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CHAMPAIGN



MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP/ROBBIE JACK

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP
Friday-Saturday, March 5-6, 2010, at 7:30pm
Tryon Festival Theatre

PROGRAM

Mark Morris Dance Group

Craig Biesecker
Samuel Black
Joe Bowie
Elisa Clark
Rita Donahue
Domingo Estrada Jr.
Lauren Grant
John Heginbotham
David Leventhal
Laurel Lynch
Bradon McDonald
Dallas McMurray
Amber Star Merkens
Maile Okamura
Noah Vinson
Jenn Weddel
Julie Worden
Michelle Yard

Artistic Director
Mark Morris

Executive Director
Nancy Umanoff

MMDG Music Ensemble

Colin Fowler
Benjamin Russell
Jessica Troy
Georgy Valtchev
Paul Wiancko

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

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by Brooklyn Community Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, JP Morgan Chase Foundation, The Howard Gilman Foundation, William Randolph Hearst Foundation, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Jane Stine and R. L. Stine, and Trust for Mutual Understanding.

The Mark Morris Dance Group New Works Fund is supported by The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Meyer Sound/Helen and John Meyer, The PARC Foundation, 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; New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency; and National Endowment for the Arts Dance Program.

Visitation

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven's *Cello Sonata No. 4 in C Major, Op. 102, No. 1*

Costume Design: Elizabeth Kurtzman

Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

Paul Wiancko, cello; Colin Fowler, piano

Maile Okamura

I. Andante—Allegro vivace

Craig Biesecker, Joe Bowie, Rita Donahue, Michelle Yard

II. Adagio—Tempo d'andante—Allegro vivace

Craig Biesecker, Joe Bowie, Rita Donahue, John Heginbotham, Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel,
Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

Commissioned in part by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts

Premiere: August 5, 2009, Seiji Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood Music Center, Lenox, Massachusetts

Pause

Empire Garden

Music: Charles Ives' *Trio for Violin, Violoncello, and Piano, S. 86*

Costume Design: Elizabeth Kurtzman

Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

I. Moderato

II. TSIAJ—Presto

III. Moderato con moto

Georgy Valtchev, violin; Paul Wiancko, cello; Colin Fowler, piano

Craig Biesecker, Samuel Black, Joe Bowie, Elisa Clark, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada Jr., Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham, David Leventhal, Bradon McDonald, Dallas McMurray, Maile Okamura, Jenn Weddel, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

Commissioned in part by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts

Premiere: August 5, 2009, Seiji Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood Music Center, Lenox, Massachusetts

Music by arrangement with Peer International Corporation, publisher and copyright owner

20-minute intermission

V

Music: Robert Schumann's *Quintet in E-flat for Piano and Strings, Op. 44*

Allegro brillante

In modo d'una Marcia. Un poco largamente—Agitato

Scherzo: Molto vivace

Allegro, ma non troppo

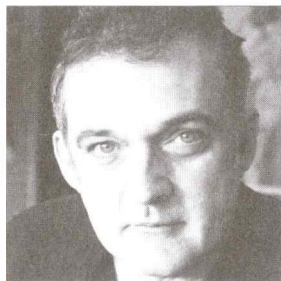
Costume Design: Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

Georgy Valtchev, violin; Benjamin Russell, violin; Jessica Troy, viola; Paul Wiancko, 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, United Kingdom



Mark Morris

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 to 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 the American Ballet Theatre and the Boston Ballet, among others. His work is also in the repertory of the Pacific Northwest Ballet, the Dutch National Ballet, the New Zealand Ballet, Houston Ballet, the English National Ballet, and The Royal Ballet. Morris is noted for his musicality and has been described as "unwavering in his devotion to music." He has worked extensively in opera, directing and choreographing productions for The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, the English National Opera, and The Royal Opera, Covent Garden. Morris was named a fellow of the

MacArthur Foundation in 1991. He has received nine honorary doctorates to date. In 2006, Morris received the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Mayor's Award for Arts and 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.

Mark Morris Dance Group

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 United States 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 United States and at major international festivals. Based in Brooklyn, New York, the company has maintained and strengthened its ties to several cities around the world, most notably its West Coast home, Cal Performances in Berkeley, and its Midwest home, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. MMDG also appears regularly in New York City; in Boston, Massachusetts; in Fairfax, Virginia; and in Seattle, Washington. 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. From the company's many London seasons, it has 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, 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 UK's *South Bank Show*, and PBS' *Live from Lincoln Center*. In the fall of 2001, MMDG opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn, 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.

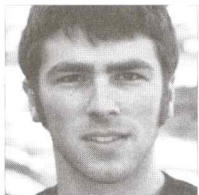
MMDG Music Ensemble

The MMDG Music Ensemble, formed in 1996, performs with MMDG 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, 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.



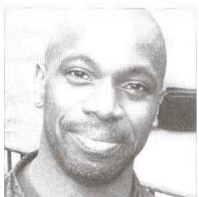
Craig Biesecker, from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, received a BS in music education from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. While teaching music in Philadelphia, he studied ballet with John White,

Margarita de Saá, and Bryan Koulman and worked with the choreographers Tim and Lina Early. In New York City, he has worked with Pascal Rioult, Carolyn Dorfman, New York Theatre Ballet, Mark Dendy, and Gerald Casel. Craig joined MMDG in 2003.



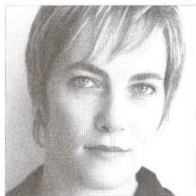
Samuel Black is originally from Berkeley, California, where he began studying tap at the age of nine with Katie Maltsberger. He received his BFA in dance from SUNY Purchase and also studied at the Rotterdamse

Dansacademie in Holland. He has performed in New York with David Parker, Takehiro Ueyama, and Nelly van Bommel. Sam first appeared with MMDG in 2005 and became a company member in 2007.



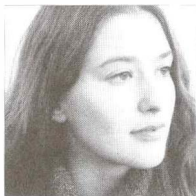
Joe Bowie was born in Lansing, Michigan, and began dancing while attending Brown University, where he graduated with honors in English and American literature. In New York,

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.



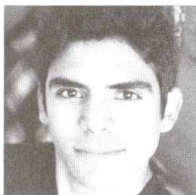
Elisa Clark received her early training from the Maryland Youth Ballet and her BFA from the Juilliard School under the direction of Benjamin Harkavy. She danced with the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, the

Nederlands Dans Theater, and Battleworks Dance Company before joining MMDG in 2006. Clark has also worked with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as an assistant to Robert Battle. She has been on the faculty at the American Dance Festival and teaches for MMDG. She is a 2008-09 Princess Grace Modern Dance Honorarium Award Winner.



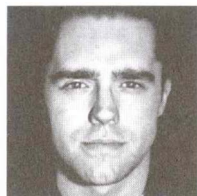
Rita Donahue was born and raised in Fairfax, Virginia, and attended George Mason University, where she graduated with honors in dance and English in 2002. She danced with bopi's black sheep/dances by kraig

patterson and joined MMDG in 2003.



Domingo Estrada Jr., a native of Victoria, Texas, has recently acquired a BFA in ballet and modern dance from Texas Christian University. Currently, he also works with the choreographers Leslie Scott of

BODYart Dance, Mary Seidman of Mary Seidman and Dancers, and Christian von Howard of the 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 a company member in 2009. 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 Voigt, and James Galway and at many of the churches and synagogues in New York. His 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.

Appearing in over 40 of Mark Morris' works, she performs leading roles in *The Hard Nut*

and *Mozart Dances*. Grant has been featured in *Time Out New York*, *Dance Magazine*, and the book *Meet the Dancers* and is the subject of a photograph by Annie Leibovitz. She graduated with a BFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Grant is on the faculty at MMDG's school and also teaches dance internationally. She is married to fellow dancer David Leventhal.



John Heginbotham is from Anchorage, Alaska. He is a graduate of the Juilliard School (BFA '93) and has danced in the companies of Susan Marshall, Pilobolus Dance Theater (guest artist), John Jasperse, and Ben

Munisteri. His choreography is featured in the work of recording artists Fischerspooner and in *Champ: A Space Opera* (New York International Fringe Festival). As a teacher, John works regularly with members of the Brooklyn Parkinson Group. He joined MMDG in 1998.

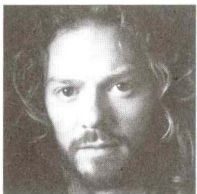


David Leventhal has danced with MMDG since 1997. He performs principal roles in *The Hard Nut*; *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*; and *Romeo & Juliet*, *On Motifs of Shakespeare*. He is a faculty member of the

Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn and teaches technique and repertory at schools and universities. He is one of the founding teachers of MMDG's Dance for PD program and leads classes around the world for people with Parkinson's disease. Raised in Newton, Massachusetts, he received his early training from the Boston Ballet School and graduated from Brown University with honors in English literature. 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 the Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, Pat Catterson, Stephan Koplowitz, and T.E.A. (Transpersonal Education and Art). She has performed at the Festival Oltre Passo in Lecce, Italy, and has appeared as a guest artist with Petaluma City Ballet. Laurel performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.



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.



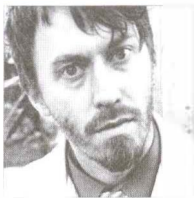
Dallas McMurray, from El Cerrito, California, began dancing at age four, studying jazz, tap, and acrobatics with Katie Maltsberger and ballet with Yukiko Sakakura. He received a BFA in dance from the California Institute of the Arts. Dallas performed with the Limón Dance Company in addition to works by Jiri Kylián, Alonzo King, Robert Moses, and Colin Connor. Dallas performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.



Amber Star Merkens is originally from Newport, Oregon, 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.



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 the choreographers Neta Pulvermacher, Zvi Gotheiner, and Gerald Casel, among others. Maile began working with MMDG in 1998 and became a company member in 2001.



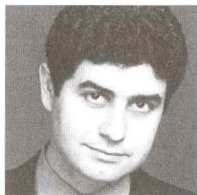
Benjamin Russell (violin) is hailed as a dynamic performer and displays great talent in mastering both classical music and folk music of several cultures. As a violinist, vocalist, and songwriter, he utilizes a vast

repertoire of music to transport his audiences to a world of emotional creativity and sonic beauty. Ben is a founding member of the New York City-based ensemble the Bryant Park Quartet. This energetic and virtuosic string quartet tours throughout the country performing recitals, giving presentations, and coaching young artists in public schools and universities. The quartet received a Chamber Music America Residency Partnership Program grant in 2008 and is currently Artists in Residence at the Stony Brook Pre-College Division. Since 2008, Ben has been a member of the American Contemporary Music Ensemble. This ensemble performs a wide variety of contemporary music—from cutting-edge works by living composers to avant-garde indie rock music. This broad spectrum allows the ensemble to perform in various venues such as Carnegie Hall and Le Poisson Rouge. In New York City, Ben collaborates with top-notch ensembles such as the Wordless Music Orchestra, MMDG, and the String Orchestra of New York City. For the past five years, Ben has held the position of principal second violin in the Portland Symphony Orchestra in Maine.



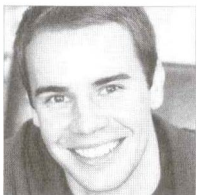
Jessica Troy (viola), a native New Yorker, has played with the MMDG Music Ensemble since 1998. She wears a wide variety of freelance hats; a member of the Brooklyn Philharmonic, she has recently performed with the

new music ensemble Sequitur, on baroque viola with Renée Fleming on *Late Show with David Letterman*, and everything in between. She has participated at many illustrious chamber music festivals, including Prussia Cove and Marlboro—and she can be heard on the latter's 50th-anniversary CD. She is a proud resident of MMDG's own Fort Greene neighborhood in Brooklyn.



Georgy Valtchev (violin) was born in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, began his violin studies at the age of six, and gave his first performance with the orchestra six years later at the music academy of his native city. He

received his basic music education first at the Plovdiv Music School and then at the State Music School "Lubomir Pipkov" in Sofia as a student of Boyanka Shopova, Vlado Vladigerov, Mitcho Dimitrov, and Dora Ivanova. At age 16, he won the Grand Prize and the Special Prize at the "Kocian" International Competition in Czechoslovakia. Georgy Valtchev came to the United States as a scholarship student of Dorothy Delay and Masao Kawasaki at the Juilliard School in New York, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees. Valtchev has recorded a CD for the Gega label featuring solo and chamber music works by the composer Victoria Bond. He has made numerous recordings for Bulgarian National Radio and has appeared in live broadcasts by Bulgarian National Radio and Television and WFMT Chicago.



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.



Jenn Weddel received her early training from the Boulder Ballet Company near where she grew up in Longmont, Colorado. She holds a BFA from Southern Methodist University and also studied at Boston Conservatory,

Colorado University, and The Laban Center, London. Since moving to New York in 2001, Weddel has created and performed with the RedWall Dance Theatre, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, the Vendl Dance Trio, the Rocha Dance Theatre, T.E.A. (Transpersonal Education and Art), and various choreographers including Alan Danielson and Ella Ben-Aharon. Weddel performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.



Paul Wiancko (cello) has won top prizes in the Lutoslawski International, ASTA, Pasadena Showcase, and Los Angeles Debut Competitions. In 2007, he made his European and South American solo debuts,

performing with the Polish Radio Symphony in Warsaw and the Bahia Symphony in Brazil. Paul has been invited to the Olympic, Laguna Beach, and Marlboro Music Festivals and has performed alongside Richard Goode, Lynn Harrell, Arnold Steinhardt, and Midori, among others. His previous coaches include Itzhak Perlman, Donald Weilerstein, Yo-Yo Ma, and members of the Guarneri and Juilliard Quartets. He and his sister Michi formed an exciting violin and cello collaboration called the Wiancko Duo. Capable of weaving his artistry into any genre, Paul has garnered respect as an innovative composer, producer, and collaborator and is a committed

advocate for new music and new composers. Paul is a graduate of USC and the Colburn School, where he studied with Ronald Leonard.



Julie Worden graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts and joined MMDG in 1994.



Michelle Yard was born in Brooklyn 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. Michelle joined MMDG in 1997. Mom, thank you.

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP STAFF

Artistic Director
Executive Director

Mark Morris
Nancy Umanoff

Music Coordinator
Maintenance

Bruce Lazarus
Ramon Calderon, Abe

Production

Technical Director
Rehearsal Director
Lighting Supervisor
Wardrobe Supervisor
Sound Supervisor

Johan Henckens
Matthew Rose
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Hilot Therapist Jeffrey Cohen

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General Manager
Company Manager
Chief Finance Officer
Finance Associate

Aaron Mattocks
Daniel A. Finney
Elizabeth Fox
Marea Chaveco

Thanks to Maxine Morris.

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and Development
Associate Director, Marketing
and Corporate Support
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Alexandro Pacheco
Kelly Sheldon
Moss Allen
Ashley Matthews
Jay Selinger

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contribution to the work.

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International; and the Friends of the Mark Morris
Dance Group.

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Facilities Manager
Assistant Facilities Manager
Administrative Assistant
Receptionists

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Matthew Eggleton
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BEING MATTERS.