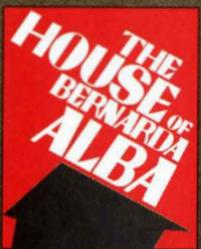


# Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY



**PLAYBILL**

# SANFORD AND DOLORES ZIFF BALLET OPERA HOUSE

October 14 & 15, 2011

Adrienne Arsht Center presents

KNIGHT  SANFORD L.  
MASTERWORKS SEASON ZIFF  
DANCE: 2011-2012

## 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 ANDREW JANSS JESSE MILLS  
JESSICA TROY GEORGY VALTCHEV

*Artistic Director*  
MARK MORRIS

*Executive Director*  
NANCY UMANOFF

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

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by Bloomberg Philanthropies, 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, and Jane Stine and R.L. Stine.

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.



The taking of photographs or any other recording is strictly prohibited.

**Festival Dance**

Music: Johann Nepomuk Hummel - *Piano Trio No.5 in E Major, Op.83*

Costume Design: Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

Waltz (*Allegro*)

March (*Andante*)

Polka (*Rondo*)

Jesse Mills, *violin*; Andrew Janss, *cello*; Colin Fowler, *piano*

Samuel Black, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada Jr., Lesley Garrison, Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, Maile Okamura, Spencer Ramirez, William Smith III, Jenn Weddel, Michelle Yard

Premiere: March 17, 2011 – James and Martha Duffy Performance Space, Mark Morris Dance Center, Brooklyn, NY

*Festival Dance* was made possible by The New Works Fund with leadership gifts from Poss Family Foundation, Suzy Kellems Dominik, Shelby and Frederick Gans, Helen and John Meyer, and Abigail Turin and Jonathan Gans.

**-PAUSE-**

**All Fours**

Music: Béla Bartók – *String Quartet No. 4*

Costume Design: Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

Jesse Mills, *violin*; Georgy Valtchev, *violin*; Jessica Troy, *viola*; Andrew Janss, *cello*

I. *Allegro*

Samuel Black, Lesley Garrison, Brian Lawson, Laurel Lynch, Maile Okamura, Spencer Ramirez, Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel

II. *Prestissimo, con sordino*

Aaron Loux, Dallas McMurray

III. *Non troppo lento*

Rita Donahue, Aaron Loux, Dallas McMurray, Michelle Yard

IV. *Allegretto pizzicato*

Rita Donahue, Michelle Yard

V. *Allegro molto*

Samuel Black, Rita Donahue, Lesley Garrison, Brian Lawson, Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, Maile Okamura, Spencer Ramirez, Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel, Michelle Yard

Premiere: September 12, 2003 – Zellerbach Hall, Cal Performances, Berkeley, CA

Commissioned in part by Cal Performances.

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

**-INTERMISSION-**

## Program

### V

Music: Robert Schumann – *Quintet in E flat for Piano and Strings, Op. 44*

*Allegro brillante*

*In modo d'una Marcia. Un poco largamente – Agitato*

*Scherzo: molto vivace*

*Allegro, ma non troppo*

Costume Design: Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

Jesse Mills, *violin*; Georgy Valtchev, *violin*; Jessica Troy, *viola*;

Andrew Janss, *cello*; Colin Fowler, *piano*

Samuel Black, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada Jr., Lesley Garrison, Lauren Grant,

John Heginbotham, Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, Maile Okamura,

William Smith III, Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel, Michelle Yard

Premiere: October 16, 2001 – Sadler's Wells, London, United Kingdom

## Who's Who

**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 later 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 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 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.

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

## Who's Who

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. 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.

**CHELSEA LYNN ACREE** grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, 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 MMDG 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.

**LESLEY GARRISON** grew up in Swansea, Illinois and received her early dance training at the Center of Creative Arts in St. Louis, Missouri and Interlochen Arts Academy in 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

## Who's Who

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](http://www.johnheginbotham.com).

**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. Janss has collaborated in concert with Pinchas Zukerman, Itzhak Perlman, Lynn Harrell, Leon Fleisher, Gary Hoffman, David Shifrin, and members of the Emerson, Guarneri, Juilliard, and Takacs Quartets. From 2007-10, 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 2007-08, Janss was Visiting-Artist-in-Residence at SUNY Stony Brook. He is the youngest faculty member in the history of the School of Music.

**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. Lawson has had the pleasure of performing with Pam Tanowitz Dance, John Heginbotham, and Nelly van Bommel's NØA 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

## Who's Who

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, among others. Merkens would like to thank her family for their continuous support.

**JESSE MILLS** (violin), praised by *The Washington Post* for his "dazzling... superb playing," has established a unique career, performing music from classical to contemporary, as well as composed and improvised music of his own invention. Since his concerto debut at the Ravinia Festival in 2004, he has performed throughout the U.S. and Europe, including Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, the Kennedy Center, the Marlboro Festival, Barbican Centre of London, La Cité de la Musique in Paris, Amsterdam's Royal Carré Theatre, Teatro Arcimboldi in Milan and the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels. He earned Grammy nominations for his performances of Schoenberg's music, released by NAXOS in 2005 and 2010. He can also be heard on the Koch, Centaur, Tzadik, Max Jazz and Verve labels. Mills is co-founder of Duo Prism, with a pianist Rieko Aizawa, which earned 1<sup>st</sup> Prize at the Zinetti International Competition. With Aizawa, Mills became co-artistic director of the Alpenglow Chamber Music Festival in 2010. A graduate of The Juilliard School, he studied with Dorothy DeLay, Robert Mann and Itzhak Perlman. He lives in New York City, and he is on the faculty at Montclair State University in New Jersey.

**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 Jose Limón, Jerome Robbins, Sidra Bell, and Fabien Priville. Ramirez joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2010 and became a company member in 2011.

**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 Curlly in *Oklahoma!*. Previously he danced with Parsons Dance from 2007-2010. He became an MMDG company member in 2010.

**JESSICA TROY** (viola), a native New Yorker, has performed with the MMDG Music Ensemble since 1998, and with them has toured extensively, from Moscow, Idaho to Moscow, Russia, and appeared with Yo-Yo Ma across the US and Japan. On the baroque

## Who's Who

viola she performs with the Dodd String Quartet, Four Nations Ensemble, and Trinity Baroque Orchestra, is the principal violist of Opera Lafayette, the Grand Tour Orchestra, and the Washington National Cathedral Baroque Orchestra, and has appeared with Renée Fleming on the David Letterman Show. She is a member of the Orchestra of St. Luke's, the Brooklyn and Westchester Philharmonics, and performs frequently with many other area ensembles, including the New York City Opera and American Composers Orchestra. She has recorded quartet parts for Ani DiFranco and Lou Reed, and with her cohorts from those projects performed on screen with David Byrne in "This Must Be The Place," starring Sean Penn, scheduled for release in late 2011. A participant at many illustrious music festivals, including Prussia Cove and Marlboro, she can be heard on the latter's 50th anniversary CD in Gyorgy Kurtag's *Microludes* for string quartet, which she prepared with the composer.

**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. 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 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.

### **FOR ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER**

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Executive Director Nancy Umanoff

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Thanks to Maxine Morris.

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