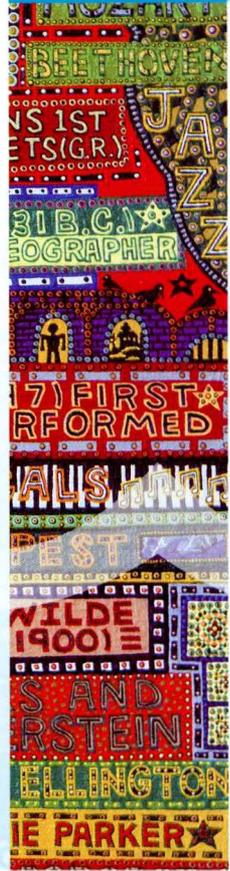


Bermuda  
Festival  
OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

SOUVENIR  
PROGRAMME



2011



# mark morris

dance group

## PROGRAMME

Italian Concerto  
Going Away Party  
Excursions  
Grand Duo

The Mark Morris Dance Group is a much-anticipated part of this year's Bermuda Festival of the Performing Arts. Its reputation is world-renowned and the Brooklyn-based company plans to share its best with the Bermuda audience in its first-ever appearance on the Island. The group takes to the stage at the Ruth Seaton James Centre for Performing Arts with four pieces from its extensive body of work – *Italian Concerto*, *Going Away Party*, *Excursions* and *Grand Duo*.

TUESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY

8:00pm

RUTH SEATON  
JAMES CENTRE

WEDNESDAY, 9 FEBRUARY

8:00pm

RUTH SEATON  
JAMES CENTRE



ARTICLE BY: HEATHER WOOD  
Heather Wood is a professional journalist and writer.

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Set to the score by Bach, *Italian Concerto* premiered to great acclaim in 2007. Wrote Alastair Macaulay in the Financial Times: "...only Morris could have conceived so powerfully original a response. Choreographers since George Balanchine have all tended to set a concerto's slow movement as some poetic male-female drama for the leading dancers also featured in the fast outer movements. But Morris - who gives the first movement to one male-female couple, and starts the third with a second male-female couple - makes the slow movement a solo...."

*Grand Duo* has been described by The New York Times as "one of Mr. Morris's greatest works" and "there is no finer vehicle for the precision and commitment of the Morris dancers." Made to music for piano and violin by Lou Harrison, it gives us a plotless study in primitivism, a dance-drama in which we see some sort of tribal ritual.

Since 1996, the company has fulfilled a commitment to performing with live music at all performances and has collaborated with leading orchestras, opera companies and musicians to that end. Prominent artists it has shared the stage with include cellist Yo-Yo Ma, jazz pianist Ethan Iverson, Indian composer Zakir Hussain, the English National Opera and pianists Emanuel Ax, Garrick Ohlsson and Yoko Nozaki. For the Bermuda Festival engagement, the Dance Group brings the MMDG Music Ensemble to perform with them.

As the name suggests, choreographer Mark Morris is behind the collection of work. Born in Seattle, Washington, the 54-year-old studied with the late Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson. He performed with several companies as he established his career - Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Hannah Kahn Dance Company, Laura Dean Dancers and Musicians, Eliot Feld Ballet and the Koleda Balkan Dance Ensemble.

He formed MMDG in 1980 and has since created more than 120 works for the company. In 1988 they were invited to become the national dance company of Belgium. MMDG spent three years in residence at the national opera house of Belgium, the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, during which time Morris served as its director of dance. Noted among the works he created while there are three evening-length

dances - *The Hard Nut*, a retro-modern take on the holiday favorite *The Nutcracker*; *L'Allegra, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, and *Dido and Aeneas*. In 1990, while still at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, he also co-founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Morris is also a ballet choreographer having created works for the San Francisco Ballet and American Ballet Theatre, among others. In addition, he has worked extensively in opera, directing and choreographing productions for The Metropolitan Opera, English National Opera, and The Royal Opera, Covent Garden.

MMDG returned to the United States in 1991 as one of the world's leading dance companies, performing across the US and at major international festivals. 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.

Over the years, Morris has received a list of honours. In 2006, he received the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Mayor's Award for Arts & Culture and a WQXR Gramophone Special Recognition Award. In 2007, he received the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival lifetime achievement 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'Allegra, il Penseroso ed il Moderato: A Celebration*. He is also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society.

In September of 2001, MMDG opened 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.



BERMUDA  
FESTIVAL



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