

Sarah Rasmussen  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Michael S. Rosenberg  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Wednesday, April 13  
**Mark Morris  
Dance Group**

Photo by Mat Hayward



Mc**Carter**

# | Our Mission at McCarter

McCarter's mission is to create stories and experiences that enliven minds, expand imaginations and engage communities.

Here at McCarter, we unite the ideals of joy and justice, beauty and belonging to spark curiosity, creativity and conversation among us all. We work together with audiences, artists, avid thinkers and active learners to:

- Explore new stories and perspectives with relentless curiosity
- Champion a more equitable, diverse, inclusive and accessible future
- Open hearts and minds to the truths in ourselves, our communities and society
- Share ideas and innovations that expand opportunities to engage with the performing arts





# A note from the Artistic Director

On behalf of ALL of us at McCarter, welcome.

Whether you've been coming for years or are new to our home, we are so glad you are here.

Amidst all the is going on in our lives right now, we are ready – ready to share theater, music, dance, conversations, laughter, community – because we believe that it is more important than ever to share stories that remind us of our humanity and connections to each other in these times. And we are so proud to support the work of brilliant, essential artists.

I moved across the country in the pandemic to be McCarter's new Artistic Director because I believe deeply in the legacy and potential of this truly special place. I believe in the magic of artists and audiences connecting.

As a director, I can't wait to be an artist in this halloved place. And as an audience member, I am delighted by the expansive range of artists joining us. We kickstarted the season with an array of special music, dance, spoken word, and family performances, plus dynamic theater productions of *What the Constitution Means to Me* and *Dreaming Zenzile*, and we are looking forward to *Ride the Cyclone* coming up next.

You have made it possible for live arts to return to McCarter. We are moved by the support you've shown us. We also thank you for helping McCarter stay safe and social by showing proof of vaccination and wearing a mask at today's performance.

Thank you for being here, and see you back again soon.

Warmly,

Sarah Rasmussen



# Share your story

Connect with us by tagging McCarter on your social media posts and we'll put YOU center stage.



## Mark Morris Dance Group

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### MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

MICA BERNAS   KARLIE BUDGE   BRANDON COUNRAY   DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR.  
LESLEY GARRISON   SARAH HAARMANN   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   COLIN FOWLER   WOLFRAM KOESSEL  
SEAN RITENAUER   GEORGY VALTCHEV

*Artistic Director*  
MARK MORRIS

*Executive Director*  
NANCY UMANOFF

Official Sponsor

## Bloomberg Philanthropies

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group provided by members of the **GRAND DUO CIRCLE** with annual gifts of \$12,000 or more. **HERO** \$500,000+ Anonymous\*. **CHAMPION** \$250,000-\$499,999 Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. **LEADER** \$125,000-\$249,999 Bloomberg Philanthropies, Judith R. and Alan H. Fishman, The Howard Gilman Foundation\*, Suzy Kellems Dominik, The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in Partnership with the City Council, Stavros Niarchos Foundation\*. **STAR COLLABORATOR** \$50,000-\$124,999 Anonymous\*, Adira Foundation, The Beth and Ravenel Curry Foundation, Dance/NYC's New York City Dance Rehearsal Space Subsidy Program, made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund\*, Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc., The National Endowment for the Arts in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, The New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, PARC Foundation\*, The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The Shelby and Frederick Gans Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Jane and R. L. Stine\*, Jamie Gorelick and Richard Waldhorn. **STAR SPONSOR** \$25,000-\$49,999 American Express, Billy Rose Foundation, Eliot Nolen and Timothy Bradley, Mrs. Candace and Dr. Vincent Gaudiani, Isaac Mizrahi and Arnold Germer\*, The SHS Foundation, David Resnicow and Diane Solway\*. **STAR SUPPORTER** \$12,000-\$24,999 Arrow Family Fund, Richard Feldman, The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, York-Chi and Stephen Harder\*, John and Tommye Ireland (in memoriam), Lucy Bowen McCauley, Mark Morris, Sarabeth Berman and Evan Osnos, Parkinson's Foundation, The Robin and Bob Paulson Charitable Fund, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Elliot H. Weinbaum.

# |The Program

## ***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

Costume Design: Elizabeth Kurtzman

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

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

Mica Bernas, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lesley Garrison, Sarah Haarmann,  
Aaron Loux, Dallas McMurray, Malik Q. Williams

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.

## ***Rock of Ages***

Music: Franz Schubert – Piano Trio in E flat, Op. 148

*Adagio*

Costume Design: Katherine McDowell

Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

Georgy Valtchev, *violin*; Wolfram Koessel, *cello*; Colin Fowler, *piano*

Karlie Budge, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Aaron Loux, Dallas McMurray

Premiere: October 28, 2004 – Zellerbach Hall,  
Cal Performances, Berkeley, California

# |The Program

## -INTERMISSION-

### ***Grand Duo***

Music: Lou Harrison – *Grand Duo for Violin and Piano*

Costume Design: Susan Ruddie

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

*Prelude*

*Stampede*

*A Round*

*Polka*

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

Mica Bernas, Karlie Budge, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lesley Garrison,  
Sarah Haarmann, Taína Lyons, Aaron Loux, Matthew McLaughlin,  
Dallas McMurray, Brandon Randolph, Christina Sahaida,  
Billy Smith, Malik Q. Williams

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

# | About The Artist



**MARK MORRIS** was born on August 29, 1956, in Seattle, Washington, where he studied with Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson. In the early years of his career, he performed with the companies of Lar Lubovitch, Hannah Kahn, Laura Dean, Eliot Feld, and the Koleda Balkan Dance Ensemble. He formed the Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) in 1980 and has since created over 150 works for the company. From 1988 to 1991, he was Director of Dance at Brussels' Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, the national opera house of Belgium. In 1990, he founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Much in demand as a ballet choreographer, Morris has created 22 ballets since 1986 and his work has been performed by companies worldwide, including San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, and the Royal New Zealand Ballet. Noted for his musicality, Morris has been described as "undeviating in his devotion to music" (*The New Yorker*). He began conducting performances for MMDG in 2006 and has since conducted at Tanglewood Music Center, Lincoln Center, and BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music). He served as Music Director for the 2013 Ojai Music Festival. He also works extensively in opera, directing

and choreographing productions for the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, English National Opera, and The Royal Opera, Covent Garden, among others. He was named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991 and has received eleven honorary doctorates to date. He has taught at the University of Washington, Princeton University, and Tanglewood Music Center. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, and has served as an Advisory Board Member for the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative. Morris has received the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society, the Benjamin Franklin Laureate Prize for Creativity, the International Society for the Performing Arts' Distinguished Artist Award, Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts, the Orchestra of St. Luke's Gift of Music Award, and the 2016 Doris Duke Artist Award. In 2015, 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's memoir, *Out Loud*, co-written with Wesley Stace, was published in paperback by Penguin Press in October 2021.



# | About The Artist

**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 Kranert 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's 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's 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's signature work *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* had its 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*.

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**COLIN FOWLER** (music director, piano) 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 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*, *The Hard Nut* and *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*. Praised by the *New York Times* as "invaluable" and "central to Morris' music," he was appointed Music Director in 2013.

**SAM BLACK** (company director) is originally from Berkeley, California, and re-

ceived his B.F.A. 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**, 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 a company member in 2017.

**KARLIE 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 B.A. in dance and a B.S. 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

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became a company member in November 2019.

**BRANDON COUNAY** 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 a company member in 2018.

**CLINTON CURTIS** (vocals) 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 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 eleven 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 trained at 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 received a B.F.A. from Purchase College. She first performed with MMDG in 2007 and joined the company in 2011. She is an experienced movement educator, teaching classes in Pilates, yoga, and dance at the Mark Morris Dance Center and in masterclasses worldwide. She is fully certified in mat and equipment Pi-

lates through the Kane School of Core Integration and, through Yoga Vida, received her 200-hour Restorative Yoga and Prenatal Yoga training. Garrison has had the honor of being a teaching artist for the renowned Dance for PD® program since 2011. She lives with her son and husband in Flatbush, Brooklyn. [LesleyGarrison.com](http://LesleyGarrison.com) @LesleyGarrisonMovement

**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 a company member in 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.

**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.

**TAÍNA LYONS** is a San Pedro, California, native who began her dance training at the San Pedro Ballet School at the age of 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 B.F.A. 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 (L2) company, 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** 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 B.F.A. 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**, from El Cerrito, California, began dancing at age four, studying jazz, tap, and acrobatics with Katie Maltsberger and ballet with Yukiko Sakakura. He received a B.F.A. in dance from the California Institute of the Arts. McMurray performed with the Limón Dance Company in addition to works by Jiří Kylián, Alonzo King, Robert Moses, and Colin Connor. McMurray performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.

**BRANDON RANDOLPH** began his training with the School of Carolina Ballet

Theater in Greenville, South Carolina, under the direction of Hernan Justo. At age 14, he was accepted into the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, where he studied with Stanislav Issaev and Bobby Barnett. Randolph received his B.F.A. in dance from Purchase College in 2012. There he had the opportunity to perform with Dance Heginbotham as well as repertory by Stephen Petronio, Lar Lubovitch, Paul Taylor, and George Balanchine. Randolph began working with MMDG in 2013 and became a company member in 2014.

**SEAN RITENAUER** (percussion) is described as a percussionist "with mesmerizing dexterity" and enjoys a diverse career in concert halls, theaters, and studios in New York and around the world. As an orchestral musician, Ritenauer performs frequently with the New York Philharmonic and Malaysia Philharmonic. He is also the Principal Percussionist of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra in Alabama, where he has been a member since 2005 and is frequently featured as a soloist. Ritenauer can be heard all over Broadway where he has held the percussion chair on numerous shows including *Hair*, *Pippin*, and *Something Rotten*. As a devoted educator, Ritenauer has a thriving private teaching studio in New York City where his students have been accepted into some of the world's finest music institutions, including The Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music, New England Conservatory, Boston Conservatory, Eastman School of Music, Northwestern University, University of Michigan, and

# | About The Artist

Indiana University. He is also the head of percussion at Hofstra University on Long Island. Ritenauer earned a B.A. in classical percussion and a M.A. in orchestral performance from the Manhattan School of Music and is a proud graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy.

**NICOLE SABELLA** is originally from Clearwater, Florida, where she studied at the Academy of Ballet Arts and the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School under Suzanne B. Pomerantzeff. In 2009, she graduated from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, earning her B.F.A. in modern dance performance and the "Outstanding Performance in Modern Dance" Award. She was a performer with Zane Booker's Smoke, Lilies, and Jade Arts Initiative. Sabella first performed with MMDG in 2013 and became a company member in 2015.

**CHRISTINA SAHAIDA** grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and began her early dance training at the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School. In 2012, she graduated with honors from Butler University, receiving a B.F.A. in dance performance. She has worked with Ballet Quad Cities, Texture Contemporary Ballet, and most recently the Big Muddy Dance Company in St. Louis, Missouri. Sahaida joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2017 and became a company member in 2019.

**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 Curry 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, Kennedy Center in Washington DC, 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 fre-

# | About The Artist

quent 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 several major symphony orchestras as guest concertmaster, 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 *The Letter V* for Houston Ballet. He began dancing with MMDG in 2002 and became a company member in 2004.

**MALIK Q. 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 B.F.A. 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.

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## **MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP STAFF**

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Executive Director *Nancy Umanoff*

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*Natasha Frater*  
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# | About The Artist

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*Stephen Williams*

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Office Manager *Nicole Bryant*

Dance Center Operations Assistants

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# | Biographies



## **Sarah Rasmussen**

(Artistic Director)

Sarah joined McCarter as Artistic Director in the summer of 2020. She is a director, producer and educator, with a penchant for inventive storytelling and a generous exchange between actor and audience. Rasmussen is the former Artistic Director of the Jungle Theater in Minneapolis, MN where she commissioned, directed, and produced new work. She was recently named Star Tribune's Artist of the Year and is an inaugural recipient of the BOLD Leadership Circle grant. Directing credits include Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Guthrie, Dallas Theater Center, Actors Theater of Louisville, and the La Jolla Playhouse. Awards include MN Theater Award for *The Wolves*, Princess Grace, an Ivey Award for Overall Excellence, Drama League and Fulbright fellowships. New work development with Playwrights' Center, The O'Neill, The Lark, and many others. Alum of the Women's Project, SoHo Rep., and Lincoln Center Directing Labs. She was formerly the Resident Director for Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Black Swan Lab new work development program and Head of MFA Directing at the University of Texas at Austin.



## **Michael S. Rosenberg**

(Managing Director) joined McCarter in 2018. Prior to returning to New Jersey, he was the Managing Director of La Jolla Playhouse in San Diego for nine years where he helped develop and produce projects like the musical *COME FROM AWAY*, the city-wide WithOut Walls Festival. During his tenure, the Playhouse was awarded multi-million dollar grants to commission multi-ethnic projects, increase audience diversity, expand opportunities for military families and build the capacity to sustain community engagement programs in off-site locations. Previously, Mike was Co-Founder and Executive Director of Drama Dept., a New York non-profit theater collective, where for fourteen years he produced new works by the likes of Douglas Carter Beane, Warren Leight, Isaac Mizrahi, Paul Rudnick, David & Amy Sedaris and the Tribeca Film Festival. He is on the International Advisory Board for the collaborative Arts Management program of HEC Montreal, Southern Methodist University, and SDA Bocconi School of Management and he is a Trustee of Cubing USA, the Twisty Puzzle Speed Solving Non-profit. Follow him on Twitter: @MrMikeRosenberg.





### **William W. Lockwood, Jr.**

(Special Programming Director) Bill has been responsible for McCarter's special programs for almost half a century and is currently the senior arts presenter in the United States in terms of continuous service. As Special Programming Director, his association with McCarter goes back more than sixty years to the days when he produced his first events at the venue while a Princeton undergraduate. Since 1963, he has brought thousands of world-renowned and emerging artists in every genre to McCarter audiences—music (both classical and pop), dance, jazz, variety, family, cabaret, and even film. Mr. Lockwood is McCarter's unofficial historian and the author of *McCarter Theatre: 1930-2005*, a memoir published at the time of the building's 75th anniversary in 2005. From 1966 to 1993, he served as Programming Director for Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, a tenure during which he helped create the Great Performers Series and the Mostly Mozart Festival (which he named). In 1997, he helped inaugurate the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark (NJPAC) and served as its Principal Programming Associate for twenty-five years. He also served in the same capacity as the Chief Programming Officer for the first two

seasons of the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia.

Mr. Lockwood served for 40 years as the Graduate Treasurer and Resident Faculty

### **McCarter Theatre Center**

McCarter's mission is to create stories and experiences that enliven minds, expand imaginations, and engage communities. An independent not-for-profit performing arts center located between New York City and Philadelphia – and on the campus of Princeton University – McCarter is a multi-disciplinary creative and intellectual hub offering theater, music, dance, spoken word, and educational programs for all ages. Celebrated for developing new work, and winner of the 1994 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre, world premieres include Christopher Durang's *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Tony Award, Best Play), Tarell Alvin McCarey's *The Brother/Sister Plays*, and Emily Mann's *Having Our Say*. Renowned artists who have appeared at McCarter include: Alvin Ailey, Yo-Yo Ma, Audra McDonald, David Sedaris, *The Moth*, Terence Blanchard, Roseanne Cash, the rock band Lake Street Dive, Shawn Colvin and many more. McCarter connects with the community year-round with a Shakespeare Reading Group, digital programming, a free outdoor concert series, and in-school residencies. McCarter and Princeton University share a long history of unique partnerships and creative collaborations. MORE: [www.mccarter.org](http://www.mccarter.org)

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 Joan Shurtleff  
 Kenneth Stunkel  
 Larry Hugick  
 Leslie Kuenne

Margaret McGurty Keenan  
 Patricia Cooke  
 Georgantas  
 Saul Amarel  
 Sylvia Mann  
 The Stias  
 Victims of Worldwide  
 Civil Wars  
 Carol Hollander

\*PACF denotes the Princeton Area Community Foundation

# |Foundation & Government

We gratefully acknowledge the foundations, and government agencies whose annual donations support the theatre and our education and outreach programs. Each year, these organizations make it possible for McCarter to continue presenting high quality and accessible performances and arts education.

## GRAND MAESTROS (\$100,000+)

New Jersey State Council on the  
Arts/Department of State

The Shubert Foundation  
Princeton University  
BOLD Theater Women's Leadership

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## MAESTROS (\$75,000+)

The Harold and Mimi Steinberg  
Charitable Trust

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## GRAND IMPRESARIOS (\$50,000 - \$74,999)

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

George H. and Estelle M. Sands  
Foundation

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The Curtis W. McGraw Foundation  
Princeton Area Community Foundation  
Princeton University Lewis Center  
for the Arts

Sozosei Foundation  
The Starr Foundation

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The DuBose and Dorothy Heyward  
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Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation

Rita Allen Foundation  
The Kai Yue Foundation  
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Foundation



Beyond the stage, McCarter  
offers an array of classes  
for **adults**.

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we'll utilize improvisation and  
writing activities to examine a  
chosen theme and collectively  
craft an original performance.

**Classes** are available  
**now** through **June!**

[mccarter.org](http://mccarter.org)

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