



STALLER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

STONY BROOK
UNIVERSITY

Saturday, November 16, 2013 at 8:00 p.m., Main Stage

STALLER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

presents

Mark Morris Dance Group

CHELSEA LYNN ACREE SAM BLACK RITA DONAHUE
BENJAMIN FREEDMAN* LESLEY GARRISON LAUREN GRANT
BRIAN LAWSON AARON LOUX LAUREL LYNCH
STACY MARTORANA DALLAS McMURRAY MAILE OKAMURA
SPENCER RAMIREZ BRANDON RANDOLPH* BILLY SMITH
NOAH VINSON JENN WEDDEL MICHELLE YARD
*apprentice

MMDG Music Ensemble

COLIN FOWLER TODD PALMER GEORGY VALTCHEV

Artistic Director
MARK MORRIS

Executive Director
NANCY UMANOFF

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

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by American Express, Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Booth Ferris Foundation, William Randolph Hearst Foundation, 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 Shubert Foundation, and Jane Stine and R.L. Stine.

The Mark Morris Dance Group is supported in part by Friends of MMDG and public funds from New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, and National Endowment for the Arts.

Please turn off cell phones.
Photography and recording of any kind are strictly prohibited.

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

PROGRAM

Excursions

Music: Samuel Barber – *Excursions for the Piano (Op. 20, IV, III, II, I)*

Costume Design: Katherine M. Patterson

Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

Colin Fowler, *piano*

Rita Donahue, Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, Billy Smith, Noah Vinson, Michelle Yard

Premiere: June 26, 2008 – Seiji Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood Music Center, Lenox, Massachusetts

Commissioned in part by the Tanglewood Music Center of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

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

Crosswalk

Music: 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 Lynn Acree, Sam Black, Benjamin Freedman, Brian Lawson, Aaron Loux,

Laurel Lynch, Stacy Martorana, Dallas McMurray, Spencer Ramirez,

Billy Smith, Noah Vinson

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

Mark Morris Dance Center, Brooklyn, New York

-INTERMISSION-

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 Chybowski

Sam Black, Rita Donahue, Lesley Garrison, Aaron Loux, Dallas McMurray,

Maile Okamura, Jenn Weddel, Michelle Yard

Premiere: October 4, 2012 – Merrill Right Mainstage Theater,

On the Boards, Seattle, Washington

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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, Lesley Garrison, Lauren Grant, Brian Lawson, Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch, Maile Okamura, Spencer Ramirez, Brandon Randolph, Billy Smith, Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel, Michelle Yard

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



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 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.

Morris has choreographed eighteen ballets since 1986 and his work has been performed by companies worldwide, including San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theater, Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, and the Royal New Zealand Ballet. He has been described as “undeviating in his devotion to music” (*The New Yorker*). He began conducting performances for MMDG in 2006 and has 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.

Morris 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 served as an Advisory Board Member for the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative. 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 Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts (2013). 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 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 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 in 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' *Live From Lincoln Center*. 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.

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 present more than 1200 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 Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Trinity Choir, and Yale Choral Artists. Under the artistic direction of Mark Morris, 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 MMDG Music Ensemble has performed with the Dance Group at the Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center, Sadler's Wells in London, the Sydney Festival in Australia, and accompanied MMDG on its

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first tour of China in 2012. It made its Ojai Music Festival debut in June 2013. At home in Brooklyn, members of the Ensemble participate in the Mark Morris Dance, Music & Literacy Project, a residency program in the New York City public school system, which uses Morris' masterwork *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* to introduce school children to the performing and visual arts.



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.



Chelsea Lynn 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 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 Purchase College and also studied

at the Rotterdamse 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 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.



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.



Benjamin Freedman, from Tampa, Florida, began his dance training at Interlochen Arts Academy and North Carolina School of the Arts, where he performed in works by Martha Graham,

Jerome Robbins, and Jiří Kylián. At the University of South Florida, he had the opportunity to participate in the reconstruction of Bill T. Jones' *Serenade: the Proposition*. Freedman went on to study at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where he graduated with a B.F.A. in dance and an intensive minor in psychology. At Tisch, he performed in Mark Morris' *Pacific* and also choreographed multiple works for the student company. He has worked with Korhan Basaran, Chihiro Shimizu, 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 Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, Michigan.

She studied at the Rotterdams 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 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 2009-2011 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 of the same year.



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 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 Casel, and John Heginbotham, with whom she frequently collaborates as dancer and costume designer.

Todd Palmer *clarinet* has appeared as soloist, recitalist, chamber music collaborator, educator, arranger, and presenter in a variety of musical endeavors around the world. A three time Grammy nominated artist; solo appearances with the Atlanta, Houston, BBC Scotland orchestras; St. Paul, Cincinnati, Montréal, and Metamorphosen chamber orchestras. He has collaborated with some of the world's finest string ensembles such as the St. Lawrence, Brentano, Borrromeo and Pacifica quartets; sopranos Kathleen Battle, Renée Fleming, Elizabeth Futral, Heidi Grant Murphy and Dawn Upshaw; and many other notable instrumentalists. He has championed Osvaldo Golijov's klezmer clarinet quintet *Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind*; commissioned Ricky Gordon's theatre work, *Orpheus and Euridice*, presented by Great Performers at Lincoln Center; and also premiered David Bruce's *Gumboots* at Carnegie Hall. A winner of the Young Concert Artist International Auditions and grand prize winner in the Ima Hogg Young Artist Auditions, Palmer has

participated in numerous music festivals including the Spoleto Festival USA, the Marlboro Festival, and the Tanglewood Institute, where he was awarded the Leonard Bernstein Fellowship. 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.



Spencer Ramirez began his training in Springfield, Virginia, studying under Melissa Dobbs, Nancy Gross, Kellie Payne, and Marilyn York. He then continued training at the Maryland Youth Ballet

with faculty 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 Jose 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 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 as well as repertory by Stephen Petronio, Lar

Lubovitch, Paul Taylor, and George Balanchine. Randolph began his apprenticeship with MMDG in January 2013.

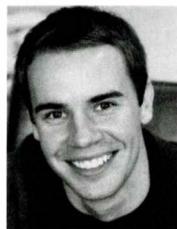


Billy Smith grew up in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and attended George Mason University under a full academic and dance talent scholarship. He graduated magna cum laude in 2007 and

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 Curry in *Oklahoma!*. Smith danced with Parsons Dance from 2007-2010. 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 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 Georgy Valtchev has appeared in 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 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 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

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2001, Weddel has created and performed with RedWall Dance Theater, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, Vencil Dance Trio, Rocha Dance Theater, TEA Dance Company and with various choreographers including Alan Danielson and Ella Ben-Aharon. Weddel joined 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 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 B.F.A. 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.

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Physical Therapist Marshall Hagins, PT, Ph.D.

Hilot Therapist Jeffrey Cohen

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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