



# Mark Morris Dance Group

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# 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

## **Artistic Director**

MARK MORRIS

## **Executive Director**

NANCY UMANOFF

## **MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE**

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 Billy Rose Foundation, Inc., 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, 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.

## PROGRAM

### ***Italian Concerto***

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach - *Italian Concerto in F Major, BWV 971*

Lighting Design: Paul Palazzo

- I. *Allegro*
- II. *Andante*
- III. *Presto*

Colin Fowler, *piano*

John Heginbotham, Dallas McMurray, Noah Vinson, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

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

**-PAUSE-**

### ***Silhouettes***

Music: Richard Cumming – *Silhouettes – Five Pieces for Piano*

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

Colin Fowler, *piano*

Samuel Black and Dallas McMurray

Premiere: June 10, 1999 – Maximum Dance Company, Coconut Grove Playhouse, Miami, FL  
Company Premiere: August 2, 1999 – Ted Shawn Theatre, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Becket, MA

**-PAUSE-**

### ***Candleflowerdance***

Music: Igor Stravinsky – *Serenade in A*  
Costume Design: Katherine M. Patterson  
Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

Colin Fowler, *piano*

Rita Donahue, Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham, Aaron Loux, William Smith III

For Susan Sontag

Commissioned in part by Cal Performances, Berkeley

Premiere: September 22, 2005 – Cal Performances, Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley, CA

Music by arrangement with Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., publisher and copyright owner.

**-INTERMISSION-**

### ***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.

### **-PAUSE-**

### ***Going Away Party***

Music: Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys - *Playboy Theme; Yearning; My Shoes Keep Walking Back To You; Goin' Away Party; Baby, That Sure Would Go Good; Milk Cow Blues; Crippled Turkey; When You Leave Amarillo, Turn Out The Lights*

Costume Design: Christine Van Loon

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

Samuel Black, Domingo Estrada Jr., Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham,  
Maile Okamura, William Smith III, Julie Worden

Premiere: April 14, 1990 – Halles de Schaerbeek, Brussels, Belgium

**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 also 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.

**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 including 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 a school offering dance classes to students of all ages. For more information, visit [www.mmdg.org](http://www.mmdg.org).

**THE MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE**, formed in 1996, performs with the Dance Group throughout the season at home and on tour and has become integral to the company's creative life. The core group of accomplished musicians is supplemented by a large roster of regular guests, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma and pianist Emanuel Ax. Most recently, the ensemble, consisting of fourteen musicians, traveled with the company to Moscow, Russia to perform Mark Morris' evening length *Dido & Aeneas*. While in Brooklyn, members of the ensemble continue to participate 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 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 recipient of the 2009 Princess Grace Modern Dance Honorarium Award.

**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.

**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 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 also 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. 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 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 Dance Company in addition to works by Jiri Kylian, 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 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.

**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.

**SPENCER RAMIREZ** began his training in Springfield, VA, studying under Melissa Dobbs, Nancy Gross, Kellie Payne, and Marilyn York. From there, he continued training at the Maryland Youth Ballet 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 Limón, Jerome Robbins, Sidra Bell, and Fabien Prioville. Mr. Ramirez joined MMDG as an apprentice in July 2010.

**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.

**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, Vencel 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.

## MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

**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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**School Administrator** Elisa Marafioti  
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**Music Coordinator** Bruce Lazarus  
**Maintenance** Gregory Collazo, Jose Fuentes, Orlando Rivera



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- 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.

Additional funding has been received from the Altman Foundation; The Amphion Foundation, Inc.; The Buck Family Foundation; Capezio Ballet Makers Dance Foundation; Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts, Inc.; Mertz Gilmore Foundation; The Harkness Foundation for Dance; The Iovino Family Foundation; The Charles Ives Society, Inc.; Johnson & Johnson/Society for the Arts in Healthcare Partnership to Promote the Arts in Healing; Leon Lowenstein Foundation; Materials for the Arts; McDermott, Will & Emery; The David & Mildred Morse Charitable Trust Foundation; New England Foundation for the Arts; USArtists International; and the Friends of the Mark Morris Dance Group.

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