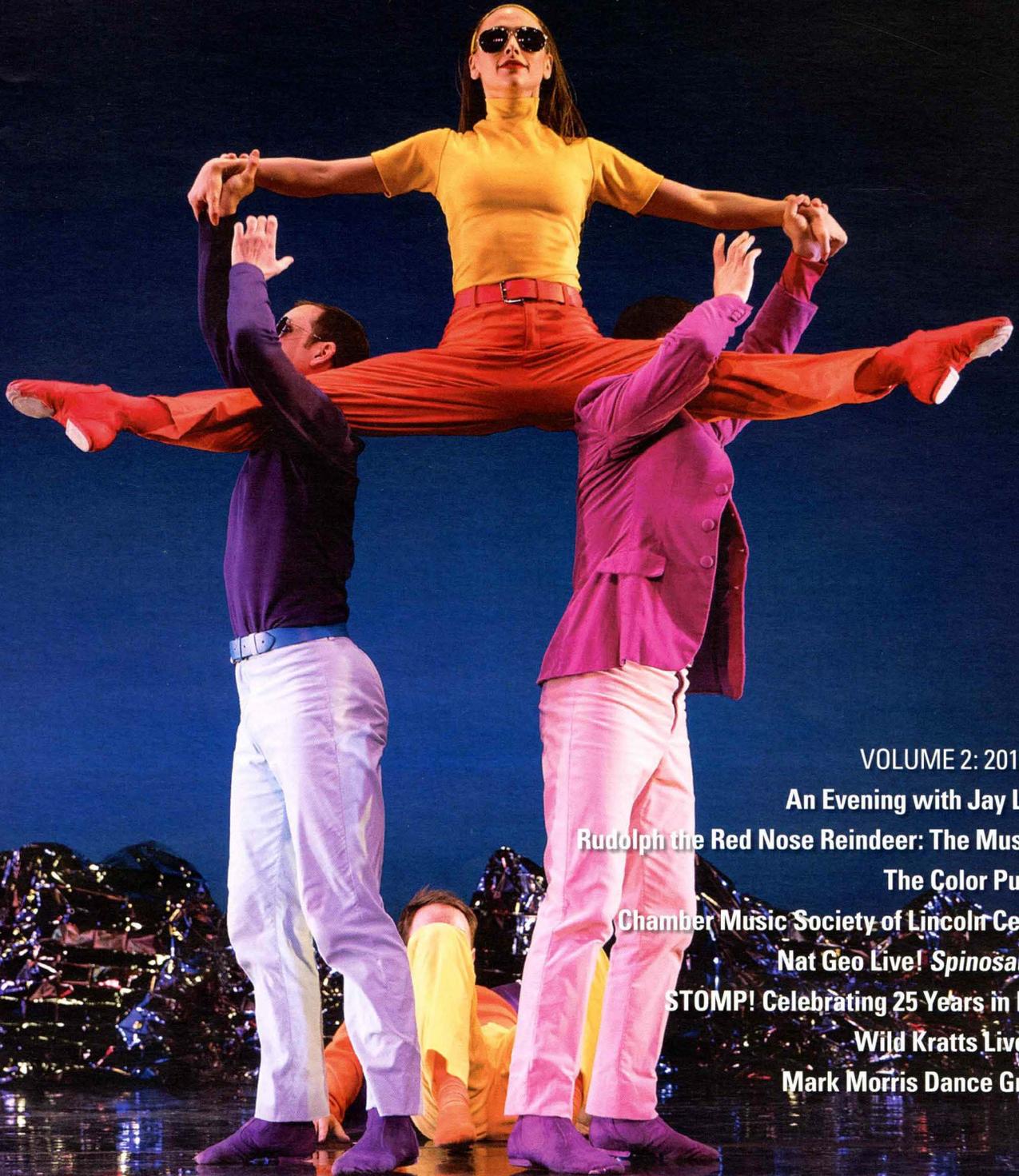


# SPA

SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

*Bringing the World's Best to Houston*



VOLUME 2: 2019-20

An Evening with Jay Leno

Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer: The Musical

The Color Purple

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

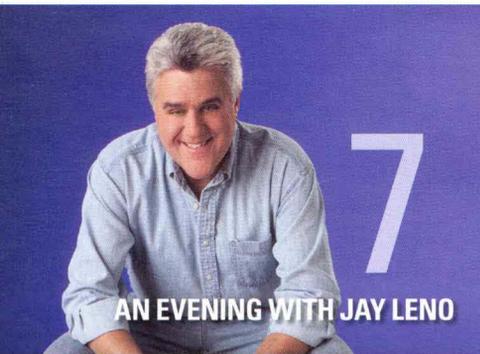
Nat Geo Live! Spinosaurus

STOMP! Celebrating 25 Years in NYC

Wild Kratts Live 2.0

Mark Morris Dance Group

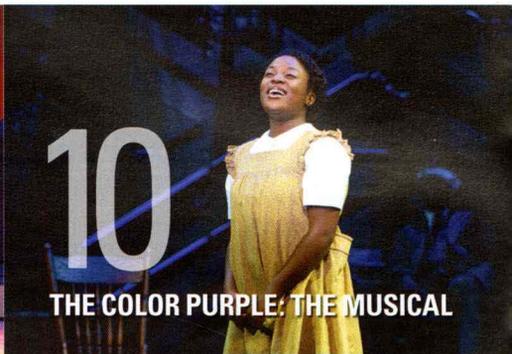
# VOLUME 2: 2019-20



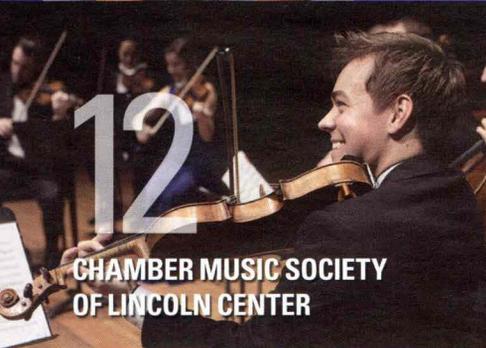
AN EVENING WITH JAY LENO



RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER



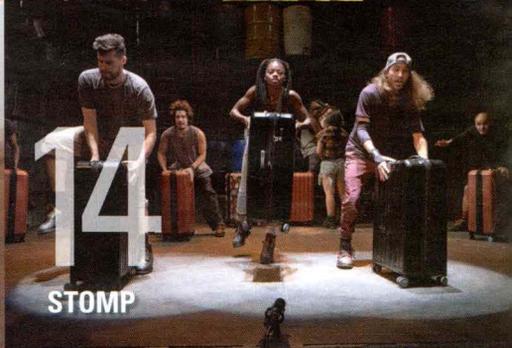
THE COLOR PURPLE: THE MUSICAL



CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER



PALEONTOLOGIST NIZAR IBRAHIM



STOMP



WILD KRATTS LIVE 2.0



MARK MORRIS DANCE COMPANY

## IN EVERY ISSUE

4 2019-20 SPA Board of Directors | 4 Staff | 5 Welcome  
19 SPA Corporate and Foundation Support | 20 SPA Supporters



Official Program Magazine of Society for the Performing Arts

CEO: Meg Booth | Editor: Brian Glass • 615 Louisiana Ste.100, Houston, TX 77002-2796 | 713-227-4772 | spahouston.org  
On the cover: Mark Morris Dance Group, Photo by Mat Hayward

Contents copyright © 2019 by Society for the Performing Arts

### SPA's MISSION:

To enrich the cultural life of Houston by presenting the world's best performing artists and enlightening and educating youth and others in the joys of the performing arts.

JANUARY 30-31 | THURSDAY 8:00 PM; FRIDAY 8:00 PM  
 CULLEN THEATER, WORTHAM CENTER

# MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

## *Pepperland*



PHOTO GARETH JONES

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

Mica Bernas, Brandon Cournay, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lesley Garrison, Lauren Grant,  
 Sarah Haarmann, Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, Brandon Randolph, Nicole Sabella,  
 Christina Sahaida, Billy Smith, Noah Vinson, Jammie Walker

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

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

### ABOUT MARK MORRIS

**Mark Morris** was born on August 29, 1956, in Seattle, Washington, where he studied with Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson. In the early years of his career, he performed with the companies of Lar Lubovitch, Hannah Kahn, Laura Dean, Eliot Feld, and the Kolda 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 Cen-

The taking of flash photographs and the use of recording devices is prohibited. Please turn off all cell phones and pagers.



## MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP CONTINUED

---

ter 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. Morris' memoir, *Out Loud*, co-written with Wesley Stace, was published by Penguin Press in October 2019.

### ABOUT 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.

**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*.

## PATRON INFORMATION

---

**Society for the Performing Arts Information, Single Tickets and Group Sales:** 713-227-4772

**Website:** [spahouston.org](http://spahouston.org)

**Ticket Office:** The main box office for all performances is located on the courtyard level of Jones Hall for the Performing Arts (615 Louisiana St. Ste. #100 Houston, TX 77002). The box office is open Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone sales are available 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Parking:** The Theater District Parking Garage is available for all performances.

### Theater District Parking Garage Hours:

- Mondays-Fridays, 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Saturdays and Sundays, Noon-11 p.m.
- Cost of parking is \$12; hourly parking is not available until further notice.

Valet parking is available for SPA Visionary members. Learn more about becoming a Visionary at [spahouston.org/support-spa](http://spahouston.org/support-spa).

**Entry to Jones Hall, Wortham Theater Center and the Hobby Center:** Doors open 60 minutes prior to SPA performances.

**Emergencies:** In case of extreme emergencies, audience members may call backstage security for assistance. For security to locate you, the caller needs to identify provide a name and seat location (door, row and seat). Emergency phone numbers for all our venues are listed below.

- **Jones Hall for the Performing Arts:** 832.487.7062
- **Wortham Theater Center:** 832.487.7033
- **Hobby Center for the Performing Arts:** 713.315.2444

Personnel for medical emergencies are provided for all performances.

### Performance Hall Policies:

- A City ordinance forbids smoking in public buildings or 25 feet from public entrances including all performance venues.
- All patrons need a ticket to access the venue.
- Food is permitted in the lobby areas only. Drinks may be consumed in the lobby or the theater.
- Use of cameras, cell phones, recording devices, paging devices and smart watches are prohibited in the hall. Phones and watch alarms should be turned off.

### Lost and Found:

For lost items, please contact the venues' administrative offices.

- **Jones Hall for the Performing Arts:** 832.487.7062
- **Wortham Theater Center:** 832.487.7033
- **Hobby Center for the Performing Arts:** 713.315.2444

### Society for the Performing Arts is a member of:

International Society for the Performing Arts  
The Association of Performing Arts Presenters  
Western Arts Alliance  
Mid-America Arts Alliance  
Mid-West Arts Presenters  
INTIX, The International Ticketing Association  
Dance/USA  
Broadway League

**Please Note** All programs, prices, performances and artists are subject to change. Any changes from the printed program will be announced from the stage at the beginning of the performance.