

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP  
AND MUSIC ENSEMBLE

# THE DANCE CENTER SHOWS



JAMES AND MARTHA DUFFY PERFORMANCE SPACE  
MARK MORRIS DANCE CENTER

April 25 - 29 & May 2 - 6, 2018

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# MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP AND MUSIC ENSEMBLE

## DANCERS

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

\*apprentice

## MUSICIANS

ROBERT BELINIĆ, AMIR FARID, COLIN FOWLER, ANDREW JANSS,  
JONATHAN MAY, SEAN RITENAUER, GEORGY VALTCHEV

**Artistic Director**  
MARK MORRIS

**Executive Director**  
NANCY UMANOFF

***Lou 100: In Honor of the Divine Mr. Harrison***

Program A – April 25, 27, 28 & May 3, 4, 6

***Solos, Duets, and Trios***

Program B – April 26, 29 & May 2, 5

## **PROGRAM A**

### ***Lou 100: In Honor of the Divine Mr. Harrison***

#### ***Pacific***

Music: Lou Harrison – Trio for violin, cello, and piano; 3rd and 4th movements

Dance: Rhapsody: Song

Allegro

Costume Design: Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting Design: James F. Ingalls

Georgy Valtchev, *violin*; Andrew Janss, *cello*; Colin Fowler, *piano*

Mica Bernas, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lesley Garrison, Sarah Haarmann,  
Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, Nicole Sabella, Noah Vinson

Premiere: May 10, 1995 – San Francisco Ballet, War Memorial Opera House, San Francisco, CA  
Company Premiere: February 28, 2015 – George Mason University's Center for the Arts, Fairfax, VA

*Music by arrangement with C.F. Peters Corporation, New York. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

#### ***Numerator***

Music: Lou Harrison – Varied Trio for violin, piano, and percussion

Costume Design: Elizabeth Kurtzman

Lighting Design: Nick Kolin

Gending

Bowl Bells

Elegy

Rondeau, in honor of Fragonard

Dance

Georgy Valtchev, *violin*; Colin Fowler, *piano*; Sean Ritenauer, *percussion*

Sam Black, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Aaron Loux, Dallas McMurray,  
Brandon Randolph, Noah Vinson

Premiere: June 26, 2017 - Tanglewood Music Center, Seiji Ozawa Hall Lenox, MA

*Music by arrangement with Frog Peak, publisher.*

-INTERMISSION-

## **Serenade**

Music: Lou Harrison – Serenade for Guitar

Costume Design: Isaac Mizrahi

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

Round

Air

Infinite Canon

Usul

Sonata

Robert Belinić, *guitar*; Sean Ritenauer, *percussion*

Lesley Garrison

Premiere: March 8, 2003 – George Mason University's Center for the Arts, Fairfax, VA

*Music by arrangement with Peer International Corp., publisher and copyright owner.*

## **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*

Mica Bernas, Sam Black, Durell R. Comedy, Domingo Estrada, Jr.,  
Lesley Garrison, Lauren Grant, Sarah Haarmann, Brian Lawson, Aaron Loux,  
Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, Brandon Randolph,  
Nicole Sabella, Billy Smith

↓  
Noah Vinton (5/6)

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

## **PROGRAM B**

### ***Solos, Duets, and Trios***

#### ***Three Preludes***

Music: George Gershwin – Preludes for Piano

Costume Design: Isaac Mizrahi

Lighting Design: James F. Ingalls

I. *Allegro Ben Ritmato E Deciso*

II. *Andante Con Moto E Poco Rubato*

III. *Allegro Ben Ritmato E Deciso*

Colin Fowler, *piano*

Laurel Lynch

Premiere: June 2, 1992 – Emerson Majestic Theatre, Dance Umbrella, Boston, MA

Commissioned in part by Dance Umbrella, Boston

*Prelude I, II, III* ©1927 (Renewed) WB Music Corp. (ASCAP)

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#### ***Pas de Poisson***

Music: Erik Satie – *Cinéma*, symphonic interlude from *Relâche* (1924),  
piano reduction for four hands by Darius Milhaud

Lighting Design: James F. Ingalls

Colin Fowler, *piano*; Amir Farid, *piano*

Mica Bernas, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Billy Smith

Premiere: October 7, 1990 – Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York, NY

#### ***Words (excerpts)***

Music: Felix Mendelssohn – Songs Without Words

Costume Design: Maile Okamura

Lighting Design: Nick Kolin

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

Sam Black, Durell R. Comedy, Brian Lawson, Nicole Sabella

Premiere: October 8, 2014 – New York City Center, Fall for Dance Festival, New York, NY

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

-INTERMISSION-

## **One Charming Night**

Music: Henry Purcell – "Be Welcome, Then, Great Sir;" "One Charming Night;" "Hark! The Echoing Air;" and "Lord, What is Man?"

Lighting Design: Philip Sandstöm

4/26 only

Colin Fowler, *harpischord*; Andrew Janss, *cello*; Jonathan May, *voice*  
Sarah Haarmann, Dallas McMurray

Premiere: December 7, 1985 – Dance Theater Workshop, Bessie Schönberg Theatre, New York, NY

## **Little Britten (world premiere)**

Costume Design: Isaac Mizrahi

Lighting Design: Nick Kolin

**5 x ¾**

Music: Benjamin Britten – Five Waltzes

Colin Fowler, *piano*

Lesley Garrison, Aaron Loux, Brandon Randolph

## **Twelve of 'em**

Music: Benjamin Britten – Twelve Variations for Piano

Colin Fowler, *piano*

Lesley Garrison, Aaron Loux, Brandon Randolph

## **From Old Seville**

Music: Manuel Requiebro – *A Esa Mujer*

Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

Lauren Grant, Mark Morris, Noah Vinson

Premiere: January 20, 2001 – Martha Town Hall, New York, NY



## 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 22 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 (MMDG)** 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 Robert Bordo and the late Howard Hodgkin, 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*. 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 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 Ethan Iverson, Lou Harrison, and Henry Cowell. The musicians also participate in the Dance Group's educational and community programming at home and on tour. The Music Ensemble is led by Colin Fowler who began to collaborate with MMDG in 2005 during the creation of *Mozart Dances*.

## Lincoln Center's **MOSTLY MOZART FESTIVAL**

**I Don't Want to Love  
Love Song Waltzes  
The Trout (world premiere)**

**Thursday-Saturday  
August 9-11 at 7:30pm**

**Sunday, August 12 at 5pm**

**Rose Theater,  
Jazz at Lincoln Center's  
Frederick P. Rose Hall**

**Tickets from \$40**



*Love Song Waltzes*, Photo by Stephanie Berger



**COLIN FOWLER** (music director, piano/harpischord) 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.

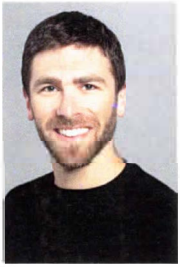


**ROBERT BELINIĆ** (guitar) is the only guitarist ever to have been chosen for the YCA (Young Concert Artists) roster. *Sandiego.com* writes, "Belinić is clearly the real deal: a genius, a poet, a supersensitive artist. But also dazzling. The man is a virtuoso." Belinić has performed extensively in Europe and in the United States. His American performances include engagements at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, the 92nd Street Y, Merkin Concert Hall, Morgan Library, Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Spivey Hall, the John F. Kennedy Center and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Belinić holds graduate degrees from the Leopold Mozart Hochschule für Musik in Augsburg, Germany, where he studied with Franz Halász, and from the Manhattan School of Music, where he worked with David Starobin. Mr. Belinić was the winner of MSM's Concerto Competition, and was recipient of the school's coveted Andrés Segovia/Rose Augustine Award.



**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 in January 2017 and became a full time company member in August 2017.

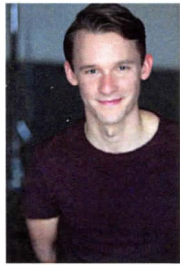


**SAM BLACK** is originally from Berkeley, California, where he began studying tap at the age of nine with Katie Maltsberger. He received his B.F.A. in dance from SUNY Purchase, and currently teaches MMDG master classes and Dance for PD®. He first appeared with MMDG in 2005 and became a company member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



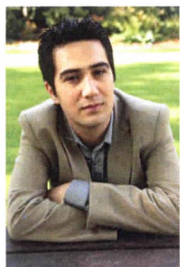
**BRANDON COUNRAY** is originally from Walled Lake, Michigan and received his B.F.A. from The Juilliard School. As a freelance artist, Cournay performed in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, and with the Mark Morris Dance Group, Metropolitan Opera Ballet, New York Theatre Ballet, The Chase Brock Experience, Schoen Movement Company, Dance Heginbotham, and Morphoses. TV/Film/Industrial credits include PBS' *Great Performances*, *Musical Chairs* (HBO), Puma, Sesame Street, and Target. He has been the Associate Choreographer for *My Fair Lady* (Bay Street), *The Wildness* (Off-Broadway), *Coriolanus* (Off-Broadway), and *I Am Anne Hutchinson/I Am Harvey Milk*. After dancing with the company for seven years, Cournay became Associate Artistic Director of KEIGWIN + COMPANY. He joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2018.



**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 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.





**AMIR FARID** (piano) has been described as “a highly creative musician – a pianist of great intelligence and integrity. He brings strong musical substance to all that he does, imbuing it with his own particular experience and understanding.” Throughout his career, Farid has been working under the guidance of Professor Ronald Farren-Price, with whom he completed his Bachelor of Music degree, and is currently undertaking a Master of Music degree at the Melbourne Conservatory of Music, University of Melbourne. He has performed concerti with the Sydney

Symphony, Melbourne Symphony, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, and Australia National Academy Orchestras, including Rachmaninoff's 2nd Piano Concerto at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl with the Melbourne Symphony. As a chamber musician, Amir is pianist of the Benaud Trio ([www.benaudtrio.com](http://www.benaudtrio.com)), winning the Piano Trio prize at the 2005 Australian Chamber Music Competition, and with whom he undertook a residency at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada. As an accompanist, he was winner of the prize for best pianist at the 2012 and 2006 Mietta Song Competitions, and the 2007 Geoffrey Parsons Award.



**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**, honored with a New York Dance and Performance “Bessie” award for her career with the Mark Morris Dance Group, has danced with MMDG since 1996, appearing in over 60 of Morris' works. She stages Morris' repertory on his company, at universities and conservatories, and teaches ballet and modern technique for the Dance Group, The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center, Jessica Lang Dance Company, Liz Gering Dance Company, Ballet Preljocaj, and at schools and universities around the globe. Her writing has been published

in the journals *Dance Education in Practice* and *Ballet Review*, and in *Dance Magazine* and *InfiniteBody*. She also serves as a panelist for the New York State Council on the Arts. Grant holds a B.F.A. in dance from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and is currently pursuing her M.F.A. in dance at Montclair State University where she is also an adjunct professor and a member of the National Honor Society for graduate and professional students. She is a recipient of the prestigious American Association of University Women Career Development Grant, the Sono Osato Scholarship for Graduate Studies, and the Caroline Newhouse Grant—all in support of her academic pursuits. Originally from Highland Park, Illinois, she lives in Brooklyn, New York with her husband David Leventhal (former MMDG dancer and current Dance for PD® Program Director) and their 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 and became a full time company member in August 2017.



**ANDREW JANSS** (cello) has been hailed by the *New York Times* for his "glowing tone," "insightful musicianship," and "sumptuous elegance." He has been featured at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, and the Louvre Museum, and has collaborated with a long list of the world's greatest artists, including Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, Lynn Harrell, Leon Fleisher, Richard Goode, and members of the Emerson, Guarneri, Juilliard, and Takacs Quartets. He has performed as principal cellist of the renowned St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

From 2007 to 2010, Janss was a resident artist at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center as part of CMS 2 with the Escher String Quartet, which he helped found. He has performed at the Ravinia, Music@Menlo, Santa Fe, La Jolla Summerfest, and Marlboro Music Festivals. He tours regularly across the United States with MMDG and joined the Dance Group on recent tours to the UK, Italy, and China. Janss has been invited to residencies at Notre Dame, Tulane, Virginia Commonwealth University, SUNY Stony Brook, and the University of Idaho. He worked on the set of the critically-acclaimed movie, *A Late Quartet*, consulting for Christopher Walken on how to play the cello. Janss is Program Director of the Omega Ensemble in New York City.



**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.



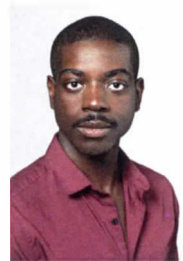
**LAUREL LYNCH** began her dance training at Petaluma School of Ballet in California. She moved to New York to attend The Juilliard School where she performed works by Robert Battle, Margie Gillis, José Limón, and Ohad Naharin. After graduation Lynch danced for Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre, Sue Bernhard 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.



**JONATHAN MAY** (voice), is sought after as a performer on concert and opera stages alike. He performs regularly with Early Music New York, Choral Chameleon, and the New York Continuo Collective, with which he most recently sang the title role in Luigi Rossi's *Orfeo*. Other season highlights include an appearance as alto soloist in Handel's *Dixit Dominus* with Canticum Scholare, singing at a chamber choral conducting masterclass with Simon Carrington at the Norfolk Music Summer Festival, and a performance of Tallis' *Spem in alium* with The Tallis Scholars sponsored by Carnegie Hall. He holds a degree in music from Dartmouth College.



**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.



**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.



**SEAN RITENAUER** (percussion) is described as a percussionist "with mesmerizing dexterity" and enjoys a diverse career in concert halls, theaters, and studios in New York and around the world. As an orchestral musician, Ritenauer performs frequently with the New York Philharmonic and Malaysia Philharmonic. He is also the Principal Percussionist of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra in Alabama where he has been a member since 2005 and is frequently featured as a soloist. Ritenauer can be heard all over Broadway where he has held the percussion chair on numerous shows including *Hair*, *Pippin*, and *Something Rotten*. As a devoted educator,

Ritenauer has a thriving private teaching studio in New York City where his students have been accepted into some of the world's finest music institutions including The Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music, New England Conservatory, Boston Conservatory, Eastman School of Music, Northwestern University, University of Michigan, and Indiana University. He is also the head of percussion at Hofstra University on Long Island. Ritenauer earned a B.A. in Classical Percussion and a M.A. in Orchestral Performance from the Manhattan School of Music and is a proud graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy.



**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, Pennsylvania, 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.



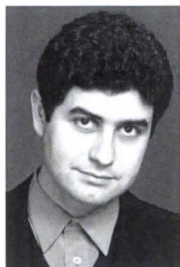
**CHRISTINA SAHAIDA** grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and began her early dance training at the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School. In 2012, she graduated with honors from Butler University, receiving a B.F.A in dance performance. She has worked with Ballet Quad Cities, Texture Contemporary Ballet, and most recently the Big Muddy Dance Company in St. Louis, Missouri. Sahaida joined the Mark Morris Dance Group as an apprentice in July 2017.



**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*

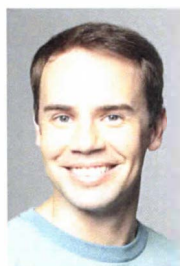
garnered much critical praise. An actor as well, Smith's regional theater credits include *Tulsa* in *Gypsy*, *Mistoffelees* in *CATS*, and *Dream* in *Curly Oklahoma!*. Smith danced with Parsons Dance from 2007-2010. He joined MMDG as a company member in 2010.





**GEORGY VALTCHEV** (violin) has appeared as soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Originally from Plovdiv, Bulgaria, he 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 he 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** 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*. He began dancing with MMDG in 2002 and became a company member in 2004.



## MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP STAFF

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Executive Director .....	Nancy Umanoff

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Sound Supervisor .....	Rory Murphy
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# Go above and beyond.

**Mark Morris: Above & Beyond**, the Mark Morris Dance Group's comprehensive fundraising campaign to raise \$25 million by 2020, will support vital capital and program expansion, legacy planning (including the creation of Dances for the Future and a Mark Morris Archive), and continued creative and public programming, enabling the Dance Group to deepen its commitment to providing extraordinary dance, music, and cultural activities.

Our heartfelt gratitude to our board and the many supporters who have helped us raise \$16.6M to date.

Help us raise the final \$8.4M  
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