LIVERPOOL PRESENTS

SGT PEPPER AT 50

# MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

PRESENTS

# PEPPERLAND

WORLD PREMIERE

25 – 27 MAY 2017
LIVERPOOL'S ROYAL COURT

Brought to you by

Mayor of Liverpool

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Culture Liverpool

it's liverpool

67-17 50 SUMMERS OF LOVE

ARRIVA

Merseyrail

MERSEY FERRIES

LIVERPOOL PRESENTS

# SGT PEPPER AT 50

Sgt Pepper at 50 (25 May – 16 June 2017) is Liverpool's extraordinary response to the most influential album ever made, on the 50th anniversary of its release, with performances, installations, live spectacle and moments of surprise across the city. The programme features 13 major commissions by international artists working in partnership with Liverpool's world-class arts organisations, responding to the 13 legendary tracks on The Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.*

www.SgtPepperat50.com for full programme details.

Sgt Pepper at 50 programme was commissioned and produced by the City of Liverpool
Director of Culture Claire McColgan MBE
Curators Seán Doran and Liam Browne (DoranBrowne)
Creative Producers Alicia Smith, Robin Kemp, Bev Ayre

# MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP AND MUSIC ENSEMBLE

## DANCERS

MICA BERNAS* SAM BLACK DURELL R. COMEDY RITA DONAHUE
DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR. LESLEY GARRISON LAUREN GRANT
SARAH HAARMANN* BRIAN LAWSON AARON LOUX LAUREL LYNCH
DALLAS McMURRAY BRANDON RANDOLPH NICOLE SABELLA
BILLY SMITH NOAH VINSON

*apprentice

## MUSICIANS

CLINTON CURTIS COLIN FOWLER JACOB GARCHIK ETHAN IVERSON
SAM NEWSOME ROB SCHWIMMER VINCENT SPERRAZZA

*Artistic Director*
MARK MORRIS

*Executive Director*
NANCY UMANOFF

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by American Express, Anonymous, Berger Blinder Belle Architects & Planner, LLP.,Morley and Frederick Bland, Booth Ferris Foundation, Allan and Rhea Bufferd, Suzy Kellems Dominik, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, Judith R. and Alan H. Fishman, Shelby and Frederick Gans Fund, Isaac Mizrahi & Arnold Germer, the Howard Gilman Foundation, Sandy Hill, Ellsworth Kelly Foundation, Elizabeth Liebman, The Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation, Suzanne Berman and Timothy J. McClimon, McDermott, Will & Emery, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Meyer Sound/Helen and John Meyer, New England Foundation for the Arts, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Ellen and Arnold Offner, Sarabeth Berman and Evan Osnos, PARC Foundation, Poss Family Foundation, Resnicow & Associates, Diane Solway and David Resnicow, Margaret Conklin and David Sabel, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Iris Cohen and Mark Selinger, The SHS Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Jane Stine and R.L. Stine, The White Cedar Fund, and Friends of MMDG.

**This engagement is supported by Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation through USArtists International in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Howard Gilman Foundation.**

MID ATLANTIC ARTS FOUNDATION

# PEPPERLAND

**Music:** Original songs by The Beatles, arr. by Ethan Iverson*
Original compositions by Ethan Iverson†

**Choreography:** Mark Morris
**Set Design:** Johan Henckens
**Costume Design:** Elizabeth Kurtzman
**Lighting Design:** Nick Kolin
**Assistant to Mr. Morris:** Aaron Loux

Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*
Magna Carta†
With a Little Help from My Friends*
Adagio†
When I'm Sixty-Four*
Allegro†
Within You Without You*
Scherzo†
Wilbur Scoville†
Cadenza†
Penny Lane*
A Day in the Life*
Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*

CLINTON CURTIS, vocals; SAM NEWSOME, soprano sax;
JACOB GARCHIK, trombone; ROB SCHWIMMER, theremin;
VINCENT SPERRAZZA, percussion; ETHAN IVERSON, piano;
COLIN FOWLER, organ/harpsichord

MICA BERNAS, SAM BLACK, DURELL R. COMEDY, RITA DONAHUE,
DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR., LESLEY GARRISON, LAUREN GRANT,
SARAH HAARMANN, BRIAN LAWSON, LAUREL LYNCH,
DALLAS MCMURRAY, BRANDON RANDOLPH,
NICOLE SABELLA, BILLY SMITH, NOAH VINSON

Music commissioned by the Charles and Joan Gross Family Foundation.
Original music by The Beatles. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission from Sony ATV Music Publishing.

This evening's program is approximately one hour and will be performed without an interval.

**PEPPERLAND is a Mark Morris Dance Group production in association with The City of Liverpool, England, U.K.; American Dance Festival, Durham, North Carolina; BAM, Brooklyn, New York; Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity with the Sony Centre, Toronto, Canada; Cal Performances, UC Berkeley, California; Hopkins Center for the Arts, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire; International Festival of Arts & Ideas, New Haven, Connecticut; The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.; Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; La Jolla Music Society, La Jolla, California; Meyer Sound, Berkeley, California; Seattle Theatre Group, Seattle, Washington; USCB Arts & Lectures, Santa Barbara, California; and White Bird, Portland, Oregon.**

# Investing in Dance:
## The Support That Makes *Pepperland* Possible

**By Ryan Wenzel**

It takes a long time to bring a work like Mark Morris' *Pepperland* to the stage. The steps are many: composing and arranging the music, choreographing the movement, rehearsing the dancers and musicians, designing the decor, lighting, and sound. Seldom mentioned is the funding required to set it all in motion.

Dance companies often rely on support from foundations and individual donors to fund new works, and only after the premiere convince presenters to schedule performances. The Mark Morris Dance Group, however, has developed a model that is unusual in the dance world, whereby multiple arts institutions join together to commission a piece—often years before it will reach their stages.

This approach began with *Mozart Dances* (2006), a three-way commission, and grew over time with *Romeo and Juliet* (2008), *Acis and Galatea* (2014), and *Layla and Majnun* (2016). It reaches unprecedented scale with *Pepperland,* which received advance funding from no fewer than thirteen institutions. Seven are longtime commissioners of Morris' work, and six are newcomers. They span the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom; are based in towns, cities, and on university campuses; and include both non-profit and for-profit entities.

"The support provided by these institutions sustains us, and it shows their unique understanding of the underlying costs involved with creating dance works of this scale," says Nancy Umanoff, executive director of the Mark Morris Dance Group.

This funding model serves the commissioning partners well, too, and is based largely on Morris' importance and the trust they have in his work.

"Like all arts organizations, we need to be careful about how we marshal our resources. But the excellence that Mark represents is at the heart of what we do, so we support it wholeheartedly," says Matias Tarnopolsky, director of Cal

Performances at the University of California, Berkeley, which has worked with Morris and his dancers for three decades.

Mike Ross, director of the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, echoes Tarnopolsky and adds that the Dance Group's offstage outreach has also been crucial in furthering their close-knit relationship. "In addition to annual performances, they have brought workshops and other activities to our campus, and to the local population at large," says Ross. "Because they have become part of our community, it is easy for us to support them and their work on this level."

A separate community—one with a reputation for supporting superior new work—has coalesced around the commissioning organizations themselves, enticing others to join. Pepperland marks the Banff Centre's first commission of a Morris work, yet there are no plans for the piece to be performed on its stages in Alberta, Canada; it will instead, by arrangement with the Banff Centre, play at the Sony Centre in Toronto, more than 2,000 miles away. "We wanted to support Mark and his company, of course, but also for audiences to know that we support work of this caliber alongside other great organizations," says Janice Price, the Banff Centre's president. "It is incredibly rewarding to be seen as part of the ecosystem that makes this happen."

And if history is any indication, that ecosystem will only continue to strengthen and grow.

---

Ryan Wenzel is a New York-based writer and editor.

Mark Morris and Ethan Iverson - Photo by Beowulf Sheehan

## ABOUT 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 twenty 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 Tanglewood Music Center, 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 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 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, the Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society, the Benjamin Franklin Laureate Prize for Creativity, the International Society for the Performing Arts' Distinguished Artist Award, Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts, the Orchestra of St. Luke's Gift of Music Award, and the 2016 Doris Duke Artist Award. In 2015, Mark Morris was inducted into the Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Hall of Fame at the National Museum of Dance in Saratoga Springs, New York. 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 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. In New York, the company has performed at New York City Center's Fall for Dance Festival, regularly performs at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts' Mostly Mozart and White Light Festivals, and collaborates yearly with BAM on performances and master classes. 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.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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*. In 2015 Morris' signature work *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* had its national television premiere 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.

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 and 18th 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 tour. The Music Ensemble is led by Colin Fowler.

**MICA BERNAS,** originally from Manila, Philippines, received her training at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Dance School. She later joined Ballet Philippines as member of the corps de ballet, performing as a soloist from 2001-2006. Since moving to New York in 2006, Bernas has worked with Marta Renzi Dance, Armitage Gone Dance, Gallim Dance, Barkin/Selissen Project, and Carolyn Dorfman Dance (2007-2013). She was a guest artist with the Limón Dance Company, performing at the 2013 Bienal Internacional de Danza de Cali in Bogotá, Colombia; Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater; and at The Joyce Theater for the company's 70th Anniversary in 2015. Bernas also teaches at the Limón Institute and has been on the faculty for BIMA at Brandeis University since 2011. She joined MMDG as an apprentice January 2017.

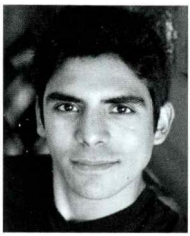
**SAM BLACK** is originally from Berkeley, California, where he began studying tap at the age of nine with Katie Maltsberger. He received his B.F.A. in dance from SUNY Purchase, and currently teaches MMDG master classes and Dance for PD®. He first appeared with MMDG in 2005 and became a company member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

**DURELL R. COMEDY**, a native of Prince Georges County, Maryland, began dancing at the age of 6 with Spirit Wings Dance Company. He graduated from the Visual & Performing Arts program of Suitland High School in 2004 and magna cum laude from George Mason University, receiving his B.F.A. in dance performance in 2008. Since then, he's worked and performed with The Metropolitan Opera, Troy Powell, and Kyle Abraham, among others. Comedy was a member of the Limón Dance Company from 2009-2015, performing principal and soloist roles. He's also appeared as a soloist dancer in Baltimore Opera Company's *Aida* and worked with Washington National Opera from 2013-2014 as a principal dancer and dance captain. He was a former fellowship student at the Ailey School and a 2014 adjunct faculty member at George Mason University's School of Dance. Comedy joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2015 and became a company member in 2016.

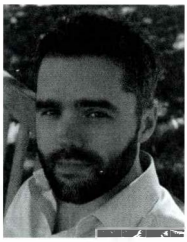
**CLINTON CURTIS** (baritone) is a multi-genre singer, musician, and songwriter originally from Key West, Florida. As a choral singer he has worked with many of the world's luminary conductors and orchestras, most recently including engagements with the New York Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, and San Francisco Symphony. March 2016 marked his operatic debut in *Curlew River* for the Mark Morris Dance Group. As a popular songwriter and frontman for The Clinton Curtis Band he has toured internationally as a cultural ambassador with the U.S Department of State. He has released five original studio albums available at music.clintoncurtis.com.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**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 kraigpatterson 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 folklorico 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, organ/harpsichord) began his musical study at the age of 5 in Kansas City and went on to study at the prestigious Interlochen Arts Academy. He continued his education at The Juilliard School, where he received his Bachelor of Music in 2003 and his Master of Music in 2005. While at Juilliard, he studied piano with Abbey Simon, organ with Gerre Hancock and Paul Jacobs, harpsichord with Lionel Party, and conducting with James dePriest and Judith Clurman. A versatile musician and conductor, Fowler works in many areas of the music scene in New York City. He is a veteran of numerous Broadway shows, most recently performing in the Tony Award winning musical *Jersey Boys*. A seasoned church musician, Fowler is currently the organist at Marble Collegiate Church on Fifth Avenue and also leads services and concerts at Park Avenue Synagogue, where he has served as Music Director since 2012. As a classical soloist and collaborative artist, he has performed and recorded with many world-renowned musicians and ensembles, including Deborah Voigt and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He began to collaborate with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2005 and has since then performed over 40 pieces with the company on almost every keyboard instrument possible, including the harmonium and toy piano, and has conducted performances of *Mozart Dances*, *Acis and Galatea*, and *The Hard Nut*. Hailed by the *New York Times* as 'invaluable' and 'central to Morris' music', he was appointed music director in 2013.

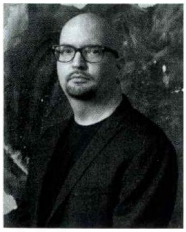
**JACOB GARCHIK** (trombone), is a multi-instrumentalist and composer. Since moving to New York in 1994 he has been a vital part of the Downtown and Brooklyn scene, playing trombone with the Lee Konitz Nonet, Ohad Talmor/Steve Swallow Sextet, Mary Halvorson Octet, and the John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble. He has released 4 albums as a leader including *The Heavens: The Atheist Gospel Trombone Album*. He co-leads Brooklyn's premiere Mexican brass band, Banda de los Muertos. Since 2006 Garchik has contributed dozens of arrangements and transcriptions for Kronos Quartet of music from all over the world. His arrangements were featured on *Floodplain*, *Rainbow*, and *A Thousand Thoughts*. He composed the score for Kronos for the documentaries *The Campaign* and *Green Fog* directed by Guy Maddin. He has created arrangements for vocalists Anne Sofie von Otter, Angelique Kidjo, Laurie Anderson, Rhiannon Giddens, kd lang, Natalie Merchant, Tanya Tagaq, and Alim Qasimov. As a trombonist Garchik has worked with many luminaries of the avant-garde, including Henry Threadgill, Laurie Anderson, Anthony Braxton, Anthony Coleman, Joe Maneri, Frank London, James Tenney, Terry Reilly, and George Lewis. He has also played in ensembles led by emerging artists Mary Halvorson, Darcy James Argue, Dan Weiss, Miguel Zenon, and Steve Lehman, and has been named a "Rising Star" in the *Downbeat Jazz* Critic's Poll.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**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. 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 MMDG's Dance for PD® program.

**LAUREN GRANT** has danced with the Mark Morris Dance Group since 1996, appearing in 60 of Morris' works. She teaches technique around the globe, including classes for the company and The School at The Mark Morris Dance Center, sets Morris' work at universities, and is currently Morris' rehearsal assistant on his next creation *Numerator*. Grant received a 2015 New York Dance and Performance Award ("Bessie") for her sustained achievement in performance with Mark Morris and in recognition of her "invigorating spontaneity, expansive phrasing, and robust musicality." Grant has been featured in *Time Out New York, Dance Magazine*, the book *Meet the Dancers*, appeared in PBS's *Great Performances*, *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 is currently pursuing her M.F.A. at Montclair State University where she is also an adjunct professor. She and her husband David Leventhal (former MMDG dancer and current Dance for PD® Program Director) are parents of a son born in 2012.

**SARAH HAARMANN** grew up in Macungie, Pennsylvania and received training at the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts under the direction of Kimberly Maniscalco. She graduated magna cum laude with a B.F.A in dance from Marymount Manhattan College in 2012. Haarmann has had the pleasure of performing with Pam Tanowitz Dance, Jessica Lang Dance, Dylan Crossman Dans(ce), Pat Catterson, Denisa Musilova, and Bill Young. She joined MMDG as an apprentice in January 2017.



**ETHAN IVERSON** (composer, arranger, piano) is one-third of The Bad Plus, a game-changing collective with Reid Anderson and David King. *The New York Times* called TBP "...Better than anyone at melding the sensibilities of post-60's jazz and indie rock." TBP has performed in venues as diverse as the Village Vanguard, Carnegie Hall, and Bonnaroo; collaborated with Joshua Redman, Bill Frisell, and the Mark Morris Dance Group; and created a faithful arrangement of Stravinky's The Rite of Spring and a radical reinvention of Ornette Coleman's Science Fiction. In addition to TBP, Iverson participates in the critically-acclaimed Billy Hart quartet with Mark Turner and Ben Street and occasionally performs with an elder statesman like Albert "Tootie" Heath or Ron Carter. For a decade Iverson's blog "Do the Math" has been a repository of musician-to-musician interviews and analysis, which is surely one reason *Time Out New York* selected Iverson as one of 25 essential New York jazz icons: "Perhaps NYC's most thoughtful and passionate student of jazz tradition—the most admirable sort of artist-scholar." In 2017 Iverson is co-curating a major centennial celebration of Thelonious Monk at Duke University and in 2018 will be premiering an original piano concerto with the American Composers Orchestra. Several years ago Iverson was the Mark Morris Dance Group's musical director and is thrilled to be back in the pit for MMDG again!

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**NICK KOLIN** (lighting design) has designed *Whelm*, *Words*, and *A Forest* for MMDG, in addition to *Pepperland*, and is MMDG's light supervisor on tour. Recent dance projects include new works for Philadanco!, *Art of Fugue* with Syren Modern Dance, many collaborations with the Joffrey Ballet School, and lighting supervisor for Daniil Simkin's *Intensio*, Wendy Whelan's *Restless Creature*, the Apollo Theatre's *Get on the Good Foot*, Dance Heginbotham, Lincoln Center Festival, and NY City Center's Fall for Dance Festival. Other projects include productions with the Cincinnati Ballet, Gotham Chamber Opera, Asolo Repertory Theater, Castillo Theater, and Signature Theatre. Kolin is an adjunct faculty member at Hunter College, where he is the resident lighting designer for the M.F.A. playwriting program. He holds an M.F.A. from New York University 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*, *Petrichor* and *Pure Dance Items*, 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.

**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.

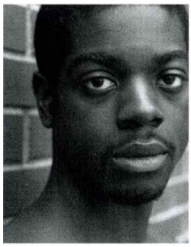
**AARON LOUX** grew up in Seattle, Washington and began dancing at the Creative Dance Center as a member of Kaleidoscope, a youth modern dance company. He began his classical training at the Cornish College Preparatory Dance Program and received his B.F.A. from The Juilliard School in 2009. He danced 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.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**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.

**SAM NEWSOME** (saxophone) works primarily in the medium of solo saxophone, an approach through which he gained world-wide critical acclaim with the release of his 2009 recording *Blue Soliloquy: Solo Works for Soprano Saxophone*, which received a five star review in *Downbeat* magazine. Newsome sees himself more along the lines of a visual artist who paints with notes and sounds rather than shapes and colors. "My music, " says Newsome, "is a type of improvisatory art music in which jazz functions more as a resource than a musical genre to be interpreted with stylistic specificity. " Even though Newsome's approach is unorthodox, it has proven to be very fruitful—musically and critically. Newsome's creative efforts have earned him such recognition as receiving the 2016 NYFA Artist's Fellowship for the Music/ Sound category; being selected as a nominee for for Soprano Saxophonist of the Year by the 2016 Jazz Journalist Association (JJA); and placing #4 in the Soprano Saxophone category in the 64th Annual Downbeat Critics Poll.



**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 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.

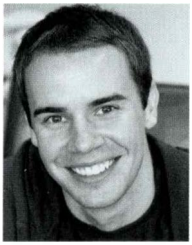
**NICOLE SABELLA** is originally from Clearwater, Florida, where she studied at the Academy of Ballet Arts and the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School under Suzanne B. Pomerantzeff. In 2009, She graduated from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA, earning her B.F.A. in 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. Sabella first performed with MMDG in 2013 and became a company member in 2015.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**ROB SCHWIMMER** (theremin) is a composer-pianist/keyboardist, thereminist, and Haken Continuumist. He has worked with Simon and Garfunkel, Wayne Shorter, Antônio Carlos Jobim, Bobby McFerrin, Willie Nelson, Paul Simon, Gotye, The Boston Pops, Chaka Khan, Laurie Anderson, Arif Mardin, Stevie Wonder, Adam Guettel, Paul Bley, T-Bone Walker, Sam Rivers, Christian Marclay, Matthew Barney, Ang Lee, Maria Schneider, The Klezmatics, Bernie Worrell, Annette Peacock, Gwyneth Paltrow, Mabou Mines, Geoffrey Holder, John Cale, Steve Buscemi, Iva Bittova, Theo Bleckmann, John Stubblefield, The Roches, Jack Quartet, Teo Macero, Hal Willner, Vernon Reid, The Everly Brothers, Kurt Vonnegut, Odetta, Joseph Jarman, Alwin Nikolai/ Murray Louis Dance Company, Marc Ribot, Frank London and Sammy Davis Jr. As a world class thereminist, Rob has been featured on CBS Sunday Morning, The New York Times, and the Wall Street Journal. A founding member and co-director of The NY Theremin Society, his credits as theremin soloist include The Boston Pops, The Orchestra of St. Luke's (which included Rob's theremin arrangement of Bernard Herrmann's "Scene d'Amour" from *Vertigo*,) Bobby McFerrin at Carnegie Hall, Gotye's Ondioline Orchestra and Simon & Garfunkel's world tours. In addition to his CD Theremin Noir (with Uri Caine and Mark Feldman,) Rob played on Trey Anastasio's CD *Traveler,* Matthew Barney's epic movie *Cremaster 3* and A&E's *Breakfast with the Arts.*

**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 2007-2010. He joined MMDG as a company member in 2010.

**VINNIE SPERRAZZA** (percussion) is a Brooklyn-based jazz drummer. His first album as a bandleader and composer, Apocryphal, was released by Loyal Label in 2014. Originally from a small town south of Utica, New York, Vin moved to NYC right after college, and he's lived in Brooklyn almost long enough to say he's from Brooklyn. He's performed with many amazing musicians, but feels self-conscious about dropping names, so he's not going to do it, save mentioning the late, great pianist Mr. James Williams, with whom Vin played many memorable concerts. He plays in several bands, spent a recent summer at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival as an actor (he played a drummer- not much of a stretch), is on some cool records that have just come out (Dana Lyn/Vincent D'Onofrio Slim Bone Head Volt, Sperrazza/Sacks/Kamaguchi Play Tadd Dameron, Jacob Garchik Ye Olde), and as of this writing, is listening to rough mixes of three new projects: Apocryphal II (with the returning cast of Loren Stillman, Brandon Seabrook, Eivind Opsvik, produced by Geoff Kraly), a quartet date with Chris Speed, Bruce Barth, and Peter Brendler, and an album of music by Lee Morgan for Fresh Sound Records, all for 2017 release.



**NOAH VINSON** is originally from Springfield, Illinois, and received his B.A. in dance from Columbia College Chicago. He was named a Dance Magazine "Dancer on the Rise" in 2009 and assisted Mark Morris in the creation of his most recent work for Houston Ballet, *The Letter V*, which premiered in May 2015. He began dancing with MMDG in 2002 and became a company member in 2004.

# ABOUT THE COMPANY

## MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP BOARD OF DIRECTORS


Judith R. Fishman, *Chairman*
David Resnicow, *Vice-Chairman*
Mark Selinger, *Vice-Chairman*
Isaac Mizrahi, *Secretary*
Sarabeth Berman
Federick Bland
Allan Bufferd
Margaret Conklin
Suzy Kellems Dominik
Jennifer Goodale
Shelby Gans
Sandy Hill
Timothy J. McClimon
Helen Meyer
Mark Morris
Ellen Offner
Jane Stine
Nancy Umanoff


## MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP STAFF

Artistic Director Mark Morris
Executive Director Nancy Umanoff

### PRODUCTION

| | |
|---|---|
| *Technical Director* | Johan Henckens |
| *Music Director* | Colin Fowler |
| *Lighting Supervisor* | Nick Kolin |
| *Sound Supervisor* | Rory Murphy |
| *Costume Coordinator* | Stephanie Sleeper |

### ADMINISTRATION

| | |
|---|---|
| *Chief Financial Officer* | Elizabeth Fox |
| *Finance Manager* | Sonja Kostich |
| *Finance Associate* | Natalia Kurylak |
| *HR Manager* | Rebecca Hunt |
| *Company Manager* | Jen Rossi |
| *Associate General Manager* | Geoff Chang |
| *Management Assistant* | Julia Weber |
| *Archive Project Manager* | Stephanie Neel |
| *Archive Project Associate* | Sandra Aberkalns |
| *Administrative Assistant* | Marianny Loveras |

### DEVELOPMENT

| | |
|---|---|
| *Director of Development* | Michelle Amador |
| *Manager of Institutional Giving* | Sophie Mintz |
| *Individual Giving Officer* | Tyler Mercer |

### MARKETING

| | |
|---|---|
| *Director of Marketing* | Karyn LeSuer |
| *Marketing Manager* | Brenton Chapman |
| *Content Producer* | Jack Gillard |
| *Marketing & Communications Associate* | Julie Dietel |

### EDUCATION

| | |
|---|---|
| *Director of Education* | Sarah Marcus |
| *School Director* | Kelsey Allison |
| *Community Education Programs Manager* | Alexandra Rose |
| *School Administrator* | Rachel Merry |
| *Education Programs Assistant* | Jessica Pearson |

### Dance for PD®

| | |
|---|---|
| *Outreach Director* | Eva Nichols |
| *Program Director* | David Leventhal |
| *Programs and Engagement Manager* | Maria Portman Kelly |
| *Programs Assistant* | Amy Bauman |

### DANCE CENTER OPERATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| *Operations Manager* | Elise Gaugert |
| *Facilities Manager* | Mark Sacks |
| *Rentals and Office Manager* | Erica Marnell |
| *Retail Store Manager* | Janice Gerlach |

*Front Desk Associates*
Alyssa Filoramo, Liz Law, Roxie Maisel, Tiffany McCue, Aria Roach, Zoe Walders

*Maintenance*
Jose Fuentes, Hector Mazariegos, Orlando Rivera, Justin Sierra, Arturo Velazquez

Booking Representation Michael Mushalla (Double M Arts & Events)
Media and General Consultation Services William Murray (Better Attitude, Inc.)
Legal Counsel Mark Selinger (McDermott, Will & Emery)
Accountant O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins, LLP
Orthopaedist David S. Weiss, M.D.(NYU Langone Medical Center)
Physical Therapist Marshall Hagins, PT, PhD
Hilot Therapist Jeffrey Cohen

Thanks to Maxine Morris.

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

Additional support provided by The Amphion Foundation, Inc., Arnow Family Fund, Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc., Bossak/Heilbron Charitable Foundation, Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts, Inc., The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, Estée Lauder Companies, ExxonMobile Corporate Matching Gift Program, Google Matching Gift Program, The Charles and Joan Gross Family Foundation, Guggenheim Partners Matching Gifts, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, Marta Heflin Foundation, IBM Corporation Matching Gifts Program, JP Morgan Chase, Kinder Morgan Foundation, Leatherwood Foundation, The Henry Luce Foundation, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Morgan Stanley & Co., Harris A. Berman & Ruth Nemzoff Family Foundation, New York Life Foundation, Wilhelmina Parris, FLP, The L. E. Phillips Family Foundation, Jerome Robbins Foundation, Rolex, Billy Rose Foundation, Inc., San Antonio Area Foundation, Schneer Foundation, SingerXenos Wealth Management, Solon E. Summerfield Foundation, Tiffany & Co., Trust for Mutual Understanding, and Viad Corp.

The Mark Morris Dance Group is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, Mayor Bill de Blasio, Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, Council Member Helen Rosenthal, the New York City Department for the Aging, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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

**Production Credits**

Costumes built by Eric Winterling, Inc.

*A Day in the Life, Penny Lane, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, When I'm Sixty-Four, With a Little Help from My Friends* by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

*Within You Without You* by George Harrison

*Pepperland* ©2017 Discalced, Inc.

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP
3 Lafayette Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11217-1415
(718) 624-8400
www.mmdg.org

markmorrisdancegroup

markmorrisdance