

MARK MORRIS

DANCE GROUP

AND MUSIC ENSEMBLE



NOVEMBER 20-22 | THE MOORE THEATRE



MARK MORRIS was born 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 close to 150 works for the company. Mark was Director of Dance at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, the national opera house of Belgium. In 1990, he founded

the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Noted for musicality, he has been described as “undeviating in his devotion to music” (*The New Yorker*). He is the subject of a recently released book by Stephanie Jordan, *Mark Morris: Musician – Choreographer*, the first detailed study of Morris’ use of music, revealing an unmatched range of approaches to music and strategies for making us hear musical scores in new ways.



WHELM (SEATTLE PREMIERE)

Music: Claude Debussy –
“Des pas sur la neige,”
“Étude pour les notes répétées,”
“La cathédrale engloutie”

Piano, Four Dancers

“This is a mysterious, ambiguous, compelling composition.” –
The New York Times

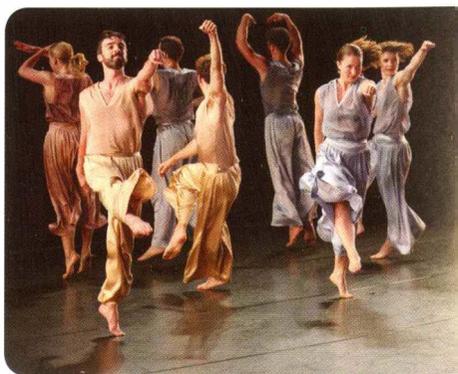
THE (SEATTLE PREMIERE)

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach –
Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 in F Major, BWV 1046 (arranged for piano four-hands by Max Reger)

Two Pianos, 16 Dancers

“Those sweetly jubilant duos - male-female, male-male, female-female - said so much, as dance often does, without a word.”

– *The Boston Globe*



“It’s beautiful, it’s wonderfully strange and - ‘The’ being one of Morris’ friendly frolics - it’s all good.” – *The Boston Globe*

CARGO

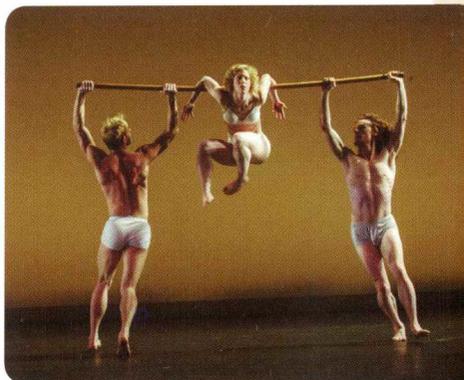
Music: Darius Milhaud –
La création du monde, Op. 58

Piano, Two Violins, Viola, Cello,
Nine Dancers

“The finely honed ensemble captures all the wit and energy of the piece, and the audience gave it an enthusiastic welcome. Clearly, Morris has another winner on his hands.” – *Ballet-Dance Magazine*

“Cargo can be read as a cautionary tale or a creation myth. Either way, it’s a fascinating bit of dancing.” – *Seattle Times*

“The kind of mystery that draws you in...” – *New York Sun*



A WOODEN TREE

Music and Words: Ivor Cutler
Recorded Music, Eight Dancers

“The numbers, in which [Cutler] both speaks and sings, are slight, whimsical and quaint but variously touched by satire, absurdism and pathos. Mr. Morris brings out their sweetness.” – *New York Times*

“[An] idiosyncratic masterpiece. [Morris’] choreography finds its own magical way of replicating Cutler’s style; an almost childlike dance vocabulary into which Morris embroiders gestures that veer between literal mime and a whimsical commentary of their own.” – *The Guardian*

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MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP



Founded in New York City in 1980 by artistic director and choreographer Mark Morris, the **Mark Morris Dance Group** (MMDG) has been called “the preeminent modern dance organization of our time” (Yo-Yo Ma), its members receiving “highest praise for their technical aplomb, their musicality, and their sheer human authenticity.” (*Bloomberg News*). Live music and community engagement are vital components of the Dance Group, which has toured with its own musicians, the MMDG Music Ensemble, since 1996.

The **MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE** 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.



SEATTLE THEATRE GROUP

A NON-PROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATION

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