

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

For Immediate Release

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MARK MORRIS AND BURT BACHARACH – A NEW EVENING LENGTH WORK ***THE LOOK OF LOVE*** ***AN EVENING OF DANCE TO THE MUSIC OF BURT BACHARACH***

Choreographer Mark Morris and jazz composer Ethan Iverson reunite to create a new work showcasing the music of Burt Bacharach.

Co-commissioned by an international consortium of arts presenters, and premiering at BroadStage in Santa Monica, CA on October 20, 2022.

Part of a “BOLD” new campaign for the Mark Morris Dance Group, focused on new creations, community connections, and digital innovations.

BROOKLYN, NY – June 13, 2022 – The Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) will present the world premiere of an evening of dance to the music of Burt Bacharach – *The Look of Love* – featuring original choreography by Mark Morris and new musical arrangements by Ethan Iverson. The evening-length compilation of more than a dozen Bacharach hits, will be performed by company dancers accompanied by the MMDG Music Ensemble, consisting of piano, trumpet, bass, and percussion, with lead vocals by singer, actress, and Broadway star Marcy Harriell.

The Look of Love will be the tenth evening-length work of the prolific Morris’s career, following 2017’s *Pepperland*, which showcased the work of musical legends, The Beatles. This production is Morris’s first created to the music of Burt Bacharach, and will include 14 songs by the multi-Grammy-award winning pop composer and songwriter: *There’s Always Something There to Remind Me, Message to Michael, Anyone Who Had A Heart, Walk on By, Are You There (With Another Girl), I Say A Little Prayer, Do You Know the Way to San Jose, I’ll Never Fall in Love Again, What the World Needs Now Is Love, Don’t Make Me Over, Raindrops Keep Fallin’ on My Head, Alfie, The Look of Love, and The Blob.*

“Always engaging melodically, always surprising rhythmically, with a touch of melancholy and a striving hope, Bacharach’s marvelous music calls out for dancing,” says Morris. “There is a rich range of emotion, point of view, and dynamics in Bacharach’s (and lyricist Hal David’s) amazing compositions, both the very familiar and the relatively obscure. *The Look of Love* will be an action-packed, varied, song and dance show, with something for everyone...a moving return to live theater.”

In addition to Bacharach and Iverson, Morris’s creative team for *The Look of Love* includes other frequent collaborators: designer Isaac Mizrahi and lighting designer Nicole Pearce.

“For many years, I’ve wanted to see my music reimaged in some kind of theatrical production – not just a jukebox musical formula of songs, but an original work with its own story and appeal,” says Bacharach. “I’ve found an ideal collaborator in Mark Morris, whose brilliant choreography and deep musicality give songs new meaning and dimension through movement. Like a great melody, his dances evoke an atmosphere and inspire feelings, and I think that’s just what the world needs now. I’m excited to see how Morris and his creative team bring my songs to the stage in *The Look of Love*.”

The Look of Love is a production of 13 organizations that form a growing group of commissioning partners united by their esteem for Mark Morris and a desire to support the continued creation and performance of his work: BroadStage, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), and The Jay and Susie Gogue Performing Arts Center at Auburn University in association with Arizona Arts Live, University of Arizona; Cal Performances, UC Berkeley; The Grange Festival; Harriman-Jewell Series; Hopkins Center for the Arts, Dartmouth College; The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Modlin Center for the Arts at University of Richmond; UC Santa Barbara Arts & Lectures; and Virginia Arts Festival. This co-commissioning model enables entities of various sizes and scope to collectively provide the financial resources necessary to bring large-scale productions to the stage, while partnering with a prestigious cohort of presenting institutions and sharing in the legacy of a Mark Morris world premiere.

“As we make a bold return to creating and touring new dances, we are especially grateful to our commissioning partners whose commitment to Mark’s work makes this collaboration possible,” says MMDG Executive Director, Nancy Umanoff.

The Look of Love will have its world premiere on Friday, October 20, 2022 at BroadStage in Santa Monica, CA, with [subsequent performances to follow](#) at leading performing arts centers worldwide. The premiere of *The Look of Love* will also launch MMDG’s 2022-23 Season, to be announced in September 2022.

The world premiere of *The Look of Love* and MMDG’s upcoming 2022-2023 Season coincide with the launch of the Mark Morris BOLD campaign, a two-year fundraising initiative focused on securing vital resources for the organization to continue producing *Bold Creations*, *Bold Connections*, and *Bold Innovations*. *The Look of Love* represents the first major effort in *Bold Creations*, aimed at bringing new work and live performances to greater audiences; *Bold Connections* will provide the joyful, confidence-building experience of dance through dynamic education and community engagement programs and will kick-off at MMDG’s Open House at the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn on Friday, September 10, 2022; and the expansion of digital programming through *Bold Innovations* will fortify MMDG’s virtual lifeline to global audiences through enhanced access to Mark Morris Dance Group’s new Digital Archive, featuring curated exhibits and the entire digitized MMDG archive .

Additional information about MMDG’s BOLD campaign is available online at mmdg.org/bold.

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

THE LOOK OF LOVE

An Evening of Dance to the Music of BURT BACHARACH

- WHAT:** *The Look of Love*, a new evening-length work by Mark Morris and jazz composer Ethan Iverson, featuring dances to new arrangements of 14 songs by Burt Bacharach
- WHEN/WHERE:** Oct. 20-23, 2022 – BroadStage (Santa Monica, CA) – *world premiere*
Oct. 26-29, 2022 – The John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center (Washington, DC)
Nov. 8, 2022 – The Jay and Susie Gogue Performing Arts Center at Auburn University (AL)
Jan. 27, 2023 – Modlin Center for the Arts at University of Richmond (Richmond, VA)
Feb. 17-19, 2023 – Cal Performances, UC Berkeley (Berkeley, CA)
April 14-15, 2023 – Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois (Urbana, IL)
May 6, 2023 – UC Santa Barbara Arts & Lectures (Santa Barbara, CA)
July 8-9, 2023 – The Grange Festival (Hampshire, UK)
Additional dates TBA
- INFO:** www.thelookoflove.dance
www.mmdg.org

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 Ethan Iverson

Ethan Iverson, pianist, composer, and writer, 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-60’s 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*.

About Burt Bacharach

Burt Bacharach is 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 both as a pop culture icon and one of the world’s greatest contemporary composers. Bacharach’s credits read like the world’s favorite radio stations’ playlist: “Alfie,” “Arthur’s Theme,” “Close To You,” “Do You Know The Way To San Jose,” “I Say A Little Prayer,” “I’ll Never Fall In Love Again,” “This Guy’s In Love With You,” “Walk On By,” “What The World Needs Now Is Love,” and “Wishin’ And Hopin’” are among just the 48 Top 10 hits, nine #1 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 Gershwin’s. Bacharach and David received the Library’s Gershwin Medal in May 2012 at an all-star tribute in Washington, D.C. Bacharach’s memoir “Anyone Who Had a Heart,” was released in May 2013. For the first time in his long and astonishing career, Bacharach tells his story of love, heartbreak, success, failure, and unbridled ambition in *Anyone Who Had a Heart*. *Anyone Who Had a Heart*, is named after one of many songs Bacharach and David wrote for Dionne Warwick. The memoir was published by HarperCollins. Bacharach composed his first film score in 16 years for John Asher’s autism-based drama film *Po*. The film was released in April 2016. *Po* 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 co-stars was released on November 26, 2021. The album was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album at The 64th Annual Grammy Awards in April 2022.

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 *The Look of Love* Funding and Sponsorship

The Look of Love is made possible through generous support from individual and institutional lead gifts as part of the Mark Morris BOLD campaign at the \$6,000 annual giving level and above: HERO \$500,000+ Anonymous*. LEADER \$125,000-\$249,999 Bloomberg Philanthropies*, Judith R. and Alan H. Fishman, The Howard Gilman Foundation*, Suzy Kellems Dominik, The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in Partnership with the City Council. STAR COLLABORATOR \$50,000-\$124,999 Anonymous*, The Beth and Ravenel Curry Foundation*, Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc., The National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, PARC Foundation, The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The Shelby and Frederick Gans Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Jane and R. L. Stine*. STAR SPONSOR \$25,000-\$49,999 John and Tommye Ireland (in memoriam)*, Jamie Gorelick and Richard Waldhorn*, The SHS Foundation, David Resnicow and Diane Solway*. STAR SUPPORTER \$12,000-\$24,999 Susan DeLong, The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, York-Chi and Stephen Harder*. LEADING PARTNER \$6,000-\$11,999 Anonymous (2), Wally and Roz Bernheimer, Herschel Garfein and Vicki Bernstein, Eliot Nolen and Timothy Bradley*, Terry Boyer, Jeffery and Tina Budge, Carol Yorke and Gerard Conn, Jerome Robbins Foundation, Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts, Robert Littman and Sully Bonnelly, Onay Payne*, The Tony Randall Theatrical Fund, Inc., Patrick Ravey, Jane Levy Troy, Nancy Umanoff, Zeitz Foundation.

*Contributors who have generously pledged multi-year support for Mark Morris BOLD.

Learn more about our BOLD initiatives and pledge your support at mmdg.org/bold.

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