

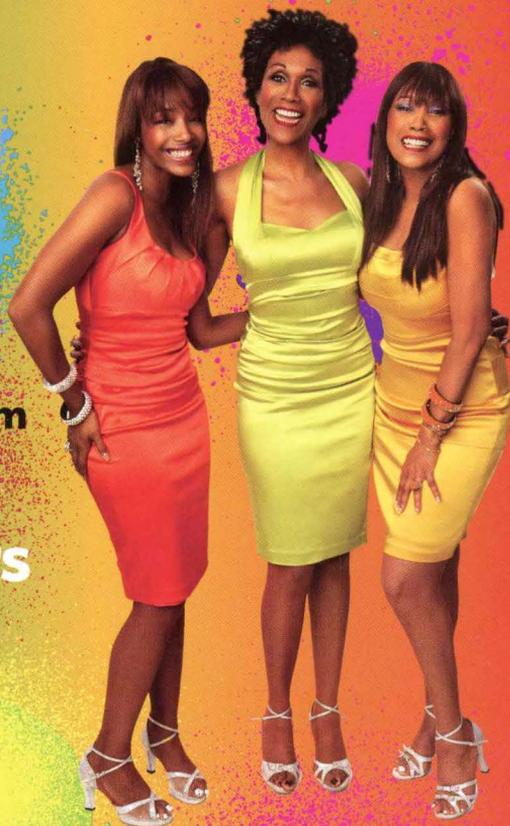
Sharon Lynne
Wilson
Center
for the **ARTS**

I'm so Excited!

The BIG Event
Saturday, June 4, 5:30 pm

featuring
The Pointer Sisters

Presented by



Concert Program
SEASON 20102011

April/May 2011

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES
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Photo: Nathaniel Brooks

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 8:00 PM

This concert sponsored in part by



Mark Morris Dance Group

Samuel Black Joe Bowie 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

Colin Fowler Jessie Mills

Artistic Director

Mark Morris

Executive Director

Nancy Umanoff

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

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

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*

Rita Donahue, 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

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, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham,

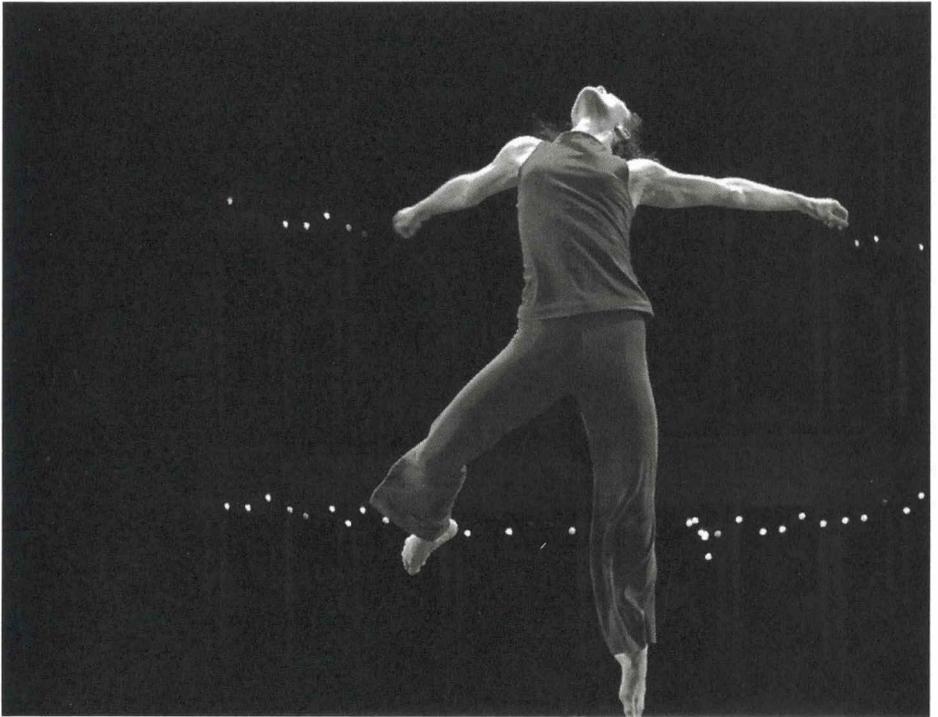
Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, Maile Okamura, Spencer Ramirez, William Smith III,

Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

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

Mark Morris Dance Group
April 9, 2011

Please note: in tonight's performance, Aaron Loux will be replacing Noah Vinson in *Italian Concerto*. Samuel Black will be replacing Noah Vinson in *Excursions*. Spencer Ramirez and Aaron Loux will be replacing Noah Vinson in *Grand Duo*.



ABOUT MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

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** gave its first concert in New York City in 1980. The company’s touring schedule steadily expanded to include cities both in the US 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 US in 1991 as one of the world’s leading dance companies, performing across the US, 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, 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 UK’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.

ABOUT MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

The **MMDG Music Ensemble**, formed in 1996, performs with the Dance Group throughout the season at home in Brooklyn, NY 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 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, MI, and began dancing while attending Brown University where he graduated with honors in English and American Literature. In NY 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.

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 by Kraig Patterson and joined MMDG in 2003.

Domingo Estrada, Jr., a native of Victoria, TX, has 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 MMDG 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 bachelors and masters 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 BFA 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 MMDG in 1998.

ABOUT MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

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.

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.

Dallas McMurray from El Cerrito, CA, 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 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 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 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 Privoille. Mr. Ramirez joined MMDG as an apprentice in July 2010.

ABOUT MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

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. 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 joined MMDG in 2010.

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 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.

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

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AB
AARON BASHA



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