



Fairfield University

Quick Center
for the Arts

Mark Morris Dance Group

Saturday, September 15, 2012
8 p.m.

Arts &
Minds

www.fairfield.edu/arts

Mark Morris Dance Group



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

Brian Lawson*
Aaron Loux
Laurel Lynch
Stacy Martorana*
Dallas McMurray
Amber Star Merkens

Maile Okamura
Spencer Ramirez
William Smith III
Noah Vinson
Jenn Weddel
Michelle Yard

**apprentice*

MMDG Music Ensemble



Colin Fowler Joanna Frankel
Andrew Janss Philip Kramp Brendan Speltz

Artistic Director
Mark Morris

Executive Director
Nancy Umanoff

MetLife Foundation is the Official Tour Sponsor of the Mark Morris Dance Group.

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by Asian Cultural Council, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Brooklyn Community 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.

Program



All Fours

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

Costume Design: Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

Joanna Frankel, *violin*; Brendan Speltz, *violin*;
Philip Kramp, *viola*; Andrew Janss, *cello*

I. Allegro

Chelsea Lynn Acree, Samuel Black, Lesley Garrison, Amber Star Merkens,
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

Chelsea Lynn Acree, Samuel Black, Lesley Garrison, Amber Star Merkens,
Maile Okamura, Spencer Ramirez, Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel

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.

Ten Suggestions

Music: Alexander Tcherepnin – *Bagatelles, Op. 5*

Lighting Design: James F. Ingalls

Colin Fowler, *piano*

Amber Star Merkens

Premiere: February 13, 1981 – Jersey City Museum, Jersey City, NJ

The revival of *Ten Suggestions* was made possible, in part,
by a grant from The Tcherepnin Society.

— INTERMISSION —

Festival Dance

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

Costume Design: Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

Allegro – Waltz

Andante – March

Rondo – Polka

Joanna Frankel, *violin*; Andrew Janss, *cello*; Colin Fowler, *piano*

Chelsea Lynn Acree, Samuel Black, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada, Jr.,
Lauren Grant, Aaron Loux, 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.



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 eight 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, named music director of the 2013 Ojai Music Festival, is noted for his musicality and has been described as “undeviating in his devotion to music.” He has conducted performances for the Mark Morris Dance Group since 2006. 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 recent years, he has received the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement (2007), the Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society (2010), and the Benjamin Franklin Laureate Prize for Creativity (2012).

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 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 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.

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.



MATTHEW ROSE (rehearsal director) began his dance training in Midland, Michigan, with Linda Z. Smith at the age of 17. After receiving his B.F.A. in dance from the University of Michigan in 1992, he moved to New York City. He was a soloist with the Martha Graham Dance Company from 1993-1996, and in 1997 began working with MMDG. After several years of performing full-time with the group, he began assisting Mr. Morris with the creation of new works. He has been the company's rehearsal director since 2006.



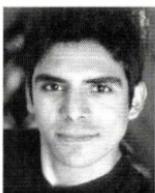
CHELSEA LYNN ACREE grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, where she began her dance training with Sharon Lerner, then continued at Carver Center for the Arts and Technology. Since receiving her B.F.A. in dance from SUNY Purchase in 2005 she has had the opportunity to work with a variety of artists including SYREN Modern Dance, Laura Peterson, Hilary Easton + Company, and Michael and the Go-Getters. Acree is on the faculty at The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center, where she teaches 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, California, where he began studying tap at the age of nine with Katie Maltzberger. He received his B.F.A. in dance from SUNY Purchase, and also studied at the Rotterdamse Dansacademie in The Netherlands. 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, Virginia, and attended 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 folklórico 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 Juilliard 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 Voigt, 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.



JOANNA FRANKEL (violin), winner of the Rachel Elizabeth Barton Foundation career grant and the prestigious William Schuman Prize for artistic excellence, consistently shares her unique imagination with audiences worldwide. Recent highlights include solo appearances in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Rochester, Palm Beach, Washington DC, Chattanooga, Charleston, Durban, Amsterdam, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Prague, Tallinn, Bratislava, and Helsinki, at halls such as Carnegie Hall and Het Concertgebouw. She has toured internationally with Carnegie Hall's Ensemble ACJW, after being selected in 2007 as part of The Academy's inaugural fellowship class. A dedicated chamber musician, Frankel has performed at La Jolla SummerFest, Spain's Niemeyer Center, Germany's Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Abu Dhabi's Zaha Hadid Pavilion, and throughout South Africa. A recent scholarship graduate of The Juilliard School, Frankel performs on the 1846 Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume violin "Joseph Guarnerius fecit Cremonae," on extended loan from a generous patron through the Rachel Elizabeth Barton Foundation.



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 Interlochen, Michigan. She studied at the Rotterdamse Dansacademie in The Netherlands and holds a B.F.A. from SUNY Purchase, where she received the Modern Dance Faculty Award. She has performed with Erica Essner, Dance Heginbotham, the Kevin Wynn Collection, Neel Verdoorn, Nelly Van Bommel's NQA Dance, Rocha Dance Theater and Sidra Bell Dance New York. She first performed with MMDG in 2007 and became a company member in 2011. Lesley teaches at The School at The Mark Morris Dance Center and for the Dance for PD® program.



LAUREN GRANT, born and raised in Highland Park, Illinois, 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.



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, and has served as principal cellist of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. Janss has collaborated in concert with Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, Lynn Harrell, Leon Fleisher, Richard Goode, and members of the Emerson, Guarneri, Juilliard, and Takacs Quartets;

as well as pop icons Mary J. Blige, The Roots, and Florence and the Machine. From 2007-10, Janss was a CMS2 resident artist at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center as part of the Escher String Quartet, which he helped found in 2005. He has performed at Ravinia, Music@Menlo, La Jolla Summerfest, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, and the Marlboro Music Festival. During 2007-08, Janss was Visiting-Artist-in-Residence at SUNY Stony Brook, and now serves as a director of the Omega Ensemble, a 43 year old chamber music series in the Greater New York area.



PHILIP KRAMP (viola), originally from Bloomington, Illinois, graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music and the New England Conservatory. His primary teachers have included Joseph DePasquale, Michael Tree, and Roger Tapping. Kramp studied chamber music with Steve Tenenbom, Pamela Frank and members of the Guarneri String Quartet. Currently, Kramp enjoys a diverse career as an orchestral player and a chamber musician. He is a regular substitute violist with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic and tours regularly across the globe with the Mark Morris Dance Group. Kramp has performed chamber music with Pamela Frank, Philip Setzer, Gil Kalish, Peter Wiley, Ida Kavafian, Soovin Kim, Michael Tree, Miriam Fried and many more. He has participated in many esteemed chamber music festivals, including: Marlboro, Caramoor, Yellow Barn, Kneisel Hall, Music From Angel Fire, and Sarasota. Kramp has performed across the country with Musicians from Marlboro. He was a top prizewinner at the 2010 Irving Klein International String Competition.



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 SUNY Purchase, 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 NOA Dance among others. He joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2011.



AARON LOUX grew up in Seattle, Washington 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 California. 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.



STACY MARTORANA began her dance training in Baltimore, Maryland at the Peabody Conservatory. In 2006 she graduated from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts with a B.F.A. in contemporary dance. Since then, she has danced for the Amy Marshall Dance Company, the Neta Dance Company, Helen Simoneau Dance, Daniel Gwartzman Dance Company, and Rashaun Mitchell. She was a member of the Repertory Understudy Group for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company from 2009 through 2011. She joined MMDG as an apprentice in January 2012.



DALLAS McMURRAY, from El Cerrito, California, began dancing at age four, 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. He 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, Oregon, 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 School 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.



MAILE OKAMURA studied primarily with Lynda Yourth at the American Ballet School in San Diego, California. 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.



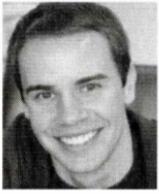
SPENCER RAMIREZ began his training in Springfield, Virginia, studying under Melissa Dobbs, Nancy Gross, Kellie Payne, and Marilyn York. From there, he continued training at the Maryland Youth Ballet with faculty such as Michelle Lees, Christopher Doyle, and Harriet Williams. In 2008, he entered The Juilliard School under the direction of Lawrence Rhodes and had the opportunity to perform works by José Limón, Jerome Robbins, Sidra Bell, and Fabien Privoille. Ramirez joined MMDG as an apprentice in July 2010 and became a company member in 2011.



WILLIAM SMITH III grew up in Fredericksburg, Virginia, 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!* Smith danced with Parsons Dance from 2007-2010. He joined MMDG as a company member in 2010.



BRENDAN SPELTZ (violin), a Los Angeles native, began his serious music studies at the Colburn School of Music, studying with Chan Ho Yun, Henry Gronnier, and later Linda Rose. He received his bachelor's degree at the University of Southern California, studying with Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra concertmaster Margaret Batjer. While at USC, Speltz was chosen by legendary violinist Midori Goto to participate in a string quartet program with the latter coaching from the second violin chair. He is currently working towards his Master's degree at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City, studying with Laurie Smukler. Speltz has performed at a wide variety of music festivals as soloist and chamber musician, including the Music Academy of the West, Kneisel Hall, Encore, the Bach Akademie Stuttgart, the International Music Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia, and Niagara, Canada. As a quartet musician he has made appearances on Fox and NBC New York. Most recently he performed Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat* during a joint Russian and Swiss event at the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Speltz plays on a 1925 Carl Becker violin.



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, Colorado. 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, Vencil 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, New York. She began her professional dance training at the NYC High School of the Performing Arts and continued her studies as a scholarship student at Alvin Ailey American Dance Center. She graduated with a B.F.A. from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. She teaches Pilates as well as master classes for MMDG's residency programs. Yard joined MMDG in 1997. Mom, thank you.

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP STAFF

Artistic Director: Mark Morris

Executive Director: Nancy Umanoff

PRODUCTION

Technical Director: Johan Henckens

Rehearsal Director: Matthew Rose

Lighting Supervisor: Nick Kolin

Sound Supervisor: Ken Hypes

Costume Coordinator: Stephanie Sleeper

Wardrobe Supervisor: Elizabeth Sargent

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Finance Assistant: Diana Acevedo

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Music Coordinator: Bruce Lazarus

Maintenance: Jose Fuentes, Jamel Moore, Orlando Rivera, Diana Velazquez

(continued on next page)

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Thanks to Maxine Morris.

Sincerest thanks to all the dancers for their dedication,
commitment, and incalculable contribution to the work.

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The Mark Morris Dance Group is a member of Dance/USA
and the Downtown Brooklyn Arts Alliance.

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Connecticut Office of the Arts

THE
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All American Song

Stephanie Blythe, mezzo-soprano

Warren Jones, piano

Friday, February 1

8 p.m.

“Blythe and Jones gave a majestic performance, marked by broad, sweeping phrases and bursts of anarchic wit.”

- San Francisco Chronicle

Join us for a free pre-performance discussion at 7:15 p.m. with Dr. Laura Nash, Fairfield University associate professor of music.



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