



MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

with the MMDG Music Ensemble



Saturday, March 7, 8 p.m., Brown Theatre 

Sponsored by The Kentucky Center and Alltech Fortnight Festival.



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Alltech Fortnight Festival presents
MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP
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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 JESSE MILLS HRANT PARSAMIAN
JESSICA TROY GEORGY VALTCHEV

Artistic Director
MARK MORRIS

Executive Director
NANCY UMANOFF

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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

JOE BOWIE, DAVID LEVENTHAL, DALLAS McMURRAY
JULIE WORDEN, MICHELLE YARD

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

-PAUSE-

ALL FOURS

Music: Bela Bartok – *String Quartet No. 4*
Costumes: Martin Pakledinaz
Lighting: Nicole Pearce

Jesse Mills, Georgy Valtchev, violin
Jessica Troy, viola
Hrant Parsamian, cello

I. Allegro

JOE BOWIE, RITA DONAHUE, JOHN HEGINBOTHAM, DAVID LEVENTHAL
LAUREL LYNCH, MAILE OKAMURA, NOAH VINSON, JENN WEDDEL

II. Prestissimo, con sordino

CRAIG BIESECKER, BRADON McDONALD

III. Non troppo lento

CRAIG BIESECKER, LAUREN GRANT, BRADON McDONALD, MICHELLE YARD

IV. Allegretto pizzicato

LAUREN GRANT, MICHELLE YARD

LAUREL LYNCH

V. Allegro molto

JOE BOWIE, AMBER DARRACH, RITA DONAHUE, JOHN HEGINBOTHAM, DAVID LEVENTHAL,
MAILE OKAMURA, NOAH VINSON, JENN WEDDEL

Premiere: September 12, 2003 – Zellerbach Hall, Cal Performances, Berkeley, CA
Bela Bartok's String Quartet No. 4 is performed by arrangement with Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., publisher and copyright owner.

-INTERMISSION-

V

Music: Robert Schumann – *Quintet in E flat major for piano and strings, Op. 44*
Costumes: Martin Pakledinaz
Lighting: Michael Chybowski

Jesse Mills, Georgy Valtchev, violin
Jessica Troy, viola
Hrant Parsamian, cello
Colin Fowler, piano

CRAIG BIESECKER, ELISA CLARK, RITA DONAHUE, DOMINGO ESTRADA JR., LAUREN GRANT
JOHN HEGINBOTHAM, DAVID LEVENTHAL, LAUREL LYNCH, BRADON McDONALD
DALLAS McMURRAY, MAILE OKAMURA, NOAH VINSON, JULIE WORDEN, MICHELLE YARD

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



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, 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.

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.



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 nine 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 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 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.



DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR. a native of Victoria, TX, 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 & 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, KS, 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.



LAUREN GRANT, born and raised in Highland Park, IL, has danced with the Mark Morris Dance Group since 1996. She has appeared in forty 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 been 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.

JESSE MILLS (violin) graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree from The Juilliard School in 2001. He has performed as 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 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 four, 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.



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, and 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 boy, born in 2006. She is grateful to her family, Mark Morris, and MMDG

for their love and support.

HRANT PARSAMIAN (cello) After winning the Montgomery Symphony Fellowship, Hrant Parsamian moved back to New York where he regularly performs with ensembles such as New Jersey Symphony, Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players, and Carnegie Ensemble among others. Hrant is the founding member of the Arsenal Trio which has a residency at the Clefworks Festival. Graduate of The Juilliard School and Yale School of Music, Hrant is active as both soloist and chamber musician throughout the U.S., in stages ranging from Zankel Hall and Merkin Concert Hall in New York to Beckwith Hall in Fargo, ND.

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 Renee Fleming on *The Late Show with David Letterman*. She has seized the stage from Toronto to Lima with the East Village Opera Company, a rock group, (without appropriate headgear). 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 *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. 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, NJ, and the Sofia Soloists in Bulgaria. Mr. Valtchev first performed with the Ensemble in 2006.



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, Venci 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 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.

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