

M A R K M O R R I S



D A N C E G R O U P

For Immediate Release

Press Contact: Laura Giannatempo, laura.giannatempo@mmdg.org

**THE MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP'S
DANCE ON! 40TH ANNIVERSARY DIGITAL SEASON
CONTINUES WITH A FEW SCHEDULE CHANGES**

Live From Brooklyn to be directed by Barbara Willis Sweete.

Produced in partnership with BRIC and Stage Access, performances will take place at BRIC House in downtown Brooklyn and will be streamed live through the Stage Access platform.

BROOKLYN, NY – The Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) announces schedule changes to **Dance On! 40th Anniversary Digital Season**, their first-ever digital season celebrating 40 years of dance. The livestreamed ***Live From Brooklyn*** performances, originally scheduled for the end of March, will move to **May 6 and 7, 2021**, and the third installment of ***Dance On! An Evening with the Mark Morris Dance Group, Part 3***, featuring new videodances created by Mark Morris during this protracted time of isolation, will premiere on **March 30, 2021**.

Also not previously announced, *Live From Brooklyn* will be directed by Barbara Willis Sweete, who has worked with Morris on the film *Falling Down Stairs* and the filmed adaptation of *Dido and Aeneas*. The performances will take place at BRIC House in downtown Brooklyn, and will be streamed live through Stage Access, the new on-demand streaming platform featuring content in dance, opera, concerts, and theatre.

All events are online; most are free with a donation suggested. *Live From Brooklyn*, which features company dancers performing live on stage, will be ticketed starting at \$25. The remainder of the Season lineup includes:

**Dance On! An Evening with the Mark Morris Dance Group, Part 3
March 30, 2021 at 8:00 pm ET**

The third installment of Mark Morris's videodance series created remotely in collaboration with MMDG Music Director Colin Fowler throughout the months of the pandemic, features one adaptation of an existing work and two brand new dances made over the course of the winter with dancers both at home and in the studio. *Lonely Fugue* is an arrangement of a four-voice fugue for 16 dancers. Originally choreographed in 1987 for 4 dancers with 4 chairs, "Fugue" is a short piece set to Mozart's Fugue in C Minor K. 426 for Two Pianos. This version is quadrupled and shot from four points of view simultaneously. *Flesh Study* is set to

Philip Glass's "Victor's Lament," from his 1977 "North Star," and refers to the sculptor Mark di Suvero. It is an improvised dance that is about rhythm, human skin, and Mad Scenes. *Kitten Lake* is an homage to Tchaikovsky and Petipa (and cats). The cast includes animals and dancers associated with the Mark Morris Dance Group, and the music comprises various covers of "Swan Lake".

Free (Suggested donation: \$20)

L'Allegro Week

April 19-25, 2021

L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato is perhaps Morris's most beloved work, set to Handel's oratorio of the same name. It was Morris's premiere work as Director of Dance at Belgium's Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie. *L'Allegro Week* includes a screening of the work filmed at the Teatro Real in Madrid in July 2014. In addition to week-long, on-demand access to the film, the week will include a post-screening live Q&A with Morris, and 30-minute on-demand talks with conductor Jane Glover, set designer Adrienne Lobel, and former company dancers June Omura, Joe Bowie, and Tina Fehlandt — who all danced in *L'Allegro*. The week will also feature Dance with MMDG classes for all levels to learn excerpts from the work, Dance for PD® classes appropriate for anyone with mobility concerns, a screening of *L'Allegro Movement Project*, a short documentary about the transformative power of dance and music for people with Parkinson's, and more.

Free (Suggested donation: \$12 per activity)

Live From Brooklyn

May 6, 2021 at 8:30 PM ET

May 7, 2021 at 2:00 PM ET

These livestreamed shows will feature MMDG dancers performing live from the stage at BRIC in Brooklyn. They will dance rarely seen works from the early years of the Dance Group — including *Jealousy* (with music by George Frideric Handel), *Three Preludes* (set to George Gershwin's *Preludes for Piano*), and *Fugue* (set to Fugue in C Minor K. 426 by Mozart, and also featured as a videodance on March 30). Additionally, the event will include *Tempus Perfectum*, a new work by Morris set to Johannes Brahms' Sixteen Waltzes Op. 39 performed by MMDG Music Director Colin Fowler. The live performances will be directed by Barbara Willis Sweete, who has worked with Mark Morris twice before as the director of the 1995 film adaptation of Morris's *Dido and Aeneas* (recently featured during MMDG's *Dido and Aeneas Week*) and of *Falling Down Stairs* in 1997 with Yo-Yo Ma.

Ticket Price: \$25

For more information on programs and dates, please visit mmdg.org/forty

About Mark Morris

Mark Morris has been praised as “the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical” (*New York Times*). In addition to creating over 150 works for the Mark Morris Dance Group, he conducts orchestras, directs opera, and choreographs for ballet companies worldwide. Morris’s work is acclaimed for its ingenuity, musicality, wit, and humanity. Named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991, he has received eleven honorary doctorates to date, and a multitude of awards, including the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society, the Benjamin Franklin Laureate Prize for Creativity, the Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts, the Orchestra of St. Luke’s Gift of Music Award, and the 2016 Doris Duke Artist Award. Morris’s memoir, *Out Loud*, co-written with Wesley Stace, was published by Penguin Press in October 2019.

About the Mark Morris Dance Group and MMDG Music Ensemble

Founded in New York City in 1980 by artistic director and choreographer Mark Morris, praised by *The New York Times* as “the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical,” the Mark Morris Dance Group has been called “the preeminent modern dance organization of our time” (Yo-Yo Ma). Its members have received the “highest praise for their technical aplomb, their musicality, and their sheer human authenticity.” (*Bloomberg News*). Live music and community engagement are vital components of the Mark Morris Dance Group, which has toured with its own musicians, the MMDG Music Ensemble, since 1996. The Mark Morris Dance Center, opened in Brooklyn in 2001, is the home of the Dance Group and provides educational opportunities in dance and music to people of all ages and abilities.

About Barbara Willis Sweete

Barbara Willis Sweete is a film director and founding partner of Rhombus Media. While at Rhombus, the company specialized in films related to the Performing Arts producing over 200 titles. Now with Artemis Pictures, Barbara produces and directs films and TV programs in all genres. Her work has been shown at major film festivals and has received many awards, including an Oscar nomination, 4 Emmys, and 3 Grammy nominations. She has worked with Mark Morris on two dance films, *Falling Down Stairs* and *Dido and Aeneas*, and has collaborated with other noted choreographers such as James Kudelka, Lar Lubovitch, Doug Varone, Mark Godden, Santee Smith, and David Earle. Barbara has directed 30+ Live in HD transmissions from the Metropolitan Opera, including Gluck’s *Orfeo ed Euridice*, directed by Morris. Born in British Columbia Canada, Barbara has an ARCT from the Royal Conservatory of Music, a BA in music from the University of Western Ontario, and a Doctorate honoris causa from York University.

About BRIC

BRIC is a leading arts and media institution anchored in Downtown Brooklyn whose work spans contemporary visual and performing arts, media, and civic action. For over forty years, the institution has shaped Brooklyn's cultural and media landscape by presenting and incubating artists, creators, students, and media makers. As a creative catalyst for the community, BRIC ignites learning in people of all ages and centralizes diverse voices that take risks and drive culture forward. BRIC is building Brooklyn's creative future. Learn more at BRICartsmedia.org.

About Stage Access

STAGE ACCESS™ is the on-demand streaming platform featuring iconic content in dance, opera, concerts and theatre. Highlighting performances from the world's most beloved arts companies, including world premieres and livestreams, Stage Access features a growing list of original content only available for streaming on its platform including Yo-Yo Ma, Six Solo Bach Cello Suites from the Odeon, Athens and The 3 Tenors: From Caracalla to the World, The 30th Anniversary Documentary. Currently available in North America on the web at www.stageaccess.com, iOS, Android, Apple TV, Amazon Fire and Roku, STAGE ACCESS™ was founded with the mission of expanding access to the arts and providing support for arts organizations.

###

Official Sponsor:

**Bloomberg
Philanthropies**