

# McCarter

Sarah Rasmussen  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Martin Miller  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024 at 8:00PM

## Mark Morris Dance Group

### MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

MICA BERNAS KARLIE BUDGE SARAH HILLMON\*  
COURTNEY LOPES TAÍNA LYONS GRIFFIN MASSEY\* MATTHEW McLAUGHLIN  
DALLAS McMURRAY BRANDON RANDOLPH NICOLE SABELLA CHRISTINA SAHAIDA  
BILLY SMITH JOSLIN VEZEAU\* NOAH VINSON

\*apprentice

### PIANO & MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP MUSIC DIRECTOR

COLIN FOWLER

*Artistic Director*  
MARK MORRIS

*Executive Director*  
NANCY UMANOFF

Official Tour Sponsor

**Bloomberg  
Philanthropies**

With a legacy spanning over four decades, Mark Morris Dance Group is celebrated for its profound musicality and innovative choreography. An enduring audience favorite and great friend to McCarter, the troupe continues its reputation for setting a new benchmark in the world of contemporary dance. As we revel in their artistic brilliance tonight, we thank you for being a part of this exceptional experience, honoring the enduring impact of Mark Morris's vision.

– Paula Abreu, *Director of Presented Programming*



Made possible by funds from the  
New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner  
agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



## PROGRAM

### ***A Wooden Tree***

Music and Words: Ivor Cutler

"Here's A Health For Simon"; "Stick Out Your Chest"; "The Market Place";  
"Rubber Toy"; "Trouble, Trouble"; "Little Black Buzzer"; "I Got No Common  
Sense"; "Deedle, Deedle, I Pass"; "A Wooden Tree"; "Phonic Poem";  
"I'm Going In A Field"; "I Love You But I Don't Know What I Mean";  
"Beautiful Cosmos"; "Cockadoodledon't"

Costume Design: Elizabeth Kurtzman

Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

**Dancers: Mica Bernas, Karlie Budge, Taína Lyons, Dallas McMurray,  
Brandon Randolph, Nicole Sabella, Billy Smith, Noah Vinson**

**Premiere: October 4, 2012 – Merrill Wright Mainstage Theater,  
On the Boards, Seattle, Washington**

Music used by arrangement with The Estate of Ivor Cutler, publisher and copyright owner

### ***Excursions***

Music: Samuel Barber – *Excursions for the Piano* (Op. 20, IV, III, II, I)

Costume Design: Katherine M. Patterson

Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

Colin Fowler, piano

**Dancers: Mica Bernas, Courtney Lopes, Taína Lyons, *Sarah Hillman* Griffin Massey,  
Dallas McMurray, Noah Vinson**

**Premiere: June 26, 2008 – Seiji Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood Music Center,  
Lenox, Massachusetts**

Commissioned in part by the Tanglewood Music Center of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Music by arrangement with G. Schirmer, Inc., publisher and copyright owner.

## -INTERMISSION-

### ***Candleflowerdance***

Music: Igor Stravinsky – *Serenade in A*

Costume Design: Katherine M. Patterson

Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

Colin Fowler, piano

Dancers: Karlie Budge, Matthew McLaughlin, Brandon Randolph,  
Christina Sahaida, Billy Smith, Joslin Vezeau

For Susan Sontag

Premiere: September 22, 2005 – Cal Performances, Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley, California

Commissioned in part by Cal Performances, Berkeley

Music by arrangement with Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., publisher and copyright owner.

## ***Castor and Pollux***

Music: Harry Partch – *Castor and Pollux*

Costume Design: Amy Page

Original Lighting Design: William C. Yehle

Lighting Recreation: Nick Kolin

Dancers: Karlie Budge, Courtney Lopes, Matthew McLaughlin,  
Dallas McMurray, Brandon Randolph, Christina Sahaida,  
Billy Smith, Noah Vinson

Premiere: November 28, 1980 – Merce Cunningham Studio, New York, New York

**Mark Morris** has been praised as “the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical.” (*The New York Times*). In addition to creating over 150 works for the Mark Morris Dance Group, he conducts orchestras, directs opera, and choreographs for ballet companies worldwide. Morris’ work is acclaimed for its ingenuity, musicality, wit, and humanity. Named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991, he has received eleven honorary doctorates to date, and a multitude of awards, including 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 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 National Museum of Dance in Saratoga Springs, New York. Morris’ memoir, *Out Loud*, co-written with Wesley Stace, was published in paperback by Penguin Press in October 2021.

Formed in 1980, Mark Morris’ internationally-renowned **Mark Morris Dance Group** (MMDG) has received “highest praise for their technical aplomb, their musicality, and their sheer human authenticity.” (*Bloomberg News*). Live music and community engagement are vital components of the Dance Group. It has toured with its own musicians, the **MMDG Music Ensemble**, since 1996, and regularly collaborates with orchestras and opera companies around the world. MMDG’s film and television projects include *Dido and Aeneas*, *The Hard Nut*, *Falling Down Stairs*, the U.K.’s *South Bank Show*, and *Live from Lincoln Center*. In 2015, Morris’ signature work

*L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* premiered on PBS's *Great Performances*. The Mark Morris Dance Center was opened in 2001 to provide a home for the Dance Group, subsidized rental space for local artists, programs for local children and seniors, and dance classes for students of all ages and abilities.

The Mark Morris Dance Group gratefully acknowledges contributions from individuals, private and government foundations, and corporations whose annual support makes our work possible. For a list of our supporters visit [mmdg.org/support](http://mmdg.org/support)

### **MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP PRODUCTION AND ARTISTIC STAFF**

Director of Technical Production: Johan Henckens

Lighting Supervisor: Mike Faba

Audio Supervisor: Carl Lund

Wardrobe Supervisor: Amy Page

Director of Artistic Engagement: Jen Rossi

Company Director: Sam Black

Music Director: Colin Fowler

Company Manager: Julia Weber

Follow and tag us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @markmorrisdance

To learn more about our work and programs, visit [mmdg.org](http://mmdg.org)

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP  
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## **Coming Up at McCarter**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8 / 7:30PM

### **Ayodele Casel: Chasing Magic**

**Featuring Special Guest 7-time**

**GRAMMY winner Arturo O'Farrill**

The Best Dance Performances of 2022, one of the world's great tap dance talents, a celebratory display of artistic encounters and how to reconnect with them.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28 / 7:30PM

### **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago**

One of Chicago's premier dance companies returns to McCarter with a multi-faceted program celebrating its 45th season.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 / 7:30PM

### **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte**

#### **Carlo: 50th Anniversary**

The "World's Foremost All-Male Comic Ballet Company" celebrates 50 years of leaps and laughs, in drag and en pointe.