

The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center
presents

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP AND MUSIC ENSEMBLE



Photo by Elaine Mayson

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 JENN WEDDEL MICHELLE YARD

*apprentice

MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE
COLIN FOWLER GEORGE SHEVTSOV
ALEXANDER SCHEIRLE GEORGY VALTCHEV

Artistic Director
MARK MORRIS
Executive Director
NANCY UMANOFF

Friday, April 15, 2016

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BOLDT
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Series



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This performance is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

PROGRAM

Pacific

Music: Lou Harrison – *Trio for violin, cello, and piano; 3rd and 4th movements*
Staged by Tina Fehlandt

Costume Design: Martin Pakledinaz
Lighting Design: James F. Ingalls

Georgy Valtchev, violin; Alexander Scheirle, cello; Colin Fowler, piano

**Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lesley Garrison, Lauren Grant, Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch,
Stacy Martorana, Dallas McMurray, Nicole Sabella, Noah Vinson**

Premiere: May 9, 1995 – San Francisco Ballet, War Memorial Opera House, San Francisco, California
Company Premiere: February 28, 2015 – George Mason University's Center for the Arts, Fairfax, Virginia

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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

**Sam Black, Rita Donahue, Lesley Garrison, Aaron Loux, Dallas McMurray, Noah Vinson,
Jenn Weddel, Michelle Yard**

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

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-INTERMISSION-

Three Preludes

Music: George Gershwin – *Preludes for Piano*

Costume Design: Isaac Mizrahi
Lighting Design: James F. Ingalls

Colin Fowler, piano

Laurel Lynch

Premiere: June 2, 1992 – Emerson Majestic Theatre, Dance Umbrella, Boston, Massachusetts

Commissioned in part by Dance Umbrella, Boston, Massachusetts

Prelude I, II, III ©1927 (Renewed) WB Music Corp. (ASCAP)

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The

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach – *Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 in F Major, BWV 1046*
(arranged for piano four-hands by Max Regner)

Costume Design: Elizabeth Kurtzman
Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

Colin Fowler, piano; George Shevtsov, piano

**Sam Black, 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, Jenn Weddel, Michelle Yard**

Premiere: June 25, 2015 – Seiji Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood Music Center, Lenox, Massachusetts

Commissioned in part by the Tanglewood Music Center of the Boston Symphony Orchestra in honor of its
75th Anniversary Season



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 close to 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 twenty ballets since 1986 and his work has been performed by companies worldwide, including San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, and the Royal New Zealand Ballet. Noted for his musicality, Morris has been described as “undeviating in his devotion to music” (*The New Yorker*). He began conducting performances for MMDG in 2006 and has since conducted at The International Festival of Arts and Ideas, 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 twelve 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, Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts, and the Orchestra of St. Luke's Gift of Music 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, New York, 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 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. MMDG also appears regularly in New York, Boston, Seattle, and Fairfax. The company made its debut at the Mostly Mozart Festival in 2002 and at the Tanglewood Music Festival in 2003. 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 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 Access/MMDG, a program of arts and humanities-based activities for people of all ages and abilities.

THE MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE, formed in 1996, is integral to the Dance Group. “With the dancers come the musicians...and what a difference it makes” (*Classical Voice of North Carolina*). The Ensemble's repertory ranges from 17th 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 the road.



MATTHEW ROSE (*rehearsal director*) began his dance training in Midland, Michigan, with Linda Z. Smith at the age of 17. After receiving his B.F.A. 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 1993-1996, 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, Maryland, where she began her dance training with Sharon Lerner, then continued at Carver Center for the Arts and Technology. Since receiving her B.F.A. 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.



SAM BLACK is originally from Berkeley, California, 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.



DURELL R. COMEDY, a native of Prince Georges County, Maryland, began dancing at the age of 6 with Spirit Wings Dance Company. He graduated from the Visual & Performing Arts program of Suitland High School in 2004 and magna cum laude from George Mason University, receiving his B.F.A. Degree in Dance Performance in 2008. Since then, he's worked and performed with The Metropolitan Opera, Troy Powell, and Kyle Abraham, among others. Comedy was a member of the Limón Dance Company from 2009-2015, performing principal and soloist roles. He's also appeared as a soloist dancer in Baltimore Opera Company's *Aida* and worked with Washington National Opera from 2013-2014 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.



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



DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR., a native of Victoria, Texas, studied martial arts and earned his black belt in 1994. He danced ballet folklorico through his church for 11 years. Estrada earned his B.F.A. in ballet and modern dance from Texas Christian University and had the honor of working with the late Fernando Bujones. During his undergraduate studies he attended the American Dance Festival where he had the privilege of performing *Skylight*, a classic work by choreographer Laura Dean. He debuted with MMDG in 2007 and became a company member in 2009. Estrada would like to thank God, his family and all who support his passion.



COLIN FOWLER began his musical study at the age of 5 in Kansas City and went on to study at the prestigious Interlochen Arts Academy. He continued his education at The Juilliard School, where he received his Bachelor of Music in 2003 and his Master of Music in 2005. While at Juilliard, he studied piano with Abbey Simon, organ with Gerre Hancock and Paul Jacobs, harpsichord with Lionel Party, and conducting with James dePriest and Judith Clurman. A versatile musician and conductor, Fowler works in many areas of the music scene in New York City. He is a veteran of numerous Broadway shows, most recently performing in the Tony® Award-winning musical *Jersey Boys*. A seasoned church musician, Fowler is currently the organist at Marble Collegiate Church on Fifth Avenue and 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 many world renowned musicians and ensembles, including Deborah Voigt and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He began to collaborate with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2005 and has since then performed over 40 pieces with the company on almost every keyboard instrument possible, including the harmonium and toy piano, and has conducted performances of *Mozart Dances*, *Acis and Galatea*, and *The Hard Nut*. Hailed by the *New York Times* as 'invaluable' and 'central to Morris' music', he was appointed music director in 2013.



LESLEY GARRISON grew up in Swansea, Illinois, and received her early dance training at the Center of Creative Arts in St. Louis, Missouri, and Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, Michigan. She studied at the Rotterdamse Dansacademie in The Netherlands and holds a B.F.A. from Purchase College. She first performed with MMDG in 2007 and became a company member in 2011. Garrison teaches at The School at The 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 Mr. Morris' work at universities, and frequently leads classes for the company. Grant received a 2015 New York Dance and Performance Award ("Bessie") 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's *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, Illinois, and earned a B.F.A. 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.



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.



AARON LOUX grew up in Seattle, Washington, and began dancing at the Creative Dance Center as a member of Kaleidoscope, a youth modern dance company. He began his classical training at the Cornish College Preparatory Dance Program and received his B.F.A. from The Juilliard School in 2009. He danced at The Metropolitan Opera and with Arc Dance Company before joining MMDG in 2010.



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 DušanTynck Dance Theatre, Sue Bernhard Dancerworks, 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, Maryland, at the Peabody Conservatory. In 2006 she graduated from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts with a B.F.A. 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 2009-2011 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, California, began dancing at age four, studying jazz, tap, and acrobatics with Katie Maltsberger and ballet with Yukiko Sakakura. He received a B.F.A. in dance from the California Institute of the Arts. McMurray performed with the Limón Dance Company in addition to works by Jiří Kylián, Alonzo King, Robert Moses, and Colin Connor. McMurray performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.



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



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, PA, earning her B.F.A. in Modern Dance Performance and the "Outstanding

Performance in Modern Dance” Award. She was a performer with Zane Booker’s Smoke, Lilies, and Jade Arts Initiative. Sabella first performed with MMDG in 2013 and became a company member in 2015.



ALEXANDER SCHEIRLE (*cello*) has performed with orchestras around the world and recorded with such renowned composers, soloists and conductors as Pierre Boulez, Mstislav Rostropovich, Christopher Hogwood, Paavo Järvi, David Stern, Trevor Pinnock and others. He recorded for all the major labels such as Sony, EMI, Deutsche Grammophon, Arte Nova and Koch Schwann. From 1991 to 2007 he was the principal cellist of the Bavarian Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra in Munich, and became its Artistic Director in 2000, a position he held until 2007. In 2004 he became Artistic and Managing Director of the Crested Butte Music Festival in Colorado. He was born in Germany and trained at the Conservatories in Cologne, Aachen and Saarbruecken and at the Guildhall School in London.



GEORGE (YEGOR) SHEVTSOV (*piano*) has been singled out for his “Mozartean elegance,” “perfect lucidity” (*The New York Times*) and “superb musicianship” (*The Miami Herald*). His recent recording of the piano music of Claude Debussy and Pierre Boulez was selected by rhapsody.com as one of the top 25 classical albums of 2013. Shevtsov has appeared in concert with members of the American String Quartet, Red Light New Music, Mivos Quartet, International Contemporary Ensemble, Bang on a Can, red fish blue fish, Alarm Will Sound, Argento Ensemble, Flexible Music, Wet Ink Ensemble and Manhattan Sinfonietta, among others. Among the composers who have heard him perform their works are Pierre Boulez, John Luther Adams, Elliott Carter, Charles Wuorinen, Steve Reich, Louis Andriessen and George Crumb. Shevtsov is on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music and the MSM Precollege Division. He currently studies flamenco in the studio of Soledad Barrio. More information on yegorshevtsov.com



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, Larry 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 2007-2010. He joined MMDG as a company member in 2010.



GEORGY VALTCHEV (*violin*) has appeared as soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Originally from Plovdiv, Bulgaria, he came to the United States in 1992 as a scholarship student of Dorothy Delay and Masao Kawasaki at The Juilliard School, where he ultimately earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. He has been heard as soloist with orchestras in Bangor, Baton Rouge, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Miami, New York, New Jersey, in his native Bulgaria, and throughout Japan. Since 2011, Valtchev has been a Guest Concertmaster of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. As a chamber musician he has appeared in New York’s Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, 92nd Street Y, Kennedy Center in Washington DC, Chicago’s Cultural Center, the Royal Carre Theatre in Amsterdam, the Barbican Centre in London, and the Guangzhou Opera House in China. He has been featured in international music festivals such as Mostly Mozart at Lincoln Center, Beethoven Festival at Bard College, Sofia Music Weeks, Varna Summer and Appolonia in Bulgaria, and Bastad Chamber Music Festival in Sweden. Valtchev is a founding member of Bulgarian Concert Evenings in New York.



NOAH VINSON is originally from Springfield, Illinois, and received his B.A. in dance from Columbia College Chicago. He was named one of Dance Magazine’s “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 May 2015. He began dancing with MMDG in 2002 and became a company member in 2004.



JENN WEDDEL received her early training from Boulder Ballet Company near where she grew up in Longmont, Colorado. She holds a B.F.A. from Southern Methodist University and also studied at Boston Conservatory, Colorado University and The Laban Center, London. Since moving to New York in 2001, Weddel has created and performed with RedWall Dance Theater, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, Vend Dance Trio, Rocha Dance Theater, TEA Dance Company and with various choreographers including Alan Danielson and Ella Ben-Aharon. Weddel performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.



MICHELE YARD was born in Brooklyn, New York. 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 B.F.A. 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 STAFF

Artistic Director Mark Morris
Executive Director Nancy Umanoff

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Music Director Colin Fowler
Lighting Supervisor Kate Bashore
Sound Supervisor Rory Murphy
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Physical Therapist Marshall Hagins, PT, PhD
Hilot Therapist Jeffrey Cohen

Thanks to Maxine Morris.

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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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