

KRANNERTCENTER

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
COLLEGE OF FINE AND APPLIED ARTS



MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP
Wednesday-Thursday, March 13-14, 2013, at 7:30pm
Tryon Festival Theatre

PROGRAM

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

Colin Fowler
Andrew Janss
Benjamin Russell
Georgy Valtchev

Artistic Director

Mark Morris

Executive Director

Nancy Umanoff

Baroque Artists of Champaign Urbana (BACH)

Chester L. Alwes, music director

Soprano 1

Perla Brown
Emmie Fisher
Ingrid Kammin
Jean Mills
Audrey Vallance

Soprano 2

Allison Fromm
Angela Jordan
Zhanna Lehmann
Sarah Scott

Alto

Anne Erdmann
Chris Holman
Martha Lampman
Robin Sahrer
Marlys Scarbrough

Tenor

Macauley Allen
Wayne Badger
Heath Morber
T. J. Wilson

Bass

Chester Alwes
Matthew Leese
John Wagstaff
Jonathan Young

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

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

The Mark Morris Dance Group's performances are made possible with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, and National Endowment for the Arts.

The Office

Music

Bagatelles for Two Violins, Cello, and Harmonium, Op. 47

Antonín Dvořák

Allegretto scherzando

Tempo di minuetto: Grazioso

Allegretto scherzando

Canon: Andante con moto

Poco allegro

Costume Design

June Omura

Lighting Design

Michael Chybowski

Georgy Valtchev, violin; Benjamin Russell, 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 Theatre, Columbus, Ohio

Company Premiere: July 5, 1994, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Ted Shawn Theatre, Becket, Massachusetts

Rock of Ages

Music

Piano Trio in E-flat, Adagio D. 897
Franz Schubert

Costume Design

Katherine M. Patterson

Lighting Design

Nicole Pearce

Georgy Valtchev, violin; Andrew Janss, cello; Colin Fowler, piano

Samuel Black, Aaron Loux, Dallas McMurray, Noah Vinson

Premiere: October 28, 2004, Zellerbach Hall, Cal Performances, Berkeley, California

20-minute intermission

Ten Suggestions

Music

Bagatelles, Op. 5
Alexander Tcherepnin

Lighting Design

James F. Ingalls

Colin Fowler, piano

Amber Star Merkens

Premiere: February 13, 1981, Jersey City Museum, Jersey City, New Jersey

Jesu, Meine Freude

Music *Jesu, meine Freude, BWV 227*
Johann Sebastian Bach

Lighting Design Michael Chybowski

Georgy Valtchev, violin; Benjamin Russell, violin; Andrew Janss, cello; Colin Fowler, organ

Baroque Artists of Champaign Urbana conducted by Mark Morris

Chelsea Lynn Acree, Samuel Black, Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch, Amber Star Merkens, Maile Okamura,
Spencer Ramirez, Billy Smith, Noah Vinson, Michelle Yard

Premiere: June 8, 1993, Emerson Majestic Theatre, Boston, Massachusetts

Commissioned, in part, by Dance Umbrella, Boston.

TEXT AND TRANSLATION

JESU, MEINE FREUDE

Music: *Jesu, meine Freude*, BWV 227 by Johann Sebastian Bach

Text: Johann Franck (1650)

1. Jesu, meine Freude,
meines Herzens Weide,
Jesu meine Zier!
Ach wie lang, ach lange
ist dem Herzen bange
und verlangt nach dir!
Gottes Lamm, mein Bräutigam,
süßer dir soll mir auf Erden
nichts sonst Liebers werden.

Es ist nun nichts Verdammliches an denen,
die in Christo Jesu sind,
die nicht nach dem Fleische wandeln,
sondern nach dem Geist.
Römer 8,1

2. Unter deinen Schirmen
bin ich vor den Stürmen
aller Feinde frei.
Lass den Satan wittern,
lass den Feind erbittern,
mir steht Jesus bei!
Ob es itzt gleich kracht und blitze,
ob gleich Sünd und Hölle schrecken;
Jesus will mich decken.

Denn das Gesetz des Geistes,
der da lebendig machet in Christo Jesu,
hat mich frei gemacht
von dem Gesetz der Sünde und des Todes.
Römer 8,2

1. Jesus, my joy,
my heart's repose,
Jesus, my treasure!
My heart
has long been troubled
and desirous of thee!
Lamb of God, my bridegroom,
without thee, nothing good
can be my earthly lot.

Damnation befalls not those
who are in Christ,
and who pursue not the flesh
but the spirit.
Romans 8:1

2. Beneath thy shield
I am protected from the raging
of all my enemies.
Let Satan storm,
let the evil one rage,
Jesus will stand by me
through thunder and lightning,
against sin and hell
Jesus will protect me.

For the law of the spirit,
which gives life in Christ Jesus,
has liberated me
from the law of sin and death.
Romans 8:2

3. Trotz dem alten Drachen,
trotz des Todes Rachen,
trotz der Furcht dazu!
Tobe, Welt, und springe;
ich steh hier und singe
in gar sichrer Ruh!

Gottes Macht hält mich in acht;
Erd und Abgrund muss verstummen,
ob sie noch so brummen.

Ihr aber seid nicht fleischlich, sondern geistlich,
so anders Gottes Geist in euch wohnt.

Wer aber Christi Geist nicht hat,
der ist nicht sein.

Römer 8,9

4. Weg mit allen Schätzen
du bist mein Ergötzen,
Jesu, meine Lust!

Weg, ihr eitlen Ehren,
ich mag euch nicht hören
bleibt mir unbewusst!

Elend, Not, Kreuz, Schmach, und Tod
soll mich, ob ich viel muss leiden,
nicht von Jesu scheiden.

So aber Christus in euch ist,
so ist der Leib zwar tot um der Sünde willen;
der Geist aber ist das Leben
um der Gerechtigkeit willen.

Römer 8,10

3. Despite the old serpent,
despite death's vengeance,
despite fear of death!
The world may rave and be overthrown,
yet I stand here and sing
in confident tranquility!

I respect God's might;
earth and abyss will be silenced
although now so vociferous.

But ye are not of the flesh but of the spirit,
so strangely does God dwell in you.

But he who has not the spirit of Christ
is not his.

Romans 8:9

4. Away with all riches,
thou art my delight,
Jesu, my desire!

Away with vain honors,
I'll not hear your temptings,
do not enter my mind!

Misery, distress, affliction, shame, and death
shall not part me from Jesus,
though I must suffer much.

When Christ is in you,
the body is dead to sin,
but the spirit is life
for the sake of righteousness.

Romans 8:10

5. Gute Nacht, o Wesen,
das die Welt erlesen,
mir gefällt du nicht.
Gute Nacht, ihr Sunden,
bleibet weit dahinten,
komme nicht mehr ans Licht!
Gute Nacht, du Stolz und Pracht!
Dir sei ganz, du Lasterleben,
gute Nacht gegeben!

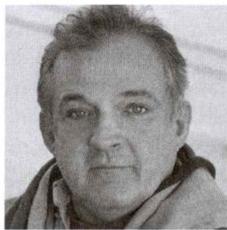
So nun der Geist des, der Jesum
von den Toten auferwecket hat,
in euch wohnt, so wird auch derselbige,
der Christum von den Toten auferwecket hat,
eure sterblichen Leiber lebendig machen,
um des willen, dass sein Geist in euch wohnt.
Römer 8,11

6. Weicht, ihr Trauergeister,
denn mein Freudenmeister,
Jesus, tritt herein.
Denen, die Gott lieben
muss auch ihr Betrüben
lauter Zucker sein.
Duld' ich schon hier Spott und Hohn,
dennoch bleibst du auch im Leide,
Jesu, meine Freude.

5. Farewell to the being
that chooses this world;
I love thee not.
Farewell, sins,
stay behind me,
never come to light again!
Farewell, pride and pomp!
Life of wickedness,
I bid you farewell!

Now the spirit of him
who raised Jesus from the dead
lives in you; the same
who raised Jesus from the dead
shall give life to your mortal bodies
because the spirit lives in you.
Romans 8:11

6. Ye spirits of sadness, depart hence,
for Jesus enters,
the lord of my joy.
To those whom God loves
even their sorrow
must be sweetened.
Here I endure mockery and scorn even now,
yet, still suffering, thou art
Jesus, my joy.



MARK MORRIS

Mark Morris was born on August 29, 1956, in Seattle, Washington, where he studied with Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson. In the early years of his career, he performed with the Koleda Balkan Dance Ensemble and 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 to 1991, he was the 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, and 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" (*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, and Royal Opera, Covent Garden. In 1991, he was named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation. He has received 11 honorary doctorates to date. In 2006, Morris received the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Mayor's Award for Arts and 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, and Giroux), and Marlowe and 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).

Mark Morris Dance Group

The Mark Morris Dance Group was formed in 1980 and gave its first concert that year in New York City. The company's touring schedule steadily expanded to include cities in the United States 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 United States and at major international festivals.

Based in Brooklyn, New York, the company has maintained strong ties to several cities around the world, most notably its West Coast home, Cal Performances in Berkeley, California, and its Midwest home, Krannert Center. MMDG also appears regularly in New York City; Boston, Massachusetts; Fairfax, Virginia; and Seattle, Washington. 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, 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 the English National Opera in *Four Saints in Three Acts* (2000) and *King Arthur* (2006). MMDG's film and television projects

also include *Dido and Aeneas*, *The Hard Nut*, two documentaries for the United Kingdom's *South Bank Show*, and PBS' *Live from Lincoln Center*. In September 2001, the Mark Morris Dance Center opened in Brooklyn, New York, to provide a home for the company, rehearsal space for the dance community, outreach programs for local children and seniors, and a school offering dance classes to students of all ages. For more information, visit www.mmdg.org.

MMDG Music Ensemble

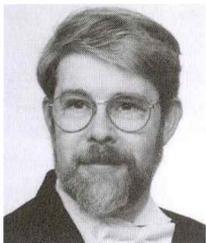
The MMDG Music Ensemble, formed in 1996, performs with the Dance Group at prestigious venues around the world and is integral to the company's creative life. "With the dancers come the musicians . . . and what a difference it makes" (*Classical Voice of North Carolina*). The core group, supplemented by musicians from a large roster of regular guests, has helped the Dance Group achieve an unprecedented streak of close to 800 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 the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, the Trinity Choir, and the Yale Choral Artists. Under the artistic direction of Mark Morris, the ensemble has a repertory that 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.

Baroque Artists of Champaign Urbana (BACH)

The Baroque Artists of Champaign Urbana specializes in vibrant, historically informed performances of music from the 17th and 18th centuries. BACH is the only professional organization in Illinois, outside Chicago, whose programming is dedicated to Baroque music.

Founded in 1996 with the purpose of teaching, learning, and performing music of the Baroque era, BACH has grown to become a community organization that thrives on local musicians, its resident chorus, and the love of music.

For more information, please visit www.baroqueartists.org.



CHESTER L. ALWES (music director, Baroque Artists of Champaign Urbana) is a professor emeritus of music at the University of Illinois. As a member of the School of Music faculty from 1982 to 2011, he conducted the UI Concert Choir, the UI Oratorio Society, and the

UI Women's Glee Club, as well as the UI Symphony Orchestra, the Illini Symphony, and the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra. He participated in the planning of major symposia on the music of Heinrich Schütz and Henry Purcell, and he was a featured conductor at both. He has taught graduate courses in the history of choral literature. An acknowledged authority on the performance practice of early music, he has written articles, edited music, and given lectures across the country. His long-awaited book, *A History of Western Choral Music*, is currently in production at Oxford University Press. Among his proudest achievements is the success of his students, both at the university level and in the professional world. That continuing interest was acknowledged in 2000 when Alwes received the UI Graduate College's Award for Outstanding Mentoring of Graduate Students. As a composer, Alwes has published primarily with the Roger Dean Music Company, Oxford University Press, Mark Foster Music, and Augsburg-Fortress. The founding of BACH in 1996, like his 1971 founding of Musica Sacra in Louisville, Kentucky, represented the fulfillment of a long-held dream of working with a small group of dedicated musicians in the performance of Baroque repertory.



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 to 1996 and, in 1997, began working with MMDG. After several years of performing full-time with the group, he began assisting Mark Morris with the creation of new works. Rose 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 the Carver Center for Arts and Technology. Since receiving her BFA in dance from SUNY Purchase College in 2005, she has had the opportunity

to work with a variety of artists, including SYREN Modern Dance, Laura Peterson, Hilary Easton, and Company, and Michael and the Go-Getters. Acree is on the faculty at The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center, where she teaches children 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 SUNY Purchase College and also studied at the Rotterdams 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.



COLIN FOWLER (piano) is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy and holds bachelor's and master's 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 New York University and Nyack College. He is currently the organist and assistant music director at 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 the Interlochen Arts Academy and the North Carolina School of the Arts, where he performed in works by Martha Graham, Jerome Robbins, Jiří Kylián, and Larry Keigwin. At the University of South Florida, he participated

in the reconstruction of Bill T. Jones' *Serenade: The Proposition*. He was also a student at the Jacob's Pillow Contemporary Program, where he worked with Judith Jameson. 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' *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 the Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, Michigan. She studied at the Rotterdams Dansacademie in the Netherlands and holds

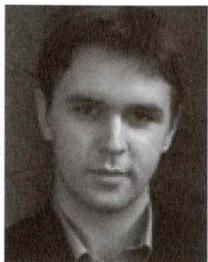
a BFA from SUNY Purchase College, where she received the Modern Dance Faculty Award. She has performed with Erica Essner, Dance Heginbotham,

the Kevin Wynn Collection, Neel Verdoorn, Nelly van Bommel's NØA 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 more than 40 of Mark Morris' 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 United States and abroad. Grant has been featured in *Time Out New York*, *Dance Magazine*, and the book *Meet the Dancers*, and she appeared in a documentary (*The South Bank Show*, United Kingdom), which followed the company in the making and premiere of *Four Saints in Three Acts*. Before joining MMDG, Grant moved to New York City from her hometown of Highland Park, Illinois, and earned a BFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. She and her husband, David Leventhal (former MMDG dancer), are proud parents of son Zev, born in March 2012.



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 he 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 Takács Quartets, as well as with pop icons Mary J. Blige, The Roots, and Florence and the Machine. From 2007 to 2010, 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, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, and the Marlboro Chamber Music Festival. During 2007-2008, Janss was a 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.



BRIAN LAWSON began his dance training in Toronto at the 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 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. 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 the Arc Dance Company before joining MMDG in 2010.



LAUREL LYNCH began her dance training at the 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 Theatre, the Daniel Gwartzman Dance Company, and Rashaun Mitchell. From 2009 to 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 acrobatics with Katie Maltsberger and ballet with Yukiko Sakakura. He received a BFA in dance from the California Institute of the Arts. He has 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.



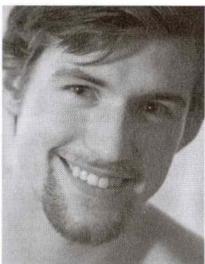
AMBER STAR MERKENS, originally from Newport, Oregon, began her dance training with Nancy Mittleman. She received her BFA from the Juilliard School and went on to dance with the Limón Dance Company. In 2001, she received the Princess Grace Award and joined MMDG. She

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. 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 members 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 Theatre in Greenville, South Carolina, under the direction of Hernan Justo. At age 14, 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

BFA in dance from SUNY 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.



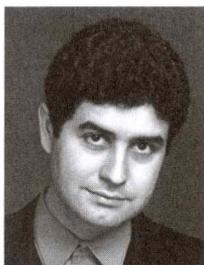
BENJAMIN RUSSELL (violin), violinist, vocalist, and songwriter, has an unmistakable passion for music. *The Hilly Town Press* describes his unique intensity, saying, "[Ben Russell], the fiddle player, was like none I've ever seen." A native of San Diego, Russell moved to New York City in 2006 to form the Bryant Park

Quartet, which is currently in residence at the Stony Brook Pre-College Division and is represented by Ariel Artists. In spring 2012, Russell released his first solo album of original violin-vocal songs. The live album displays his distinctive style in songwriting for his tenor voice and violin. Russell is also a member of the American Contemporary Music Ensemble and the Wordless Music Orchestra and is the principal second violinist of the Portland Symphony Orchestra in Maine. Russell's education includes a master's degree from the New England Conservatory of Music, a bachelor's degree from Biola University, and one year of study at the Amsterdam Conservatory in the Netherlands.



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 has regional theatre credits that include Tulsa in *Gypsy*, Mr. Mistoffelees in *Cats*, and Dream Curl in *Oklahoma!* Smith danced with Parsons Dance from 2007 to 2010. He joined MMDG as a company member in 2010.



GEORGY VALTCHEV (violin) has appeared as soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Originally from Plovdiv, Bulgaria, Valtchev came to the United States in 1992 as a scholarship student of Dorothy DeLay and Masao Kawasaki at the Juilliard School,

where he ultimately earned his bachelor's and master's degrees. He has been heard as a soloist with orchestras in Bangor, Baton Rouge, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Miami, New York, New Jersey, his native Bulgaria, and Japan. Since 2011, Valtchev has been a guest concertmaster of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. As a chamber musician, Georgy Valtchev has appeared at New York's Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and 92nd Street Y; the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC; the Chicago Cultural Center; the Royal Theatre Carré in Amsterdam; the Barbican Arts Centre in London; and the Guangzhou Opera House in China. He has been featured in international music festivals such as Mostly Mozart at Lincoln Center, the Beethoven Festival at Bard College, Sofia Music Weeks, Varna Summer and Appolonia in Bulgaria, and the Bástad Chamber Music Festival in Sweden. Valtchev is a founding member of Bulgarian Concert Evenings in New York.



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 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 New York City, Wagner danced for Yung-Li Dance and was a member of Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre from 2010 to 2012. He began his apprenticeship with MMDG in January 2013.



JENN WEDDEL received her early training from the Boulder Ballet Company near where she grew up in Longmont, Colorado. She holds a BFA 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, Weddel has created and performed with RedWall Dance Theater, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, the Vencl Dance Trio, Rocha

Dance Theater, the 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 New York City High School of the Performing Arts and continued her studies as a scholarship student at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. 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.

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP STAFF

Artistic Director
Executive Director

Mark Morris
Nancy Umanoff

PRODUCTION

Technical Director
Rehearsal Director
Lighting Supervisor
Sound Supervisor
Costume Coordinator
Wardrobe Supervisor

Johan Henckens
Matthew Rose
Philip Watson
Ken Hypes
Stephanie Sleeper
Elizabeth Sargent

ADMINISTRATION

Chief Financial Officer
Finance Associate
Finance Assistant
General Manager
Company Manager
Executive Assistant
Intern

Elizabeth Fox
Rebecca Hunt
Jamie Posnak
Huong Hoang
Sarah Horne
Jenna Nugent
Marianny Loveras

DEVELOPMENT/MARKETING

Director of Development
Associate Director of Development
Development Assistant
Digital Content Manager
Marketing Assistant
Intern

Michelle Amador
Kelly Sheldon
Rebecca Cash
Moss Allen
Abby West
Jessica Augustin

EDUCATION

School Director
School Administrator
Outreach Director
Dance for PD Program Manager
Dance for PD Program Assistant

Sarah Marcus
Sydnie Liggett
Eva Nichols
David Leventhal
Maria Portman Kelly

DANCE CENTER OPERATIONS

Facility and Production Manager
Studio Manager
Operations Coordinator and Community Liaison
Front Desk Manager
Assistant Front Desk Managers
Front Desk Assistant
Maintenance

Intern

Booking Representation
Media and General Consultation Services
Legal Counsel
Accountant
Orthopaedist

Physical Therapist
Hilot Therapist

Peter Gorneault
Karyn Treadwell
Jackie Busch
Elise Gaugert
Charles Gushue, Abby West
Lucy Wilson
Jose Fuentes, Jamel Moore, Orlando Rivera,
Diana Velazquez
Ashley Lindner

Michael Mushalla, Double M Arts & Events
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O'Connor Davies, Munns & Dobbins, LLP
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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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MMDG and Krannert Center

These performances mark the 14th appearance of the Mark Morris Dance Group at Krannert Center. MMDG and Krannert Center once again join forces to present Access/MMDG, a program of arts-based and humanities-based activities for people of all ages and abilities in the Champaign-Urbana area. This weeklong series of classes, readings, workshops, and discussions aims to enhance the overall experience of the audience. Close relationships have been developed with UI students, many of whom have gone on to perform with the company, serve as members of the production team, or work as interns in MMDG's administrative office. The Dance Group gratefully acknowledges the steadfast support of the University of Illinois and staff members at Krannert Center for making this successful partnership possible year after year.



BEING MATTERS.