

February 19, 2014

Flynn Center for the Performing Arts  
*presents*

# MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

CHELSEA LYNN ACREE SAM BLACK RITA DONAHUE DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR.  
BENJAMIN FREEDMAN\* 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

*\*apprentice*

## MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE

COLIN FOWLER TODD PALMER

*Artistic Director*

MARK MORRIS

*Executive Director*

NANCY UMANOFF

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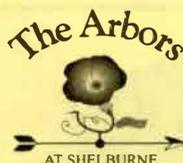
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The Mark Morris Dance Group is supported in part by Friends of MMDG and public funds from New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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# PROGRAM

## ***Italian Concerto***

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach – *Italian Concerto in F major, BWV 971*

Lighting Design: Paul Palazzo

- I. Allegro
- II. Andante
- III. Presto

Colin Fowler, piano

Sam Black, Rita Donahue, Lauren Grant, Aaron Loux, Dallas McMurray

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

## ***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 Wright Mainstage Theater, On the Boards, Seattle, Washington

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## **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.

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## **Crosswalk**

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

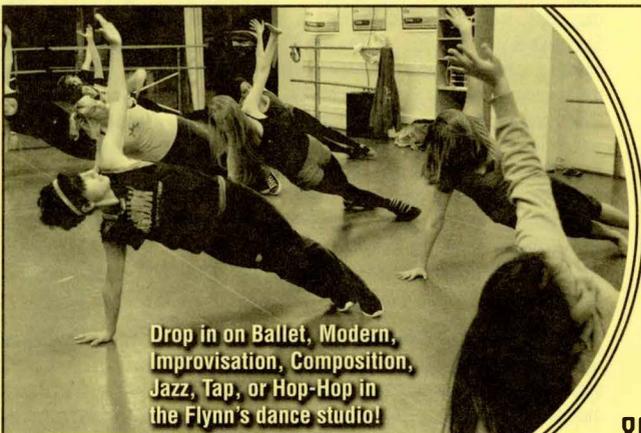
Costume Design: Elizabeth Kurtzman

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

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

Chelsea Lynn Acree, Sam Black, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Benjamin Freedman, Brian Lawson, Aaron Loux,  
Laurel Lynch, Stacy Martorana, Dallas McMurray, Billy Smith, Noah Vinson

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



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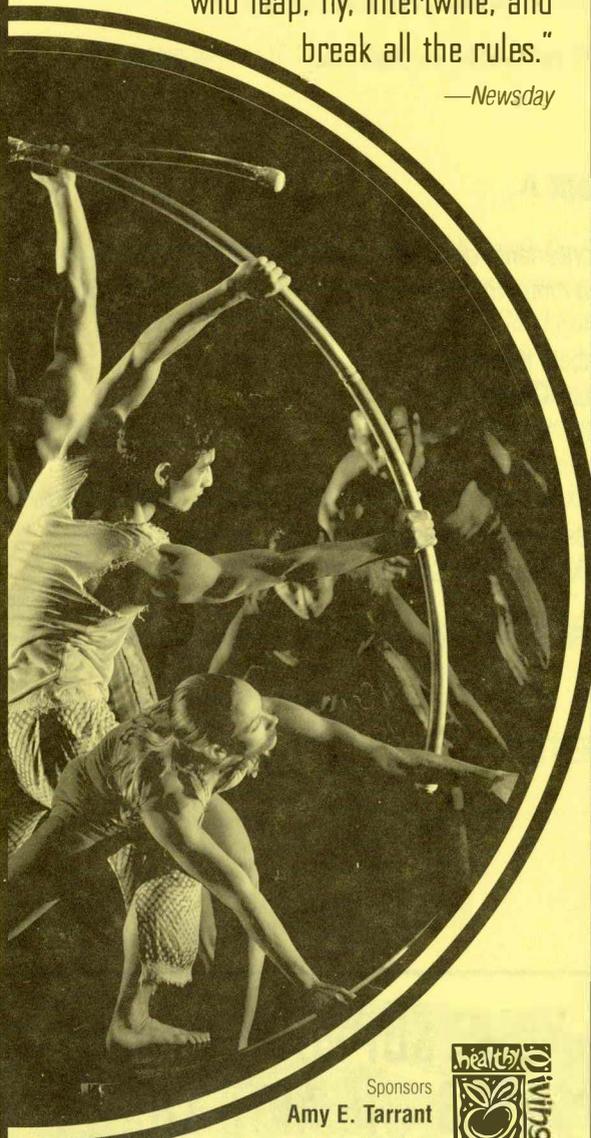
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## ABOUT THE COMPANY

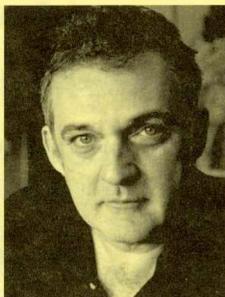


Photo: Amber Star Merikens

**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 Kaleda 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 the Royal New Zealand Ballet. Noted for 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 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 11 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), and Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts (2013). He opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn, NY, 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 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 Adrianne 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 and White Light Festivals at Lincoln Center, Sadler's Wells in London, the Sydney Festival in Australia, and accompanied MMDG on its 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 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 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 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 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 from Berkeley, California, where he began studying tap at the age of nine with Katie Maltzberger. He received his BFA 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 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, Texas, 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.



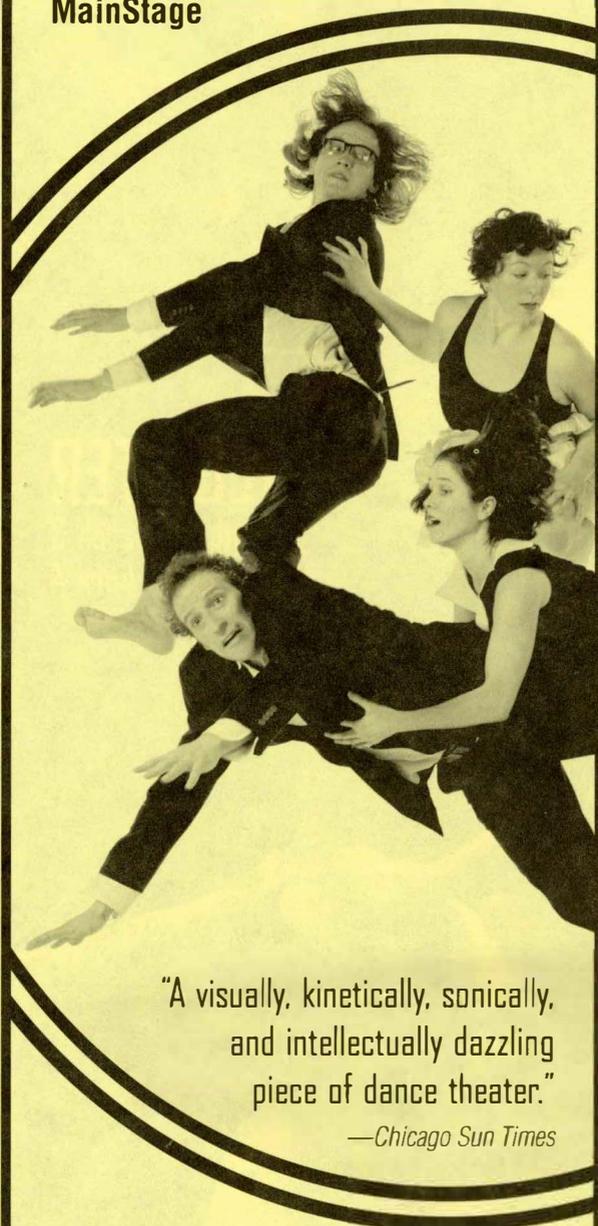
**COLIN FOWLER** (music director, piano) is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy and holds BFA and MFA degrees from The Juilliard School. He has performed and recorded throughout the world with numerous soloists and ensembles including Deborah Voigt, the American Brass Quintet, James Galway, and 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.

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## ABOUT THE COMPANY



**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 BFA in dance and an intensive minor in psychology. At Tisch, he performed in Mark Morris' *Pacific* and 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 BFA 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 US 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 BFA 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 where he worked with choreographers David Earle, Carol Anderson, and Michael Trent. Lawson spent a year studying at the Rotterdams Dansacademie in The Netherlands and graduated *summa cum laude* in 2010 from Purchase College where he was 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, 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 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 Týnec 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 BFA in contemporary dance. She has danced with the Amy Marshall Dance Company, the Neta Dance Company, Helen Simoneau Danse, Kazuko Hirabayashi Dance Theater, Daniel Gwartzman 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 Maltzberger and ballet with Yukiko Sakakura. He received a BFA 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 Heglinbotham, 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. He is a three-time Grammy nominated artist whose solo appearances include the Atlanta, Houston, BBC Scotland orchestras and the 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, Borromeo, 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.



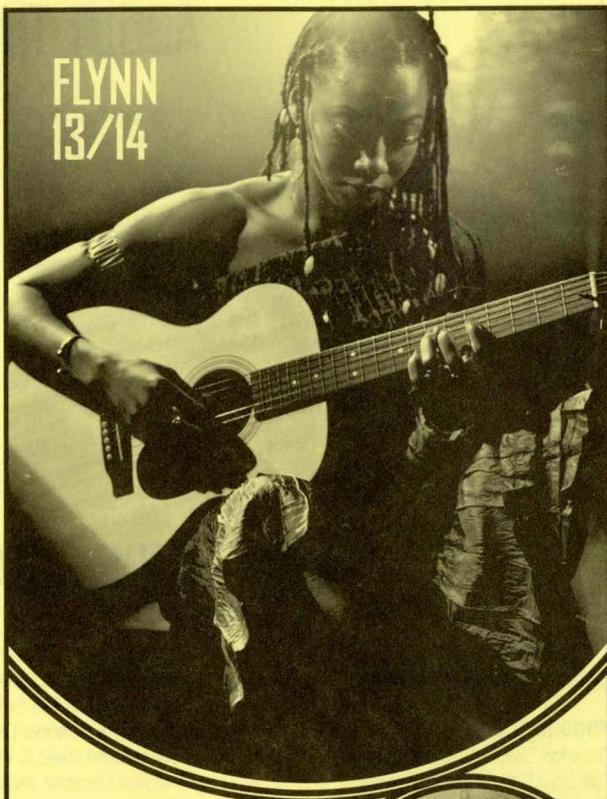
**BRANDON RANDOLPH** began his training with the School of Carolina Ballet Theater in Greenville, South Carolina under the direction of Hernan Justo. At age 14, he was accepted into the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities where he studied with Stanislav Issaev and Bobby Barnett. Randolph received his BFA 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, his regional theater credits include *Gypsy* (Tulsa), *CATS* (Mistoffelees), and *Oklahoma!* (Dream Curly). Smith danced with Parsons Dance from 2007 to 2010; he became a company member of MMDG in 2010.



**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.



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Esperanza Spalding /  
Leo Genovese**

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**Patti LuPone:  
"Coulda, Woulda, Shoulda"**

**Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia:  
"Swimmy," "Frederick," and "Inch by Inch"**

**St. Patrick's Day Celebration: Danú**

**Keb' Mo'**

**Broadway National Tour:  
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# ABOUT THE COMPANY



**JENN WEDDEL** received her early training from Boulder Ballet Company near where she grew up in Longmont, Colorado. 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, Venci 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 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 and 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 Sean Nicholl  
Sound Supervisor Ken Hypes  
Costume Coordinator Stephanie Sleeper  
Wardrobe Supervisor Elizabeth Sargent

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Finance Assistant Jamie Posnak  
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Company Manager Sarah Horne  
Executive Assistant Jenna Nugent  
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Physical Therapist Marshall Hagins, PT, PhD  
Hilot Therapist Jeffrey Cohen

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Thanks to Maxine Morris.

Sincerest thanks to all the dancers for their dedication, commitment, and incalculable contribution to the work.

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For more information contact:

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