

# Mark Morris Dance Group and Music Ensemble

Tuesday 28 October, His Majesty's Theatre



# Mark Morris Dance Group

CHELSEA ACREE   SAM BLACK   MAX CAPPELLI-KING\*   RITA DONAHUE  
DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR.   LESLEY GARRISON   LAUREN GRANT   BRIAN LAWSON  
AARON LOUX   LAUREL LYNCH   STACY MARTORANA   DALLAS MCMURRAY  
MAILE OKAMURA   BRANDON RANDOLPH   BILLY SMITH   NOAH VINSON  
JENN WEDDEL   MICHELLE YARD

MMDG Music Ensemble  
YEGOR SHEVTSOV   GEORGY VALTCHEV

Artistic Director  
MARK MORRIS

Executive Director  
NANCY UMANOFF

\*apprentice







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Suzy Kellems Dominik, Doris Duke Charitable Trust, The Howard Gilman Foundation, Judith R. and Alan H. Fishman, Shelby and Frederick Gans Fund, Ellsworth Kelly Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Meyer Sound/Helen and John Meyer, PARC Foundation, Poss Family Foundation, The Billy Rose Foundation, Inc., The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The SHS Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Jane Stine and R.L. Stine, Robert F. Wallace, The White Cedar Fund, and Friends of MMDG.

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This engagement is supported by the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation through USArtists International in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



# **Italian Concerto**

**Music: Johann Sebastian Bach - Italian Concerto in F Major, BWV 971**

Lighting Design: Paul Palazzo

**I. Allegro II. Andante III. Presto**

**Yegor Shevtsov, piano**

**Lauren Grant, Laurel Lynch, Stacy Martorana, Dallas McMurray, Billy Smith**

Premiere: January 17, 2007 - James and Martha Duffy Performance Space,  
Mark Morris Dance Center, Brooklyn, New York

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# **A Wooden Tree**

**Music and Words: Ivor Cutler - "Here's A Health for Simon"; "Stick Out Your Chest";  
"The Market Place"; "Rubber Toy"; "Trouble, Trouble"; "Little Black Buzzer";  
"I Got No Common Sense"; "Deedle, Deedle, I Pass"; "A Wooden Tree"; "Phonic Poem";  
"I'm Going In A Field"; "I Love You But I Don't Know What I Mean"; "Beautiful Cosmos";  
"Cockadoodledon't"**

Costume Design: Elizabeth Kurtzman Lighting Design: Michael Chybowsky

**Lauren Grant, Laurel Lynch, Stacy Martorana, Dallas McMurray, Brandon Randolph,  
Billy Smith, Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel**

Premiere: October 4, 2012 - Merrill Wright Mainstage Theater, On the Boards, Seattle, Washington

Music used by arrangement with the Estate of Ivor Cutler, publisher and copyright owner.

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**- Intermission -**



# Words

**Music:** Felix Mendelssohn – Songs Without Words: Op. 67, no. 6 – “Serenade”;

Op. 38, no. 2 – “Lost Happiness”; Op. 67, no. 5 – “Shepherds Complaint”;

Op. 67, no. 4 – “The Spinning Wheel”; Op. 19, no. 6 – “Venetian Barcarole”;

Op. 62, no. 3 – “Funeral March”; Op. 62, no. 6 – “Spring Song”; Op. 62, no. 1 – “May Breezes”;

Op. 30, no. 2 – “Unrest”; Op. 30, no. 6 – “Second Barcarole”

Costume Design: Maile Okamura    Lighting Design: Nick Kolin

**Georgy Valtchev, violin; Yegor Shevtsov, piano**

**Max Cappelli-King, Lauren Grant, Laurel Lynch, Stacy Martorana,**

**Brandon Randolph, Billy Smith, Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel**

Premiere: October 8, 2014 – New York City Center, New York, New York

*Words* was co-commissioned by New York City Center for the 2014 Fall for Dance Festival

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# Jenn and Spencer

**Music:** Henry Cowell – Suite for Violin and Piano

**Largo, Allegretto, Andante tranquillo, Allegro marcato, Andante calmato, Presto**

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

**Georgy Valtchev, violin; Yegor Shevtsov, piano**

**Brandon Randolph, Jenn Weddel**

Premiere: April 3, 2013 – James and Martha Duffy Performance Space,

Mark Morris Dance Center, Brooklyn, New York

Music by arrangement with G. Schirmer, Inc. publisher and copyright owner.

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# Polka

**Music:** Lou Harrison – Grand Duo for Violin & Piano, Mvt. 4

Costume Design: Susan Ruddle    Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

**Georgy Valtchev, violin; Yegor Shevtsov, piano**

**Max Cappelli-King, Lauren Grant, Laurel Lynch, Stacy Martorana,**

**Brandon Randolph, Billy Smith, Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel**

Premiere: April 7, 1992 – Manhattan Grand Center Ballroom, New York, New York

**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 companies of LarLubovitch, Hannah Kahn, Laura Dean, Eliot Feld, and the Koleda Balkan Dance Ensemble. He formed the Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) in 1980, and has since created close to 150 works for the company. From 1988 to 1991, he was Director of Dance at Brussels' Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, the national opera house of Belgium.

In 1990, he founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Much in demand as a ballet choreographer, Morris has created eighteen ballets since 1986 and his work has been performed by companies worldwide, including San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, and the Royal New Zealand Ballet. Noted for his musicality, Morris has been described as "undeviating in his devotion to music" (The New Yorker).

He began conducting performances for MMDG in 2006 and has since conducted at The International Festival of Arts and Ideas, Lincoln Center, and BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music). He served as Music Director for the 2013 Ojai Music Festival. He also works extensively in opera, directing and choreographing productions for the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, English National Opera, and The Royal Opera, Covent Garden, among others.

He was named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991 and has received eleven honorary doctorates to date. He has taught at the University of Washington, Princeton University, and Tanglewood Music Center. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, and has served as an Advisory Board Member for the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative. Morris 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), Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts (2013) and the Orchestra of St. Luke's Gift of Music Award (2014).

Morris opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn, New York, in 2001 to provide a home for his company, rehearsal space for the dance community, outreach programs for children and seniors, and a school offering dance classes to students of all ages and abilities



The **MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP** was formed in 1980 and gave its first performance 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 Dance Group returned to the United States in 1991 as one of the world's leading dance companies. Based in Brooklyn, New York, MMDG maintains strong ties to presenters in several cities around the world, most notably to its West Coast home, Cal Performances in Berkeley, California, 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, Boston, Seattle, and Fairfax. The company 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 received two Laurence Olivier Awards and a Critics' Circle Dance Award for Best Foreign Dance Company. Reflecting Morris' commitment to live music, the Dance Group has featured live musicians in every performance since the formation of the MMDG Music Ensemble in 1996. MMDG regularly collaborates with renowned musicians, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma, pianist Emanuel Ax, mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe, and jazz trio The Bad Plus, as well as leading orchestras and opera companies, including the Metropolitan Opera, English National Opera, and the London Symphony Orchestra.

MMDG frequently works with distinguished artists and designers, including painters Howard Hodgkin and Robert Bordo, set designers Adrienne Lobel and Allen Moyer, costume designers Martin Pakledinaz and Isaac Mizrahi, and many others. MMDG's film and television projects include *Dido and Aeneas*, *The Hard Nut*, *Falling Down Stairs*, two documentaries for the U.K.'s South Bank Show, PBS' *Live From Lincoln Center*, and *L'Allegro, il Penseroso, ed il Moderato* to be released in Spring 2015. While on tour the Dance Group partners with local cultural institutions and community organizations to present *Access/MMDG*, a program of arts and humanities-based activities for people of all ages and abilities.

This performance is part of *Excursions 2014*, a unique multi-continent tour that splits the Dance Group in two from October through mid-November. This multifaceted tour features *Words*, a new work by Mark Morris and extensive cross-cultural community and educational programming through *Access/MMDG* and the U.S. State Department's *Dance Motion USA* program. Follow the tour at [mmdg.org/excursions2014](http://mmdg.org/excursions2014).

The **MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE**, formed in 1996, is integral to the Dance Group. "With the dancers come the musicians...and what a difference it makes" (Classical Voice of North Carolina). 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 musicians also participate in Access/MMDG - the Dance Group's educational and community programming at home and on the road.



**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 Dance Group, he began assisting Morris with the creation of new works. He has been the company's rehearsal director since 2006.



**COLIN FOWLER** (music director) 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 a number of 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 and was named music director in 2013.



**CHELSEA 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 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.



**SAM BLACK** is originally from Berkeley, California, where he began studying tap at the age of nine with Katie Maltsberger. He received his B.F.A. in dance from SUNY Purchase, and currently teaches MMDG master classes and Dance for PD@. He first appeared with MMDG in 2005 and became a company member in 2007.



**MAX CAPPELLI-KING** was born in Chicago and raised in Madison, Wisconsin. His formal training began at Interlochen Arts Academy in northern Michigan, where he attended high school. Cappelli-King earned his B.F.A. from The Juilliard School in 2013. He was a member of the Alyson Laury Dance Company and an associate of Jonah Bokaer's choreography. He has also performed with Limón Dance Company, Pam Tanowitz Dance, and the Peridance Contemporary Dance Company. He joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2014.





**RITA DONAHUE** was born and raised in Fairfax, Virginia, and attended George Mason University. She graduated magna cum laude in 2002, receiving a B.A. in English and a B.F.A. in dance. Donahue danced with bopi's black sheep/dances by kraigpatterson 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.



**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 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 over 40 of Mark Morris' works. She is on the faculty at The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center and frequently leads classes for the company. She also 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 UK documentary, *The South Bank Show*, 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 B.F.A. from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She and her husband David Leventhal (former MMDG dancer) are proud parents of son Zev, born March 2012.



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

## MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP STAFF

Artistic Director	Mark Morris
Executive Director	Nancy Umanoff

## PRODUCTION

Technical Director	Johan Henckens
Excursions 2014 Stage Manager	Anne Dechene
Rehearsal Director	Matthew Rose
Music Director	Colin Fowler
Lighting Supervisor	Nick Kolin
Sound Supervisor	Ken Hypes
Costume Coordinator	Stephanie Sleeper
Wardrobe Supervisor	Jennifer Perry

## ADMINISTRATION

Chief Financial Officer	Elizabeth Fox
Finance Associate	Rebecca Hunt
Finance Assistant	Jamie Posnak
Finance Intern	Marlie Delisfort
General Manager	Huong Hoang
Company Manager	Sarah Horne
Excursions 2014 Company Manager	Adrienne Bryant
Executive Assistant	Anni Turkel

## DEVELOPMENT

Director of Development	Michelle Amador
Development Associates	Sophie Mintz, Sara Sessions
Interns	Kristen Gajdica, Ann Kim

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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For more information contact: Mark Morris Dance Group, 3 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11217-1415, (718) 624-8400  
www.mmdg.org, facebook: markmorrisdancegroup, twitter: @markmorrisdance, instagram: markmorrisdance, tumblr: mmdgontheroad

## MARKETING

Director of Marketing	Karyn LeSuer
Marketing Associate	François Leloup-Collet
Marketing Assistant	Myriam Varjacques
Intern	Imanol Boxto

## EDUCATION

Director of Education	Sarah Marcus
School Director	Sydney Liggett
Administrator, Education Programs	Jen Dayton
Outreach Director	Eva Nichols
Dance for PD@Program Director	David Leventhal
Dance for PD@Program Coordinator	Maria Portman Kelly
Dance for PD@Intern	Jessica Moskowitz

## DANCE CENTER OPERATIONS

Facility and Production Manager	Peter Gorneault
Senior Operations Manager	Karyn Treadwell
Operations Manager	Elise Gaugert
Operations Administrator	Sam Owens
Front Desk Assistants	Jillian Greenberg, Laura Merkel
Maintenance	Jose Fuentes, Orlando Rivera & Diana Velazquez
Booking Representation	Michael Mushalla (Double M Arts & Events)
Media & General Consultation Services	William Murray (Better Attitude, Inc.)
Legal Counsel	Mark Selinger (McDermott, Will & Emery)
Accountant	O'Connor Davies (Munns & Dobbins, LLP)
Orthopaedist	David S. Weiss, M.D. (NYU Langone Medical Center)
Physical Therapist	Marshall Hagins, PT, PhD
Hilot Therapist	Jeffrey Cohen