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# Spring Program 2018

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**2017-2018 Themes:** **Creating a Meaningful Life** **Our Changing World**

**Apr 5** *Exploring Treasures of Our Local Libraries and Archives*  
featuring **Writer/Curator Maria Popova**

4 PM / Santa Barbara Central Library\*  
Related Event: Maria Popova in conversation with Pico Iyer, Apr 5 (p. 14)

**Apr 16** **Nadine Burke Harris, M.D., Public Lecture** (p. 21)  
7:30 PM / Campbell Hall

**Apr 18** **FILM: A Path Appears: Breaking the Cycle of Poverty (Ep. 2)**

4 PM / Santa Barbara Central Library\* (Author will not be present.)  
Related Event: TOWN HALL - *Building a Resilient Community: Turning Adversity into Opportunity* with Nicholas Kristof, Apr 23 (p. 25)

**Apr 23** **Taking Action Matters:**  
**Santa Barbara Organizations as Global Change Makers**  
**A Moderated Discussion with Nicholas Kristof**

4 PM / Santa Barbara Central Library\*  
Related Event: TOWN HALL - *Building a Resilient Community: Turning Adversity into Opportunity* with Nicholas Kristof, Apr 23 (p. 25)

**May 11** **Mark Morris Dance Group, Dance for PD®**

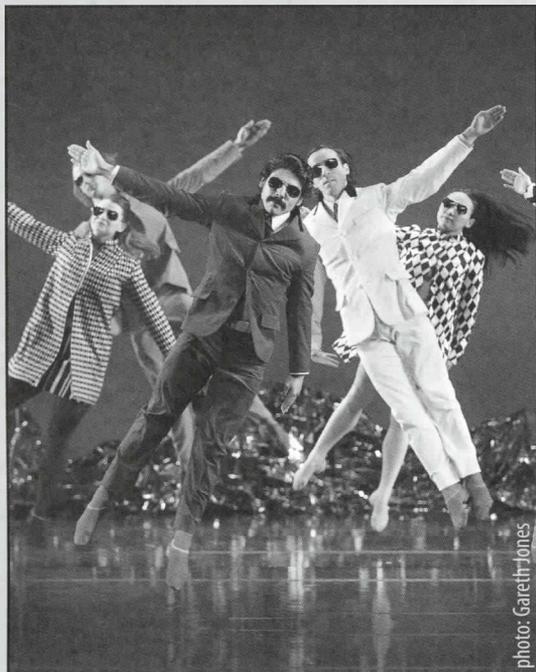
in partnership with Parkinson Association of Santa Barbara  
10 AM / Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, Parish Hall\*  
1535 Santa Barbara St.  
Related Event: Mark Morris Dance Group public performance, May 10 (p. 40)

**May 18** **Aging While Female: Discussion with Ashton Applewhite**

4 PM / Santa Barbara Central Library\*  
Related Event: TOWN HALL - *Aging: The Lifelong Process That Unites Us All* with Ashton Applewhite, May 19 (p. 51)

\*Online registration recommended: [www.Thematic-Learning.org](http://www.Thematic-Learning.org)





Commissioned in part by UCSB Arts & Lectures

## Mark Morris Dance Group

### *Sgt. Pepper at 50: Pepperland*

Thu, May 10 / 8 PM / Granada Theatre

**Event Sponsor: G.A. Fowler Family Foundation**

**Additional Support: Marilyn & Dick Mazess**

**Dance Series Sponsors: Annette & Dr. Richard Caleel,  
Margo Cohen-Feinberg & Robert Feinberg  
and the Cohen Family Fund,  
Irma & Morrie Jurkowitz, Barbara Stupay**



**Related Thematic Learning Initiative Event** (see page 8)

*This evening's program will be performed without an intermission.*

## Mark Morris Dance Group

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

## MMDG Music Ensemble

Clinton Curtis, Colin Fowler, Jacob Garchik, Ethan Iverson,  
Sam Newsome, Rob Schwimmer, Vincent Sperrazza

Mark Morris, Artistic Director

Nancy Umanoff, Executive Director

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by American Express, Anonymous, Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners, 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, Howard Gilman Foundation, Hearst 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, Meyer Sound/Helen and John Meyer, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Ellen and Arnold Offner, Sarabeth Berman and Evan Osnos, PARC Foundation, Poss-Kapor Family Foundation, Diane Solway and David Resnicow, Resnicow + Associates, Jennifer P. Goodale and Mark Russell, 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.



## 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"†

"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;  
**Ethan Iverson**, piano; **Colin Fowler**, keyboard;  
**Vincent Sperrazza**, percussion

Dancers: **Mica Bernas**, **Sam Black**, **Brandon Cournay**,  
**Domingo Estrada, Jr.**, **Lesley Garrison**, **Lauren Grant**,  
**Sarah Haarmann**, **Brian Lawson**, **Laurel Lynch**,  
**Dallas McMurray**, **Brandon Randolph**, **Nicole Sabella**,  
**Christina Sahaida**, **Billy Smith**, **Noah Vinson**

Original music by The Beatles. All Rights Reserved.  
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*Pepperland* is a Mark Morris Dance Group production in association with UCSB Arts & Lectures, Santa Barbara, Calif.; American Dance Festival, Durham, N.C.; BAM, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity with the Sony Centre, Toronto, Canada; Cal Performances, UC Berkeley, Calif.; Celebrity Series of Boston, Mass.; The City of Liverpool, England, U.K.; Dance Consortium UK; Hopkins Center for the Arts, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH; International Festival of Arts & Ideas, New Haven, Conn.; 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, Calif.; Meyer Sound, Berkeley, Calif.; Seattle Theatre Group, Seattle, Wash.; Segerstrom Center for The Arts, Costa Mesa, Calif.; and White Bird, Portland, Ore.

*Pepperland* is supported in part by Friends of MMDG, the Howard Gilman Foundation, PARC Foundation and New Music USA. Music commissioned by the Charles and Joan Gross Family Foundation. The premiere engagement was supported by funding from the 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.

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## Notes on the Score by Ethan Iverson

### *It was Fifty Years Ago Today*

"Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" – The original album ended with an unprecedented effect, a very long chord. 50 years later, perhaps a similar chord is good place to begin...

"Magna Carta" – A formal invocation of personalities from the LP cover.

"With a Little Help from My Friends" – When Ringo sang it, he was on top of the world. Our version is more vulnerable.

"Adagio" – In the age of Tinder, a Lonely Heart advertisement might seem hopelessly quaint. But everyone has always needed to find a match.

**“When I’m Sixty Four”** – In between six and four is five. All three (counts to the bar) are heard beneath the music-hall scuffle.

**“Allegro”** – A single offhand line of trombone from “Sgt. Pepper” germinates into a full-fledged sonata form.

**“Within You Without You”** – George Harrison’s sincere study of Indian music aligns easily with another Harrison interested in bringing the East to the West: the great composer Lou Harrison, one of Mark Morris’ most significant collaborators. The hippie-era sentiment of the lyric remains startlingly fresh and relevant today.

**“Scherzo”** – Glenn Gould said he preferred Petula Clark to the Beatles. Apparently Gould, Clark and a chord progression from “Sgt. Pepper” all seem to have inspired this mod number.

**“Wilbur Scoville”** – The first thing we hear on the LP is a guitar blues lick, here transformed into a real blues for the horns to blow on. Wilbur Scoville invented the scale to measure heat in hot sauce: The original Sergeant Pepper?

**“Cadenza”** – After seeing Bach’s *Brandenburg 2* on the telly, Paul McCartney came into the studio and told George Martin to add piccolo trumpet to “Penny Lane.” Indeed, detailed references to European classical music are one reason so many Beatles songs still stump the average cover band.

**“Penny Lane”** – Not on *Sgt. Pepper*, but nonetheless originally planned to be, and of course, especially relevant to the city of Liverpool.

**“A Day In the Life”** – There’s a nocturne, vocal descant, apotheosis.

**“Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band”** – Another unprecedented effect on original LP was a reprise of the first theme, which is part of why it is called the first “concept album.” Our later vantage point enables us to project into the next decade, the ’70s, and conjure a disco ball. Thank you, Beatles! Thank you, *Sgt. Pepper*!

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

by Ryan Wenzel, New York-based writer and editor

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. 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 17 institutions. 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 shows their unique understanding of the hidden costs involved with creating dance works of this size,” 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.

## About the Artists

**Mark Morris** (Artistic Director) 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 – 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 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, 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.

**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 with leading orchestras and opera companies including the Metropolitan Opera, English National Opera and the London Symphony Orchestra. MMDG frequently works with distinguished artists and designers including painters Howard Hodgkin and Robert Bordo, set designers Adrienne Lobel and Allen Moyer, costume designers Martin Pakledinaz and Isaac

Mizrahi and many others. MMDG's film and television projects include *Dido and Aeneas*, *The Hard Nut*, *Falling Down Stairs*, two documentaries for the U.K.'s *South Bank Show* and PBS' *Live from Lincoln Center*. 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.

**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, Henry Cowell and Ethan Iverson. 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*.

**Ethan Iverson** (composer, arranger, piano) was a founding member of The Bad Plus (TBP), 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-'60s jazz and indie rock." During his 17-year tenure, TBP 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 Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and a radical reinvention of Ornette Coleman's *Science Fiction*. Iverson has also been in the critically-acclaimed Billy Hart Quartet for more than a decade, and he occasionally performs with an elder statesman like Albert "Tootie" Heath or Ron Carter. For almost 15 years, Iverson's blog *Do the Math* has been a repository of musician-to-musician interviews and analysis, 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." More recently Iverson has been writing about jazz for the *New Yorker*. In 2017, Iverson co-curated a major centennial celebration of Thelonious Monk at Duke University and in 2018 he will be premiering an original piano concerto with the American Composers Orchestra and releasing a duo album with Mark Turner on ECM Records. Many years ago, Iverson was the Mark Morris Dance Group's musical director and is thrilled to be back in the pit for MMDG again!

## Mark Morris Dance Group Staff

Artistic Director: Mark Morris

Executive Director: Nancy Umanoff

### Production

Director of Technical Production: Johan Henckens

Music Director: Colin Fowler

Lighting Supervisor: Nick Kolin

Sound Supervisor: Rory Murphy

Costume Coordinator: Stephanie Sleeper

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Dance for PD® Programs Assistant: Amy Bauman

Dance for PD® Interns: Kailey McLaughlin, Rachel Stanislawczyk



## Dance Center Operations

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Rental Programs Manager: **Annie Woller**

Operations Coordinator: **Aria Roach**

Operations Fellow: **Claire Kim**

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Front Desk Supervisor: **Dominique Terrell**

Front Desk Associates: **Hunter Darnell, Mario Flores, Jr., Roxie Maisel,**

**Tiffany McCue, Kareem Woods**

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**Virginia Ross, Arturo Velazquez**

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Orthopedist: **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 Amazon, Kenneth Aidekman Family Foundation, The Amphion Foundation, Inc., Arnow Family Fund, Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc., Bossak/Heilbron Charitable Foundation, Carali Foundation, Chervenak-Nunnalle Foundation, Con Edison, Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts, Inc., Dau Family Foundation, The Gladys Kriebel 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, Jaffe Family Foundation, JP Morgan Chase, Kinder Morgan Foundation, The Langworthy Foundation, Leatherwood Foundation, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Materials for the Arts, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, Morgan Stanley & Co., Harris A. Berman & Ruth Nemzoff Family Foundation, New Music USA, The L. E. Phillips Family Foundation, The Pinkus Foundation, Jerome Robbins Foundation, Rolex, Billy Rose Foundation, Inc., San Antonio Area Foundation, Schneer Foundation, SingerXenos Wealth Management, Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, Trust for Mutual Understanding, Viad Corp, and Zeitz Fund.

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 Discaled, Inc.

For more information contact:

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youtube: Mark Morris Dance Group

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Go to [mmdg.org/join-email-list](http://mmdg.org/join-email-list) or text "MMDG" to 555888.



*Funded in part by the Community Events & Festivals Program using funds provided by the City of Santa Barbara in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Office of Arts and Culture*

*Special thanks to*



# Mark Morris Dance Group

## *Pepperland*

Thu, May 10 / 8 PM / Granada Theatre

Dancers: **Mica Bernas, Sam Black, 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**

### Additional Biographies

*Program information can be found on pages 40-45 of your program book.*

**Mica Bernas**, originally from Manila, Philippines, received her training at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Dance School. She later joined Ballet Philippines as a 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 and 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 Cournay** 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.

**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 Curtis' 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](http://music.clintoncurtis.com).

**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 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, keyboard) 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, Fowler 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 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 four 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*, and he composed the score for the documentaries *The Campaign* and *Green Fog* directed by Guy Maddin. He has created arrangements for vocalists Anne Sofie von Otter, Angélique 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* Critics Poll.

**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 Gerring Dance Company, Ballet Preljocaj and 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.

**Johan Henckens** (set realization) became the Director of Technical Production of the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1989, during the company's three-year residency at the Koninklijke Muntscouwburg in Brussels, Belgium.

**Nick Kolin** (lighting design) has designed *Whelm*, *Words*, *A Forest* and *Numerator* for the Mark Morris Dance Group and tours with the Dance Group as lighting supervisor. 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 New York 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) 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*. She also designed *L'Isola Disabitata* for the Gotham Opera Company, under Mark Morris' direction. 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 the 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.

**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 Jirí 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, for which he gained worldwide 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," he says, "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. His creative efforts have earned him the 2016 NYFA Artist's Fellowship for Music/Sound; a nomination for Soprano Saxophonist of the Year by the 2016 Jazz Journalist Association (JJA); and fourth place in the soprano saxophone category in the 64th Annual *DownBeat* Critics Poll.

**Spencer Ramirez** began his training in the DC-Metropolitan area at the Metropolitan Fine Arts Center, the Maryland Youth Ballet, the Houston Ballet, and eventually moved to New York City to study at The Juilliard School. He started his professional career with the Mark Morris Dance Group in Brooklyn where he traveled around the world both performing and teaching from 2010-2013. He's also performed as a guest artist with Malashock Dance and BODYTraffic in Los Angeles and with Dance Heginbotham in New York City. He is now pursuing a career in musical theater and has performed regionally in *MAME* (Riverside Theater), *Newsies* (Tucahn Center for the Arts), *Shrek* (TCA), and *Mamma Mia* (TCA). Ramirez returned as an understudy in May 2018.

**Brandon Randolph** began his training with the School of Carolina Ballet Theater in Greenville, South Carolina, under the direction of Hernan Justo. At 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, 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.

**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, Schwimmer has been featured on CBS *Sunday Morning*, *The New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. A founding member and co-director of the New York Theremin Society, his credits as theremin soloist include the Boston Pops, the Orchestra of St. Luke's (which included his 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), Schwimmer 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.

**Vincent 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, Sperrazza moved to New York City 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 Sperrazza 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.