



Courtesy of Office of Arts Information

Members of the New York based Mark Morris Dance Group perform. The group's dance style ranges from modern to ballet. The 12-member troop dance tonight at Mershon Auditorium.

Graduate dances with troop at Mershon

By Sheila Lillegren
Lantern staff writer

The Mark Morris Dance Group, a New York based 12-member troop which includes an OSU graduate, will make its only Ohio performance at 8 tonight in Mershon Auditorium.

"It's incredible," said OSU alumna Susan Hadley, who has danced with the Mark Morris Dance Group since 1985, "Dancing with the group is extremely challenging in all aspects."

Choreographer Mark Morris incorporates a tremendous amount of variety into the performances, Hadley said.

"Performances can go from lyrical to much more athletic," she said.

The modern dance group uses music ranging from classical to western and from rock to folk. The performances include such

dance disciplines as modern, ethnic, folk and ballet. As Hadley mentioned, Morris is famous for his wide choreographic range.

The performance will include: "Chnoick Three-Quarter Studies," "Deck of Cards," "Celestial Greetings" and "Gloria."

"It's hard to describe the dancing," said Barry Alterman, general manager for the Mark Morris Dance Group. "It's just something you've got to see."

"What I really like people to do is not to expect anything, and basically see something new."

"Usually people have formed their opinions before they see the performance. I want the performance to be received with an open mind," he said.

In 1984, Morris, 30, received a New York Dance and Performing Award for his choreographic work. In addition, Morris has received awards from the New Jersey State

Council on the Arts and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Mark Morris Dance Group presented its first show in 1980. The group has toured internationally since 1984 with performances in Europe.

This fall the Public Broadcasting Service will broadcast a one-hour program devoted to Morris' works called "Dance in America." The program was taped last

spring in Denmark.

Morris, who usually dances in the troop, will not be performing tonight. He broke his foot last November and is still trying to recover from the injury.

Additionally, dancer Jennifer Thines will not be performing tonight due to a back injury.

Tonights performance is part of the Variety Series Program at OSU's Mershon Auditorium, 30 W. 15th Ave. Tickets are \$12, \$10 and \$6.