



Center for the Performing Arts
Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York

Mark Morris Dance Group

SEPTEMBER 24, 2010

Support for Dance at The Egg provided by

Stuyvesant Plaza

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

SAMUEL BLACK
JOE BOWIE
ELISA CLARK
RITA DONAHUE
DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR.
LAUREN GRANT
JOHN HEGINBOTHAM
AARON LOUX*
LAUREL LYNCH
BRADON McDONALD
DALLAS McMURRAY
AMBER STAR MERKENS
MAILE OKAMURA
SPENCER RAMIREZ*
WILLIAM SMITH III*
NOAH VINSON
JENN WEDDEL
JULIE WORDEN
MICHELLE YARD
*APPRENTICE

MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE
COLIN FOWLER JESSE MILLS

Artistic Director
MARK MORRIS

Executive Director
NANCY UMANOFF

MetLife Foundation is the Mark Morris Dance Group's Official
30th Anniversary Sponsor

PROGRAM

Sang-Froid

Music: Frédéric Chopin – *Étude in a, Mazurka in a, Étude in G-flat, Mazurka in D, Berceuse in D-flat, Waltz in D-flat, Nocturne in f, Prelude in A, Étude in a*

Costume Design: Elizabeth Kurtzman

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

Colin Fowler, *piano*

Elisa Clark, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada Jr., Bradon McDonald,
Dallas McMurray, Maile Okamura, Noah Vinson,
Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

Commissioned by the American Dance Festival through the Doris Duke Awards for New Work, with additional support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Premiere: July 13, 2000 – Page Auditorium, Durham, NC

-PAUSE-

Excursions

Music: Samuel Barber – *Excursions for the Piano (Op. 20, IV, III, II, I)*

Costume Design: Katherine M. Patterson

Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

Colin Fowler, *piano*

Elisa Clark, Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, William Smith III,
Noah Vinson, Michelle Yard

Commissioned in part by the Tanglewood Music Center of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Premiere: June 26, 2008 – Seiji Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood Music Center, Lenox, MA

Music by arrangement with G. Schirmer, Inc., publisher and copyright owner.

-INTERMISSION-

Three Preludes

Music: George Gershwin – *Preludes for Piano*

Costume Design: Isaac Mizrahi

Lighting Design: James F. Ingalls

- I. *Allegro Ben Ritmato E Deciso*
- II. *Andante Con Moto E Poco Rubato*
- III. *Allegro Ben Ritmato E Deciso*

Colin Fowler, *piano*

Bradon McDonald

Commissioned in part by Dance Umbrella, Boston

Premiere: June 2, 1992 – Emerson Majestic Theatre, Dance Umbrella, Boston, MA

Prelude I, II, III ©1927 (Renewed) WB Music Corp. (ASCAP)
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-PAUSE-

Grand Duo

Music: Lou Harrison - *Grand Duo for Violin & Piano*

Costume Design: Susan Ruddle

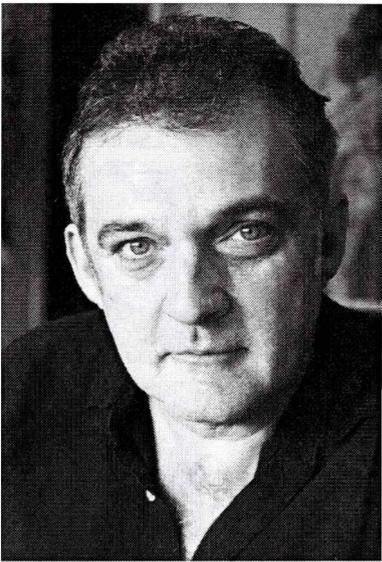
Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

Prelude
Stampede
A Round
Polka

Jesse Mills, *violin*; Colin Fowler, *piano*

Samuel Black, Elisa Clark, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada Jr., John Heginbotham, Laurel Lynch, Bradon McDonald, Dallas McMurray, Amber Star Merkens, Maile Okamura, William Smith III, Noah Vinson, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

Premiere: February 16, 1993 – Fine Arts Center, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA



MARK MORRIS was born on August 29, 1956, in Seattle, Washington, where he studied with Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson. In the early years of his career, he performed with the dance companies of 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 time there were three evening-length dances: *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*; *Dido and Aeneas*; and *The Hard Nut*. In 1990, he founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Morris is also a ballet choreographer and has created seven works for the San Francisco Ballet since 1994 and received commissions from many others. His work is in the repertory of the Pacific Northwest Ballet, Boston 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, Gotham Chamber Opera, English National Opera, and The Royal Opera, Covent Garden. In 1991, he was named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation. He has received ten 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 "for being an American ambassador for classical music at home and abroad." He is the subject of a biography, *Mark Morris*, 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. In 2010, he received the prestigious Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society.

MARK MORRIS

DANCE GROUP



Samuel Black



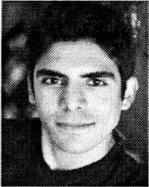
Joe Bowie



Elisa Clark



Rita Donahue



Domingo Estrada, Jr.



Colin Fowler



Lauren Grant



John Heginbotham



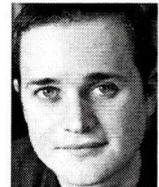
Aaron Loux



Laurel Lynch



Bradon McDonald



Dallas McMurray



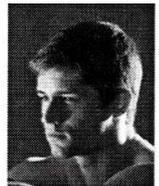
Amber Star Merkens



Jesse Mills



Maile Okamura



Spencer Ramirez



William Smith III



Noah Vinson



Jenn Weddel



Julie Worden



Michelle Yard

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 at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. MMDG also appears regularly in New York, NY; Boston, MA; Fairfax, VA; and Seattle, WA. 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 also garnered two Laurence Olivier Awards.

MMDG is noted for its commitment to live music, a feature of every performance on its 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); percussionist and 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*, two documentaries for the U.K.'s *South Bank Show*, and PBS' *Live From Lincoln Center*. In September of 2001, the Mark Morris Dance Center opened in Brooklyn, NY, to provide a home for the company, rehearsal space for the dance community, outreach programs for local children and seniors, 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, 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.

SAMUEL BLACK is originally from Berkeley, CA, where he began studying tap at the age of 9 with Katie Maltsberger. 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. Sam 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 danced with the Lar Lubovitch Company, Nederlands Dans Theater, and Battleworks, 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.

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, 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 *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 is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy and holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree from the Juilliard School. He has recorded and performed throughout the world with numerous soloists and ensembles including Deborah Voigt, the American Brass Quintet, James Galway, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In addition to performing and conducting numerous Broadway shows, Mr. Fowler is a professor at NYU and Nyack College. He began collaborating with MMDG in 2006.

LAUREN GRANT, born and raised in Highland Park, IL, 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*. Ms. Grant has been featured in *Time Out New York*, *Dance Magazine*, the book *Meet the Dancers*, and is the subject of a photograph by Annie Leibovitz. She graduated with a B.F.A. from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Ms. Grant is on faculty at MMDG's school and teaches dance internationally.

JOHN HEGINBOTHAM is from Anchorage, AK. 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 the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1998.

AARON LOUX grew up in Seattle, WA and began dancing at the Creative Dance Center as a member of Kaleidoscope, a youth modern dance company. He began his classical training at the Cornish College Preparatory Dance Program and received his B.F.A. from The Juilliard School in 2009. He danced at The Metropolitan Opera and with Arc Dance Company before joining MMDG as an apprentice in 2010.

LAUREL LYNCH began her dance training in Petaluma, CA. 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 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 performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.

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 Maltzberger, 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 Company in addition to works by Jiri Kylian, Alonzo King, Robert Moses, and Colin Connor. Dallas joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.

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.

AMBER STAR MERKENS 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.

MAILE OKAMURA is from San Diego and 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.

SPENCER RAMIREZ began his training in Springfield, VA studying under Melissa Dobbs, Nancy Gross, Kellie Payne, and Marilyn York. He continued on to the Maryland Youth Ballet training with faculty such as Michelle Lees, Christopher Doyle, and Harriet Williams. In 2008, he entered the Juilliard School under the direction of Lawrence Rhodes and had the opportunity to perform works by Jose Limon, Jerome Robbins, Sidra Bell, and Fabien Prioville. Mr. Ramirez is excited to be in his first season with MMDG as of July 2010 and is extremely thankful for his family and friends' love and support.

WILLIAM SMITH III grew up in Fredericksburg, VA, and attended George Mason University under a full academic and dance talent scholarship. Billy graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2007 and received achievement awards in Performance, Choreography, and Academic Endeavors. While at George Mason he performed the works of Mark Morris, Paul Taylor, Lar Lubovitch, Doug Varone, Daniel Ezralow, Larry Keigwin, Susan Marshall and Susan Shields. Billy's own piece, 3-Way Stop, was selected to open the 2006 American College Dance Festival Gala at Ohio State University and his original choreography for a production of Bye Bye Birdie garnered much critical praise. An actor as well, Billy's regional theatre credits include Tulsa in Gypsy, Mr. Mistoffelees in CATS and Dream Curlly in Oklahoma!. Previously he danced with Parsons Dance from 2007-2010. He became an apprentice with MMDG in April 2010.

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 received her early training from Boulder Ballet Company near where she grew up in Longmont, CO. She holds a B.F.A. from Southern Methodist University and also studied at Boston Conservatory, Colorado University and The Laban Center, London. Since moving to New York in 2001, Ms. Weddel has created and performed with RedWall Dance Theater, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, VencI Dance Trio, Rocha Dance Theater, TEA Dance Company and with various choreographers including Alan Danielson and Ella Ben-Aharon. Ms. Weddel performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member 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.

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP STAFF

Artistic Director: Mark Morris

Executive Director: Nancy Umanoff

PRODUCTION

Technical Director: Johan Henckens

Rehearsal Director: Matthew Rose

Lighting Supervisor: Michael Chybowski

Wardrobe Supervisor: Jennifer Perry

Costume Coordinator: Stephanie Sleeper

Sound Supervisor :Jim Abdou

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Orthopaedist: David S. Weiss, M.D.
(NYU-HJD Department of Orthopaedic Surgery)
Hilot Therapist: Jeffrey Cohen
Physical Therapist: Marshall Hagins, PT, PhD

Thanks to Maxine Morris.

Sincerest thanks to all the dancers for their dedication, commitment, and incalculable contribution to the work.

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