

NOVEMBER 2007-JANUARY 2008

THE **PHIL** 19th Season



Inside:
Graham Nickson: *Private Myths*
The Best of Broadway
Q&A: Sidney Poitier

PHILHARMONIC CENTER *for the ARTS*™

THE PHIL
PROGRAM

Mark Morris Dance Group
with the
MMDG Music Ensemble

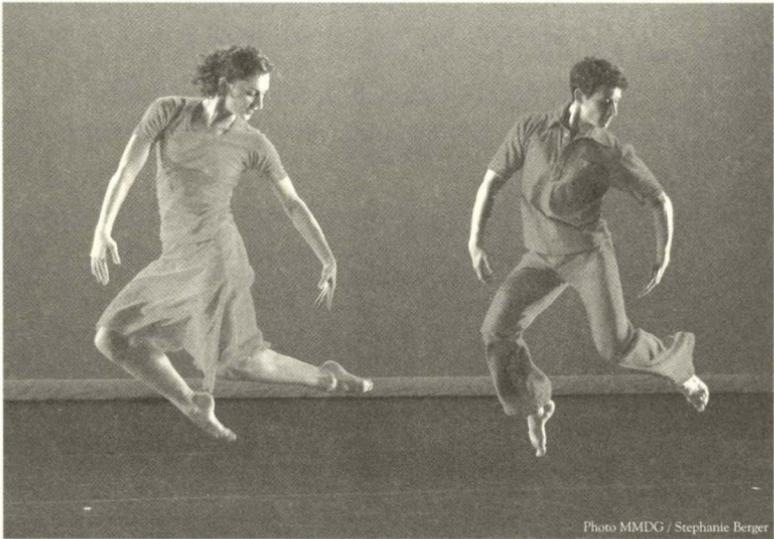


Photo MMDG / Stephanie Berger

*This performance is generously underwritten by
Dr. and Mrs. James J. Worden.*

January 17, 2008



PHILHARMONIC CENTER *for the ARTS™*



In this evening's
performance of
All Fours,
Elisa Clark and
Julie Worden
will replace
Lauren Grant and
Michelle Yard.



MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

CRAIG BIESECKER SAMUEL BLACK JOE BOWIE
CHARLTON BOYD ELISA CLARK AMBER DARRAGH RITA DONAHUE
LAUREN GRANT JOHN HEGINBOTHAM DAVID LEVENTHAL
LAUREL LYNCH BRADON McDONALD DALLAS McMURRAY
MAILE OKAMURA JUNE OMURA NOAH VINSON JENN WEDDEL
JULIE WORDEN MICHELLE YARD

Artistic Director

MARK MORRIS

Executive Director

NANCY UMANOFF

MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE

STEVEN BECK COLIN FOWLER JESSE MILLS
JESSICA TROY GEORGY VALTCHEV JAMES WILSON

Altria Group, Inc. is the Mark Morris Dance Group's Lead Sponsor.

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

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by
Carnegie Corporation of New York,
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The Shubert Foundation.

The Mark Morris Dance Group New Works Fund is supported by The Andrew W.
Mellon Foundation, Ellsworth Kelly Foundation, The Gladys Krieble Delmas
Foundation, Shelby and Frederick Gans Fund, Meyer Sound Laboratories/
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The Mark Morris Dance Group's performances are made possible with
public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs,
the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency and
the National Endowment for the Arts Dance Program.

THE ARGUMENT

Music: Robert Schumann – *Fünf Stücke im Volkston*

Costumes: Elizabeth Kurtzman

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

- I. “Vanitas vanitatum.” Mit Humor
- II. Langsam
- III. Nicht schnell, mit viel Ton zu spielen
- IV. Nicht zu rasch
- V. Stark und markirt
- VI. “Vanitas vanitatum.” Mit Humor

JAMES WILSON, *cello*

STEVEN BECK, *piano*

BRADON McDONALD & JULIE WORDEN

JOHN HEGINBOTHAM & MICHELLE YARD

CRAIG BIESECKER & MAILE OKAMURA

Premiere: February 26, 1999 – Bank of America Celebrity Series, The Wang Center for the Performing Arts, Boston, MA

-PAUSE-

ALL FOURS

Music: Béla Bartók – *String Quartet No. 4 (1928)*

Costume Design: Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

Jesse Mills, *violin*; Georgy Valtchev, *violin*;

Jessica Troy, *viola*; James Wilson, *cello*

- I. Allegro
JOE BOWIE, AMBER DARRAGH, RITA DONAHUE, JOHN HEGINBOTHAM,
DAVID LEVENTHAL, MAILE OKAMURA, JUNE OMURA, NOAH VINSON
- II. Prestissimo, con sardino
CRAIG BIESECKER, BRADON McDONALD
- III. Non troppo lento
CRAIG BIESECKER, LAUREN GRANT, BRADON McDONALD, MICHELLE YARD
- IV. Allegretto pizzicato
LAUREN GRANT, MICHELLE YARD
- V. Allegro molto
JOE BOWIE, AMBER DARRAGH, RITA DONAHUE, JOHN HEGINBOTHAM,
DAVID LEVENTHAL, MAILE OKAMURA, JUNE OMURA, NOAH VINSON

Commissioned in part by Cal Performances

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

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

Intermission

the program and cast

ITALIAN CONCERTO

Music: J.S. Bach – *Italian Concerto* in F major, BWV 971

Lighting: Paul Palazzo

- I. Allegro
- II. Andante
- III. Presto

COLIN FOWLER, *piano*

JOE BOWIE, AMBER DARRAGH, DAVID LEVENTHAL,
DALLAS McMURRAY, JULIE WORDEN

Premiere: January 17, 2007 – James and Martha Duffy Performance Space, Mark Morris
Dance Center, Brooklyn, NY

-PAUSE-

GRAND DUO

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

Costumes: Susan Ruddie

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

- Prelude*
Stampede
A Round
Polka

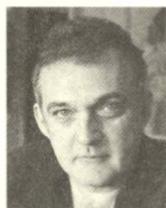
STEVEN BECK, *piano*
JESSE MILLS, *violin*

CRAIG BIESECKER, SAMUEL BLACK, ELISA CLARK, AMBER DARRAGH,
RITA DONAHUE, LAUREN GRANT, JOHN HEGINBOTHAM, DAVID LEVENTHAL,
BRADON McDONALD, DALLAS McMURRAY, MAILE OKAMURA, NOAH VINSON,
JULIE WORDEN, MICHELLE YARD

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

MARK MORRIS

DANCE GROUP



Mark Morris



Craig Biesecker



Samuel Black



Joe Bowie



Charlton Boyd



Elisa Clark



Amber Darragh



Rita Donahue



Lauren Grant



John Heginbotham



David Leventhal



Laurel Lynch



Bradon McDonald



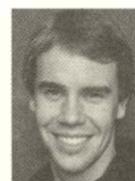
Dallas McMurray



Maile Okamura



June Omura



Noah Vinson



Jenn Weddel



Julie Worden



Michelle Yard

about the company

MARK MORRIS was born on August 29, 1956, in Seattle, Washington, where he studied as a young man with Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson. In the early years of his career, he performed with 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 tenure were three evening-length dances: *The Hard Nut*, *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* and *Dido and Aeneas*. In 1990, he founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Morris is also much in demand as a ballet choreographer. He has created six works for the San Francisco Ballet since 1994 and received commissions from American Ballet Theatre, and the Boston Ballet, among others. His work is also in the repertory of the Pacific Northwest 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, English National Opera and The Royal Opera, Covent Garden. Morris was named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991. He has received 8 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. 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'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato: A Celebration*. Morris is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2007, he received the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival lifetime achievement award.

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. It 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 in Urbana, IL. MMDG also appears regularly in Boston, MA, Fairfax, VA, Seattle, WA, and at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket, MA. 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. The company's London seasons have garnered two Laurence Olivier Awards. MMDG is noted for its commitment to live music, a feature of every performance on its full 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), Indian composer Zakir Hussain, Mr. Ma and jazz pianist Ethan Iverson in *Kolam* (2002), *The Bad Plus in Violet Cavern* (2004); pianists Emanuel Ax 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* and two documentaries for the U.K.'s *South Bank Show*. In fall 2001, MMDG opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn, NY, the company's first permanent headquarters in the U.S., housing rehearsal space for the dance community, outreach programs for local children, as well as 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 at home and on tour and has become integral to the company's creative life. The core group, supplemented by musicians from a large roster of regular guests, has helped the Dance Group achieve an unprecedented streak of close to 800 performances with live music. The Ensemble's repertory ranges from 17th-century works by John Wilson and Henry Purcell to more recent scores by Lou Harrison and Henry Cowell. The Ensemble also presents concerts at the Mark Morris Dance Center and other venues, and participates in the Mark Morris Dance, Music and Literacy Project in the New York City public school system. Cellist Wolfram Koessel is the Ensemble's director.

STEVEN BECK (*piano*) was born in 1978 and is a graduate of The Juilliard School, where his teachers were Seymour Lipkin and Peter Serkin. He made his debut with the National Symphony Orchestra and toured Japan as soloist with the New York Symphonic Ensemble. Other orchestras with which he has appeared include the New Juilliard Ensemble (under David Robertson), Sequitur and the Virginia Symphony. He is an Artist Presenter and frequent performer of Bargemusic. He has worked with Elliott Carter, Henri Dutilleux and George Perle, and has appeared with ensembles such as Speculum Musicae, Sospeso, Friends and Enemies of New Music, and Counterinduction, and is also a member of the notorious Knights of the Many-Sided Table. His recordings are on the Albany, Monument and Annemarie Classics labels. He has played with the MMDG Music Ensemble since 2004.

CRAIG BIESECKER, from Waynesboro, PA, received a B.S. in Music Education from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. While teaching music in Philadelphia, he studied ballet with John White, Margarita de Saa and Bryan Koulman and worked with choreographers Tim and Lina Early. In New York City he has worked with Pascal Rioult, Carolyn Dorfman, New York Theater Ballet, Mark Dendy and Gerald Casel. Craig joined MMDG in 2003.

SAMUEL BLACK is originally from Berkeley, CA, where he began studying tap at the age of 9 with Katie Maltsberger. He recently received his B.F.A. in Dance from SUNY Purchase, where he performed works by Mark Morris, Paul Taylor, Zvi Gotheiner, Sean Curran and Kevin Wynn. During a semester at the Rotterdamse Dansacademie in Holland, Sam had the opportunity to dance in several Dutch cities and in Germany. He has performed in New York with David Parker, Takehiro Ueyama and Nelly van Bommel. Sam first worked with MMDG in 2005, and joined the company 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 New York 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.

CHARLTON BOYD was born in New Jersey, where he studied and performed with the Inner City Ensemble Theater and Dance Company. He graduated from The Juilliard School. He went on to dance with the Limón Dance Company and appears in Jose Limón Technique Video, Volume 1, among other music videos. He first appeared with MMDG in 1989 and became a company member in 1994.

ELISA CLARK received her early training from the Maryland Youth Ballet, and her B.F.A. from The Juilliard School, under the direction of Benjamin Harkarvy. She has danced with the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, the Nederlands Dans Theater, the Peridance Ensemble and Battleworks Dance Company. Ms. Clark has staged works by Robert Battle, David Parsons, Igal Perry and Adam Hougland at various schools and Companies, including the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. She has been on the faculty of the American Dance Festival, and currently works closely with Carolyn Adams and the American Dance Legacy Institute, as well as serves on an advisory panel for

who's who

Capezio. She first appeared with MMDG in *L'Allegro* in August 2005.

AMBER DARRAGH is originally from Newport, OR, where she began her dance training with Nancy Mittleman. She received her B.F.A. 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.

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/Dances by Kraig Patterson and joined MMDG in 2003.

COLIN FOWLER (*piano*) hails from Kansas City, KS, and began studying piano at the age of 5. 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. Colin 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*. Colin 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.

LAUREN GRANT, raised in Highland Park, IL, has danced with MMDG since 1996. Before graduating with a B.F.A. from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Lauren studied ballet from the age of 3. Later, she also trained in character dance, acting and singing. She teaches master classes in ballet and modern technique at schools and universities around the world, at MMDG's school in Brooklyn, and for the compa-

ny as well. Lauren is married to fellow dancer David Leventhal.

JOHN HEGINBOTHAM is from Anchorage, AK, and graduated from The Juilliard School in 1993. He has performed with such artists as Susan Marshall and Company, John Jasperse and Ben Munisteri; he was a guest artist with Pilobolus Dance Theater. John's choreography is featured in the performances and *Emerge* music video of recording artists Fischerspooner. He joined MMDG in 1998.

DAVID LEVENTHAL, raised in Newton, MA, has danced with MMDG since 1997. He studied at Boston Ballet School and has danced with José Mateo's Ballet Theatre and the companies of Marcus Schulkind, Richard Colton/Amy Spencer, Zvi Gotheiner, Neta Pulvermacher and Ben Munisteri. He graduated with honors in English Literature from Brown University in 1995. He teaches master classes in technique and repertory at schools and colleges around the country. He gives classes regularly at MMDG's school, including one for people with Parkinson's disease. He is married to fellow dancer Lauren Grant.

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 Catterton, 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 first appeared with MMDG in 2006.

BRADON McDONALD received his B.F.A. from The Juilliard School in 1997. He danced with the Limón Dance Company for three years and was the recipient of the 1998 Princess Grace Award. He has choreographed and presented his own works internationally, served as choreographer for seven Juilliard Opera Company productions under director Frank Corsaro, and was the choreo-

graphic assistant to Donald McKayle at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Bradon joined MMDG in 2000.

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. Dallas performed with the Limón Dance Company in addition to works by Jiri Kylian, Alonzo King, Robert Moses, and Colin Connor. Dallas first appeared with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and joined the company in 2007.

JESSE MILLS (*violin*) graduated with a B.M. from The Juilliard School in 2001. He has performed as a 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. He first performed with the MMDG Music Ensemble in 2006.

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.

JUNE OMURA was born in New York, grew up in Birmingham, AL, and graduated from Barnard College with honors in Dance and English. She first studied with Mark Morris in 1986, joined MMDG in 1988. In 2005, she received a New York Dance and Performance Award ("Bessie") for her career with the company. June and her husband are the proud parents of twin girls, born in 2003, and a new baby boy, born in September 2006. She is grateful to her family, Mark Morris, and MMDG for their love and support.

JESSICA TROY (*viola*), a native New Yorker, wears a wide variety of freelance hats. As the violist of the Mark Morris Dance Group Music Ensemble since 1998 she has toured extensively, from the Brooklyn Academy of Music to the Sydney Festival; with the MMDG Music Ensemble she has performed throughout the U.S. and Japan with Yo-Yo Ma. She is a member of both the Brooklyn and Westchester Philharmonics. Donning her contemporary chamber music hat she has performed and recorded new works with Sequitur and the Meridian String Quartet, and has just performed in the east coast premiere of David Lang's opera *the Difficulty of Crossing a Field* in a string quartet consisting of members of the Flux Quartet and the Bang on a Can All-Stars. On the baroque viola she has performed with the 4 Nations Ensemble, Ensemble Rebel, Concert Royal and Ars Antiqua among others, and was recently seen with Renee Fleming on *The David Letterman Show*. A participant at many illustrious chamber 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*) has been honored with a number of awards, among them the First Prize of the Ducrest International Competition in Lafayette, LA, and the Special Prize of the Tibor Varga International Violin Competition in Switzerland. Mr.

who's who

Valtchev has appeared as a soloist, recitalist and chamber musician throughout the United States and Europe, and is a frequent soloist with the Lyric Orchestra in Hoboken, NJ, and the Sofia Soloists in Bulgaria. Mr. Valtchev first performed with the Ensemble in 2006.

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 grew up in Longmont, CO, and received her early training from Boulder Ballet Company. She holds a B.F.A. from Southern Methodist University and also studied at The Boston Conservatory, Colorado University and the Laban Center, London. Since moving to New York in 2001, Jenn has performed with RedWall Dance Theatre, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, Vencl Dance Trio, Rocha Dance Theatre and with various choreographers including Alan Danielson and Connie Procopio. She has presented her own work in Manhattan and continues to collaborate with TEA Dance Company under the direction of Ella Ben-Aharon and Sahar Javedani. Jenn first appeared with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and joined the company in 2007.

JAMES WILSON (*cello*) has consistently performed to the delight of audiences throughout the world, from small towns to the world's most illustrious venues, for the past 15 years. He has appeared in America's Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall and Kennedy Center, Casal's Hall in Tokyo and the Sydney Opera House. As recitalist and chamber musician, he has performed at music festivals around the world such as the Hong Kong Arts Festival, the City of London Festival, the Deutches Mozartfest in Bavaria, the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York and the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado. Wilson has collaborated with such diverse artists as violinist Joshua Bell, flutist Eugenia Zukerman, pianist Christopher O'Reilly, guitarist Eliot Fisk,

actress Claire Bloom and the Tokyo String Quartet. He has performed with many ensembles including the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the Richardson Chamber Players, the Music of the Spheres Society and the Alliance Players. A former member of the Shanghai and Chester String Quartets, he recorded and toured extensively worldwide with both groups. Championing musical works from all periods, Mr. Wilson performs on Baroque as well as modern cello, in repertoire ranging from the 17th century to new works written especially for him. He is currently the Artistic Director of the Richmond Festival of Music in Virginia and is on the faculty at Columbia University in New York.

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 B.F.A. Michelle joined MMDG in 1997. Mom, thank you.

Mark Morris Dance Group Staff

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Executive Director.....Nancy Umanoff

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Thanks to Maxine Morris.

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

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