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McCarter Theatre Center

W.W. Lockwood, Jr.
Special Programming Director

Timothy J. Shields
Managing Director

presents

Mark Morris Dance Group

Chelsea Lynn Acree, Samuel Black, Rita Donahue, Benjamin Freedman*,
Lesley Garrison, Lauren Grant, Brian Lawson, Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch,
Stacy Martorana, Dallas McMurray, Amber Star Merkens, Maile Okamura,
Spencer Ramirez, Brandon Randolph*, Billy Smith, Noah Vinson,
Nicholas Wagner*, Jenn Weddel, Michelle Yard

*apprentice

MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Anna Elashvili, Zach Finkelstein, Colin Fowler, Andrew Janss,
Danya Katok, Thomas Meglioranza, Michi Wiancko

Artistic Director
Mark Morris

Executive Director
Nancy Umanoff

This performance is sponsored by
Anne and Gordon Douglas
Mark Olinsky

McCarter Theatre Center requests that all electronic devices including beepers, cellular phones, and watches be turned off for the duration of the performance.

The use of recording equipment or the taking of photographs during the performance is strictly prohibited. No food, drink, or smoking is allowed in the theater at any time.



This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/ Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Tuesday, March 5, 2013 – 7:30 pm
Matthews Theatre

-PROGRAM-

The Muir

Music: Irish and Scottish folk songs arranged by Ludwig van Beethoven – “Ye shepherds of this pleasant vale,” WoO 156/4; “The sweetest lad was Jamie,” Op. 108/5; “Cease your funning,” WoO 156/5; “Sally in our alley,” Op. 108/25; “Could this ill world have been contriv’d,” Op. 108/16; “What shall I do to shew how much I love her?,” WoO 152/6; “Sunset,” Op. 108/2; “Come fill, fill, my good fellow,” Op. 108/13; “The lovely lass of Inverness,” Op. 108/8

Costume Design: Elizabeth Kurtzman

Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

Danya Katok, *soprano*; Zach Finkelstein, *tenor*; Thomas Meglioranza, *baritone*

Michi Wiancko, *violin*; Andrew Janss, *cello*; Colin Fowler, *piano*

Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, Amber Star Merkens,
Billy Smith, Noah Vinson, Michelle Yard

Premiere: June 27, 2010 - Seiji Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood Music Center, Lenox, MA

The Office

Music: Antonín Dvořák – *Bagatelles for two violins,
cello and harmonium, Op. 47*

Allegretto Scherzando

Tempo di Minuetto: Grazioso

Allegretto Scherzando

Canon: Andante con Moto

Poco Allegro

Costume Design: June Omura

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

Michi Wiancko, *violin*; Anna Elashvili, *violin*; Andrew Janss, *cello*;
Colin Fowler, *harmonium*

Chelsea Lynn Acree, Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, Maile Okamura,
Spencer Ramirez, Billy Smith, Jenn Weddel

Premiere: April 22, 1994 – Zivili - Dances and Music of the Southern Slavic Nations, Ohio
Theater, Columbus, OH

Company Premiere: July 5, 1994 – Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, Ted Shawn Theater, Becket, MA

-INTERMISSION-

Socrates

Music: Erik Satie – *Socrate* – “Portrait de Socrate;” “Bords de L’Ilissus;”
“Mort de Socrate”

Costume Design: Martin Pakledinaz
Lighting Design and Décor: Michael Chybowsky

- I. Portrait of Socrates
- II. On the banks of the Ilissus
- III. Death of Socrates

Zach Finkelstein, *tenor*; Colin Fowler, *piano*

Chelsea Lynn Acree, Samuel Black, Rita Donahue, Lesley Garrison,
Lauren Grant, Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch, Stacy Martorana, Dallas McMurray,
Maile Okamura, Spencer Ramirez,
Billy Smith, Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel, Michelle Yard

Premiere: February 23, 2010 – Howard Gilman Opera House, Brooklyn Academy of Music,
Brooklyn, NY

MEET THE ARTISTS

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 with 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 140 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 this time 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, The Royal Ballet, among others. 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” (*The New Yorker*). 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, The Royal Opera, Covent Garden, among others. 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), the Benjamin Franklin Laureate Prize for Creativity (2012) and the Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts (2013).

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 in the U.S. and around the world, 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 maintains strong 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 at 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 in *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.

The **MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE**, formed in 1996, performs with the Dance Group at prestigious venues around the world and is integral to the company's creative life. "With the dancers come the musicians...and what a difference it makes" (*Classical Voice of North Carolina*). 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 eight hundred performances with live music. The Ensemble frequently collaborates with renowned musicians, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma, pianist Emanuel Ax and mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe, as well as leading orchestras and choirs, such as Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Trinity Choir and Yale Choral Artists. Under the artistic direction of Mark Morris, 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. With the Dance Group, the MMDG Music Ensemble has performed at the Mostly Mozart Festival, and in June 2013 it will make its debut at the Ojai Music Festival. At home in Brooklyn, members of the Ensemble 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 BFA 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 and then continued at Carver Center for the Arts and Technology. Since receiving her BFA in dance from Purchase College 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 MMDG 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 Maltsberger. He received his BFA in dance from Purchase College 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 magna cum laude in 2002, receiving a BA in English and a BFA in dance. She danced with bopi's black sheep/dances by kraig patterson and joined MMDG in 2003.

ANNA ELASHVILI (*Violin*), hailed as "riveting" by *The New York Times*, has appeared as a soloist, chamber musician and concertmaster in major halls around the world. She has collaborated with renowned artists such as Lynn Harrell, Dawn Upshaw, Daniel Hope and Maxim Vengerov. In 2006, Elashvili was nominated to be a fellow at Carnegie's program, *The Academy*, for which she is an active alumna. As a fellow, she performed at Carnegie Hall and brought classical music to NYC public schools. As an alumna, she has traveled to Mexico, Germany, Canada, and throughout the United States performing and teaching. She is the first violinist of the *Bryant Park Quartet*, a member of *The Declassified* and the *Brooklyn Philharmonic*. Since 2002, she has been on faculty at the Third Street Music School Settlement. Elashvili received her bachelor's and master's degrees from The Juilliard School and attended Yellow Barn, Perlman Music Program, and the Verbier Festival.

ZACH FINKELSTEIN (*Tenor*), an American-born Canadian, debuts for New York City Opera this season as Mambre in Rossini's *Mose in Egitto*. In the short time since he left his political consulting career, he has performed as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Brooklyn Academy of Music, and has premiered a new work for tenor and orchestra by Prix de Rome

winner Jesse Jones. A Vocal Fellow for two summers at Tanglewood, he was singled out as a 'remarkable tenor' for his performances in Knussen's *HIGGLETY PIGGLETY POP!* at the Festival of Contemporary Music. This season he appears with MMDG in Satie's *Socrate* and Beethoven's *The Muir* in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Purchase, Princeton and Fairfax, and looks forward to the singing the role of Damon in the company's production of *Acis and Galatea* in 2014-2015. Previous MMDG engagements include productions of Stravinsky's *Renard* and Thomson's *Four Saints in Three Acts*. Of particular note were his recent appearances at Trinity Wall Street in New York singing *Messiah* (also at Lincoln Center) and works of Steve Reich. Finkelstein holds an Artist Diploma (Voice) from the Royal Conservatory of Music's Glenn Gould School in Toronto and a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) in Political Science from McGill University, in Montreal.

COLIN FOWLER (*Piano*) is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy and holds bachelors and masters degrees from The Juilliard School. He has performed and recorded throughout the world with numerous soloists and ensembles including Deborah Voigt, the American Brass Quintet, James Galway, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In addition to performing and conducting numerous Broadway shows, Fowler has been a professor at NYU and Nyack College. He is currently the organist and assistant music director at both Calvary Church and Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City. He began collaborating with MMDG in 2006.

BENJAMIN FREEDMAN, from Tampa, Florida, began his dance training at Interlochen Arts Academy and North Carolina School of the Arts, where he performed in works by Martha Graham, Jerome Robbins, Jiří Kylián and Larry Keigwin. At University of South Florida he participated in the reconstruction of Bill T. Jones's *Serenade: the Proposition*. He was also a student at the Jacob's Pillow Contemporary Program, where he worked with Judith Jamison. In 2013, Freedman will graduate from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in dance and an intensive minor in psychology. At Tisch, he has had the opportunity to learn and perform Mark Morris's *Pacific* as well as choreograph multiple works for the student company. In New York, he has worked with Korhan Basaran, Chihiro Shimizu and Artists and DANAKA dance. He joined MMDG as an apprentice in January 2013.

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 BFA from Purchase College, 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 NOA Dance, Rocha Dance Theater and Sidra Bell Dance New York. She first performed with MMDG in 2007 and became a company member in 2011. Garrison teaches at The School at The Mark Morris Dance Center and for the Dance for PD® program.

LAUREN GRANT has danced with MMDG since 1996. Performing leading roles in *The Hard Nut* and *Mozart Dances*, Grant has appeared in over 40 of Mark Morris's works. She is on the faculty of The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center and frequently leads classes for the company before rehearsals and performances. Additionally, she teaches technique and repertory at schools and universities across the U.S. and abroad. Grant has been featured in *Time Out New York*, *Dance Magazine*, the book *Meet the Dancers*, and appeared in a documentary (*The South Bank Show*, UK), which followed the company in the making and premiere of *Four Saints in Three Acts*. She and her husband David Leventhal (a former MMDG dancer) are proud parents of son Zev, born March 2012.

ANDREW JANS (*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. Jans 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 with pop icons Mary J. Blige, The Roots and Florence and the Machine. From 2007-10, Jans 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.

DANYA KATOK (*Soprano*) made her New York Opera debut in 2011 as Max in Oliver Knussen's *Where the Wild Things Are*, a role for which was praised by *The New York Times* as being "superb" and "appealing." She has also appeared as a soloist with The Boston Pops under the baton of Keith Lockhart in "An Evening of Cole Porter" alongside Broadway legend Kelli O'Hara. Katok made her off-Broadway debut in *O Night Divine*, and covered Anna in *The King & I* with Ash Lawn Opera Festival. Katok holds degrees from Penn State University and Peabody Conservatory and was a Tanglewood Fellow in 2009 and 2010.

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 Heginsbotham and Nelly van Bommel's NOA Dance, among others. He joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2011 and became a company member in January 2013.

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 BFA 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 BFA in contemporary dance. She has danced with the Amy Marshall Dance Company, the Neta Dance Company, Helen Simoneau Danse, Kazuko Hirabayashi Dance Theater, Daniel Gwirtzman Dance Company and Rashaun Mitchell. From 2009-2011 she was a member of the Repertory Understudy Group for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. She joined MMDG as an apprentice in January 2012 and became a company member in November 2012.

DALLAS McMURRAY, from El Cerrito, California, began dancing at age four, studying jazz, tap, and acro-

batics with Katie Maltsberger, and ballet with Yukiko Sakakura. He received a BFA in dance from the California Institute of the Arts. He performed with the Limón Dance Company in addition to works by Jiří Kylián, Alonzo King, Robert Moses and Colin Connor. McMurray performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.

THOMAS MEGLIORANZA (*Baritone*) was born in Manhattan, grew up in northern New Jersey, and graduated from Grinnell College and the Eastman School of Music. He was a winner of the Walter W. Naumburg, Concert Artists Guild, Franz Schubert/Music of Modernity, and Joy in Singing competitions. Recent engagements include Copland's *Old American Songs* with the National Symphony, *Eight Songs for a Mad King* with the LA Philharmonic, Bach cantatas with Les Violons du Roy, Harbison's *Fifth Symphony* with the Boston Symphony and Schoenberg's *Ode to Napoleon Bonaparte* with Peter Serkin and the Brentano String Quartet. He has given recitals all over the world and frequently appears on the cabaret series at Café Sabarsky in New York City. His operatic roles include Chou En-Lai in *Nixon in China* and Prior Walter in Peter Eötvös' *Angels in America* with Opera Boston. His discography includes orchestral songs of Virgil Thomson with BMOP, two discs of Schubert lieder with pianist Reiko Uchida, and a recently reconstructed Bach cantata with the Taverner Consort. He is a Visiting Artist at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge.

AMBER STAR MERKENS, originally from Newport, Oregon, began her dance training with Nancy Mittleman.

She received her BFA 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 Prioville. Ramirez joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2010 and became a company member in 2011.

BRANDON RANDOLPH began his training with the School of Carolina Ballet Theater in Greenville, South Carolina under the direction of Hernan Justo. At age fourteen, he was accepted into the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, where he studied with Stanislav Issaev and Bobby Barnett. Randolph received his B.F.A. in dance from Purchase College in May 2012. There he had the opportunity to perform with Dance Heginbotham as well as repertory by Stephen Petronio, Lar Lubovitch, Paul Taylor and George Balanchine. Randolph began his apprenticeship with MMDG in January 2013.

BILLY SMITH grew up in Fredericksburg, Virginia and attended George Mason University under a full academic and dance talent scholarship. He 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.

NOAH VINSON received his BA in dance from Columbia College Chicago, where he worked with Shirley

Mordine, Jan Erkert and Brian Jeffrey. In New York, he has danced with Teri and Oliver Steele and the Kevin Wynn Collection. He began working with MMDG in 2002 and became a company member in 2004.

NICHOLAS WAGNER was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland and has been dancing and performing since the age of four. He graduated with a BFA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and moved to New York in 2009. While in college, he was privileged to be one of the first participants in the MMDG/Krannert Center shadow program, in which students spend time and take classes with MMDG company members in Urbana and New York City. In NYC, Wagner danced for Yung-Li Dance and was a member of Dusan Tynek Dance Theatre from 2010-2012. He began his apprenticeship with MMDG in January 2013.

JENN WEDDEL received her early training from Boulder Ballet Company near where she grew up in Longmont, Colorado. She holds a BFA from Southern Methodist University and also studied at Boston Conservatory, Colorado University and The Laban Center, London. Since moving to New York in 2001, 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.

MICHI WIANCKO (*Violin*), violin soloist, chamber musician, composer, singer, and arranger. Wiancko was described in *Gramophone* as an "alluring soloist with heightened expressive and violinistic gifts." She made her solo debuts with the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics, and recently released an album of the violin works of Émile Sauret on Naxos. As singer, violinist and songwriter for her band Kono Michi, she performs original works in venues such as Symphony Space, Merkin Hall, Brooklyn's BAM Café, Le Poisson Rouge, Barbes, Pianos, The Detroit Institute of Art, and the World Café Live in Philadelphia. Her songs have been broadcast on WNYC, KCRW, and BBC Radio 1, 3 and 6 Music shows. Wiancko has toured with Musicians from Marlboro, the Los Angeles Piano Quartet, ICE, MMDG and she is a co-founder of the East Coast Chamber Orchestra (ECCO). Her arrangement of Geminiani's *La Follia* for string ensemble has been broadcast on NPR's Performance Today, and performed by various groups including Orchestra of St. Luke's, Burlington Chamber Orchestra, and the Spokane Symphony. A native of Southern California, she began her violin studies at the age of 3. She holds performance degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and The Juilliard School, where she studied with Donald Weilerstein and Robert Mann, respectively.

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 BFA 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.

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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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