



# MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

## PEPPERLAND

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR** Mark Morris

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** Nancy Umanoff

### MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

Mica Bernas, Karlie Budge, Brandon Cournay, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lesley Garrison, Sarah Haarmann, Courtney Lopes, Aaron Loux, Taína Lyons\*, Matthew McLaughlin, Dallas McMurray, Brandon Randolph, Nicole Sabella, Christina Sahaida, Billy Smith, Noah Vinson, Malik Q. Williams

\*apprentice

### MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Clinton Curtis, Amir Farid, Ethan Iverson, Ryan Keberle, Sam Newsome, Rob Schwimmer, Vinnie Sperrazza

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THURSDAY, **MAY 5** @ 7:30 PM

FRIDAY, **MAY 6** @ 8 PM

SATURDAY, **MAY 7** @ 2 PM

SATURDAY, **MAY 7** @ 8 PM

Annenberg Center, Zellerbach Theatre

There will be no intermission.

## PROGRAM NOTES

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### *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 Kollin

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 saxophone; Ryan Keberle, trombone; Rob Schwimmer, theremin; Ethan Iverson, piano; Amir Farid, keyboard; Vinnie Sperrazza, percussion

Karlie Budge, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lesley Garrison, Sarah Haarmann, Courtney Lopes, Aaron Loux, Taína Lyons, Matthew McLaughlin, Dallas McMurray, Brandon Randolph, Nicole Sabella, Christina Sahaida, Billy Smith, Noah Vinson, Malik Q. Williams

Original music by The Beatles. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission from Sony Music Publishing.

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.

Costumes built by Eric Winterling, Inc.

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

**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.

## NOTES ON THE SCORE BY ETHAN IVERSON

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### It was Fifty Years Ago Today

- 1. Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.** The original album ended with an unprecedented effect, a very long chord. Fifty years later, perhaps a similar chord is a good place to begin...
- 2. Magna Carta.** A formal invocation of personalities from the LP cover.
- 3. With a Little Help From my Friends.** When Ringo sang it, he was on top of the world. Our version is more vulnerable.
- 4. Adagio.** In the age of Tinder, a Lonely Heart advertisement might seem hopelessly quaint. But everyone has always needed to find a match.
- 5. When I'm Sixty-Four.** In between 6 and 4 is 5. All three (counts to the bar) are heard beneath the music-hall scuffle.
- 6. Allegro.** A single offhand line of trombone from "Sgt. Pepper" germinates into a full-fledged sonata form.
- 7. 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's most significant collaborators. The hippie-era sentiment of the lyric remains startlingly fresh and relevant today.
- 8. 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.
- 9. 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?
- 10. 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.
- 11. Penny Lane.** Not on *Sgt. Pepper*, but nonetheless originally planned to be, and of course especially relevant to the city of Liverpool.
- 12. A Day In the Life.** Theremin nocturne, vocal descant, apotheosis.
- 13. Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.** Another unprecedented effect on the 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!*

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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### **Mark Morris** (Choreographer, Artistic Director)

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 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, 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, community education programs for children and seniors, and a school offering dance classes to students of all ages and levels of experience with and without disabilities. Morris' memoir, *Out Loud*, co-written with Wesley Stace, was published in paperback by Penguin Press in 2021.

### **Mark Morris Dance Group**

The Mark Morris Dance Group was formed in 1980 and gave its first performance that year in New York City. The company's touring schedule steadily expanded to include cities in the United States and around the world, and in 1986, it made its first national television program for the PBS series *Dance in America*. In 1988, MMDG was invited to become the national dance company of Belgium and spent three years in residence at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels. The Dance Group returned to the United States in 1991 as one of the world's leading dance companies. Based in Brooklyn, New York, MMDG maintains strong ties to presenters in several cities around the world, most notably to its West Coast home, Cal Performances in Berkeley, California, and its Midwest home, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. MMDG also appears regularly in New York, Boston, Seattle and Fairfax. In New York, the company has performed at New York City Center's Fall for Dance Festival, regularly performs at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts' Mostly Mozart and White Light Festivals, and collaborates yearly with BAM on performances and master classes. From the company's many London seasons, it has received two Laurence Olivier Awards and a Critics' Circle Dance Award for Best Foreign Dance Company. Reflecting Morris' commitment to live music, the Dance Group has featured live musicians in every performance since the formation of the MMDG Music Ensemble in 1996. MMDG regularly collaborates with renowned musicians, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma, pianist Emanuel Ax, mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe and jazz trio The Bad Plus, as well as leading orchestras and opera companies, including the Metropolitan Opera, English National Opera and the London Symphony Orchestra. MMDG frequently works with distinguished artists and designers, including painters 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.

### **MMDG Music Ensemble**

Formed in 1996, the MMDG Music Ensemble 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)

Fowler began his musical study at the age of five 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 has led services at numerous houses of worship, including Trinity Wall Street, St. Thomas Church, Marble Collegiate Church and Park Avenue Synagogue. 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 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*. Praised by *The New York Times* as "invaluable" and "central to Morris' music," he was appointed Music Director in 2013.

### **Sam Black** (Company Director)

Black is originally from Berkeley, California and received his BFA in dance from SUNY Purchase. He first appeared with MMDG in 2005 and danced with the company until 2019, when he became the Rehearsal Director. He was promoted to Company Director in 2021.

### **Mica Bernas** (Dancer)

Originally from Manila, Philippines, Bernas 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 a company member in 2017.

### **Karlie Budge** (Dancer)

Budge grew up in Knoxville, Tennessee, training and performing with the Tennessee Children's Dance Ensemble. She attended Case Western Reserve University on a full scholarship from the department of dance, graduating magna cum laude with a BA in dance and a BS in statistics in 2016. Budge has performed with Graham 2, Merce Cunningham Trust and in her own solo and duet choreography. Budge joined MMDG as an apprentice in September 2018 and became a company member in November 2019.

**Brandon Courney** (Dancer)

Courney is originally from Walled Lake, Michigan and received his BFA 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' *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 a company member in 2018.

**Clinton Curtis** (Vocals)

Curtis is a multi-genre singer, musician and songwriter originally from Key West, Florida. As a choral singer, he has worked with many of the world's luminary conductors and orchestras, most recently including engagements with the New York Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic and San Francisco Symphony. March 2016 marked his operatic debut in *Curlew River* for the Mark Morris Dance Group. As a popular songwriter and front man 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.** (Dancer)

A native of Victoria, Texas, Estrada studied martial arts and earned his black belt in 1994. He danced ballet folklórico through his church for 11 years. Estrada earned his BFA in ballet and modern dance from Texas Christian University and had the honor of working with the late Fernando Bujones. During his undergraduate studies, he attended the American Dance Festival where he had the privilege of performing *Skylight*, a classic work by choreographer Laura Dean. He debuted with MMDG in 2007 and became a company member in 2009. Estrada would like to thank God, his family and all who support his passion.

**Amir Farid** (Piano)

Farid is a United States-born Iranian-Australian pianist who has been described as "a highly creative musician – a pianist of great intelligence and integrity [who]...distinguishes himself for all the right reasons!" A graduate of the Royal College of Music in London, he is a sought-after solo recitalist and collaborative artist in concert halls and festivals internationally. His collaborators include tenor Ian Bostridge, saxophonist Claude Delangle and violinist Arabella Steinbacher. As a chamber musician, Farid is the pianist of the Benaud Trio ([benaudtrio.com](http://benaudtrio.com)), winning the Piano Trio prize at the 2005 Australian Chamber Music Competition. His numerous, highly acclaimed recordings are frequently heard on radio stations throughout Australia and internationally, and several albums have been nominated for Australian Independent Music Awards. He is also a recorded artist on the Steinway & Sons Spirio catalogue as part of the piano manufacturer's revolutionary player-piano system. As of 2017, he is a staff pianist at The Juilliard School. [amirfarid.com](http://amirfarid.com)

**Lesley Garrison** (Dancer)

Garrison grew up in Swansea, Illinois and received her early dance training at the Center of Creative Arts in St. Louis, Missouri, and the Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, Michigan. She studied at the Rotterdamse Dansacademie in The Netherlands and holds a BFA from Purchase College. She first performed with MMDG in 2007 and became a company member in 2011. Garrison is fully certified in mat and equipment Pilates through the Kane School of Core Integration. She teaches Pilates and modern dance at The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center and in masterclasses worldwide. Garrison has had the honor of being a teaching artist for the renowned Dance for PD® program since 2011.

**Sarah Haarmann** (Dancer)

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 BFA 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 a company member in 2017.

**Ethan Iverson** (Composer, Arranger, Piano)

Pianist, composer and writer Ethan Iverson first came to international prominence as a founding member of The Bad Plus, a game-changing collective with Reid Anderson and David King. *The New York Times* called TBP "better than anyone at melding the sensibilities of post-60's jazz and indie rock." 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 Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and a radical reinvention of Ornette Coleman's *Science Fiction*. Since leaving TBP, Iverson has kept busy. In 2017, he co-curated a major centennial celebration of Thelonious Monk at Duke University and premiered the evening-length *Pepperland* with the Mark Morris Dance Group. In 2018, he premiered an original piano concerto with the American Composers Orchestra and released a duo album of new compositions with Mark Turner on ECM. In 2019, he released *Common Practice* with Tom Harrell on ECM, standards tracked live at the Village Vanguard. In 2021, he released the big band work *Bud Powell in the 21st Century* and was featured on the March cover of *DownBeat*. In 2022, he released *Every Note is True* on Blue Note records, an album of original music with Larry Grenadier and Jack DeJohnette. Iverson has also been in the critically acclaimed Billy Hart quartet for well over a decade and occasionally performs with elder statesmen like Albert "Tootie" Heath or Ron Carter and collaborates with noted classical musicians like Miranda Cuckson and Mark Padmore. For almost 20 years, Iverson's website, Do the Math, has been a repository of musician-to-musician interviews and analysis. *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." Iverson has also published articles about music in *The New Yorker*, *NPR*, *The Nation* and *JazzTimes*.

**Ryan Keberle** (Trombone)

Hailed in the *DownBeat* International Critics Poll as a #1 Rising Star trombonist and by *The New York Times* as a player "of vision and composure," Keberle has developed a one-of-a-kind voice both on his instrument and as a bandleader, earning him distinction among jazz's most adventurous new voices. Keberle's outlets include the celebrated piano-less group Catharsis, the Big Band Living Legacy Project and Reverso — Suite Ravel, a chamber-jazz collaboration with French pianist Frank Woeste featuring cellist Vincent Courtois and drummer Jeff Ballard. Keberle has worked in endlessly varied settings and with musicians ranging from superstars to up-and-coming innovators. As a featured soloist with the Maria Schneider Orchestra, he collaborated with David Bowie on his 2015 single "Sue (Or in a Season of Crime)." He has performed extensively with the acclaimed songwriter Sufjan Stevens and with Darcy James Argue's groundbreaking big band, Secret Society. He has also played in the big bands of Pedro Giraudo and Miguel Zenón, with Brazilian superstar Ivan Lins, and with the *Saturday Night Live* house band. He has accompanied hit-makers Alicia Keys and Justin Timberlake as well as jazz legends Rufus Reid and Wynton Marsalis. Since 2004, Keberle has served as the Director of Jazz and Brass Studies at Hunter College.

**Courtney Lopes** (Dancer)

Originally from Bermuda, Lopes attended the University of North Carolina School of the Arts for her high school education and focused on contemporary dance. She graduated magna cum laude with a BFA in dance from SUNY Purchase in 2012. She had the opportunity to study abroad in Taiwan at the Taipei National University of the Arts. She has performed works by choreographers such as Lar Lubovitch, Paul Taylor, Jessica Lang and Huang Yi of Cloud Gate Dance Company. She is delighted to currently be working with the Mark Morris Dance Group, Dance Heginbotham, Megan Williams Dance Projects and MeenMoves. Lopes teaches at Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts, the Limon Institute and the Harkness Dance Center at 92nd Street Y.

**Aaron Loux** (Dancer)

Loux grew up in Seattle, Washington and began dancing at the Creative Dance Center as a member of Kaleidoscope, a youth modern dance company. He began his classical training at the Cornish College Preparatory Dance Program and received his BFA from The Juilliard School in 2009. He danced at the Metropolitan Opera and with Arc Dance Company before joining MMDG in 2010.

**Taína Lyons** (Dancer)

Lyons is a San Pedro, California native who began her dance training at the San Pedro Ballet School at age four. Her professional dance training started at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy, eventually being mentored by Debbie Allen herself. She graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in dance and a minor in Spanish in 2020. There, she performed in guest works by Ronald K. Brown, Wayne McGregor and Lar Lubovitch. In the spring of 2019, she also had the pleasure of studying abroad at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, Czech Republic. Since graduating, she has had the honor of being a founding member of the Limón Dance Company's Limón2 company and an apprentice with Ronald K. Brown's Evidence as well as performing and touring with Kyle Marshall Choreography. She joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2022.

**Matthew McLaughlin** (Dancer)

McLaughlin discovered movement at age one and danced hula in Hawaii until age four. As a child with parents in the military, he moved and traveled frequently and explored many different sports and art forms. He graduated from SUNY Purchase with a BFA in dance. During this time, he performed works by Aszure Barton, Kevin Wynn, Kyle Abraham, George Balanchine and Doug Varone. In 2018, he had the opportunity to perform in the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company's 50th anniversary celebration. He joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2019 and became a company member in 2021. McLaughlin would like to thank his family for their love and inspiration.

**Dallas McMurray** (Dancer)

From El Cerrito, California, McMurray began dancing at age four, studying jazz, tap and acrobatics with Katie Maltsberger and ballet with Yukiko Sakakura. He received a BFA in dance from the California Institute of the Arts. McMurray performed with the Limón Dance Company in addition to works by Jiří Kylián, Alonzo King, Robert Moses and Colin Connor. McMurray performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.

**Sam Newsome** (Saxophone)

Newsome works primarily in the medium of solo saxophone, an approach through 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 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," says Newsome. Even though his approach is unorthodox, it has proven to be very fruitful—musically and critically. Newsome's creative efforts have earned him such recognition as receiving the 2016 NYFA Artist's Fellowship for the Music/Sound category; being selected as a nominee for Soprano Saxophonist of the Year by the 2016 Jazz Journalist Association (JJA) and placing fourth in the Soprano Saxophone category in the 64th Annual *DownBeat* Jazz Critics Poll.

**Brandon Randolph** (Dancer)

Randolph began his training with the School of Carolina Ballet Theater in Greenville, South Carolina under the direction of Hernan Justo. At age 14, he was accepted into the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, where he studied with Stanislav Issaev and Bobby Barnett. Randolph received his BFA in dance from Purchase College in 2012. There, he had the opportunity to perform with Dance Heginbotham as well as perform 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** (Dancer)

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 BFA 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** (Dancer)

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 BFA 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 MMDG as an apprentice in 2017 and became a company member in 2019.

**Rob Schwimmer** (Theremin)

Schwimmer is a composer-pianist/keyboardist, thereminist and Haken Continuumist. He has worked with Simon & 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 Klezmates, 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 former co-director of the NY 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** (Dancer)

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 theatre credits include Tulsa in *Gypsy*, Mistoffelees in *CATS* and Dream Curly in *Oklahoma!* Smith danced with Parsons Dance from 2007-2010. He joined MMDG as a company member in 2010.

**Vinnie Sperrazza** (Percussion)

Sperrazza is an active member of the Brooklyn jazz and creative music community. He leads several bands (including Apocryphal, Haunted and Pilot House Overhead), writes music and is a featured collaborator in a number of bands (including Landline, Hearing Things and many others). In 2017, he released two widely praised albums of his original compositions: *Juxtaposition* (Posi-Tone Records) and *Hide Ye Idols* (Loyal Label). In 2018, he toured the United States as a member of the MMDG Music Ensemble and did a brief tour of Spain with PLAY, featuring Jacob Sacks and bassist Masa Kamaguchi. In 2019, Sperrazza toured extensively with *Pepperland* and released three collaborative albums with The Choir Invisible (with Charlotte Greve and Chris Tordini), Trio Trio (featuring Dave Scott and Rich Perry) and Caleb Curtis/Noah Garabedian/Vinnie Sperrazza.

**Noah Vinson** (Dancer)

Vinson is originally from Springfield, Illinois and received his BA 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 *The Letter V* for Houston Ballet. He began dancing with MMDG in 2002 and became a company member in 2004.

**Malik Q. Williams** (Dancer)

Williams is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and was awarded the Lynn Swann Scholarship to attend the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre during the 2006-2007 season. He graduated from the Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, Florida as a dance major in 2013, where he worked with Troy Powell, Christopher L. Huggins, Billy Bell and Margo Sappington. He then went on to The Juilliard School, where he graduated with a BFA in 2017 under the direction of Lawrence Rhodes. At Juilliard, he worked with the choreographers Takehiro Ueyama, Loni Landon, Zvi Gotheiner, Matthew Neenan and Gentian Doda. He has performed works by Martha Graham, Paul Taylor and Nacho Duato. Since graduating, Williams has danced with the Limón Dance Company, National Dance Company of Wales and Lydia Johnson Dance. During this time, he has performed works by José Limón, Caroline Finn, Yin Yue, Caitlin Javech and Lydia Johnson, among many others. He joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2020 and became a company member in 2021.

**Johan Henckens** (Set Design)

Henckens 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)

Kolin has designed *Whelm*, *Words*, *A Forest*, *Numerator*, *Pure Dance Items*, *Little Britten*, *The Trout* and *Sport* 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 supervision 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 MFA playwriting program. He holds an MFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

**Elizabeth Kurtzman** (Costume Design)

Kurtzman 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*, *Pure Dance Items* and *Sport*. 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.

Scan to see headshots and learn more about the dancers:



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