



Celebrity Series of Boston

Engaging • Entertaining • Enriching

**New discoveries,
electrifying performances!**



2010 • 2011 season



Celebrity Series of Boston

Engaging • Entertaining • Enriching

Thursday-Sunday | October 14-17 | 7:30pm/8pm/8pm/3pm | Cutler Majestic Theatre

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

Mark Morris Dance Group

Samuel Black Joe Bowie Elisa Clark Rita Donahue
Domingo Estrada, Jr. Lauren Grant John Heginbotham
Aaron Loux* Laurel Lynch Dallas McMurray
Amber Star Merkens Maile Okamura Spencer Ramirez*
William Smith III* Noah Vinson Jenn Weddel
Julie Worden Michelle Yard

**Apprentice*

MMDG Music Ensemble

Omar Chen Guey Colin Fowler Andrew Janss
Philip Kramp ~~Jesse Mills~~ Georgy Valtchev

Artistic Director

Mark Morris

Executive Director

Nancy Umanoff

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

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by
Brooklyn Community Foundation, JP Morgan Chase Foundation, Fund for the City of New York,
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation,
The Schubert 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, 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 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.

Steinway piano provided by M. Steinert & Sons.

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The 2010-2011 Dance Series is sponsored by
The Little Family Foundation

DANCE PROGRAM

Excursions

Boston Premiere

Music: Samuel Barber; *Excursions for the Piano (Opus 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.

PAUSE

Petrichor

World Premiere

Music: Heitor Villa-Lobos; *String Quartet No. 2, W100*

Allegro non troppo; Scherzo – Allegro; Andante; Allegro Deciso

Costume Design: Elizabeth Kurtzman

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

Georgy Valtchev, *violin*; Omar Chen Guey, *violin*;

Philip Kramp, *viola*; Andrew Janss, *cello*

Elisa Clark, Rita Donahue, Lauren Grant, Laurel Lynch,

Amber Star Merkens, Maile Okamura, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

Commissioned by the Celebrity Series of Boston
in celebration of Martha H. Jones's 25th anniversary season
and generously funded by major gifts from

The Little Family Foundation

and

Eleanor & Frank Pao

with additional support from Charles & Birgit Blyth and Christine Armstrong & Martha H. Jones.

INTERMISSION

Empire Garden

Boston Premiere

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

I. Moderato; II. TSLAJ – Presto; III. Moderato con moto

Costume Design: Elizabeth Kurtzman

Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

Georgy Valtchev, *violin*; Andrew Janss, *cello*; Colin Fowler, *piano*

Samuel Black, Joe Bowie, Elisa Clark, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada Jr.,

Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham, Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray,

Amber Star Merkens, Maile Okamura, 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, MA

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



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 10 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 (MMDG) 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 Kramert 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.

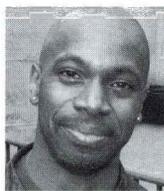
MMDG is noted for its commitment to live music, a feature of every performance on its international touring schedule since 1996. MMDG collaborates with leading orchestras, opera companies, and musicians, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma in the Emmy Award-winning film *Falling Down Stairs* (1997); percussionist 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.

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 & 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 nine 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. 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.



OMAR CHEN GUEY (*violin*) has performed as soloist with most major orchestras in Brazil, including the São Paulo and Brazilian Symphony, as well as Manhattan School, Stony Brook, and Maidstone Symphony Orchestras. He is a prize winner at both the Tibor Varga and Lipizer International Violin Competitions, and has collaborated with Lynn Harrell, Ani Kavafian, David Finckel, Lawrence Dutton, and Colin Carr. He holds a Doctorate from Stony Brook University and a Master's Degree from Juilliard. He was assistant concertmaster of the Orquesta de la Comunidad Valenciana, Spain, directed by Lorin Maazel. He has recorded for the Decca, Nagan, and Paulinas labels.

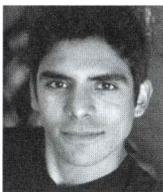


ELISA CLARK received her early training from the Maryland Youth Ballet, and her BFA from The Juilliard School, under the direction of Benjamin Harkavy. She danced with the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, the Nederlands Dans Theater, and Battleworks Dance Company, before joining MMDG in 2006. Ms. Clark has also worked with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, 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, 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, Mary Seidman & Dancers; and Christian von Howard, Von Howard Project. He made his debut with 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*) 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 Mark Morris Dance Group since 1996. Appearing in more than 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 BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Ms. Grant is on faculty at MMDG's school and also teaches dance internationally. She is married to fellow dancer David Leventhal.



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 MMDG in 1998.



ANDREW JANSS (*cello*) has been hailed by *The New York Times* for his “glowing tone,” “insightful musicianship,” and “sumptuous elegance.” He has been featured at Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, and the Louvre Museum. Mr. Janss has collaborated in concert with Pinchas Zukerman, Itzhak Perlman, Lynn Harrell, Leon Fleisher, Gary Hoffman, David Shifrin, and members of the Emerson, Gnarneri, Juilliard, and Takács Quartets. From 2007–2010, Mr. Janss was a resident artist at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. He has performed at Ravinia, Music@Menlo, La Jolla Summerfest, and the Marlboro Music Festival. During 2007–2008, Mr. Janss was Visiting-Artist-in-Residence at SUNY Stony Brook. He is the youngest faculty member in the history of the School of Music.



PHILIP KRAMP (*viola*) Originally from Bloomington, IL, Philip graduated in 2009 from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where he studied with Joseph DePasquale and Michael Tree. Philip studied chamber music with Steve Tenenbom and Pam Frank, and members of the Gnarneri String Quartet. While at Curtis, Phil joined the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia under the direction of Ignat Solzenitsyn, and he continues to perform with this group. Phil is also a substitute violist with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic. Phil has been a guest violist with the East Coast Chamber Orchestra (ECCO). He has performed chamber music with Philip Setzer, Gil Kalish, Peter Wiley, Ida Kavafian, Soovin Kim, Michael Tree, Miriam Fried, and many more. Philip has participated in many chamber music festivals, including Marlboro, Caramoor, Yellow Barn, Kneisel Hall, Music From Angel Fire, and Sarasota. Phil will appear on Musicians From Marlboro tours in 2011 and 2012. Philip recently received Fourth Prize at the 2010 Irving Klein International String Competition. Philip enjoys reading and exercising in his free time.



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 BFA 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. 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 performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.



DALLAS McMURRAY, from El Cerrito, CA, began dancing at age four, studying jazz, tap, and acrobatics with Katie Maltzberger, 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 performing works by Jiří 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, 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.



MAILE OKAMURA is originally from San Diego, CA. She was a member of Boston Ballet II from 1992–1993 and Ballet Arizona from 1993–1996. 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. From there, 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 José Limón, Jerome Robbins, Sidra Bell, and

Fabien Privoille. 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 Curly in *Oklahoma!*. Previously, he danced with Parsons Dance from 2007–2010. He became an apprentice with MMDG in April 2010.



GEORGY VALTCHEV (*violin*) was born in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, began his violin studies at the age of six, and gave his first performance with 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," Sofia, as a student of Boyanka Shopova, Mlado Madigerov, Mitcho Dimitrov, and Prof. Dora Ivanova. At age 16, he won the Grand Prize and the Special Prize at the "Kocian" International Competition in what was Czechoslovakia. Georgy Valtchev came to the United States as a scholarship student of Dorothy Delay and Masao Kawasaki at The Juilliard School, where he earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. Mr. Valtchev has recorded a CD for the Gega label, featuring solo and chamber music works by composer Victoria Bond. He has made numerous recordings for the Bulgarian National Radio and has appeared in live broadcasts of the 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 Boulder Ballet Company, near where she grew up in Longmont, CO. 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, Ms. Weddel has created and performed with RedWall Dance Theater, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, Vencl 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 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 BFA. 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 Heuckens

Rehearsal Director Matthew Rose

Lighting Supervisor Michael Chybowski

Wardrobe Supervisor Jennifer Perry

Costume Coordinator Stephanie Sleeper

Sound Supervisor Jim Abdou

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Company Manager Sarah Robinson

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School Director Sarah Marcus

Dance for PD™ Program Manager David Leventhal

School Administrator Diane Ogunusi

School Bursar Marc Castelli

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Assistant Facilities Manager Chris Sperry
Front Desk Manager Jackie Busch
Music Coordinator Bruce Lazarus
Maintenance Gregory Collazo, Jose Fuentes

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Legal Counsel Mark Selinger (McDermott, Will & Emery)
Accountant O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins, llp
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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For more information contact:

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CELEBRITY SERIES PRODUCTION CREDITS

Production Manager Joseph Levensky
Asst. Production Manager Lauren Audette
Master Electrician Daniel Black
Asst. Electrician Ryan Arnett
Master Carpenter Erin Turner
Asst. Carpenter Jeff Walker
Wardrobe Supervisor Nancy Flessas
Wardrobe Mary Hurd
Electricians Bailey Costa, Jolaine Hall,
Steven Manifold, Anthony Phelps,
Jennifer Reddish, Tori Sweetser
Carpenters David Foley, Jerry McDonald

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without creativity.**

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