

Sarasota Ballet
director · IAIN WEBB
PRESENTS

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP



FSU Center for the Performing Arts | February 28 - March 3, 2025

THE SARASOTA BALLET 2024 - 2025 SEASON

PROGRAM FIVE | FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 3, 2025

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP



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MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP



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Mark Morris

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MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

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Courtney Lopes Dallas McMurray Alex Meeth* Sloan Pearson†
Brandon Randolph Christina Sahaida Billy Smith
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*Apprentice †Understudy

MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE

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Artistic Director
Mark Morris

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 eleven 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.

FEBRUARY 28TH - MARCH 3RD

PACIFIC

Choreography by **Mark Morris**

Music by **Lou Harrison** - Trio for Violin, Cello, and Piano; Dance: Rhapsody: Song, Allegro

Costume Design by **Martin Pakledinaz**

Lighting Design by **James F. Ingalls**

*Premiere: May 10, 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*

Mica Bernas	Brandon Randolph
Sarah Hillmon	Christina Sahaida
Courtney Lopes	Joslin Vezeau
Dallas McMurray	Noah Vinson
Alex Meeth	

VIOLIN
Gregory Valtchev

CELLO
Ian Lum

PIANO
Chris McCarthy

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FEBRUARY 28TH - MARCH 3RD

CANDLEFLOWERDANCE

Choreography by **Mark Morris**

Music by **Igor Stravinsky** – Serenade in A

Costume Design by **Katherine M. Patterson**

Lighting Design by **Nicole Pearce**

For Susan Sontag

Premiere: September 22, 2005 – Cal Performances, Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley, California

Mica Bernas, Courtney Lopes, Alex Meeth, Brandon Randolph,
Christina Sahaida, Joslin Vezeau

PIANO
Chris McCarthy

*Commissioned in part by Cal Performances, Berkeley.
Music by arrangement with Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., publisher and copyright owner
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TEN SUGGESTIONS

Choreography by **Mark Morris**

Music by **Alexander Tcherepnin** - Bagatelles, opus 5

Lighting Design by **James F. Ingalls**

Premiere: February 13, 1981 – Jersey City Museum, Jersey City, NJ

Dallas McMurray

PIANO
Chris McCarthy

*The revival of Ten Suggestions was made possible, in part, by a grant from The Tcherepnin Society.
Ten Suggestions © 1981 Discalced, Inc.*

- INTERMISSION -

GOING AWAY PARTY

Choreography by **Mark Morris**

Music by **Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys** - Playboy Theme; Yearning;
My Shoes Keep Walking Back To You; Goin' Away Party; Baby, That Sure Would Go Good;
Milk Cow Blues; Crippled Turkey; When You Leave Amarillo, Turn Out The Lights

Costume Design by **Christine Van Loon**

Lighting Design by **Michael Chybowski**

For Susan Sontag

Premiere: April 14, 1990 – Halles de Schaerbeek, Brussels, Belgium

Sarah Hillmon, Courtney Lopes, Dallas McMurray,
Alex Meeth, Christina Sahaida, Billy Smith, Noah Vinson

PIANO
Chris McCarthy

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Going Away Party © 1990 Discalced, Inc.*



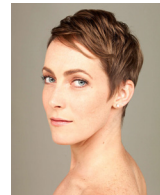
I About Mark Morris Dance Group

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.



COLIN FOWLER (music director) 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 numerous 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.



ELISA CLARK (rehearsal director) is an award-winning artist, educator, and administrator who trained at the Maryland Youth Ballet prior to receiving a B.F.A. from The Juilliard School under the direction of Benjamin Harkavy, with guidance from Carolyn Adams. She first performed with Mark Morris Dance Group in 2005, remained a full-time company member through 2011, and frequently returned as a guest performer, company teacher, and stager through 2024, when she was appointed Rehearsal

Director. In addition to MMDG, she has been a featured company member with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, and Monica Bill Barnes & Co, a guest artist for Buglisi Dance Theater, and has performed with Nederlands Dans Theater and the Metropolitan Opera in works by Jiri Kylian and Crystal Pite respectively, amongst others. Elisa was also a founding member and company manager for Robert Battle's Battleworks Dance Company and has served as Battle's artistic assistant for over two decades. As an educator and mentor, she has been on faculty at the School at Jacob's Pillow, Princeton University, University of the Arts, American Dance Festival, Move NYC, Steps on Broadway, Marymount Manhattan College, and at Bard College in partnership with Gibney Company, to name a few, and has taught company class for MMDG, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, Ballet Hispanico, Gibney Company, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and the Metropolitan Opera Ballet. She is currently on the ballet faculty at the Ailey School, Gibney, and the Mark Morris Dance Center. Elisa is a *répétiteur* for both Battle and Morris' works, and is also a Princess Grace Award Winner and a Certified Life Coach.



About Mark Morris Music Ensemble

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.



IAN LUM (cello), a Malaysian-born cellist based in New York City, began his musical journey studying piano at the age of four. Under the guidance of his first teacher, Ann Perreau, he performed his first piano concerto aged five. Shortly thereafter, he took up the cello, studying with Julie Dessureault of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra. At the age of nine, Ian moved to England on a full scholarship to study both piano and cello at Wells Cathedral School. He continued his studies in New York, earning

his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School, where he studied with Richard Aaron. Since 2019, Ian has served as the Principal Cellist of the Verbier Festival Orchestra in Switzerland, performing under world-renowned conductors such as Christoph Eschenbach, Fabio Luisi, Klaus Mäkelä, Zubin Mehta, Gianandrea Noseda, Antonio Pappano, and Valery Gergiev. As a performer, Ian has appeared in notable concert halls such as Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and David Geffen Hall in New York; Royal Albert Hall and the Barbican Centre in London; and Petronas Philharmonic Hall in Kuala Lumpur. In addition to his performing career, Ian is passionate about teaching and currently instructs both cello and piano at the West Amadeus Music Studio. He has also contributed to major film and recording projects, including the soundtrack for *Renaissance*, a 2023 film by Beyoncé, and collaborations with Academy Award-winning composer Tan Dun on *H2O Tempo*.



CHRIS MCCARTHY (piano) 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.



GEORGY VALTCHEV (violin) has performed on some of the world's most prestigious stages as a soloist, with orchestras, in recitals, and as a chamber musician. In the United States, he has appeared at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, New York's Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center in Washington DC, the 92nd Street Y, and Chicago's Cultural Institute. In Europe, he has appeared at venues such as Wigmore Hall and the Barbican Centre in London; La Cité de la Musique in Paris; Amsterdam's Royal Carré Theatre; and Bulgaria Hall in Sofia. He has toured Asia, Australia, and Israel with performances in Beijing Cultural Arts Center, Guangzhou Opera House, Sydney Opera House, Tel Aviv Opera House, Taipei Cultural Center Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Suntory Hall in Tokyo.

A dedicated collaborative musician, Valtchev enjoys frequent performances with distinguished international artists and ensembles in the United States and Europe. As a principal member of the MMDG Music Ensemble, he frequently travels around the world. Valtchev has been honored to lead several major symphony orchestras as guest concertmaster, most notably the London Philharmonic and the Royal Symphony Orchestra of Madrid. He is a founder and artistic director of the Unbeaten Path chamber music festival in Kovachevitsa, Bulgaria, and a founding member of the chamber music series Bulgarian Concert Evenings in New York.

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP



Elisa Clark
Rehearsal Director



Sloan Pearson †



Brandon Randolph



Christina Sahaida



Mica Bernas



Karlie Budge



Sarah Hillmon



Billy Smith



Joslin Vezeau



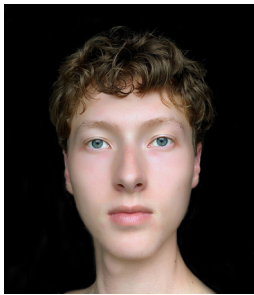
Noah Vinson



Courtney Lopes



Dallas McMurray



Alex Meeth*

*Apprentice †Understudy

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP STAFF

Artistic Director Mark Morris
Executive Director Nancy Umanoff

PRODUCTION

Director of Technical Production Johan Henckens
Lighting Supervisor Mike Faba
Audio Supervisor Carl Lund
Wardrobe Supervisor Amy Page

ARTISTIC

Director of Artistic Engagement Jen Rossi
Rehearsal Director Elisa Clark
Music Director Colin Fowler
Company Manager Julia Weber

Thanks to Maxine Morris.