

2015 Winter/Spring Season

APR 2015

# BAMBI



Larry Poons, *Untitled*, 2009, acrylic on canvas, 68"x85"

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# Mark Morris Dance Group

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House  
Apr 22—25 at 7:30pm; Apr 26 at 3pm

Running time: two hours including intermission

With the MMDG Music Ensemble  
Special appearance by The Bad Plus

Choreography by Mark Morris

**Program A (Apr 22 & 24)**

*Pacific*—MMDG NY Premiere

*Words*

*Whelm*—World Premiere

*Grand Duo*

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Support for the Signature Artists Series provided by  
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**Program B (Apr 23, 25 & 26)**

*Crosswalk*

*Jenn and Spencer*

*Spring, Spring, Spring*—NY Premiere

**MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP**

CHELSEA ACREE SAM BLACK 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**

COLIN FOWLER WOLFRAM KOESSEL TODD PALMER GEORGY VALTCHEV

With Special Guests

**THE BAD PLUS**

REID ANDERSON ETHAN IVERSON DAVID KING

*Artistic Director*  
MARK MORRIS

*Executive Director*  
NANCY UMANOFF

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by American Express, Suzy Kellems Dominik, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Judith R. and Alan H. Fishman, Shelby and Frederick Gans Fund, The Howard Gilman Foundation, Google, 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, 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 the City Council, The New York City Department for the Aging, the New York State Council on the Arts with support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

## PROGRAM A

### **PACIFIC**

Music by **Lou Harrison**—*Trio for Violin, Cello, and Piano*; 3rd and 4th movements

Staged by **Tina Fehlandt**

Costume design **Martin Pakledinaz**

Lighting design **James F. Ingalls**

**Georgy Valtchev**, violin; **Wolfram Koessel**, 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 by **Felix Mendelssohn**—*Songs Without Words*

Costume design **Maile Okamura**

Lighting design **Nick Kolin**

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

**Chelsea Acree**, **Sam Black**, **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, Fall for Dance Festival, New York, New York

Commissioned by New York City Center for the 2014 Fall for Dance Festival

—INTERMISSION—

### **WHELM** (World Premiere)

Music by **Claude Debussy**—"Des pas sur la neige," "Étude pour les notes répétées,"  
"La cathédrale engloutie"

Costume design **Elizabeth Kurtzman**

Lighting design **Nick Kolin**

**Colin Fowler**, piano

**Chelsea Acree**, **Aaron Loux**, **Dallas McMurray**, **Maile Okamura**

*Whelm* was created with support from American Express, the Howard Gilman Foundation, the Ellsworth Kelly Foundation, and the PARC Foundation through the Mark Morris Dance Group New Works Fund.

## GRAND DUO

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

Costume design **Susan Ruddle**

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

## PROGRAM B

### CROSSWALK

Music by **Carl Maria von Weber**—*Grand Duo Concertant*, for clarinet and piano, Op. 48  
Allegro con fuoco, Andante con moto, Rondo: Allegro

Costume design **Elizabeth Kurtzman**

Lighting design **Michael Chybowski**

**Todd Palmer**, clarinet; **Colin Fowler**, piano

**Chelsea Acree, Sam Black, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Brian Lawson, Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch, Stacy Martorana, Dallas McMurray, Brandon Randolph, Billy Smith, Noah Vinson**

Premiere: April 3, 2013—James and Martha Duffy Performance Space, Mark Morris Dance Center, Brooklyn, New York

### JENN AND SPENCER

Music by **Henry Cowell**—*Suite for Violin and Piano*

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

Costume design **Stephanie Sleeper**

Lighting design **Michael Chybowski**

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

**Sam Black (4/23 & 25), Brandon Randolph (4/26), Jenn Weddel**

Premiere: April 3, 2013—James and Martha Duffy Performance Space, Mark Morris Dance Center, Brooklyn, New York

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—INTERMISSION—

## **SPRING, SPRING, SPRING**

Music by **Igor Stravinsky**—*The Rite of Spring* (1913)

Arranged by The Bad Plus

Costume design **Elizabeth Kurtzman**

Lighting design **Philip Watson**

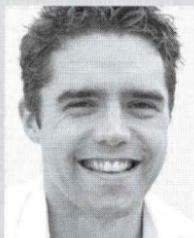
### **The Bad Plus**

**Ethan Iverson**, piano; **Reid Anderson**, bass; **David King**, percussion

**Sam Black**, **Rita Donahue**, **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**

Premiere: June 12, 2013—Hertz Hall, Ojai North! Cal Performances, Berkeley, California

### **MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE**



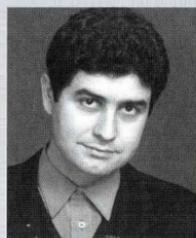
Colin Fowler



Wolfram Koessel

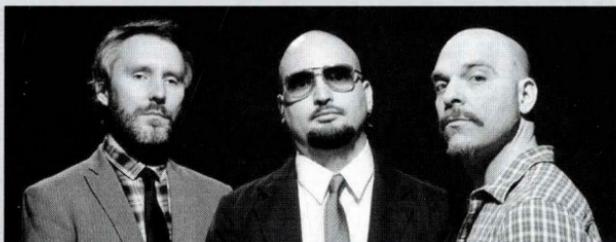


Todd Palmer



Georgy Valtchev

### **THE BAD PLUS**

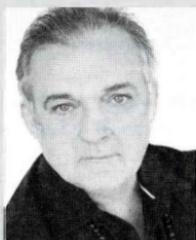


Reid Anderson

Ethan Iverson

David King

# Mark Morris Dance Group



Mark Morris



Matthew Rose



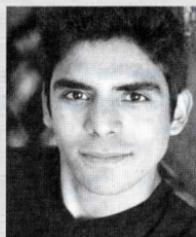
Chelsea Acree



Sam Black



Rita Donahue



Domingo Estrada, Jr.



Lesley Garrison



Lauren Grant



Brian Lawson



Aaron Loux



Laurel Lynch



Stacy Martorana



Dallas McMurray



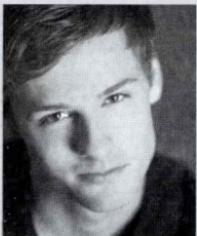
Maile Okamura



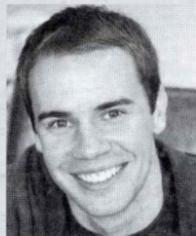
Brandon Randolph



Nicole Sabella



Billy Smith



Noah Vinson



Jenn Weddel



Michelle Yard

**MARK MORRIS** was born on August 29, 1956, in Seattle, WA, 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 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 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 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. 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). On August 8, 2015, Mark Morris will be inducted into the Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Hall of Fame at the National Museum of Dance, Saratoga Springs, NY. Morris opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn 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 US 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 US in 1991 as one of the world's leading dance companies. Based in Brooklyn, MMDG maintains strong ties to presenters in several cities around the world, most notably to 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, Boston, Seattle, and Fairfax. The company made its debut at the Mostly Mozart Festival in 2002 and at Tanglewood Music Festival in 2003 and has since been invited to both festivals frequently. 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 UK's *South Bank Show*, and PBS' *Live From Lincoln Center*. On March 27, 2015, Mark Morris' *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* was featured on PBS' *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.

**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.

**THE BAD PLUS** came together at the end of the 20th century and has avoided easy categorization ever since, garnering critical acclaim and a legion of fans worldwide with their creativity, idiosyncratic personality, and flair for live performance. Based in New York City, the deeply collaborative trio constantly searches for rules to break and boundaries to cross, bridging genres and techniques while exploring infinite possibilities of three exceptional musicians working in perfect sync. The Bad Plus has a well-earned reputation for daring deconstruction, pushing the limits on what is expected of a piano-bass-drums trio. The past 15 years have seen the genre-smashing band creating a distinctive repertoire of inventive and exciting original music, along with iconoclastic covers of artists as divergent as Nirvana and Neil Young, Aphex Twin and Ornette Coleman. In 2013, the acclaimed trio took on one of the most influential works of the 20th century, Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* (Sony Masterworks). Said Jon Pareles in *The New York Times*, "They found it: the heartbeat. This is a true connection, one that makes the piece newly vivid. As with the original, every instant is intense." Few jazz groups in recent memory have amassed such acclaim, and inspired such controversy, as The Bad Plus. For almost 15 years, they have thrived at the intersection of jazz, indie rock, and contemporary classical music, inspiring *Rolling Stone* to call them "about as badass as highbrow gets." The Bad Plus' 10th studio recording, *Inevitable Western*, sees bassist Reid Anderson, pianist Ethan Iverson, and drummer David King further honing the same conceptual base that fired the group's inception. Yet again they continue to explore myriad musical forms born of jazz along with any sonic source that forwards music that is uniquely

The Bad Plus. *Inevitable Western* is an album where pop, blues, and folk meld with classic melodies and rhythmic innovation into that rarest of hybrids: intelligent music for the masses.

**NICK KOLIN** (lighting design) has designed two works for Mark Morris Dance Group—*Whelm* and *Words*—and has worked as touring lighting supervisor. Recent dance projects include new works for Philadanco! and many collaborations with the Joffrey Ballet School, as well lighting supervisor for Wendy Whelan's *Restless Creature*, *DanceBrazil*, the Apollo Theatre's *Get on the Good Foot*, Dance Heginbotham, and NY City Center's Fall for Dance Festival. Other projects include productions with Cincinnati Ballet, Gotham Chamber Opera, SYREN Modern Dance, Asolo Repertory Theater, Castillo Theater, Signature Theatre, McCarter Theater, Primary Stages, and the New Group. Kolin is an adjunct faculty member at Hunter College, where he is the resident lighting designer for the MFA playwriting program. He received an MFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

**ELIZABETH KURTZMAN** (costume design), a Manhattan native, began her career in the fashion industry after attending the Parsons School of Design. She has designed textiles and accessories for numerous New York design houses. She has added costume design and book illustration to her list of vocations, designing numerous pieces for the Mark Morris Dance Group including *Dancing Honeymoon*, *Sang-Froid*, *The Argument*, *Greek to Me*, *Four Saints in Three Acts*, *Empire Garden*, *Visitation*, *The Muir*, *Crosswalk*, and *Petrichor* and for the Gotham Opera Company, under Mark Morris' direction, *L'Isola Disabitata*. Kurtzman is currently active in providing art and music programs for children with autism in New York City, where she lives and works.

**MATTHEW ROSE** (rehearsal director) began his dance training in Midland, MI 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 1993–96, 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, MD, where she began her dance training with Sharon Lerner, 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.

**SAM BLACK** is originally from Berkeley, CA, where he began studying tap at the age of nine with Katie Maltsberger. He received his BFA 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.

**RITA DONAHUE** was born and raised in Fairfax, VA and attended George Mason University. She graduated magna cum laude in 2002, receiving a BA in English and a BFA 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, TX, studied martial arts and earned his black belt in 1994. He danced ballet folklórico through his church for 11 years. Estrada earned his BFA 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'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.

**LESLEY GARRISON** grew up in Swansea, IL, and received her early dance training at the Center of Creative Arts in St. Louis, MO, and Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, MI. She studied at the Rotterdams Dansacademie in the Netherlands and holds a BFA from Purchase College. She first performed with MMDG in 2007 and became a company member in 2011. Garrison teaches at the School at 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 50 of Mark Morris' works. She is on the faculty at the School at Mark Morris Dance Center, leads master classes around the globe, sets Morris' work at universities, and frequently leads classes for the company. Grant has been featured in *Time Out New York*, *Dance Magazine*, the book *Meet the Dancers*, 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, IL and earned a BFA 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.

**WOLFRAM KOESSEL** (cello) has established himself as a much sought after chamber musician, soloist, recording artist, and contractor in the New York music scene. He has performed with MMDG since 1999 and was music director from 2004—08. In 2006, Koessel joined the world renowned American String Quartet, with which he performs in the foremost concert halls throughout the world, collaborating often with today's leading artists. Koessel appears with a wide range of ensembles and groups, most notably and frequently with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. He has supervised and performed music for Warner Brothers, American Express, and many independent film companies, and has organized hundreds of classical orchestra and chamber music concerts in New York City throughout the last decade. He is on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music and the Aspen

Music Festival. He resides with his wife, musician and writer J. Mae Barizo, in Manhattan.

**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.

**AARON LOUX** grew up in Seattle, WA, 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, MD 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 Amy Marshall Dance Company, Neta Dance Company, Helen Simoneau Danse, Kazuko Hirabayashi Dance Theater, Daniel Gwirtzman Dance Company, and Rashaun Mitchell. From 2009—11 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, CA, 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. McMurray performed with Limón Dance Company in addition to works by Jiri 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, CA. 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.

**TODD PALMER** (clarinet) has appeared around the world as soloist, recitalist, chamber music collaborator, educator, arranger, and presenter. A three-time Grammy nominated artist, he was a winner of the Young Concert Artist International Auditions and grand prize winner in the Ima Hogg Young Artist Auditions. He has made solo appearances with the Atlanta, Houston, and BBC Scotland orchestras, and the St. Paul, Cincinnati, Montréal, and Metamorphosen chamber orchestras. His recital performances include Weill Hall and 92nd Street Y in New York; the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC; and Suntory Hall in Tokyo. He has collaborated with some of the world's finest string ensembles, such as the St. Lawrence, Brentano, Borromeo, and Pacifica quartets, as well as renowned sopranos Kathleen Battle, Renée Fleming, Elizabeth Futral, Heidi Grant Murphy, and Dawn Upshaw. Palmer has championed Osvaldo Golijov's klezmer clarinet quintet *The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind*, premiered David Bruce's *Gumboots* at Carnegie Hall with the St. Lawrence Quartet, and commissioned Ricky Ian Gordon's theater work, *Orpheus and Euridice*. He was awarded the Leonard Bernstein Fellowship by the Tanglewood Institute. He appeared in Lincoln Center's revival of South Pacific and was also soloist in Robert Lepage's staging of Stravinsky's *The Nightingale and Other Fables* at BAM, dressed as a Cossack. Palmer has recorded for DG, EMI, Koch, Naxos, and Ghostlight.

**BRANDON RANDOLPH** began his training with the School of Carolina Ballet Theater in Greenville, SC, 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 Stanislavls-saev and Bobby Barnett. Randolph received his BFA in dance from Purchase College in 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 working with MMDG in 2013 and became a company member in 2014.

**NICOLE SABELLA** is originally from Clearwater, FL, 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, PA, earning her BFA 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. Sabella first worked with MMDG in 2013 and began her apprenticeship in December 2014.

**BILLY SMITH** grew up in Fredericksburg, VA, 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, LarLubovitch, 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—10. He joined MMDG as a company member in 2010.

**GEORGY VALTCHEV** (violin) has appeared as soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician throughout the US, Europe, and Asia. Originally from Plovdiv, Bulgaria, he came to the US 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 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, he has appeared at New York's Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, 92nd Street Y, Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, Chicago's Cultural Center, the Royal Carre Theatre in Amsterdam, the Barbican Centre in London, and China's Guangzhou Opera House. 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** 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.

**JENN WEDDEL** received her early training from Boulder Ballet Company near where she grew up in Longmont, CO. 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, Venc 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, NY. 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 Theater. She graduated with a BFA from NYU'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

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Executive Director **Nancy Umanoff**

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Rehearsal Director **Matthew Rose**  
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Sound Supervisor **Rory Murphy**  
Costume Coordinator **Stephanie Sleeper**

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Thanks to Maxine Morris.

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Piano by Steinway.

The Mark Morris Dance Group is a member of Dance/USA and the Downtown Brooklyn Arts Alliance.

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