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**Mark Morris Dance Group**

Artistic Director, Mark Morris

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BAM and Mark Morris Dance Group present

# The Hard Nut

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House

Dec 10 & 17 at 2pm; Dec 10, 14—17 at 7:30pm;

Dec 11 & 18 at 3pm

Running time: approx. two hours including intermission

Based on the book by **E.T.A. Hoffmann**,

*The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*

Music by **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**,

*The Nutcracker, Op. 71*

**Mark Morris Dance Group**

Choreography by **Mark Morris**

Featuring the

**MMDG Music Ensemble** and

**The Hard Nut Singers**

Conducted by **Colin Fowler**

Set design by **Adrienne Lobel**

Costume design by **Martin Pakledinaz**

Lighting design by **James F. Ingalls**

Production based on the work of **Charles Burns**

*Season Sponsor:*

**Bloomberg  
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*Support for the Signature Artist Series provided  
by Howard Gilman Foundation.*

*Leadership support for dance at BAM provided by  
the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and  
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*Major support for dance at BAM provided by  
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**MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP**

**CHELSEA ACREE SAM BLACK DURELL R. COMEDY RITA DONAHUE  
DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR. LESLEY GARRISON LAUREN GRANT BRIAN LAWSON  
AARON LOUX LAUREL LYNCH STACY MARTORANA DALLAS McMURRAY  
BRANDON RANDOLPH NICOLE SABELLA BILLY SMITH  
NOAH VINSON MICHELLE YARD**

**SHAWN GANNON JOHN HEGINBOTHAM JUNE OMURA KRAIG PATTERSON**

**JANELLE BARRY KARA CHAN DEREK CRESCENTI JOHN EIRICH  
ELISE DREW LEÓN KATIE WEIR MILLER WENDY REINERT  
WEAVER RHODES UTAFUMI TAKEMURA NICHOLAS WAGNER**

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
MARK MORRIS**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
NANCY UMANOFF**

**MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE  
THE HARD NUT SINGERS  
COLIN FOWLER** Conductor

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## The Hard Nut

Marie	Lauren Grant
Fritz	June Omura
Louise/Princess Pirlipat	Lesley Garrison
Dr. Stahlbaum/King	Mark Morris
Mrs. Stahlbaum/Queen	John Heginbotham
Housekeeper/Nurse	Kraig Patterson
Drosselmeier	Billy Smith
Nutcracker/Young Drosselmeier	Aaron Loux
Barbie Doll	Stacy Martorana
Robot	Durell R. Comedy
Party Guests	Chelsea Acree, Sam Black, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Shawn Gannon, Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, Noah Vinson, Michelle Yard
Changers	Derek Crescenti, Brandon Randolph, Weaver Rhodes
Rat King	Utafumi Takemura
Rat Soldiers	Janelle Barry, Kara Chan, Elise Drew León, Katie Weir Miller, Wendy Reinert, Nicole Sabella
G.I. Joe Soldiers	Durell R. Comedy, John Eirich, Brian Lawson, Brandon Randolph, Nicholas Wagner
Snow	Janelle Barry, Sam Black, Kara Chan, Durell R. Comedy, Rita Donahue, John Eirich, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lesley Garrison, Brian Lawson, Elise Drew León, Laurel Lynch, Stacy Martorana, Dallas McMurray, Katie Weir Miller, Brandon Randolph, Wendy Reinert, Weaver Rhodes, Nicole Sabella, Utafumi Takemura, Noah Vinson, Nicholas Wagner, Michelle Yard
Rat Queen	Utafumi Takemura
Spanish	Domingo Estrada, Jr., Michelle Yard
Arabian	Durell R. Comedy, Laurel Lynch, Stacy Martorana, Brandon Randolph, Nicholas Wagner
Chinese	Janelle Barry, Kara Chan, John Eirich
Russian	Chelsea Acree, Sam Black, Rita Donahue, Elise Drew León, Dallas McMurray, Wendy Reinert
French	Brian Lawson, Katie Weir Miller, Nicole Sabella, Noah Vinson
Suitors	Durell R. Comedy, John Eirich
Dentist	Shawn Gannon
Flowers	Chelsea Acree, Sam Black, Kara Chan, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Brian Lawson, Laurel Lynch, Stacy Martorana, Dallas McMurray, Katie Weir Miller, Andrew Rhodes, Nicole Sabella, Noah Vinson, Nicholas Wagner

# The Hard Nut—Synopsis

## ACT I

Dr. and Mrs. Stahlbaum's annual Christmas Eve Party. Their children Fritz, Marie, and Louise wait in the den. Party dances: polka, hokey-pokey, hesitation, stroll, bump, waltz. Friend of the family Drosselmeier brings animated toys that he's made. He gives a Nutcracker to the children. Fritz breaks it. The children fight. Dr. Stahlbaum changes the subject. The guests go home. The family goes to bed. The housekeeper cleans up.

Marie can't sleep and comes downstairs to see if the Nutcracker is resting comfortably. At midnight she is frightened by rats. Everything in the room grows to giant size. G.I. Joes led by the Nutcracker battle rats led by the mutant Rat King. Marie kills the Rat King with her slipper. She falls unconscious. The Nutcracker is transformed into a young man. Marie is tucked in. A worried Drosselmeier makes his way through the blizzard.

—curtain—

## ACT II

Marie is in a fever. Drosselmeier comes to see if Marie is resting comfortably and tells her one of his stories:

### THE HARD NUT

Once upon a time a King and a Queen had a beautiful baby girl named Pirlipat. The Queen's old enemy the Rat Queen threatened to ruin little Pirlipat. The nurse and the cat were left to guard the baby at night. While the nurse and cat slept, the Rat Queen destroyed Princess Pirlipat's face. The Royal Family was horrified by the sight of their formerly beautiful daughter. The Rat Queen explained that the Princess would regain her beauty only after a young man cracked the hard nut, Krakatuk, with his teeth and stepped backwards seven times. The King commanded Drosselmeier to find the hard nut or face decapitation. Drosselmeier set off in search of the hard nut. He traveled the world for fifteen years before finding it back at home.

The ugly teenage Pirlipat watched as one young man after another attempted to crack the hard nut. The last one to try was Drosselmeier's own nephew. He succeeded. On his seventh step backward he stepped on the Rat Queen, killing her. Pirlipat became beautiful and rejected the young Drosselmeier as he started to become ugly—like a nutcracker..

At this point Marie interrupts the story and offers her love to young Drosselmeier. Mrs. Stahlbaum acknowledges her daughter's new maturity with a flower dance. Everyone in the world joins Marie and young Drosselmeier in celebrating their love. The two go away together forever.

## EPILOGUE

Louise and Fritz are sent to bed.

—curtain—

**PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY** (1840—93) began his career as a civil servant. In 1862, he gave up his job and enrolled at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. He was offered the Professorship of Harmony at the newly opened Moscow Conservatory in 1866. After the success of his first piano concerto, he began a correspondence with Nadezhda von Meck, a wealthy widow, whose financial support enabled him to devote himself to composition. They remained correspondents until a misunderstanding in 1890 ended their relationship, but they never actually met. Tchaikovsky entered a disastrous marriage in 1877, possibly in an attempt to conceal his homosexuality; a separation followed an attempted suicide after only 11 weeks of marriage. Despite his subsequent depressions, he managed to produce his most successful opera, *Eugene Onegin* (1877—78), Symphony No. 4 (1878), and his Violin Concerto (1878) during this period. In 1881, he gave up teaching at the conservatory and for the next seven years was deeply involved in composition. His death from cholera in St. Petersburg, after imprudently drinking unboiled water, occurred soon after the first performance of his Symphony No. 6 (*Pathétique*) in 1893.

**MARK MORRIS** was born on August 29, 1956, in Seattle, WA, 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 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 20 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 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. 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. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, and has served as an Advisory Board Member for the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative. Morris has received the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society, the Benjamin Franklin Laureate Prize for Creativity, the International Society for the Performing Arts' Distinguished Artist Award, Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts, the Orchestra of St. Luke's Gift of Music Award, and the 2016 Doris Duke Artist Award. In 2015, Mark Morris was inducted into the Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Hall of Fame at the National Museum of Dance in Saratoga Springs, New York. Morris opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn, NY, in 2001 to provide a home for his company, rehearsal space for the dance community, outreach programs for children and seniors, and a school offering dance classes to students of all ages and abilities.

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 US 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 US in 1991 as one of the world's leading dance companies. Based in Brooklyn, MMDG maintains strong ties to presenters in several cities around the world, most notably to its West Coast home, Cal Performances in Berkeley, CA, and its midwest home, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. MMDG also appears regularly in New York, Boston, Seattle, and Fairfax. In New York, the company has performed at New York City Center's Fall for

Dance Festival, regularly performs at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts' Mostly Mozart and White Light Festivals, and collaborates yearly with BAM on performances and master classes. This year marks the 25th anniversary of *The Hard Nut* and its 40th performance run at BAM; the Mark Morris Dance Group returns to BAM in Spring 2017. From the company's many London seasons, it has received two Laurence Olivier Awards and a Critics' Circle Dance Award for Best Foreign Dance Company. Reflecting Morris' commitment to live music, the Dance Group has featured live musicians in every performance since the formation of the MMDG Music Ensemble in 1996. MMDG regularly collaborates with renowned musicians, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma, pianist Emanuel Ax, mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe, and jazz trio The Bad Plus, as well as leading orchestras and opera companies, including the Metropolitan Opera, English National Opera, and the London Symphony Orchestra. MMDG frequently works with distinguished artists and designers, including painters Howard Hodgkin and Robert Bordo, 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 UK'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 Access/MMDG, a program of arts and humanities-based activities for people of all ages and abilities.

**COLIN FOWLER** (MMDG Music Director, conductor) began his musical studies 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 degree in 2003 and his Master of Music degree 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 arenas of the music scene in NYC. 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 choirs and

services at Calvary Baptist Church, Trinity Wall Street, and is currently the organist at Marble Collegiate Church on Fifth Avenue. He also leads services and concerts at Park Avenue Synagogue, where he has served as music director since 2012. As a classical soloist and collaborative artist, he has performed and recorded with world renowned musicians and ensembles, including Deborah Voigt, The Knights, the American Brass Quintet, James Galway, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He began to collaborate with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2005 during the creation of *Mozart Dances*. Since then, he has performed more than 40 pieces with the company on almost every keyboard instrument possible, including the harmonium and toy piano, and has conducted performances of *Mozart Dances* and *Acis and Galatea*. Under the artistic direction of Mark Morris, Fowler was a featured musician at the 2013 Ojai Music Festival, performing in six different concerts. He was notably featured on the closing day of the festival performing Lou Harrison's *Concerto for Organ and Percussion* and *Concerto for Piano and Javanese Gamelan*, performances *The Wall Street Journal* praised as "hypnotic" and "heroic." Hailed by *The New York Times* as "invaluable" and "central to Morris' music," he was appointed music director in 2013.

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 Lou Harrison and Henry Cowell. The musicians also participate in Access/MMDG—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 HARD NUT SINGERS**, led by MMDG Music Director Colin Fowler and Chorus Director, Elise Gaugert, are students of the Music & Singing program at The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center. The Hard Nut Singers perform in the "Snow" section in *The Hard Nut*. Audience members will also enjoy caroling with The Hard Nut Singers prior to each performance on the front steps of the Opera House as well as at special events in the Brooklyn community throughout the holiday season.

**ADRIANNE LOBEL** (scenic design) began working with Mark Morris in 1986 on *Nixon in China*. Since then she has designed his *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, *The Hard Nut*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Orfeo ed Euridice*, *Platée*, *King Arthur*, and *Acis and Galatea*. As a stage designer she has worked in opera, dance, on and off-Broadway, in regional theater in America, and in Europe for over 30 years. Some highlights (other than working with Morris) include *An American Tragedy* at the Met, *The Magic Flute* at Glyndebourne, *Passion* and *A Year with Frog and Toad* on Broadway, and *Così fan tutte* and *The Marriage of Figaro*, directed by Peter Sellars, at Pepsico Summerfare. She has been nominated for many awards and has won the Obie, the Lucille Lortel, the Jefferson, and Long Wharf's prestigious Murphy Award. In 2015, she had a show of paintings at the Bowery Gallery in Chelsea. Both her theater and her painting work can be viewed at [adriannelobel.com](http://adriannelobel.com).

**MARTIN PAKLEDINAZ** (1953—2012) (costume design) designed costumes for theater, opera, and dance. He collaborated with Mark Morris on works for the Mark Morris Dance Group, San Francisco Ballet, and Boston Ballet, in addition to works by Tomasson, Stowell, Wheeldon, and Balanchine, among others. New York theater credits include *Blithe Spirit* and *Gypsy* with Patti Lupone; *The Pirate Queen*; *The Pajama Game*; *The Trip to Bountiful*; *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; *Wonderful Town*; *The Wild Party*; *Kiss Me, Kate*; *Waste*; and *A Life*. His work in opera includes *Rodelinda* and *Iphigenie en Tauride* for the Metropolitan Opera; *Tristan und Isolde*, *Adriana Mater*, and *L'Amour de Loin* for the Paris Opera/Bastille; and works in Salzburg, Seattle, Santa Fe, and Chicago. Projects include *Lend Me a Tenor*, directed by Stanley Tucci on Broadway; *The Glass Menagerie* with Judith Ivey, Gordon Edelstein directing, off-Broadway; and two operas for the Opera Theatre of St. Louis, *Eugene Onegin* and *The Golden Ticket*, a world premiere based on Roald Dahl's *Willie Wonka* and the *Chocolate Factory*, directed by Kevin Newbury and James Robinson. He was awarded two Tony Awards, and the Drama Desk, Obie, and Lucille Lortel awards, among others.

**JAMES F. INGALLS** (lighting design) has designed several pieces for Mark Morris including *Orfeo ed Euridice* (Metropolitan Opera); *King Arthur* (English National Opera); *Sylvia*, *Sandpaper Ballet*, *Maelstrom*, and *Pacific* (San Francisco Ballet); *Platée* (Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and New York City

Opera); *Mozart Dances*; *Romeo and Juliet: On Motifs of Shakespeare*; *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*; and *Dido and Aeneas* (MMDG). His work at BAM includes *The Master Builder*, directed by Andrei Belgrader, *Split Sides* with Radiohead and Sigur Rós for Merce Cunningham Dance Company, and John Adams' *El Niño*, *The Death of Klinghoffer*, and *Nixon in China*, all directed by Peter Sellars. Recent designs for dance include *The Nutcracker* (Pacific Northwest Ballet, Seattle), Twyla Tharp's 50th Anniversary Tour (US and NY State Theatre), *The Sleeping Beauty*, choreographed by Alexei Ratmansky (Teatro alla Scala Ballet and ABT), *Celts*, choreographed by Lila York (Boston Ballet), and *Sea Lark* and *Death and the Maiden* (Paul Taylor Dance Company). Recent theater work includes *Desdemona*, directed by Peter Sellars (UCLA/CAP, Melbourne and Sydney Festivals), and *Druid Shakespeare*, directed by Garry Hynes (Galway, Irish tour and Lincoln Center Festival). He often collaborates with Melanie Rios Glaser and the Wooden Floor dancers in Santa Ana, CA.

**CHARLES BURNS** was born in Washington, DC. He currently lives in Philadelphia with his wife, painter Susan Moore, and their two daughters, Ava and Rachel. His illustrations and comics have been widely published in Europe and the US in such magazines as *RAW*, *Time*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Believer*, and *Rolling Stone*. His books include *Thrilling Detective Stories* (Pantheon, 1988), *Blood Club* (Kitchen Sink, 1991), *Skin Deep* (Penguin Books, 1992), *Facetasm* (Gates of Heck, 1992), *Black Hole* (Fantagraphics, 2004), *X'ed Out* (Pantheon, 2010), *The Hive* (Pantheon, 2012), and *Sugar Skull* (Pantheon, 2014).

**MATTHEW ROSE** (rehearsal director) began his dance training in Midland, MI, with Linda Z. Smith at the age of 17. After receiving his BFA in dance from the University of Michigan in 1992, he moved to New York City. He was a soloist with the Martha Graham Dance Company from 1993—96, and in 1997 began working with MMDG. After several years of performing full-time with the Dance Group, he began assisting Morris with the creation of new works. He has been the company's rehearsal director since 2006.

**CHELSEA ACREE** grew up in Baltimore, MD, where she began her dance training with Sharon Lerner, then continued at Carver Center for the Arts and Technology. Since receiving her BFA in dance from Purchase College in 2005 she has had the opportunity to work with a variety

of artists including SYREN Modern Dance, Laura Peterson, Hilary Easton + Company, and Michael and the Go-Getters. Acree is on the faculty at The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center, where she teaches kids and adults how to move through space. She began working with MMDG in 2007 and joined the company in 2011.

**JANELLE BARRY** is from Orange County, CA, and earned her BFA in dance performance from Chapman University. Since moving to New York, she has performed with the Metropolitan Opera, Esse Aficionado, I KADA Contemporary Dance Company, and the Czech-American Marionette Theatre. Barry currently teaches dance to all ages at the Mark Morris Dance Center as well as for the Dance for PD® program. She is grateful to her family, friends, and teachers for their love and support.

**SAM BLACK** is originally from Berkeley, CA, where he began studying tap at the age of nine with Katie Maltsberger. He received his BFA in dance from SUNY Purchase, and currently teaches MMDG master classes and Dance for PD®. He first appeared with MMDG in 2005 and became a company member in 2007.

**KARA CHAN**, grew up in Vancouver, Canada where she received her dance training at Pro Arte Centre. Well-versed in both classical and modern genres, Chan has performed repertory by José Limón, Jerome Robbins, Lar Lubovitch, Merce Cunningham, and Murray Louis. She received her BFA from The Juilliard School in 2015, and while she still a student, made her professional debut at the Joyce Theater with the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company. Since graduation, Chan has worked with the Merce Cunningham Trust, Larry Keigwin, Kathryn Posin, Daniel Gwartzman, Janis Brenner & Dancers, Gleich Dances, MorDance, and Trainor Dance. Notable venues in which she has performed include Lincoln Center, Park Avenue Armory, Guggenheim Museum, Joe's Pub, and Battery Dance Festival, among others.

**DURELL R. COMEDY**, a native of Prince Georges County, MD, began dancing at the age of six with Spirit Wings Dance Company. He graduated from the visual and performing arts program of Suitland High School in 2004 and magna cum laude from George Mason University, receiving his BFA in dance performance in 2008. Since then, he has worked and performed with the Metropolitan

Opera, Troy Powell, and Kyle Abraham, among others. Comedy was a member of the Limón Dance Company from 2009—15, performing principal and soloist roles. He has appeared as a soloist dancer in Baltimore Opera Company's *Aida* and worked with Washington National Opera from 2013—14 as a principal dancer and dance captain. He was a former fellowship student at the Ailey School and a 2014 adjunct faculty member at George Mason University's School of Dance. Comedy began his apprenticeship with MMDG in November 2015 and became a company member in 2016.

**DEREK CRESCENTI** originates from Detroit, MI and received his BFA from the University of Michigan. He danced with Donald Byrd's Spectrum Dance Theater in Seattle, WA from 2011—14 and has also performed with KEIGWIN + Company, David Parker's The Bang Group, Daniel Gwartzman Dance Company, and 10 Hairy Legs. He understudied with the Mark Morris Dance Group for *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* on tour to Berkeley, CA in 2016.

**RITA DONAHUE** was born and raised in Fairfax, VA, and attended George Mason University. She graduated magna cum laude in 2002, receiving a BA in English and a BFA in dance. Donahue danced with bopi's black sheep/dances by kraigpatterson and joined MMDG in 2003.

**JOHN EIRICH** was raised in Florida where he earned his BFA in dance from New World School of the Arts and was a student at Jacob's Pillow Contemporary Traditions Program. Eirich was a member of Taylor 2 from 2006—10, has been a member of TAKE Dance since 2007, and joined Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre in 2010. He has performed in *The Magic Flute* at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis directed by Isaac Mizrahi (2014), *Missa Brevis* with Limón Dance Company, and *L'Allegro, il Penseroso, ed il Moderato* and *The Hard Nut* with the Mark Morris Dance Group. Eirich is a founding member of Dance Heginbotham.

**DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR.**, a native of Victoria, TX, 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 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.

**SHAWN GANNON** danced for Mark Morris Dance Group from 1993—2004. He is a fiber artist and spends his summers in Maine counting loons for the Maine Audubon Society.

**LESLEY GARRISON** grew up in Swansea, IL and received her early dance training at the Center of Creative Arts in St. Louis, MO, and Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, MI. She studied at the Rotterdamse Dansacademie in the Netherlands and holds a BFA from Purchase College. She first performed with MMDG in 2007 and became a company member in 2011. Garrison teaches at The School at Mark Morris Dance Center and for the Dance for PD® program.

**LAUREN GRANT** has danced with MMDG since 1996, appearing in nearly 60 of Mark Morris' works. She is on the faculty at The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center, leads master classes around the globe, sets Morris' work at universities, and frequently leads classes for the company. Grant received a 2015 Bessie Award for her sustained achievement in performance with Mark Morris and in recognition of her "invigorating spontaneity, expansive phrasing, and robust musicality." Grant has been featured in *Time Out New York*, *Dance Magazine*, the book *Meet the Dancers*, appeared in PBS' *Great Performances*, *Live From Lincoln Center*, and ITV's *The South Bank Show*, and was a subject for the photographer Annie Leibovitz. Before joining MMDG, Grant moved to New York City from her hometown of Highland Park, IL, and earned a BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She and her husband David Leventhal (former MMDG dancer and current Dance for PD® Program Director) are proud parents of son Zev, born March 2012.

**JOHN HEGINBOTHAM** is from Anchorage, AK and graduated from The Juilliard School in 1993. He was a member of Mark Morris Dance Group from 1998—2012. In 2011 he founded Dance Heginbotham, which has been presented by institutions including Baryshnikov Arts Center, BAM, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, The Kennedy Center, and The Joyce Theater, among others. In 2016, DH toured to Indonesia, Laos, and the Philippines with DanceMotion USA<sup>SM</sup>, a cultural diplomacy initiative of the

US Department of State, produced by BAM. Heginbotham's recent independent projects include choreographing *Candide* with the Orlando Philharmonic (2016); Daniel Fish's *Oklahoma!* at Bard Summerscape (2015); *Angels' Share* for Atlanta Ballet (2014); Isaac Mizrahi's *The Magic Flute* at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis (2014), and *Peter and the Wolf* for the Guggenheim Works and Process Series (2013). He is currently a fellow at the NYU Center for Ballet and the Arts, and is the recipient of the 2014 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award. [danceheginbotham.org](http://danceheginbotham.org)

**BRIAN LAWSON** began his dance training in Toronto at Canadian Children's Dance Theatre. There he worked with choreographers such as David Earle, Carol Anderson, and Michael Trent. Lawson spent a year studying at the Rotterdamse Dansacademie in the Netherlands and graduated summa cum laude in 2010 from Purchase College, where he was also granted the President's Award for his contributions to the dance program. Lawson has had the pleasure of performing with Pam Tanowitz Dance, Dance Heginbotham, and Nelly van Bommel's NØA Dance, among others. He joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2011 and became a company member in 2013.

**ELISE DREW LEÓN** is originally from Oxford, CT and trained with the Brass City Ballet School before graduating from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in Dance. She is a founding member of TAKE Dance Company and has performed with Luna Negra Dance Theater, Santa Fe Opera, and Seán Curran Company. León joined the Limón Dance Company in 2010 and received a 2014 Princess Grace Dance Honorarium. She was the 2015 Puerto Rican Day Parade's Rising Star in the Performing Arts.

**AARON LOUX** grew up in Seattle, WA, 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 BFA from The Juilliard School in 2009. He danced at the Metropolitan Opera and with Arc Dance Company before joining MMDG in 2010.

**LAUREL LYNCH** began her dance training at Petaluma School of Ballet in California. She moved to New York to attend The Juilliard School where she performed works by Robert Battle, Margie Gillis, José Limón, and Ohad Naharin.

After graduation Lynch danced for Dušan Týneck Dance Theatre, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, and Pat Catterson. Lynch joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007. Many thanks to Gene and Becky.

**STACY MARTORANA** began her dance training in Baltimore, MD at the Peabody Conservatory. In 2006 she graduated from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts with a BFA in contemporary dance. She has danced with the Amy Marshall Dance Company, the Neta Dance Company, Helen Simoneau Danse, Kazuko Hirabayashi Dance Theater, Daniel Gwirtzman Dance Company, and Rashaun Mitchell. From 2009—11 she was a member of the Repertory Understudy Group for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. She joined MMDG in 2012.

**DALLAS McMURRAY**, from El Cerrito, CA, 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.

**KATIE WEIR MILLER** is from Gulf Breeze, FL where she began her dance training at Kaleidoscope and Ballet Pensacola. She earned a BFA in dance from Florida State University and has performed with Ben Munisteri Dance Projects since 2007. She has performed in works by Larry Keigwin, Alex Ketley, Alonzo King, Chris McMillan, Arthur Mitchell, Robert Moses, Paul Taylor, and Dan Wagoner. Miller has also performed with the Washington National Opera in Washington, DC and is a certified gyrotonic instructor.

**JUNE OMURA** was born in New York and then moved to Birmingham, AL, where she grew up studying ballet, modern, character, and mime. She first appeared with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1986, joining the company in 1988 for the move to Brussels, Belgium and the creation of masterworks like *L'Allegro, il Penseroso, ed il Moderato* and *The Hard Nut*. Later highlights of her long and fortunate career spent dancing for Morris included working with Yo-Yo Ma in the film *Falling Down Stairs*, to Bach's Third Cello Suite, and being honored with a 2005

Bessie Award. Now primarily a high school English teacher and mother of three, Omura is also currently teaching freshman composition as an adjunct lecturer at SUNY-New Paltz. She is indebted to her beautiful family for just everything.

**KRAIG PATTERSON** was born in Trenton, NJ and was inspired to pursue a career in dance after performing in high school musicals under the care of Geraldine and Darlene Bryant. He continued his formal dance training via scholarships from the Princeton Ballet Society, Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, Martha Graham School, and Merce Cunningham School. He received his BFA from The Juilliard School in 1986, joined Mark Morris Dance Group in 1987, and danced with the company until 1999. Patterson has performed with numerous other artists and companies including Mark Haim, Danny Lewis Repertory Ensemble, Ohad Naharin, and White Oak Dance Project, for which he created four works. Patterson has served as artist in residence at George Mason University, Princeton University, and Barnard/Columbia Colleges among others. Patterson started his own company bopi's black sheep / dances by kraig patterson in 1996. He has also taught at The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center and the Saratoga Springs Community Center in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. Patterson wishes to thank Gnocco Cucina & Tradizione, Blossom Vegan on Columbus, and Blue Fin. These performances are dedicated to my most loving Aunt B-Bert and my dearest Sensai Kazuko Hirabayashi.

**BRANDON RANDOLPH** began his training with the School of Carolina Ballet Theater in Greenville, SC, 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 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.

**WENDY REINERT** grew up in Saratoga Springs, NY training in classical ballet before attending Idyllwild Arts Academy in Southern California and discovering modern dance. She graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the

Arts in 2003, where she performed in works by Nacho Duato, Trisha Brown, and Robert Battle. Since graduating, she has worked with Kun Yang Lin/dancers, Cherylyn Lavagnino Dance, Peridance Ensemble, and Lorena Egan Dance, among others, and performs regularly with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet. She is also a professional aerial dancer and circus artist performing her own work throughout the city.

**WEAVER RHODES** was born and raised in Texas where he received his training from the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas, TX. He then went on to receive his BFA in dance from SUNY Purchase in 2012. He has performed with various companies, including Northwest Dance Project, Mettin Movement Collective, the Kevin Wynn Collection, and Metropolitan Classical Ballet in Arlington, TX. Rhodes has had the pleasure to work with artists such as Robert Battle, Dwight Rhoden, Jessica Lang, Kate Skarpetowska, Patrick Corbin, Isaac Mizrahi, Pam Tanowitz, and Greg Dolbashian. He is delighted to currently be working for Dance Heginbotham and Kathryn Alter & Dancers.

**NICOLE SABELLA** is originally from Clearwater, FL, 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, PA, 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.

**BILLY SMITH** grew up in Fredericksburg, VA 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 *Gypsy*, *Mr. Mistoffelees* in *CATS*, and *Dream Curly* in *Oklahoma!*. Smith danced with Parsons Dance from 2007—10. He joined MMDG as a company member in 2010.

**UTAFUMI TAKEMURA** received her BFA with honors in dance from SUNY Purchase and her MFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts where she was a recipient of the Siedman Award for Dance. She has performed and taught nationally and internationally with numerous choreographers. In 2010, she received a Bessie Award with Pam Tanowitz Dance. She has performed with Mark Morris Dance Group in *The Hard Nut* since 1993 and in *L'Allegro, il Penseroso, ed il Moderato* since 2002. For the last six years, she has been dancing and teaching with Dance for PD®.

**NOAH VINSON** is originally from Springfield, IL and received his BA in dance from Columbia College, Chicago. He was named *Dance Magazine* "Dancer on the Rise" in 2009 and assisted Mark Morris in the creation of his most recent work for Houston Ballet, *The Letter V*, which premiered in 2015. He began dancing with MMDG in 2002 and became a company member in 2004.

**NICHOLAS WAGNER** was born and raised in Baltimore, MD and studied dance and theater from the age of four. He graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2009 where he first worked with Mark Morris Dance Group. Wagner became one of the first students in the Shadow Program, followed by supplemental dancing in *The Hard Nut*, and *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* after he moved to New York City. He currently lives in Brooklyn and teaches at SoulCycle.

**MICHELLE YARD** was born in Brooklyn. She began her professional dance training at the NYC High School of the Performing Arts and continued her studies as a scholarship student at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. She graduated with a BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Yard teaches Pilates as well as master classes for Access/MMDG programs. She joined MMDG in 1997. Mom, thank you.

# Mark Morris Dance Group



Chelsea Acree



Sam Black



Durrell R. Comedy



Rita Donahue



Domingo Estrada, Jr.



Lesley Garrison



Lauren Grant



Brian Lawson



Aaron Loux



Laurel Lynch



Stacy Martorana



Dallas McMurray



Brandon Randolph



Nicole Sabella



Billy Smith



Noah Vinson



Michelle Yard



Shawn Gannon



John Heginbotham



June Omura



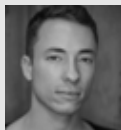
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Janelle Barry



Kara Chan



Derek Crescenti



John Eirich



Elise Drew León



Katie Weir Miller



Wendy Reinert



Weaver Rhodes



Utafumi Takemura



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# Mark Morris Dance Group

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Thanks to Maxine Morris.

Sincerest thanks to all the dancers for their dedication, commitment, and incalculable contribution to the work.

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The Mark Morris Dance Group is a member of Dance/USA and the Downtown Brooklyn Arts Alliance.

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