

THE VAIL VALLEY FOUNDATION PRESENTS

Vail International DANCE FESTIVAL 2011

DAMIAN WOETZEL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

CHELSEA LYNN ACREE* SAMUEL BLACK RITA DONAHUE
DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR. LAUREN GRANT
LESLEY GARRISON* JOHN HEGINBOTHAM
BRIAN LAWSON* AARON LOUX LAUREL LYNCH
DALLAS McMURRAY AMBER STAR MERKENS
MAILE OKAMURA SPENCER RAMIREZ WILLIAM SMITH III
NOAH VINSON JENN WEDDEL MICHELLE YARD

*APPRENTICE

MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE

COLIN FOWLER GEORGY VALTCHEV

Artistic Director

MARK MORRIS

Executive Director

NANCY UMANOFF

This evening's performance is graciously underwritten by
Pam & Ernie Elsner

**Wednesday, August 3, 2011
Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater**

Silhouettes

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

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

Colin Fowler, *piano*

Samuel Black, 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-

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, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada Jr., Lauren Grant,
John Heginbotham, Maile Okamura, William Smith III

Premiere: April 14, 1990

Halles de Schaerbeek, Brussels, Belgium

-INTERMISSION-

Grand Duo

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

Costume Design: Susan Ruddle

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

Prelude

Stampede

A Round

Polka

Georgy Valtchev, *violin*; Colin Fowler, *piano*

Samuel Black, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada Jr., Lauren Grant,
John Heginbotham, Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray,
Amber Star Merkens, Maile Okamura, Spencer Ramirez,
William Smith III, Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel, Michelle Yard

Premiere: February 16, 1993

Fine Arts Center, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

Mark Morris

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 Koleda Balkan Dance Ensemble and the dance companies of Lar Lubovitch, Hannah Kahn, Laura Dean, and Eliot Feld. He formed the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1980, and has since created more than 130 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 eleven 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

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.

MMDG Music Ensemble

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 and 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.

Dancer Biographies

CHELSEA LYNN ACREE grew up in Baltimore, MD, where she began her dance training with Sharon Lerner, then continued at Carver Center for the Arts and Technology. Since receiving her B.F.A. in dance from SUNY Purchase in 2005 she has had the opportunity to work with a variety of artists including SYREN Modern Dance, Laura Peterson, Hilary Easton + Company, and Michael and the Go-Getters. Acree is on faculty at The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center teaching kids and adults how to move through space. She began working with Mark Morris Dance Group in 2007 and joined the company in 2011.

SAMUEL BLACK is 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 with David Parker, Takehiro Ueyama, and Nelly van Bommel, and currently teaches MMDG master classes and Dance for PD®. He first appeared with MMDG in 2005, and became a company member in 2007.

RITA DONAHUE was born and raised in Fairfax, VA, and attend George Mason University. She graduated with high distinction in 2002, receiving a B.A. in English and a B.F.A. in Dance. She danced with bopi's black sheep/dances by kraig patterson and joined MMDG in 2003.

DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR., a native of Victoria, Texas, studied martial arts and earned his black belt in 1994. He danced Ballet Folklorico through his church for 11 years. Estrada earned his B.F.A. in Ballet and Modern Dance from Texas Christian University and had the honor of working with the late Fernando Bujones. During his undergraduate studies he attended the American Dance Festival where he had the privilege of performing *Skylight*, a classic work by choreographer Laura Dean. He debuted with MMDG in 2007 and became a company member in 2009. Estrada would like to thank God, his family and all who support his passion.

COLIN FOWLER (piano) hails from Kansas City, KS, and began studying piano at the age of five. After attending Interlochen Arts Academy, he received his Bachelors and Masters Degrees at The Julliard School, where he studied organ with Gerre Hancock and piano with Abbey Simon. He has played and directed music across the country, at venues including Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and The Library of Congress. Fowler has also performed with the American Brass Quintet, Deborah Voight, James Galway, and at many of the churches and synagogues in New York. Broadway credits include the recent revival of *42nd Street* and the current production of The Tony Award winning musical, *Jersey Boys*. Fowler is the Chair of the Theory and Ear Training department at Nyack College, where he is a full-time professor and conductor of the Nyack College Chorale. He has played with the MMDG Music Ensemble since 2006.

Dancer Biographies continued on the additional insert slip.

Dancer Biographies (continued)

LESLEY GARRISON grew up in Swansea, IL, and received her early dance training at the Center of Creative Arts in St. Louis, Missouri and Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, Michigan. She studied at the Rotterdamse Dansacademie in The Netherlands and holds a B.F.A. from the State University of New York at Purchase, receiving the Modern Dance Faculty Award. She has performed with the Erica Essner Performance Co-op, John Heginbotham, the Kevin Wynn Collection, Neel Verdoorn, Nelly Van Bommel's NØA Dance, Rocha Dance Theater and Sidra Bell Dance New York. She first performed with MMDG in L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato in 2007 and joined the company as an apprentice in 2011. She has also performed in Morris' production of Orfeo ed Euridice with the Metropolitan Opera. Garrison has taught creative movement and modern dance at The School at The Mark Morris Dance Center and assists in the Dance for PD® program.

LAUREN GRANT, born and raised in Highland Park, IL, has danced with MMDG since 1996. Appearing in over 40 of Mark Morris' works, she performs leading roles in The Hard Nut and Mozart Dances. 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. Grant is on faculty at MMDG's school and also teaches dance internationally.

JOHN HEGINBOTHAM has danced with MMDG since 1993. Raised in Anchorage, AK, he is a graduate of The Juilliard School (B.F.A. '93) and has performed in the companies of Susan Marshall, John Jasperse, Ben Munisteri, and Pilobolus Dance Theater (guest artist). Heginbotham recently completed a choreographic residency at the Baryshnikov Arts Center, where he was the recipient of a 2010 Jerome Robbins Foundation New Essential Works (NEW) Fellowship Grant. Heginbotham is a founding teacher of Dance for PD®, a program initiated by MMDG and the Brooklyn Parkinson Group. For more information, please visit www.johnheginbotham.com.

BRIAN LAWSON began his dance training in Toronto at Canadian Children's Dance Theatre. There he worked with choreographers such as David Earle, Carol Anderson, and Michael Trent. Lawson spent a year studying at the Rotterdamse Dansacademie in The Netherlands and graduated summa cum laude in 2010 from Purchase College, where he was also granted the President's Award for his contributions to the dance program. Brian has had the pleasure of performing with Pam Tanowitz Dance, John Heginbotham, and Nelly van Bommel's NOA Dance among others. He joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2011.

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 in 2010.

LAUREL LYNCH began her dance training at Petaluma School of Ballet in 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. After graduation Lynch danced for Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, and Pat Catterson. Lynch joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007. Many thanks to Gene and Becky.

DALLAS McMURRAY, from El Cerrito, CA, began dancing at age 4, studying jazz, tap, and acrobatics with Katie Maltsberger, and ballet with Yukiko Sakakura. He received a B.F.A. in dance from the California Institute of the Arts. McMurray performed with the Limón Dance Company in addition to works by Jiri Kylian, Alonzo King, Robert Moses, and Colin Connor. McMurray performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.

AMBER STAR MERKENS, originally from Newport, OR, began her dance training with Nancy Mittleman. She received her B.F.A. from the Juilliard School and went on to dance with the Limón Dance Company. In 2001 she received the Princess Grace Award and joined MMDG. She has presented her own choreography both in New York and abroad, taught at the Mark Morris Dance Center, and worked as a freelance photographer for MMDG, the Silk Road Project, and Brooklyn Rider String Quartet, among others. Merkens would like to thank her family for their continuous support.

Dancer Biographies (continued)

MAILE OKAMURA studied primarily with Lynda Yourth at the American Ballet School in San Diego, CA. She was a member of Boston Ballet II and Ballet Arizona before moving to New York to study modern dance. Okamura has been dancing with MMDG since 1998. She has also had the pleasure of working with choreographers Neta Pulvermacher, Zvi Gotheiner, Gerald Casel, and John Heginbotham, with whom she frequently collaborates as dancer and costume designer.

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 José Limón, Jerome Robbins, Sidra Bell, and Fabien Prioville. 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. Smith 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. Smith'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, Smith's regional theatre credits include Tulsa in Gypsy, Mistoffelees in CATS and Dream Curly in Oklahoma!. Previously he danced with Parsons Dance from 2007-2010. He became an MMDG company member in 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, Vlado Vladigerov, Mitcho Dimitrov and Prof. Dora Ivanova. At age sixteen, he won the Grand Prize and the Special Prize at the "Kocian" International Competition in the then Czechoslovakia. Georgy Valtchev came to the United States as a scholarship student of Dorothy Delay and Masao Kawasaki at the Juilliard School in New York, where he earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. 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 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, 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. Weddel performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.

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. Yard joined MMDG in 1997. Mom, thank you.

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP STAFF

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Executive Director Nancy Umanoff

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VAIL INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Sunday, January 15, 2012 - **Boulder Philharmonic**

Thursday, January 19, 2012 - **Pilobolus**

Monday, January 30, 2012 - **Europa Galante**

Tuesday, February 7, 2012 - **Diavalo**

Friday, February 10, 2012 - **Teatro Lirico D'Europa "Great Moments in Opera"**

Saturday, February 11, 2012 - **Teatro Lirico D'Europa Puccini's La Boheme**

Saturday, February 18, 2012 - **A Gala Evening with Bryn Terfel**

Wednesday, February 22, 2012 - **Moscow Festival Ballet**

Friday, March 9, 2012 - **"Tschaikowski" St. Petersburg State Orchestra**

Thursday, March 22, 2012 - **Ute Lemper with Volger Quartet & Stefan Malzew**

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