



2008-
09 SEASON

M McCARTER
THEATRE CENTER



Tuesday, February 24, 2009 – 8 pm • McCarter Theatre Center

presents

Mark Morris Dance Group

Mark Morris, *Artistic Director*
Nancy Umanoff, *Executive Director*

Featuring

Craig Biesecker, Samuel Black, Joe Bowie, Elisa Clark, Amber Darragh,
Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada, Jr.*, 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*

MMDG Music Ensemble

Colin Fowler, Wolfram Koessel, Jessica Troy,
Georgy Vatchev, Michi Wiancko
with
Emanuel Ax and Yoko Nozaki



The pianos for this performance have been provided by Jacobs Music.

This performance is sponsored by
Richard Bilotti and Katherine Hatton
Audrey and Ken Gould
Laurie and Andy Okun

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-

ITALIAN CONCERTO

Music: J.S. Bach, *Italian Concerto* in F major, BWV 971

Lighting: Paul Palazzo

I. Allegro

II. Andante

III. Presto

Colin Fowler, *piano*

Amber Darragh, John Heginbotham, David Leventhal, Dallas McMurray, Julie Worden

Premiere: January 17, 2007, James and Martha Duffy Performance Space, Mark Morris Dance Center, Brooklyn, NY

-pause-

DOUBLE

Music: Mozart, Sonata in D major for Two Pianos, K. 448

Costumes: Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting: James F. Ingalls

I. Allegro con spirito

II. Andante

III. Allegro molto

Yoko Nozaki and Emanuel Ax, *duo piano*

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, Noah Vinson, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

Premiere: August 17, 2006 – New York State Theater, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, New York City

-Intermission-

V

Music: Robert Schumann, Quintet in E flat major for piano and strings, Op. 44

Costumes: Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

Michi Wiancko, Georgy Valtchev, *violin*

Wolfram Koessel, *cello*

Jessica Troy, *viola*

Colin Fowler, *piano*

Craig Biesecker, Elisa Clark, Amber Darragh, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham, David Leventhal, Bradon McDonald, Dallas McMurray, Maile Okamura, Noah Vinson, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

Premiere: October 16, 2001 – Sadler's Wells, London, UK

ABOUT THE COMPANY

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 Mostly Mozart Festival debut 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 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, and a school offering dance classes to students of all ages. For more information, visit www.mmdg.org.

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 800 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.

MetLife Foundation is the Mark Morris Dance Group's Official Tour Sponsor:

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 and Jane Stine and R.L. Stine.

The Mark Morris Dance Group New Works Fund is supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Ellsworth Kelly Foundation, The Gladys Kriebel 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.

MEET 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 seven 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 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, he 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.

EMANUEL AX (*piano*) is renowned not only for his poetic temperament and unsurpassed virtuosity, but also for the exceptional breadth of his performing activity. Each season his distinguished career includes appearances with major symphony orchestras worldwide, recitals in the most celebrated concert halls, a variety of chamber music collaborations, the commissioning and performance of new music, and additions to his acclaimed discography on Sony BMG Masterworks. Born in Lvov, Poland, Emanuel Ax moved to Winnipeg, Canada, with his family when he was a young boy. His studies at The Juilliard School were greatly supported by the sponsorship of the Epstein Scholarship Program of the Boys Clubs of America, and he subsequently won the Young Concert Artists Award. His piano teacher was Mieczyslaw Munz. Additionally, he attended Columbia University, where he majored in French. Mr. Ax resides in New York City with his wife, the pianist Yoko Nozaki. They have two children together, Joseph and Sarah. Mr. Ax captured public attention in 1974 when at age 25 he won the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Tel Aviv. In 1975, he won the Michael Award of Young Concert Artists and four years later took the coveted Avery Fisher Prize. He made his Sony Classical debut with a collection of Chopin scherzos and mazurkas. Mr. Ax’s third volume in the recording cycle of Haydn Piano Sonatas (Nos. 29, 31, 34, 35, 49) received a Grammy Award in February 2004; the previous recording in the cycle (Sonatas Nos. 47, 53, 32, 59) also won a Grammy. Other recent releases include two discs of two-

piano programs (with Yefim Bronfman) of works by Brahms and Rachmaninoff; period-instrument performances of Chopin's complete works for piano and orchestra (on two discs); and the Brahms Piano Concerto No. 2 with Bernard Haitink and the Boston Symphony. For more information, visit www.EmanuelAx.com.

CRAIG BIESECKER, from Waynesboro, PA, received a BS 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 Riout, 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 BFA 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 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 BFA from The Juilliard School, under the direction of Benjamin Harkarvy. She

danced with the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, the Nederlands Dans Theater, and Battleworks Dance Company, before joining MMDG in 2006. Ms. Clark has also worked with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre as assistant to Robert Battle. She has been on faculty at the American Dance Festival and teaches for MMDG. She is a 2008-2009 Princess Grace Modern Dance Honorarium Award Winner.

AMBER DARRAGH is originally from Newport, OR, where she began her dance training with Nancy Mittleman. She received her BFA 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.

DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR., a native of Victoria, TX, recently acquired a BFA in ballet and modern dance at Texas Christian University. Currently, he also works with choreographers Leslie Scott, BODYart Dance, Mary Seidman & Dancers, and Christian von Howard, Von Howard Project. He made his debut with the Mark Morris Dance Group during *The Hard Nut* at Cal Performances, Berkeley, in 2007 and became an apprentice in 2008. Domingo would like to thank God, his family and all who support his passion!

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 bachelor's and master's 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.

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*, and she is the subject of a photograph by Annie Leibovitz. She holds a BFA 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. He has performed with such artists as Susan Marshall, John Jasperse, and Ben Munisteri and was a guest artist with Pilobolus Dance Theater. John's choreography is featured in the 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.

WOLFRAM KOESSEL (*cello*) Since moving to New York in 1991, Wolfram Koessel has 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. In 2006, he 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. Mr. 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. He resides with his wife, pianist and writer J. Mae Barizo, in Manhattan.

DAVID LEVENTHAL was raised in Newton, MA, and 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 BFA 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 BFA 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.

YOKO NOZAKI (*piano*), since her New York City debut recital, has won consistent critical acclaim during two decades of chamber music performances, recital, and concerts with several major American orchestras. She has also appeared at such music festivals as Mostly Mozart, Ravinia, Ojai, and Tanglewood and frequently collaborates with her husband, pianist

Emanuel Ax. Born in Tokyo, Japan, Ms. Nozaki received her first piano lessons from her mother at the age of three and a half. Soon afterward, she was accepted by the Toho School of Music to study with Aiko Iguchi. When she was 12 years old, her family immigrated to Durham, North Carolina, where she studied with Loren Withers. She subsequently became a scholarship pupil of Irwin Freundlich at The Juilliard School. A recipient of the Mary Biddle Duke Scholarship at Juilliard, Ms. Nozaki has won numerous awards, including the Music Teachers National Association Competition and the Friday Morning Music Club Competition in Washington, D.C. Ms. Nozaki lives in New York City with her husband and their two children, Joseph and Sarah.

MAILE OKAMURA is originally from San Diego, CA. She was a member of Boston Ballet II in 1992–93 and Ballet Arizona from 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.

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 Brooklyn to Sydney and performed throughout the U.S. and Japan with Yo-Yo Ma. On the baroque viola she performs with the Dodd String Quartet, Four Nations Ensemble, Rebel, Grand Tour Orchestra, Sinfonia NY, and Clarion, and—a fun feather in this cap—appeared with Renée Fleming on *Late Night With David Letterman*. She has seized the stage from Toronto to Lima with the East Village Opera Company, a rock group (without appropriate headgear), and she is a member of both the Brooklyn and Westchester Philharmonics. Wearing

headphones, she has recorded quartet parts for Ani DiFranco, Lou Reed, 2 Foot Yard, and Charming Hostess. 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 *12 Microludes* for string quartet, which she prepared with the composer.

GEORGY VALTCHEV (*violin*) has been honored with a number of awards, among them the First Prize of the Ducrest International Competition in Lafayette, LA, and the Special Prize of the Tibor Varga International Violin Competition in Switzerland. He 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, NJ, and the Sofia Soloists in Bulgaria. He first performed with the Ensemble in 2006.

NOAH VINSON received his BA 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.

MICHI WIANCKO (*violin*) made her Los Angeles Philharmonic debut in 1997. She is the recipient of numerous honors, including winner of the 2002 Concert Artists Guild International Competition, American String Teachers Association Competition, Cleveland Institute of Music, and Music Academy of the West Concerto Competitions, as well as the Music Teachers National Association

Competition. Her past teachers include Donald Weilerstein and Robert Mann, and she performs with the Los Angeles Piano Quartet, Musicians from Marlboro, and Metamorphosen. She has performed at major venues including Carnegie Hall, Orange County Performing Arts Center, Redlands Bowl, Banff Centre, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Library of Congress, National Gallery in D.C., and numerous others. A native of Southern California, Ms. Wiancko began playing the violin at the age of 3. Having traveled extensively, she cites numerous world music influences inspiring her to push the boundaries of classical repertoire and explore new genres. One such exploratory tangent materialized in her involvement with *Battlestar*, a Brooklyn-based ensemble performing innovative hip-hop, country and electronica. She has also worked with Mark O'Connor, and her musical interests include country fiddle and gypsy violin.

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, 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 BFA. She joined MMDG in 1997. Mom, thank you.



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