
Meridian Hall

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TO Live Presents

Mark Morris Dance Group

The Look of Love

An evening of dance to the music of Burt Bacharach

January 19, 2024



Photo credit: David Bazemore

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TO Live

MARK MORRIS  **DANCE GROUP**

TO Live would like to acknowledge Tkaronto, which is a Mohawk word meaning the place in the water where the trees are standing.

We live and work on the traditional territory of Haudenosaunee-speaking nations, including the Huron-Wendat, Seneca, and Mohawk. Haudenosaunee-speaking nations have been here since time immemorial, and were more recently joined by the Mississaugas of the Credit.

This place has many Indigenous ports, including where the Humber and Rouge rivers meet other waterways such as Lake Ontario. Ancient longhouses—typical Haudenosaunee housing structures—have been found along both these rivers and in the north of Toronto near modern-day York University. This territory is covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee (Six Nations) Confederacy and the Anishnaabe (Ojibwe) and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the lands and the relationships around the Great Lakes.

What this means is that by living and working here, we all have a responsibility to the environment and to each other, to treat each other and the environment with peace and respect. This means we have responsibilities to honour, renew, and consistently uphold the values and relationships outlined in the ancient agreements.

Today, Toronto is home to Indigenous peoples and settlers from around the world. Let us all come together in an atmosphere of respect and peace to do good work together with good minds. Let's start building stronger and healthier relationships with each other and the spaces we inhabit in Tkaronto, Ontario, Kanata.

Let's hold our minds together in kindness.

Nia:wen. Thank you.

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Welcome letter from TO Live

Welcome,

The New York Times called Mark Morris “the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical,” and the Mark Morris Dance Group is one of the most revered and highly celebrated modern dance companies in the world.

For Morris, it always starts with the music. With *The Look of Love*, his first major evening-length work since his Beatles-inspired hit *Pepperland*, presented here at Meridian Hall in 2018, he has again enlisted the considerable talent of Ethan Iverson for the musical arrangements you will hear performed live tonight by the breathtaking singer Marcy Harriell.

The Look of Love is the first of our dance presentations in 2024 as we remain committed to bringing the best of Canadian and international dance to you, our appreciative and enthusiastic audience.

Next, TO Live presents *Carmen* from Spain’s Compañía Nacional de Danza (February 2 to 3), one of Europe’s most exciting ballet companies. It will be making its Toronto debut with this award-winning new interpretation by choreographer Johan Inger of the much-loved story.

Following *Carmen*, we present *Message In A Bottle* (March 20 to 23), inspired by the iconic hits and poetic lyrics of 17-time Grammy Award-winning artist Sting. Produced by Sadler’s Wells, London’s premiere dance house, it’s a spectacular new dance-theatre show from five-time Olivier Award nominee Kate Prince that offers a story of hope amid the human tragedy of suffering and displacement in a war-torn world.

In addition to these three stellar international productions, we are also proud to present Kaha:wi Dance Theatre’s *SKÉN:NEN*. The theatrical premiere of the multimedia work from one of Canada’s most acclaimed artists, Santee Smith, will be presented at the St. Lawrence Centre for the Art’s Bluma Appel Theatre (May 9 to 11). This work is designed for all ages, but the season includes two special school performances. Students who attend will also participate in accompanying workshops that delve into the work’s key themes: the impact of climate catastrophe and the hopeful message that Indigenous beliefs in balance and peace can offer restoration.

This spring we’re even presenting a show at a new venue for us, the Leaside Memorial Community Gardens, where we’ll bring you *Murmuration* in partnership with our friends at Fall for Dance North and the artists, Le Patin Libre (April 25 to 28). Montreal-based Le Patin Libre is making a name for itself the world over with its innovative and exhilarating reimagination of contemporary dance on ice.

You can find everything you need to know and more at tolive.com, but for now, please sit back and enjoy this evening’s performance of *The Look of Love*.

Thank you,

Clyde Wagner
President & CEO
TO Live

Josephine Ridge
Vice President of Programming
TO Live

Mark Morris



Photo credit: Beowulf Sheehan

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 am Rhein, Dusseldorf, 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. A Doris Duke Artist, Morris 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. He 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 October 2021.

Mark Morris Dance Group



Photo credit: Christopher Duggan

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.

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 pianist

Ethan Iverson, 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 Isaac Mizrahi and the late Martin Pakledinaz, 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



Photo credit: Christopher Duggan

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*.

The Look of Love

Mark Morris Dance Group

Mica Bernas, Karlie Budge, Brandon Cournay, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Sarah Hillmon*, Courtney Lopes, Taina Lyons, Griffin Massey*, Matthew McLaughlin, Dallas McMurray, Brandon Randolph, Nicole Sabella, Christina Sahaida, Billy Smith, Joslin Vezeau*, Noah Vinson

**Apprentice.*

MMDG Music Ensemble

Jonathan Finlayson, Marcy Harriell, Colin Campbell McAdoo, Chris McCarthy, Blaire Reinhard, Vinnie Sperrazza, Simón Willson

Artistic director

Mark Morris

Executive director

Nancy Umanoff

The Look of Love

Music by Burt Bacharach

Lyrics by Hal David

Lyrics from “The Blob” by Mack David

Arranged by Ethan Iverson

Choreography by Mark Morris

Costume and production design by Isaac Mizrahi

Lighting design by Nicole Pearce

Musicians

Marcy Harriell, *lead vocals*; Chris McCarthy, *piano*; Jonathan Finlayson, *trumpet*; Simón Willson, *bass*; Vinnie Sperrazza, *drums*; Colin Campbell McAdoo and Blaire Reinhard, *background vocals*

Dancers

Mica Bernas, Karlie Budge, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Courtney Lopes, Taina Lyons, Dallas McMurray, Brandon Randolph, Nicole Sabella, Billy Smith, Noah Vinson

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Program

Alfie

What the World Needs Now

I’ll Never Fall in Love Again

Message to Michael

Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head

Do You Know the Way to San Jose

Anyone Who Had a Heart

Walk on By

Don’t Make Me Over

Are You There (With Another Girl)

The Blob

Always Something There to Remind Me

The Look of Love

I Say a Little Prayer

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“Alfie” – From the Paramount Pictures film *Alfie*. Music by Burt Bacharach. Lyrics by Hal David. Published by Famous Music, LLC, Sony/ATV Harmony.

“What the World Needs Now,” “Are You There (With Another Girl),” “Do You Know the Way to San Jose,” “I’ll Never Fall in Love Again,” “Don’t Make Me Over,” “Always

Something There to Remind Me,” “Anyone Who Had a Heart,” “Walk on By,” “Message to Martha,” “I Say a Little Prayer” – Written by Burt F. Bacharach and Hal David.

Published by New Hidden Valley Music (ASCAP) and BMG Gold Songs (ASCAP) obo itself and Songs of Fujimusic (ASCAP).

“The Look of Love” – From the feature film *Casino Royale*. Written by Burt Bacharach and Hal David. Published by Colgems-EMI Music Inc.

“The Blob” – From the Paramount Pictures film *The Blob*. Written by Burt Bacharach and Mack David. Published by Famous Music, LLC, Sony/ATV Harmony, Jobe Music, Brad Reinis Music, and Debbie Grillo Music. By arrangement with Soroka Music Ltd.

“Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head” – Written by Burt F. Bacharach and Hal David. Published by New Hidden Valley Music (ASCAP), BMG Gold Songs (ASCAP) obo itself and Songs of Fujimusic (ASCAP), and Warner Chappell Music, INC.

Costume associate to Mr. Mizrahi: Marla Wonboy

The Look of Love is a production of the Mark Morris Dance Group; BAM; BroadStage, Santa Monica; Cal Performances, UC Berkeley; The Jay and Susie Gogue Performing Arts Center at Auburn University; Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth; and Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in association with Arizona Arts Live, University of Arizona; Harriman-Jewell Series; The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Modlin Center for the Arts at University of Richmond; Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech; Marybelle and Sebastian P. Musco

Center for the Arts; Tennessee Performing Arts Center; UC Santa Barbara Arts & Lectures; and Virginia Arts Festival.

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

Burt Bacharach



Burt Bacharach (1928-2023) was one of the world's most acclaimed, award-winning composer/songwriters. His music is as diverse as his audiences, spanning generations and continents, as he is celebrated as both a pop culture icon and one of the world's greatest contemporary composers. Bacharach's credits read like the world's favourite radio stations' playlist: "Alfie," "Arthur's Theme," "Close To You," "What The World Needs Now Is Love," and "Wishin' And Hopin'" are among just the 48 top-10 hits and nine number-one songs.

Bacharach and Hal David were the recipients of the 2012 Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song. The prize is awarded to musicians whose lifetime contributions in the field of popular song exemplify the standard of excellence associated with the Gershwins. Bacharach and David received the Library's Gershwin Medal in May 2012. Bacharach's memoir, *Anyone Who Had a Heart*, was released in May 2013. For the first time in his long and astonishing career, Bacharach told his story of love, heartbreak, success, failure, and unbridled ambition in the book, which is named after one of many songs Bacharach and David wrote for Dionne Warwick.

Bacharach composed his first film score in 16 years for John Asher's autism-based drama film *Po*, which tells the story of a recently widowed father struggling to raise his 10-year-old son who has autism. Bacharach and Daniel Tashian released two new songs called "Moon Over Wichita" and "Heartbreak Storms" via Big Yellow Dog Music in April 2022. The songs are a continuation of their Grammy-nominated *Blue Umbrella* EP, released in 2020, and *Blue Umbrella (The Complete Recordings)*, which was released in 2021 and featured four never-before-heard songs. Bacharach and Steven Sater's *Some Lovers*, featuring vocal performances from some of Broadway's most beloved costars, was released in 2021 and nominated for a Grammy Award for best musical theatre album.

Hal David



Hal David (1921-2012) is known for his award-winning lyrics that have been featured in films, Broadway shows, and music charts throughout his career. Honored through many Grammys, the NARM Presidential Award, and more, he is most known for his collaborations with composer Burt Bacharach whom he met in 1957. The two wrote their first hit, “The Story of My Life,” and then continued to write iconic American pop songs throughout the 1960s and 70s. In 2012, David and Burt Bacharach received the Gershwin Prize for Popular Song.

But the duo was not just known for the pop songs they created; they also wrote for movies, four of their songs being nominated for Academy Awards: “What’s New, Pussycat?,” “Alfie,” “The Look of Love,” and “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ on My Head.” “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ on My Head” also won an Oscar in 1970. Lincoln College bestowed a doctor of music degree on David for his contribution to American music. In October of 2007, David received an honorary degree from the Five Towns College in Long Island; the school also named their new music library building after him. David is a member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and was the first non-British person to receive the Ivor Novello Award from the British Performing Rights Society.

Ethan Iverson

Arranger



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-60s’ 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, or 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*.

Colin Fowler
Music director



Colin Fowler began his musical study at the age of five in Kansas City, went on to study at the Interlochen Arts Academy, and 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 conductor and keyboardist of many Broadway shows, including *Jersey Boys*, *In the Heights*, *Wicked*, and the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. As a classical soloist and collaborative artist, he has performed and recorded with many world-renowned musicians and ensembles, including Deborah Voigt, Renée Fleming, The Knights, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

He has arranged and conducted for many TV and film productions, including *Yellowstone* and Greta Gerwig's *Little Women*. He began to collaborate with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2005 and has performed over 60 pieces with the company on almost every keyboard instrument possible, including the harmonium and toy piano. He has conducted performances of *Mozart Dances*, *Acis and Galatea*, *The Hard Nut*, and *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, and helped edit and create over 15 videodances with Mark Morris during the pandemic. Hailed by *The New York Times* as “invaluable” and “central to Morris’ music,” he was appointed music director in 2013.

Marcy Harriell

Lead vocals

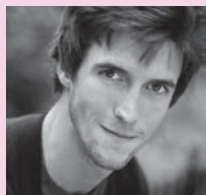


Marcy Harriell is a singer, actress, and designer. Music was as mandatory as air for the daughter of a truck-driving trumpeter and a gardening artist. In her childhood home, she delighted in drilling arias while jazz greets played in the background. Her ability to passionately embrace diverse vocal styles has made her a standout in New York theatre. Jumping lithely among opera, rock, jazz, and R&B, *The New York Times* recently hailed her as a vocalist who “demolishes the furious torch song” with a “rafter rattling intensity.” Broadway star turns include Tony Award-winning musicals *In the Heights*, *Rent*, and her nightly showstopping performance in *Lennon*, where the *New York Post* declared this “wildcat kitten” a “star in the making.”

Throughout her career, she has had the honour to work with many industry legends: Stephen Sondheim, who guided her performance of Marta in *Company* at Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center; Athol Fugard, who directed her in the world premiere of his play *Sorrows & Rejoicings*; Jerome Robbins and Arthur Laurents, under whose masterful supervision Harriell deepened the role of Maria in *West Side Story*. “Superfriend” Lin-Manuel Miranda recruited her to record early demos for Disney’s *Moana*, tapping Harriell’s emotional interpretations for the soundtrack. Enamored by another interpretation, Quentin Tarantino wrote the role of “Marcy” for her in his film *Death Proof*.

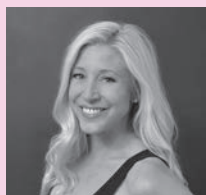
On the small screen, Harriell has been a series regular on NBC’s *Ed*; HBO’s *Nurse Jackie*; CBS’s *Queens Supreme*; and has guest starred in many episodics, including *Manifest*, *NCIS*, *Law & Order*, and *Search Party*. When she’s not onstage, onscreen, or in-studio, Harriell takes a happy audience on a colorful ride alongside her husband Rob in the hit YouTube series *@TheHandmadeHarriells*, creating couture garments for everyday life. In fact, she’ll be wearing one of her creations tonight.

Colin Campbell
McAdoo
*Background
vocals*



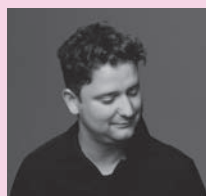
Colin Campbell McAdoo is grateful for the opportunity to sing this music with the Mark Morris Dance Group. He is a performing artist currently based in Sonoma, California. He is a company member and director for the Transcendence Theatre Company and has performed in over 22 shows with the theatre. He is also the Artistic Director for the Benchmark School in Pennsylvania. He has toured nationally and performed Off-Broadway, at Lincoln Center, and at over twenty regional theaters throughout the country. He has performed with many symphonies around the world and has recorded at Carnegie Hall and the Sydney Opera House. Some favorite credits include male swing and dance captain in *Jersey Boys*, Link in *Hairspray*, and Woody in *Toy Story: The Musical*.

Blaire Reinhard
*Background
vocals*



Blaire Reinhard is thrilled to be joining the MMDG Music Ensemble in *The Look of Love*. Her voice and original compositions have been featured in hundreds of TV shows, films, radio spots, and commercials, with credits including *Feel the Beat*, *So You Think You Can Dance*, *The Friend*, *Inside Amy Schumer*, *Dance Moms*, *The Young and the Restless*, *One Life to Live*, *Lincoln Heights*, *The Voice*, *Silver Bells*, *High School Musical*, *The Namesake*, *Cow Belles*, and *The Merry Gentleman*. She has also worked as music supervisor on series including *Younger* and *Chappelle's Show*. For over a decade, she has managed and directed the Blaire Reinhard Band, performing as lead vocalist and keyboardist at events around the greater New York City area.

Chris McCarthy
Piano



Vinnie Sperrazza-Jacob Sacks-Masa Kamaguchi PLAY, and trioTrio meets Shelia Jordan. Chris McCarthy is known for his “high skill and sensitivity” (*The New York Times*) and is one of the most in-demand pianists in New York City. McCarthy has developed a reputation as “one of the most imaginative and impressive voices on the New York jazz scene” (*Hot House Jazz magazine*). McCarthy grew up in the thriving local music scene of Seattle. Early accolades included the 2012 Gerald Wilson Award for big band composition at the Monterey Jazz Festival. After playing with Jerry Bergonzi and Jason Palmer’s working bands in Boston for several years, he moved to New York in 2016 and has been collaborating

with artists from around the globe in New York City ever since. He released his debut for Ropeadope Records *Still Time to Quit* in 2020, featuring Takuya Kuroda on trumpet, Michael Blake on sax, Sam Minaie on bass, and JK Kim on drums. The album received widespread critical praise, including the number-three slot in Paul Rauch's best local jazz albums of 2020 for *Seattle Times*.

McCarthy is known for his sensitive accompanying of vocalists, working with many of New York's finest: Vanisha Gould, Lucy Yeghizarian, Aubrey Johnson, and Sami Stevens to name a few. McCarthy is also active in the world music scenes, touring with Carnatic vocalist Roopa Mahadevan and Gnawa musician Samir Langus. His playing is featured on albums by rising stars such as vibraphonist Sasha Berliner (*Azalea*, 2019) and saxophonist Eden Bareket (*Day Dream*, 2021). In 2021, his playing was featured on BBC Radio 1 and drummer Questlove's social media. McCarthy also collaborates with R&B duo Lion Babe and is featured on their album *Cosmic Wind*. In January 2023, he was a featured artist in legendary pianist Johnny O'Neal's show *Tribute to the Crooners* at Jazz at Lincoln Center. He currently plays in legendary tap dancer Dormeshia's new show *Rhythm is Life*, a *New York Times* critic's pick. May 2023 brought the release of *Priorities* (Fresh Sound Records), McCarthy's new album of all originals in the piano trio tradition featuring Chris Tordini on bass and Steven Crammer on drums. The international jazz scene will continue to hear from McCarthy for years to come.

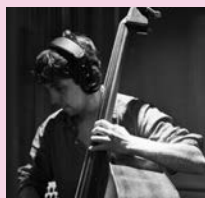
Jonathan Finlayson *Trumpet*



Jonathan Finlayson is an accomplished trumpeter, composer, and band leader. Named a rising star by *DownBeat* magazine, Finlayson has been an integral part of the creative music scene in New York since relocating in 2000. He is widely admired for his ability to negotiate cutting-edge material while bringing a strong sense of individuality and verve. Finlayson has garnered critical acclaim and recognition for his three recordings as a leader with his group Sicilian Defense. He has also received much recognition for his contributions as a sideman with cutting-edge artists such as Steve Coleman, Henry Threadgill, Steve Lehman, and Mary Halvorson.

Simón Willson

Bass



Simón Willson is a Chilean-born, New York City-based bassist, composer, and improviser. As an eclectic and in-demand sideman, he has toured with a host of different artists in Europe, the United States, Canada, and South America. His wide-ranging interest in different realms of jazz and improvised music has led him to work with a diverse pool of established artists such as Dave Douglas, Ethan Iverson, Steve Cardenas, George Garzone, Jason Palmer, Rodney Green, Michael Blake, Pablo Held, Jim Black, Tim Miller, and Frank Carlberg, among many others. He also plays in bands of contemporaries such as Kevin Sun, Max Light, and Jacob Shulman. In addition to his sideman work, he co-leads the bands Great on Paper, Family Plan, and Earprint. The latter won the best debut album category of the NPR Music Jazz Critics Poll in 2016, and Family Plan released their debut album in September 2021, due to receiving a generous grant from the Chilean government.

Willson can be heard on over 25 records for labels such as Tzadik, Steeplechase, Newvelle, and Endectomorph, in addition to several self-releases.

Vinnie Sperrazza

Drums



Vinnie Sperrazza is a Brooklyn-based jazz drummer. He has made a mark on the New York jazz community with his swinging, enthusiastic playing, and commitment to original projects. He has released three full-length albums of his original compositions for Loyal Label and Positone Records. In 2023, he released a trio album with pianist Ethan Iverson and bassist Michael Formanek, and a new suite of music composed for a group with guitarist Brandon Seabrook and saxophonist Loren Stillman. Additionally, he has played on over 80 albums as a sideman.

Notable recent touring has been with saxophonist and composer Ohad Talmor's Subway Lines; Stew and Heidi Rodewald in Stew and The Negro Problem; the Mark Morris Dance Group's *Pepperland*, composed and led by Ethan Iverson; the Michael Formanek Drome Trio, featuring new extended compositions by Michael Formanek; and the jazz collective Ember, featuring saxophonist Caleb Curtis and bassist Noah Garabedian. He is a member of the Hank Roberts Sextet and Hank Roberts Trio, and tours and records with the groups Landline, the Choir Invisible, Ember featuring Orrin Evans, Matt Bauder's Hearing Things, Vinnie Sperrazza-Jacob Sacks-Masa Kamaguchi PLAY, and trioTrio meets Shelia Jordan.

Sam Black
Company director



Sam 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, Mica 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 and rose up the ranks to soloist. While at Ballet Philippines, she also studied at De La Salle University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in organizational communication in 2006. Upon graduating, she moved to New York and joined Carolyn Dorfman Dance. She was a guest artist with the Limón Dance Company and worked with Karole Armitage, Gallim Dance, Marta Renzi, and Connecticut Ballet. As an educator, she has taught all levels of dance, including after-school programs, pre-professional, and master classes. She has taught at the Limón Institute and formerly ran the dance program at BIMA at Brandeis University. She joined MMDG as a company member in 2017.

Karlie Budge
Dancer



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 BA in dance and a BS in statistics in 2016. Budge has performed with Graham 2 and 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.

Domingo Estrada, Jr.
Dancer



Domingo Estrada, Jr., a native of Victoria, Texas, 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 honour 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 was a company member from 2009 to 2023. Estrada would like to thank God, his family, and all who support his passion.

Sarah Hillmon
Dancer



Sarah Hillmon was born and raised in Rochester, New York. There she trained with Garth Fagan and Timothy M. Draper and was a member of the Rochester City Ballet. She graduated with a BFA in dance from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she had the privilege of performing works by talented artists including Sidra Bell, Lucinda Childs, Gus Solomons Jr., and Charles Weidman. After college, she became a member of Lucinda Childs Dance Company, where she toured the world performing classic works. While in New York City, she also had the honour to perform with artists such as Solange Knowles as well as a number of dance companies including Robert Mark Dance, Suzanne Beahrs Dance, BodyStories: Teresa Fellion Dance, DanceBoissiere, and the Daniel Gwirtzman Dance Company. She joined MMDG as an apprentice in September 2023.

Courtney Lopes
Dancer



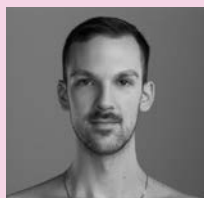
Courtney Lopes is originally from Bermuda and attended the University of North Carolina School of the Arts for her high school education. She graduated magna cum laude with a BFA in dance from SUNY Purchase in 2012 and studied in Taiwan at the Taipei National University of the Arts. As a student, she performed works by Paul Taylor, Jessica Lang, Lar Lubovitch, and Huang Yi of Cloud Gate Dance Theater. In addition to performing with Dance Heginbotham for over nine years, she has worked as a freelance artist with Megan Williams, Sameena Mitta, Kathryn Alter, Sue Bernhard, and Robert Mark Burke. As an educator and répétiteur, she has worked with the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, Ballet Tech, 92Y Harkness Dance Center, Dance for PD®, and the José Limón Institute. She first performed with MMDG in 2018 and became a company member in 2023.

Táina Lyons
Dancer



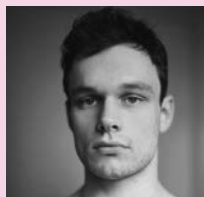
Táina Lyons is a San Pedro, California, native who began her dance training at the San Pedro Ballet School at the age of four. Her professional dance training started at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy, eventually being mentored by Debbie Allen herself. She graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts with a 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 honour 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 a company member in 2022.

Griffin Massey
Dancer



Griffin Massey was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. After training in Oklahoma and Texas, he moved to New York City where he earned his BFA in dance in 2023 from The Juilliard School under Alicia Graf Mack, dean and director of the dance division, and Mario Alberto Zambrano, associate director. While at Juilliard, he had the opportunity to perform works by Sonya Tayeh, Donald McKayle, Ohad Naharin, Aszure Barton, Spencer Theberge, Jermaine Spivey, and Hofesh Shechter. He has also studied at Springboard Danse Montréal under the direction of Alexandra Wells. He joined MMDG as an apprentice in August 2023.

Matthew
McLaughlin
Dancer



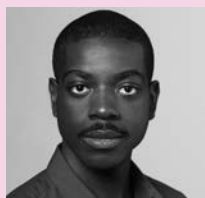
Matthew McLaughlin discovered movement at age one and danced hula in Hawaii until age four. As a child with parents in the military, he moved and travelled frequently and explored many different sports and art forms. He graduated from SUNY Purchase with a BFA in dance. During this time, he performed 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



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 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.

Brandon Randolph
Dancer



Brandon Randolph began his training with the School of Carolina Ballet Theater in Greenville, South Carolina, under the direction of Hernan Justo. At 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 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



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 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



Christina Sahaida grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and began her early dance training at the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School. In 2012, she graduated with honours 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.

Billy Smith
Dancer



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 Curly in *Oklahoma!* Smith danced with Parsons Dance from 2007 to 2010. He joined MMDG as a company member in 2010.

Joslin Vezeau
Dancer



Joslin Vezeau is from St. Louis, Missouri, where she trained at the Center of Creative Arts (COCA). She graduated magna cum laude from the Ailey/Fordham BFA program in dance performance in 2018 and while there was awarded the Denise Jefferson Memorial Scholarship. During her senior year in college, she joined Peridance Contemporary Dance Company in New York and danced with that company for six seasons. When not dancing, she is a personal trainer and loves rock climbing, volunteering at Brooklyn farmers' markets, and taking care of dogs. She joined MMDG as an apprentice in August 2023.

Noah Vinson
Dancer



Noah 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.

Isaac Mizrahi
*Costume and
production design*



Isaac Mizrahi has worked extensively in the entertainment industry as a performer, host, writer, designer, and producer for over 30 years. He has an annual residency at Café Carlyle in New York City and has performed at various venues across the country such as Joe's Pub, The Regency Ballroom, and several City Winery locations nationwide. *The New York Times* noted, "he qualifies as a founding father of a genre that fuses performance art, music, and stand-up comedy."

He is the subject and co-creator of *Unzipped*, a documentary following the making of his fall 1994 collection, which received an award at the Sundance Film Festival. He hosted his own television talk show *The Isaac Mizrahi Show* for seven years, has written three books, and has made countless appearances in movies and on television. He served as a judge on *Project Runway: All-Stars* for the series' entire seven-season run. Mizrahi has directed productions of *A Little Night Music* and *The Magic Flute* for the Opera Theatre of St. Louis. Annually, he directs and narrates his production of the children's classic *Peter and the Wolf* at the Guggenheim Museum in New York. Mizrahi has his own production company, Isaac Mizrahi Entertainment, under which he has several projects in development in television, theatre, and literature. His *New York Times* Bestselling memoir, *I.M.*, was published in February 2019.

Nicole Pearce
Lighting design



Nicole Pearce is a multidisciplinary artist living in Queens, New York. Her work has been seen across the United States, Cuba, England, Germany, Japan, Korea, Italy, New Zealand, and Russia. *The New York Times* has stated "the glow of Nicole Pearce's lighting on center stage creates a feeling of magic, as if the dancers are circling an unseen grail." Selected dance credits include work with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theater, Atlanta Ballet, Dance Heginbotham, Dance Theater of Harlem, Gallim, Houston Ballet, Hubbard Street, Joffrey Ballet, Malpaso, Mark Morris Dance Group, Nederlands Dance Theater, and New York City Ballet. Selected theatre and opera credits includes work with Arena Stage, Arizona Opera, Hartford Stage, Long Wharf Theater, McCarter Theater, Minnesota Opera, The Play Company, The Playwrights

Realm, Philadelphia Theater Company, Opera Montreal, and Pittsburgh Public Theater. Her installation of 1,000 paintings entitled *Tiny Paintings for Big Hearts* is open to doctors, nurses, staff, and patients of Elmhurst Hospital in Elmhurst, New York.

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Marcy Harriell, *lead vocals*; Mark Morris, Ethan Iverson, *arranger*

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Michelle Carter
Vice President of Human Resources & Organizational Culture
Mohamed Othman
Director of Human Resources
Melissa Creighton
Human Resources Generalist

Marketing and communications

Jeff Rohrer
Vice President of Marketing & Communications
Stephanie Canarte
Director of Marketing
Grant Ramsay
Media Relations Officer
Stephen Crooks
Senior Digital Marketing Manager
Vanessa Grant
Senior Content Marketing Manager
Lauren Finateri
Marketing Manager, Promotions & Partnerships
Emma Forhan
Creative Content Producer
Shaun Lee
Graphic Designer
Jaya Arora
Social Media & Web Content Coordinator

Joshua DeFreitas
Marketing Specialist
Box office
Tom Kerr
Director of Ticketing Services
Sandie Chui
Manager of Ticket Services
Fran Holywell
Liz Bragg
Box Office Manager
Thomas Quinlan
Holly Merkur-Dance
Annajah Dacres
Alexander Jackson
Box Office Assistant Manager
Clayton Batson
Jennifer Norman
Zen Peterson
Brittney Channer
Michelle Cruz
Box Office Duty Manager

Operations

Matthew Farrell
Vice President of Operations
Edward Delavari
Director of Capital Projects
Luke Belfontaine
Senior Project Manager
Bahram Aghakhan
Zane Elliott
Nerin Carvalho
Project Manager

Patron and Event Services

Sean Tasson
Director of patron and event services
Lynn Frenette
Tara Hitchman
Lina Welch
Tracey Fyfe
Patron Services Manager
Natalie Ireland
Senior Manager, Events
Yuki Daloste
Event Manager
Robin Gaunt
Assistant Patron Services Manager
Peter Harabaras
Andrew Muirhead
Kizzie St Clair
Maria Waslenko
Fiona Alexander
Corrine Engelbrecht
Hugo Ares-Gonzalez
Bruna Pisani
Patron Services Duty Manager
Andrew Fong
Executive Chef
Juliana Fay
Senior Manager, Food & Beverage Services

Arturo Muralla
Jai Bittles
Sous Chef

Facilities

Abiodun Ojekunle
Director of Facilities
Jarryd Fish
Facilities Manager
Evan Ramdin
Chief Building Operator
Robert MacLean
Building Operator
Ryan Nerona
Junior Building Operator
Omar Nurse
Stage Door Security Supervisor
Colin Dyble
Henry Fernandes
Margreta Kristiansen
Pema Lakshey
Mohammed Shaikh
Tushar Somani
Mohuddin Memon
Reza Moradi
Sangay Lhamo
Stage Door Security
Mohamed Zuhair
Maintenance Supervisor
Ahmed Akinpelu
Roger Alves
Robert Bischoff
Himal KC
Mizrak Mohamed
Catherine Patrick
Rosalina Silva
Rosa Victoria
Mizrak Mohamed
Maintenance
Vivian Hije
Maintenance (housekeeping)
Roderick Padasdao
Building Operator
Marciano Ramos
Jr. Building Operator
Ehsan Rahman
Jr. Building Operator
John Vickery
Housekeeping Supervisor
Rhoven Jane Bunda
Michael Kim
Elliott Lewis
Mabel Liwag
Ian Romero
Adam Sikora
Lauren Smith
Alicia Surujbally
Justin O'Hare
Karrie Smith
Housekeeping
Matthew Pannell
Eduardo Costales
Handyperson

Programming

Josephine Ridge
Vice President of Programming
Max Rubino
Director of Programming
Ariana Shaw
Sascha Cole
Senior Producer
Kafi Pierre
Shannon Murtagh
Producer
John Kiggins
Programming Manager
Nathan Sartore
Programming & Accessibility
Coordinator
Courtney Voyce
Bookings Manager
Martina Strautins
Alex Whitehead
Bookings Coordinator
Scott North
Director Corporate & Private Events
Michaela Aguirre
Social Media Specialist

Communities and outreach

Tasneem Vahanvaty
Director of Communities & Outreach
Dani De Angelis
Communities & Outreach
Coordinator

Production

Kristopher Dell
Director of Production
Zoe Carpenter
Senior Production Manager
Anthony (TJ) Shamata
Senior Production Manager
Bruce Bennett
Senior Manager, Theatre Systems
and Special Projects
Chris Carlton
Paul McKenna
Armand Baksh-Zarate
Susanne Lankin
Kristopher Weber
Production Manager
Emma Pressello
Production Coordinator

Meridian Hall stage crew

IATSE Local 58
Richard Karwat
Head Electrician
Steve McLean
Head Carpenter
Marcus Sirman
Head of Properties
David Baer
Assistant Carpenter

Zsolt Kota
Assistant Sound Operator
Michael Farkas
Assistant Electrician – AV
Jason Urbanowicz
Assistant Electrician

St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts stage crew

IATSE Local 58
Wes Allen
Head of Properties,
Bluma Appel Theatre
Jay Blencowe
Head Carpenter,
Bluma Appel Theatre
Giulia D'Amanzo
Head Electrician, Bluma Appel
Theatre
Benn Hough
Head Technician, Jane Mallet
Theatre
Keijo Makela
Head Sound Technician,
Bluma Appel Theatre

IATSE Local 822
Susan Batchelor
Wardrobe Head,
Bluma Appel Theatre

Meridian Arts Centre stage crew

IATSE Local 58
Aaron Dell
Head Technician, George Weston
Recital Hall
Patrick Hales
Assistant Head Technician,
George Weston Recital Hall
Grant Primeau
Head Technician,
Greenwin Theatre
Duncan Morgan
Head Technician,
Studio Theatre
Ian Parker,
Head Technician Lyric Theatre

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The TO Live Foundation is committed to creating a future where art engages and inspires all Torontonians. A future where all the creative voices of our diverse communities are heard and celebrated. A future where artists have the support they need to experiment and grow.

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