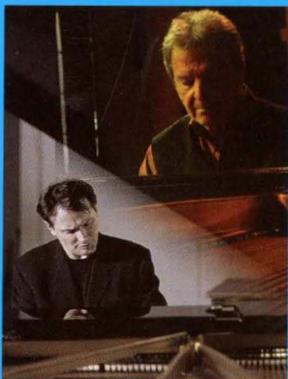
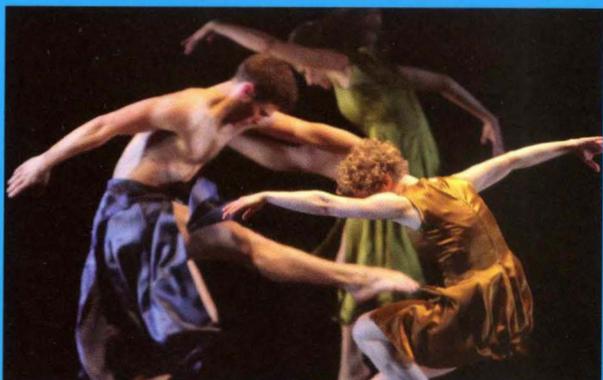
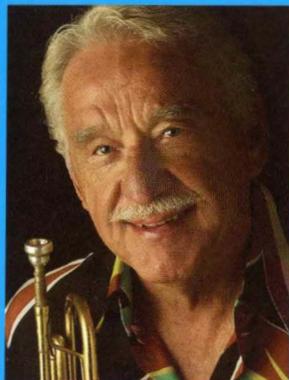




SPRING 2015



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Great Performances at Mason
presents



**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 | Nicole Sabella*
Billy Smith | Noah Vinson | Jenn Weddel | Michelle Yard
**apprentice*

MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Robert Burkhart | Colin Fowler | Georgy Valtchev

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Mark Morris

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nancy Umanoff

Saturday, February 28, 2015 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 1, 2015 at 4 p.m.

The Center for the Arts gratefully acknowledges the generous and ongoing support of the Friends of the Center for the Arts.

FOOD AND DRINK ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE THEATER.

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO TURN OFF PAGERS, CELLULAR PHONES, AND SIGNAL WATCHES DURING PERFORMANCES.
THE TAKING OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND THE USE OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE THEATER.

PROGRAM

Pacific

Music: Lou Harrison, *Trio for violin, cello, and piano; 3rd and 4th movements*

Costume Design: Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting Design: James F. Ingalls

Georgy Valtchev, *violin*; Robert Burkhart, *cello*; Colin Fowler, *piano*

Chelsea Acree
Domingo Estrada, Jr.
Lesley Garrison
Aaron Loux
Laurel Lynch
Stacy Martorana
Dallas McMurray
Maile Okamura
Noah Vinson

Premiere: May 9, 1995 - San Francisco Ballet, War Memorial
Opera House, San Francisco, California

Company Premiere: February 28, 2015 - George Mason University's
Center for the Arts, Fairfax, Virginia

Words

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, *Songs Without Words*

Costume Design: Maile Okamura

Lighting Design: Nick Kolin

Georgy Valtchev, *violin*; Colin Fowler, *piano*

Chelsea Acree
Sam Black
Max Cappelli-King
Rita Donahue
Domingo Estrada, Jr.
Lesley Garrison
Lauren Grant
Brian Lawson
Aaron Loux
Laurel Lynch
Stacy Martorana
Brandon Randolph
Billy Smith
Noah Vinson
Jenn Weddel
Michelle Yard

Premiere: October 8, 2014 – New York City Center, New York, New York
Commissioned by New York City Center for the 2014 *Fall for Dance* Festival

Intermission

The "Tamil Film Songs in Stereo" Pas de Deux

Music: Contemporary Indian

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

Brian Lawson
Stacy Martorana

Premiere: December 15, 1983 – Bessie Schönberg Theatre, Dance Theater Workshop,
New York, New York

Grand Duo

Music: Lou Harrison, *Grand Duo for Violin and Piano*

Costume Design: Susan Ruddie

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

Prelude
Stampede
A Round
Polka

Georgy Valtchev, *violin*; Colin Fowler, *piano*

Sam Black
Rita Donahue
Domingo Estrada, Jr.
Lesley Garrison
Lauren Grant
Brian Lawson
Aaron Loux
Laurel Lynch
Dallas McMurray
Maile Okamura
Billy Smith
Noah Vinson
Jenn Weddel
Michelle Yard

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

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by American Express, Suzy Kellems Dominik, Doris Duke Charitable Trust, Judith R. and Alan H. Fishman, The Howard Gilman Foundation, Shelby and Frederick Gans Fund, Google, Ellsworth Kelly Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Meyer Sound/Helen and John Meyer, PARC Foundation, Poss Family Foundation, Billy Rose Foundation, Inc., The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The SHS Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Jane Stine and R.L. Stine, Solon E. Summerfield Foundation, Robert F. Wallace, The White Cedar Fund, and Friends of MMDG.

The Mark Morris Dance group is supported in part by public funds from New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with New York State Council on the Arts with support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and National Endowment for the Arts.

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 companies of Lar Lubovitch, 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 over 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 18 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 12 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.

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*, and PBS's *Live From Lincoln Center*. On March 27, 2015, Morris' *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* will be featured on PBS's *Great Performances*. 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 is MMDG's seventeenth appearance at Mason's Center for the Arts.

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 program to deepen community engagement 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 to 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.



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.

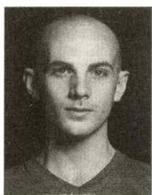


Sam Black is originally from Berkeley, California, where he began studying tap at the age of nine with Katie Maltsberger. He received his B.F.A. in Dance from SUNY Purchase, and currently teaches MMDG master classes and Dance for PD®. He first appeared with MMDG in 2005 and became a company member in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



Robert Burkhardt (*cello*) combines a deep commitment to the existing cello repertoire with what *The New Yorker* magazine calls an "adventurous" spirit in new music. With performance credits at Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Hall, and The Rose Studio at Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Burkhardt has also appeared as a soloist throughout Japan as a member of the New York Symphonic Ensemble, and been featured in recital on WQXR's "Young Artist Showcase." At the center of new music in New York, Burkhardt works frequently with living composers in the American Modern Ensemble, Argento

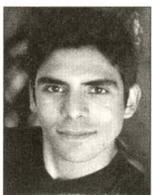
New Music Project, and Newspeak, among others. Recent collaborations include Uri Caine, Aaron Jay Kernis, Steve Mackey, Chen Yi, and Charles Wourinen. He performed the New York premiere of John Harbison's *Abu Ghraib* for cello and piano, and was the soloist in Augusta Read Thomas's *Passion Prayers* for cello and chamber ensemble at the New York Times Center. His recent CD, *20/21: Music for Cello and Piano from the 20th and 21st Centuries*, features pianist Blair McMillen. Burkhardt's recording of solo Bach on the American Express commercial "Don't Take Chances. Take Charge." has garnered national attention.



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. 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 kraig patterson and joined MMDG in 2003.



Domingo Estrada, Jr., a native of Victoria, Texas, studied martial arts and earned his black belt in 1994. He danced ballet folklórico through his church for 11 years. Estrada earned his B.F.A. in Ballet and Modern Dance from Texas Christian University and had the honor of working with the late Fernando Bujones. During his undergraduate studies he attended the American Dance Festival where he had the privilege of performing *Skylight*, a classic work by choreographer Laura Dean. He debuted with MMDG in 2007 and became a company member in 2009. Estrada would like to thank God, his family, and all who support his passion.



Colin Fowler (*music director, piano*) is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy and holds Bachelor and Master 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 N.Y.U. 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.



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 50 of Mark Morris' works. She is on the faculty at The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center, leads master classes around the globe, sets Mark Morris' work at universities, and frequently leads classes for the company. Grant has been featured in *Time Out New York*, *Dance Magazine*, and the book *Meet the Dancers*; has appeared in PBS's *Live from Lincoln Center* and ITV's *The South Bank Show*; and was a subject for the photographer Annie Leibovitz. 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 and current Dance for PD® Program Director) 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 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 B.F.A. from The Juilliard School in 2009. He danced at The Metropolitan Opera and with Arc Dance Company before joining MMDG in 2010.



Laurel Lynch began her dance training at Petaluma School of Ballet in California. She moved to New York to attend The Juilliard School, where she performed works by Robert Battle, Margie Gillis, José Limón, and Ohad Naharin. After graduation, Lynch danced for Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, and Pat Catterson. Lynch joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007. Many thanks to Gene and Becky.



Stacy Martorana began her dance training in Baltimore, Maryland, at the Peabody Conservatory. In 2006 she graduated from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts with a B.F.A. in Contemporary Dance. 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 to 2011 she was a member of the Repertory Understudy Group for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. She joined MMDG in 2012.



Dallas McMurray, from El Cerrito, California, began dancing at age four, studying jazz, tap, and acrobatics with Katie Maltsberger and ballet with Yukiko Sakakura. He received a B.F.A. in Dance from the California Institute of the Arts. McMurray performed with the Limón Dance Company in addition to performing 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.



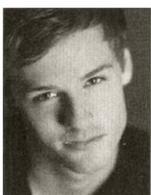
Maile Okamura studied primarily with Lynda Yourth at the American Ballet School in San Diego, California. She was a member of Boston Ballet II and Ballet Arizona before moving to New York to study modern dance. Okamura has been dancing with MMDG since 1998. She has also had the pleasure of working with choreographers Neta Pulvermacher, Zvi Gotheiner, Gerald Casei, and John Heginbotham, with whom she frequently collaborates as dancer and costume designer.



Brandon Randolph began his training with the School of Carolina Ballet Theater 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 B.F.A. in Dance from Purchase College in May 2012. There, he had the opportunity to perform with Dance Heginbotham and to perform repertory by Stephen Petronio, Lar Lubovitch, Paul Taylor, and George Balanchine. Randolph began working with MMDG in 2013 and became a company member in 2014.



Nicole Sabella is originally from Clearwater, Florida, where she studied at the Academy of Ballet Arts and the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School under Suzanne B. Pomerantzeff. In 2009, she graduated from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, earning her B.F.A. in Modern Dance Performance and the "Outstanding Performance in Modern Dance" Award. She was a performer with Zane Booker's Smoke, Lilies, and Jade Arts Initiative. Nicole first worked with MMDG in 2013 and began her apprenticeship in December 2014.



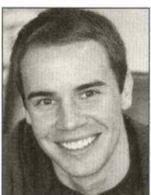
Billy Smith grew up in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and attended George Mason University under a full academic and dance talent scholarship. He graduated *magna cum laude* in 2007 and received achievement awards in performance, choreography, and academic endeavors. While at George Mason, he performed the 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 theater credits include *Tulsa in Gypsy*, *Mistoffelees in CATS*, and *Dream Curly 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 and Master Degrees. He has been heard as soloist with orchestras in Bangor, Baton Rouge, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Miami, New York, New Jersey, in his native Bulgaria, and throughout Japan. Since 2011, Valtchev has been a Guest Concertmaster of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. As a chamber musician,

Valtchev has appeared in New York's Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, 92nd Street Y, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Chicago's Cultural Center, the Royal Carre Theatre in Amsterdam, the Barbican 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, Beethoven Festival at Bard College, Sofia Music Weeks, Varna Summer and Appolonia in Bulgaria, and Bastad Chamber Music Festival in Sweden. Valtchev is a founding member of Bulgarian Concert Evenings in New York.



Noah Vinson grew up in Springfield, Illinois and received his B.A. in Dance from Columbia College Chicago, where he worked with Shirley Mordine, Jan Erkert, and Brian Jeffrey. In New York, he has danced with Teri and Oliver Steele and the Kevin Wynn Collection. He began working with MMDG in 2002 and became a company member in 2004.



Jenn Weddel received her early training from Boulder Ballet Company near where she grew up in Longmont, Colorado. She holds a B.F.A. from Southern Methodist University and also studied at Boston Conservatory, Colorado University, and The Laban Center, London. Since moving to New York in 2001, Weddel has created and performed with RedWall Dance Theater, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, Vencl Dance Trio, Rocha Dance Theater, TEA Dance Company, and with various choreographers including Alan Danielson and Ella Ben-Aharon. Weddel performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.



Michelle Yard was born in Brooklyn, New York. She began her professional dance training at the New York City High School of the Performing Arts and continued her studies as a scholarship student at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. She graduated with a B.F.A. from N.Y.U.'s Tisch School of the Arts. Yard teaches Pilates as well as master classes for Access/MMDG programs. She joined MMDG in 1997. Mom, thank you.

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP STAFF

Artistic Director Mark Morris
Executive Director Nancy Umanoff

PRODUCTION

Technical Director: Johan Henckens
Rehearsal Director: Matthew Rose
Music Director: Colin Fowler
Lighting Supervisor: Philip Watson
Sound Supervisor: Jim Abdou
Costume Coordinator: Stephanie Sleeper
Wardrobe Supervisor: Jennifer Perry

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Dance for PD® Program Coordinator: Maria Portman Kelly
Dance for PD® Intern: Jennifer Moskowitz

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Accountant: O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins, LLP
Orthopaedist: David S. Weiss, M.D. (NYU Langone Medical Center)
Physical Therapist: Marshall Hagins, P.T., Ph.D.
Hilot Therapist: Jeffrey Cohen

SPECIAL THANKS

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:

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“We make a living
by what we get.
We make a life by
what we give.”

— Winston Churchill

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to our community.*

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