 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 first appeared with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and joined the company in 2007.



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.



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 Red-Wall 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 first appeared with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and joined the company in 2007.



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 B'rith 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.

Musicians

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.

ORY BROWN (mezzo-soprano) has sung a variety of operatic roles with Sarasota Opera, Nashville Opera, Oswego Opera, and the Caramoor Opera Festival, including roles in *The Medium*, *Falstaff*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and *Jenufa*. She is involved in several ongoing projects with American Opera Project [Kimper's *Bridge of San Luis Rey*, *Patience and Sarah*, Hamer's *The Lost Childhood*, and Stephen Schwartz's *Séance on a Wet Afternoon*]. Miss Brown has appeared with the Orpheus Chamber Ensemble, American Symphony Orchestra, Little Orchestra Society of NY, St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble, Hartford Symphony, Spoleto Festival, Voices of Ascension, Kalamazoo Bach Festival, Mark Morris Dance Group, and the Berkshire Choral Festival. Recent debuts include performances at the Bard Festival, the Center for Contemporary Opera, Dessoff, the South Dakota Symphony, and the S.E.M. Ensemble. Other appearances include The Late Show with David Letterman, the Salt Lake Olympics, several appearances with P.D.Q. Bach, and most recently, Bravo's Project Runway.

COLIN FOWLER (piano) hails from Kansas City, Kansas and began studying piano at the age of five. After attending Interlochen Arts Academy, he received his Bachelors and Masters Degrees at The Juilliard School, where he studied organ with Gerre Hancock and piano with Abbey Simon. He has played and directed music across the country, at venues including Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and The Library of Congress. Colin has also performed with the American Brass Quintet, Deborah Voight, James Galway, and at many of the churches and synagogues in New York. Broadway credits include the recent revival of 42nd Street and the current production of The Tony Award winning musical, Jersey Boys. Colin is the Chair of the Theory and Ear Training department at Nyack College, where he is a full-time professor and conductor of the Nyack College Chorale. He has played with the MMDG Music Ensemble since 2006.

LARA MARIE HIRNER (soprano) graduated from Harvard University in June 2005 with a B.A. in Music and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Theater credits include Mabel in *Pirates of Penzance* (2000), Rapunzel in *Into the Woods* (2001), the title role in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* (2003), and Cunegonde in *Candide* (2005). She returned to Harvard last fall as a featured soloist in the Bernstein Festival Gala Concert under the baton of Judith Clurman and recently participated in the Juilliard Choral Union's holiday concert and joined them again this past February for their Bach program. She first appeared with MMDG in 2007.

THOMAS MEGLIORANZA (baritone) was a winner of the 2005 Walter W. Naumburg International Competition, the 2002 Concert Artists Guild International Competition, the 2002 Joy in Singing Award and the 2003 Franz Schubert and Music of Modernity International Competition in Graz, Austria. Recent performances included the world premiere of Charles Wuorinen's *Romulus* at the Guggenheim Museum, recitals at Bard College, in New York City, Washington DC, chamber music concerts on tour with the Musicians from Marlboro, sacred music concerts in Chicago and Cleveland as well as the recording of his first solo CD devoted entirely to Franz Schubert's songs. Meglioranza has also appeared with Opera Boston; the MET Chamber Ensemble with James Levine; the Grant Park Symphony; Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra; the Oregon Symphony; Portland Baroque Orchestra; Florida Symphony; Houston Symphony; Orpheus Chamber Orchestra; Baltimore Choral Arts Society; New York Collegium; American Bach Soloists; Philharmonia Baroque; Trinity Consort; and Aspen Opera Theater. A graduate of Grinnell College and the Eastman School of Music, Thomas Meglioranza is also an alumnus of Tanglewood, Aspen, Marlboro, Bowdoin, the Pacific Music Festival and the Steans Institute at Ravinia.

SCOTT J. MELLO (tenor) received his B.M. from Oberlin Conservatory and is completing his Master's in Vocal Performance at NYU. He has appeared in concert with such ensembles as Akron Symphony, Apollo's Fire (the Cleveland Baroque Orchestra), Aspen Music Festival, Carmel Bach Festival, Oberlin Baroque and Chamber Orchestras, Cleveland's Trinity Chamber Orchestra, the West London Sinfonia and the New England Symphonic Ensemble at Carnegie Hall. Mello's diverse operatic and musical theatre credits include Tamino in *The Magic Flute*, Tom Rakewell in *The Rake's Progress*, Bill in *Hand of Bridge*, Acis in *Acis and Galatea*, Harry in *Company*, Hippolyte in *Hippolyte et Aricie*, Guillot de Morfontaine in *Manon* and El Gallo in *The Fantasticks*. He has recorded for Koch International Records and National Public Radio. He first appeared with MMDG in 2007.

Excursions is commissioned in part by Tanglewood Music Center of the Boston Symphony Orchestra (James Levine, Music Director).

Mezzo-Soprano, ORY BROWN will be performing in *Love Song Waltzes* and *New Love Song Waltzes* instead of JAMIE VAN EYCK.

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Executive Director Nancy Umanoff

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Thanks to Maxine Morris.

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For more information contact:

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