

World Dance

# MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP & MUSIC ENSEMBLE

February 21–23 | 8 p.m.

## MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

**Mica Bernas | Sam Black | Karlie Budge\* | Durell R. Comedy  
Brandon Cournay | Domingo Estrada, Jr. | Lesley Garrison  
Lauren Grant | Sarah Haarmann | Deepa Liegel\* | Aaron Loux  
Laurel Lynch | Dallas McMurray | Minga Prather\*  
Brandon Randolph | Nicole Sabella | Christina Sahaida\*  
Billy Smith | Noah Vinson**

*\*apprentice*

## MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE

**Ramón Carrero-Martínez | Colin Fowler | Wolfram Koessel  
Sean Ritenauer | Kris Saebo | Georgy Valtchev**

Artistic Director **Mark Morris**

Executive Director **Nancy Umanoff**

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by American Express, Anonymous, Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners, LLP, Frederick and Morley Bland, Booth Ferris Foundation, Allan S. and Rhea K. Bufferd, Suzy Kellems Dominik, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Judith R. and Alan H. Fishman, Shelby and Frederick Gans, Isaac Mizrahi and Arnold Germer, Howard Gilman Foundation, Hearst Foundations, Sandy Hill, Elizabeth Amy 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 Family Foundation, Diane E. Solway and David Resnicow, Resnicow + Associates, 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 and R.L. Stine, The White Cedar Fund, and Friends of MMDG.

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## ***DANCING HONEYMOON***

Music:

"Limehouse Blues," "You Were Meant for Me," "Do Do Do,"  
"Someone to Watch Over Me," "A Cup of Coffee, A Sandwich, and You," "Wild Thyme,"  
"Experiment," "Dancing Honeymoon," "And Her Mother Came Too,"  
"Fancy Our Meeting," "Who," "Two Little Bluebirds,"  
"Goodnight, Vienna," "It's Not You," "There's Always Tomorrow"

Transcribed and arranged by Ethan Iverson,  
from historical recordings of Gertrude Lawrence and Jack Buchanan

Mark Morris, vocals  
Colin Fowler, piano  
Sean Ritenauer, percussion  
Georgy Valtchev, violin

Dancers: Sam Black, Lesley Garrison, Lauren Grant, Aaron Loux,  
Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, Noah Vinson

Costume Design: Elizabeth Kurtzman

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

Premiere: September 22, 1998 — University of Washington World Series, Meany Hall, Seattle, Washington

This dance was created under the auspices of the Mark Morris Dance Group New Works Fund, sponsored by Philip Morris Companies Inc.

## ***NUMERATOR***

Music:

Lou Harrison — *Varied Trio for violin, piano, and percussion*  
Gending  
Bowl Bells  
Elegy  
Rondeau, in honor of Fragonard  
Dance

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

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

Costume Design: Elizabeth Kurtzman

Lighting Design: Nick Kolin

Premiere: June 26, 2017 — Tanglewood Music Center, Seiji Ozawa Hall, Lenox, Massachusetts

Music by arrangement with Frog Peak, publisher.

## INTERMISSION

### ***THE TROUT***

Music:

Franz Schubert — *Quintet in A major [Trout Quintet], Op. post. 114 D 667*

Georgy Valtchev, violin

Ramón Carrero-Martínez, viola

Wolfram Koessel, cello

Kris Saebo, double bass

Colin Fowler, piano

Dancers: Mica Bernas, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lesley Garrison, Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch,  
Dallas McMurray, Brandon Randolph, Nicole Sabella, Christina Sahaida,  
Billy Smith, Noah Vinson

Costume Design: Maile Okamura

Lighting Design: Nick Kolin

Premiere: August 9, 2018 — Mostly Mozart Festival, New York, New York



Photo: Christopher Duggan

**Mark Morris** was born on August 29, 1956, in Seattle, 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, subsidized rental space for local artists, 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. 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.

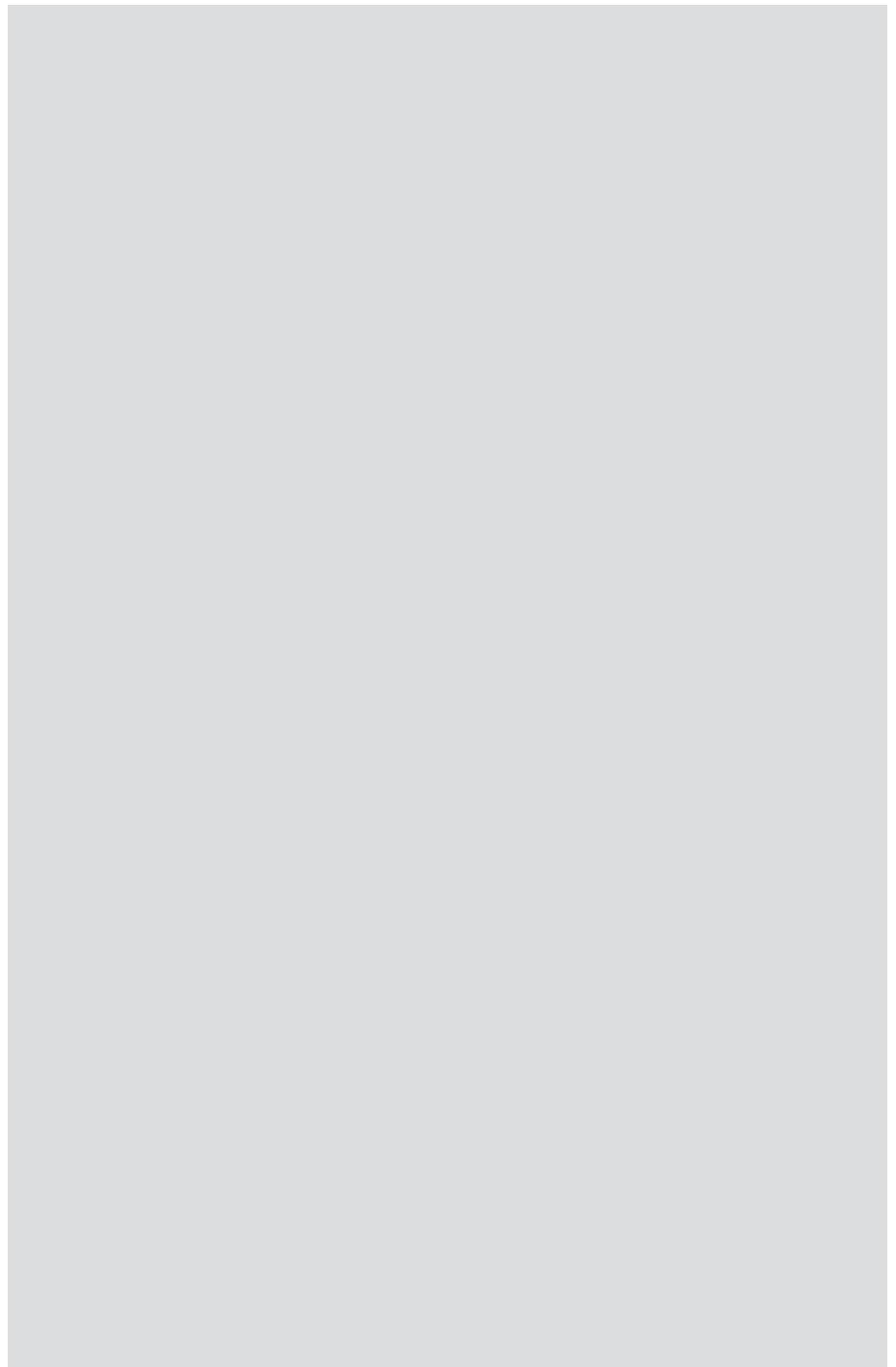
Reflecting Morris' commitment to live music, the Dance Group has featured live musicians in every performance since the formation of the MMDG Music Ensemble in 1996. MMDG regularly collaborates with renowned musicians, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma, pianist Emanuel Ax, mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe, and 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's *Live from Lincoln Center*. In 2015 Morris' signature work *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* had its



## MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP | About the Artist

national television premiere on PBS's *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*.

**Colin Fowler** (music director, piano) 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.

**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 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.

**Karlie Budge** grew up in Knoxville, Tennessee, dancing with the Tennessee Children's Dance Ensemble (TCDE). She graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in dance and B.S. in statistics in 2016 from Case Western Reserve University and danced with Graham 2 dance company. Budge has performed works by Mark Morris, Pascal Rioult, Larry Keigwin, Martha Graham, Ted Shawn, Bertram Ross, Virginie Mecene, Adam Barruch, Michael Mao and Randy Duncan. She has presented her choreography throughout New York City in Playscape2016, NEXT@Graham, NYC10, SoloDuo Festival and four Martha Graham School showings. She received the Pearl Lang Award for Excellence in Choreography in 2017. Budge joined MMDG as an apprentice in September 2018.

**Ramón Carrero-Martínez** (viola), a passionate chamber musician from Venezuela, has won top prizes in chamber music competitions, including first prize in the Maria Paula Alonzo Chamber Music Competition in Caracas with Teresa Carreño String Quartet and first prize in the Ruth Widder String Quartet Competition in New York performing Bartok's first string quartet. Carrero-Martínez began his music studies in Caracas as part of "El Sistema." His festival appearances include Beethoven Fest 2010 in Bonn, Salzburg Festival 2014 with Teresa Carreño Youth Orchestra of Venezuela, Esterházy String Quartet Festival 2014 in Austria with Teresa Carreño String Quartet, and Musica Mundi International Chamber Music Festival 2016, where he performed with the Schumann Quartet and the famous pianist Menahem Pressler in Belgium. He was also an International Program Artist in Music@Menlo 2017. Currently, Carrero-Martínez is an



undergraduate at Manhattan School of Music, where he is a full scholarship student of Daniel Avshalomov, violist of the American String Quartet.

**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 has 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 has 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.

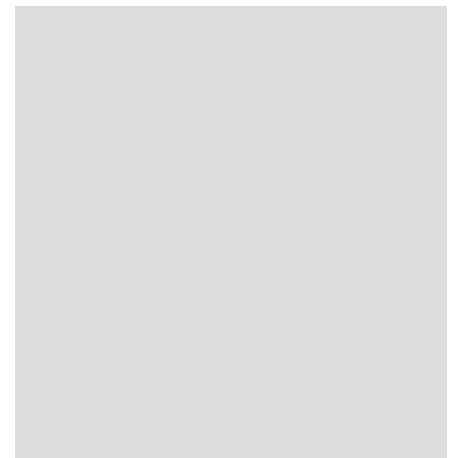
**Brandon Cournay** is originally from Walled Lake, Michigan, and received his B.F.A. from The Juilliard School. As a freelance artist, he has performed with the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, the Mark Morris Dance Group, Morphoses, The Metropolitan Opera, New York Theatre Ballet, The Chase Brock Experience, Schoen Movement Company, Dance Heginbotham and KEIGWIN + COMPANY. TV/film/industrial credits include PBS's *Great Performances*, *Musical Chairs* (HBO), *Puma*, *Sesame Street* and Target. As an educator and répétiteur, he has

worked with The Pennsylvania Ballet, Whim W'Him, The Juilliard School/Nord Anglia Education and universities nationwide. Offstage, he has worked with companies in multiple capacities from artistic direction to administrative management. For many years, he was the Rehearsal Director and Associate Artistic Director of KEIGWIN + COMPANY. In addition, he has assisted numerous choreographers on creative projects in theatre, film and dance. He joined MMDG as an apprentice in March 2018 and became a company member in October 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.

**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 earned 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. In addition to staging Morris' repertory on his company and at universities, Grant teaches ballet and modern technique for numerous professional dance companies and schools around the globe and is an adjunct faculty member at Montclair State University. Her writing has been published in the journals *Dance Education in Practice*, *Ballet Review*, *Dance Magazine* and *InfiniteBody*. She also serves as a panelist for the New York State Council on the Arts. Grant earned her M.F.A. in Dance from Montclair State University (where she was a member of the Alpha Epsilon Lambda Honor Society) and her B.F.A. in Dance from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. 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 scholarly 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.



## MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP | About the Artist

**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 company member in August 2017.

**Wolfram Koessel** (cello) has established himself as a much sought-after chamber musician, soloist, recording artist and contractor in the New York music scene. He has performed with MMDG since 1999 and was music director from 2004-2008. In 2006, Koessel joined the world-renowned American String Quartet, with whom he performs in the foremost concert halls throughout the world, collaborating frequently with today's leading artists. Koessel appears with a wide range of ensembles and groups, most notably and frequently with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic. He is also a founding member of Trio+ together with violinist Yosuke Kawasaki and pianist Vadim Serebryani. He has supervised and performed music for Warner Brothers, American Express and many independent film companies and organized hundreds of classical orchestra and chamber music concerts during the last decade in New York City. He is on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music and the Aspen Music Festival. He resides with his wife, pianist and writer J. Mae Barizo, in Manhattan.

**Deepa Liegel** grew up dancing with Cornish Preparatory Dance, Leela Kathak Dance and Seattle Theater Group in Seattle, Washington. She received her B.F.A. in dance performance with honors and a minor in arts management from Southern Methodist University in 2017. Since moving to New York, she has performed with Barkha Dance Company, Broadway Bares and Monica Kapoor and apprenticed with the Limón Dance Company. She joined the Mark Morris Dance Group as an apprentice in September 2018.

**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.

**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.

**Minga Prather**, a Dallas, Texas native, received her training from Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, and later graduated with honors in dance from the Ailey/Fordham B.F.A. program. Prather has had the pleasure of performing with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Nimbus Dance Works, performing works by Alvin Ailey, Alejandro Cerrudo, William Forsythe, Ohad Naharin, Crystal Pite and Twyla Tharp. She received an award from the National Young Arts Foundation for Modern Dance in 2014. Prather joined MMDG as an apprentice in September 2018.

**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.

**Kris Saebo** (double bass) leads a versatile musical life as a chamber musician, recording artist (New York and Los Angeles), composer/arranger, and teaching artist. Saebo is a founding member of Decoda, the Affiliate Ensemble of Carnegie Hall, and performs regularly with A Far Cry and NOVUS NY. A noted collaborator, he has worked with

artists such as Sir Simon Rattle, Dawn Upshaw, Jamey Haddad and Nas. He is also a devoted teaching artist, and has worked in this capacity in the greater New York area, as well as internationally. He has also been a visiting teaching artist at The Colburn School and will be returning this summer to Skidmore College to serve on faculty for the Decoda Skidmore Chamber Music Institute. Saebo received his bachelor's and master's degrees from The Juilliard School, where his teachers were Orin O'Brien and Homer Mensch. Saebo is also an alumnus of Ensemble Connect.

**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 Curly in *Oklahoma!* Smith

danced with Parsons Dance from 2007-2010. He joined MMDG as a company member in 2010.

**Georgy Valtchev** (violin) has performed on some of the world's most prestigious stages as a soloist with orchestras, in recitals and as a chamber musician. In the United States, he has appeared at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, New York's Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., the 92nd Street Y and Chicago's Cultural Institute. In Europe, he has appeared at venues such as Wigmore Hall and the Barbican Centre in London, La Cité de la Musique in Paris, Amsterdam's Royal Carré Theatre, and Bulgaria Hall in Sofia. He has toured Asia, Australia and Israel with performances in Beijing Cultural Arts Center, Guangzhou Opera House, Sydney Opera House, Tel Aviv Opera House, Taipei Cultural Center Taiwan, Hong Kong and Suntory Hall in Tokyo. A dedicated collaborative musician, Valtchev enjoys frequent performances with distinguished international artists and ensembles in the United States and Europe. As a principal member of the MMDG Music Ensemble, he frequently travels around the world. Valtchev has been honored to lead, as guest concertmaster, several major symphony orchestras, most notably the London Philharmonic and the Royal Symphony Orchestra of Madrid. He is a founder and artistic director of the Unbeaten Path chamber music festival in Kovachevitsa, Bulgaria and a founding member of the chamber music series 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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Operations Coordinator **Tiffany McCue**

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Assistant Front Desk Manager **Dominique Terrell**

Front Desk Associates **Hunter Darnell, Roxie Maisel,**

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**(NYU Langone Medical Center)**

Physical Therapist **Marshall Hagins, PT, PhD**

Hilot Therapist **Jeffrey Cohen**

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