



# Mark Morris Dance Group and MMDG Music Ensemble

## Dances to American Music

### Mark Morris Dance Group

Mica Bernas, Sam Black, Durell R. Comedy, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada Jr.,  
Lesley Garrison, Lauren Grant, Sarah Haarmann, Brian Lawson, Aaron Loux,  
Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, Brandon Randolph, Nicole Sabella,  
Christina Sahaida\*, Billy Smith, Noah Vinson

\*apprentice

### MMDG Music Ensemble

Colin Fowler, Caitlin Lynch, Alan Richardson, Rachel Shapiro, Nicholas Tavani

**Mark Morris** Artistic Director  
**Nancy Umanoff** Executive Director

### PROGRAM

*There will be an intermission.*

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**Friday, February 9 @ 8 PM**  
**Saturday, February 10 @ 8 PM**

Zellerbach Theatre

Media Sponsor: **WHYY**

# PROGRAM NOTES

## **Pacific**

**Music** Lou Harrison, *Trio for violin, cello, and piano, 3rd and 4th movements*

**Martin Pakledinaz** Costume Design

**James F. Ingalls** Lighting Design

**Nicholas Tavani** Violin

**Alan Richardson** Cello

**Colin Fowler** Piano

## **Dancers**

Mica Bernas, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lesley Garrison, Sarah Haarmann, Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, Nicole Sabella, Noah Vinson

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

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## **Mosaic and United**

**Music** Henry Cowell, *String Quartet No. 3, Mosaic, I-II-III-IV-V-III-I; String Quartet No. 4, United, I-II-III-IV-V*

**Isaac Mizrahi** Costume Design

**Michael Chybowski** Lighting Design

## **Aeolus Quartet**

Nicholas Tavani, violin; Rachel Shapiro, violin; Caitlin Lynch, viola; Alan Richardson, cello

## **Dancers**

Sam Black, Lesley Garrison, Lauren Grant, Dallas McMurray, Noah Vinson

Premiere: April 29, 1993 – Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn, NY

*String Quartet No. 4 (United Quartet)* by Henry Cowell used by arrangement with the publisher and copyright holder, C.F. Peters Corporation, New York, New York. *String Quartet No. 3 (Mosaic Quartet)* by Henry Cowell used by arrangements with G. Shirmer, Inc., publisher and copyright owner.

## **Intermission**

### **Three Preludes**

**Music** George Gershwin, *Preludes for Piano*

**Isaac Mizrahi** Costume Design

**James F. Ingalls** Lighting Design

**Colin Fowler** Piano

**Laurel Lynch** Dancer

Premiere: June 2, 1992 – Emerson Majestic Theatre, Dance Umbrella, Boston, MA  
Commissioned in part by Dance Umbrella, Boston

Prelude I, II, III ©1927 (Renewed) WB Music Corp. (ASCAP) All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## **Grand Duo**

*Prelude*  
*Stampede*  
*A Round*  
*Polka*

**Music** Lou Harrison, *Grand Duo for Violin and Piano*

**Susan Ruddle** Costume Design

**Michael Chybowski** Lighting Design

**Nicholas Tavani** Violin

**Colin Fowler** Piano

## **Dancers**

Mica Bernas, Sam Black, Durell R. Comedy, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lesley Garrison, Sarah Haarmann, Brian Lawson, Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, Brandon Randolph, Nicole Sabella, Christina Sahaida, Billy Smith

Premiere: February 16, 1993 – Fine Arts Center, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### **Mark Morris** (Artistic Director)

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 1988-1991, 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-two 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 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. 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, 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.

As the Annenberg Center's inaugural artist-in-residence, Morris curated a month-long focus on dance set to music by American composers. While Morris has set many dances to pieces by American composers, this program specifically includes works by 20th century composers George Gershwin, Lou Harrison and Henry Cowell. In addition to this evening's show, the company performed for the Annenberg Center's Arts4Youth weekday matinee series and will work with local students through master classes. Morris also created a month-long musical film series and will work with Penn students, Penn's Department of Medicine and the Parkinson's Council for the first-ever Philadelphia Dance for PD® Symposium.

### **Henry Cowell** (Composer)

Cowell (1897-1965) began playing the violin at the age of five and started composing as a teen. By 17, he had reached *Opus 110* with no traditional schooling or musical education. In 1914, Cowell was admitted to UC Berkeley to study with theorist, musicologist and composer Charles Seeger. Together they wrote *New Musical Resources*, which has become a seminal theoretical text of 20th century music. One of Cowell's earliest compositional innovations was the tone cluster, thick chords made up of major and minor seconds, which he played all over the piano with his forearms and fists. Throughout Cowell's career, he toured the world performing piano and composed almost one thousand pieces of various genres, instrumentations and styles, including several works that mix western and non-western instruments. At the New School for Social Research, he offered what is thought to be the first world music course taught in America, "Music of the World's Peoples." Cowell taught many influential American music composers, including George Gershwin, Lou Harrison and Phillip Glass.

### **George Gershwin** (Composer)

Gershwin (1898-1937) began his music career as a "song-plugger" in New York's Tin Pan Alley and in 1919, he scored his first big national hit with his song, "Swanee", with words by Irving Caesar. Gershwin would go on to compose numerous songs for stage and screen and in 1924, composed what is perhaps his best-known work, "Rhapsody in Blue". A decade later, he debuted a folk opera entitled *Porgy and Bess* (1935), considered to be among the most ambitious and important American musical compositions of the 20th century. Throughout his 23-year career, he studied with various teachers including Henry Cowell, Wallingford Riegger, Edward Kilenyi and Joseph Schillinger. Gershwin lives on through his compositions, which continue to be performed worldwide.

### **Lou Harrison** (Composer)

Harrison (1917-2003) is an American composer known for his experimental and technical aesthetic. Many of his early works are for percussion instruments, often made of found objects such as garbage cans and steel brake drums. Among Harrison's better-known works are the *Concerto in Slendro*, *Organ Concerto with Percussion* (1973) and the *Double Concerto* (1981-82) for violin, cello and Javanese gamelan. Harrison was acclaimed for his

ability to meld eastern and western forms and emphasized the physical and the sensual in his work, most apparent in his many collaborations with choreographers. Morris has created eight dances to Harrison's compositions and says, "Lou Harrison was a friend, and his music has been a decades-long inspiration to me as a choreographer. I've made up dances to many of his scores and there exist many more that are varied, extravagant and irresistible."

### **Mark Morris Dance Group**

The Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) 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. 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 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 Robert Bordo and the late Howard Hodgkin, 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.

### **MMDG 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 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*.

### **Aeolus Quartet**

Praised by the *Baltimore Sun* for combining "smoothly meshed technique with a sense of spontaneity and discovery," the Aeolus Quartet is committed to presenting time-seasoned masterworks and cutting-edge works to diverse audiences with equal freshness, dedication and fervor. Formed in 2008, the Quartet is comprised of violinists Nicholas Tavani and Rachel Shapiro, violist Caitlin Lynch and cellist Alan Richardson. The all-American quartet

has received prizes at nearly every major competition in the United States and performed across the globe with showings "worthy of a major-league quartet" (Scott Cantrell, *Dallas Morning News*). They were the 2013-2015 Graduate Resident String Quartet at the Juilliard School, and they currently make their home in New York City. The Quartet's 2017-18 season includes a residency at Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival, multiple appearances with the Chamber Music Society of Detroit, a recital on Lincoln Center's Great Performers series, and extensive touring throughout the United States.

**Mica Bernas** (Dancer)

Bernas, originally from Manila, Philippines, received her training at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Dance School. She later joined Ballet Philippines as member of the corps de ballet, performing as a soloist from 2001-2006. Since moving to New York in 2006, Bernas has worked with Marta Renzi Dance, Armitage Gone Dance, Gallim Dance, Barkin/Selissen Project and Carolyn Dorfman Dance (2007-2013). She was a guest artist with the Limón Dance Company, performing at the 2013 Biental Internacional de Danza de Cali in Bogotá, Colombia; Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater; and at The Joyce Theater for the company's 70th Anniversary in 2015. Bernas also teaches at the Limón Institute and has been on the faculty for BIMA at Brandeis University since 2011. She joined MMDG as an apprentice in January 2017 and became a full-time company member in August 2017.

**Sam Black** (Dancer)

Black is originally from Berkeley, California, where he began studying tap at the age of nine with Katie Maltsberger. He received his B.F.A. 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** (Dancer)

Comedy, a native of Prince Georges County, Maryland, began dancing at the age of six 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. 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 joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2015 and became a company member in 2016.

**Rita Donahue** (Dancer)

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 kraig patterson and joined MMDG in 2003.

**Domingo Estrada, Jr.** (Dancer)

Estrada, a native of Victoria, Texas, studied martial arts and earned his black belt in 1994. He danced ballet folklórico 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** (Music Director, Piano)

Fowler began his musical study 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 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 pedanium 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** (Dancer)

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 Rotterdams 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 MMDG's Dance for PD® program.

**Lauren Grant** (Dancer)

Grant, honored with a New York Dance and Performance “Bessie” award for her career with the Mark Morris Dance Group, has danced with MMDG since 1996, appearing in over 60 of Morris' works. She stages Morris' repertory on his company, at universities and conservatories, and teaches ballet and modern technique for the Dance Group, The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center, Jessica Lang Dance Company, Liz Gerring Dance Company, Ballet Preljocaj, and at schools and universities around the globe. Her writing has been published in the journals *Dance Education in Practice* and *Ballet Review*, and in *Dance Magazine* and *InfiniteBody*. She also serves as a panelist for the New York State Council on the Arts. Grant holds a BFA in dance from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and is currently pursuing her MFA in dance at Montclair State University where she is also an adjunct professor and a member of the National Honor Society for graduate and professional students. She is a recipient of the prestigious American Association of University Women Career Development Grant, the Sono Osato Scholarship for Graduate Studies, and the Caroline Newhouse Grant—all in support of her academic pursuits. Originally from Highland Park, Illinois, she lives in Brooklyn, New York with her husband David Leventhal (former MMDG dancer and current Dance for PD® Program Director) and their son, born in 2012.

**Sarah Haarmann** (Dancer)

Haarmann grew up in Macungie, Pennsylvania and received training at the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts under the direction of Kimberly Maniscalco. She graduated magna cum laude with a B.F.A in dance from Marymount Manhattan College in 2012. Haarmann has had the pleasure of performing with Pam Tanowitz Dance, Jessica Lang Dance, Dylan Crossman Dans(ce), Pat Catterson, Denisa Musilova and Bill Young. She joined MMDG as an apprentice in January 2017 and became a full time company member in August 2017.



**Brian Lawson** (Dancer)

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** (Dancer)

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.

**Caitlin Lynch** (Viola)

Lynch's vibrant musical career has led her to perform across the globe in memorable collaborations with artists ranging from Itzhak Perlman to Radiohead's Jonny Greenwood and Bjork. She has performed with members of the Tokyo, Cleveland, Juilliard and Cavani Quartets, members of the Weilerstein Trio, and Alarm Will Sound, A Far Cry and the Cleveland Orchestra. She performs regularly with the American Contemporary Music Ensemble, Wordless Music and Metropolis Ensemble. Lynch has appeared as soloist with numerous orchestras, whose tours have featured her concerti performances across North America and Europe. Lynch is the Artistic Director, founder and violist of Project Chamber Music: Willamette Valley. She has been Artist in Residence at Cleveland's Judson Manor senior living community, an ongoing intergenerational relationship lauded by CBS News, The Plain Dealer and *The New York Times*. Lynch performs on an 18th century viola made by English luthier William Forster.

**Laurel Lynch** (Dancer)

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 Týnek Dance Theatre, Sue Bernhard Danceworks and Pat Catterson. She joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007. Many thanks to Gene and Becky.

**Dallas McMurray** (Dancer)

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 Jirí 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** (Dancer)

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.

**Alan Richardson** (Cello)

Richardson, a Manhattan based cellist, maintains a packed touring schedule as a member of the award-winning Aeolus Quartet. Raised in Richmond, Virginia, Richardson went on to earn a BM from the Cleveland Institute of Music, an MM from the University of Texas, and an Artist Diploma from the Juilliard School. Richardson has performed across North America, Europe and Asia, collaborating with artists such as Renée Fleming, Ángel Romero, Joel Krosnick, Michael Tree, Sam Rhodes, Nina Lee, Jon Kimura Parker and Pedja Musijevic, as well as with the Miró, Juilliard and American String Quartets. In addition to his work with the Aeolus Quartet, he has performed as a guest with A Far Cry, Decoda and the Mark Morris Dance Group. Richardson also serves as principal cellist of the New Orchestra of Washington. He plays on a cello by Samuel Zygmuntowicz, generously on loan from the Five Partners Foundation.

**Nicole Sabella** (Dancer)

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, Pennsylvania, 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.

**Christina Sahaida** (Dancer)

Sahaida grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and began her early dance training at the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School. In 2012, she graduated with honors from Butler University, receiving a B.F.A in dance performance. She has worked with Ballet Quad Cities, Texture Contemporary Ballet, and most recently, the Big Muddy Dance Company in St. Louis, Missouri. Sahaida joined the Mark Morris Dance Group as an apprentice in July 2017.

**Rachel Shapiro** (Violin)

Born in Reading, Pennsylvania, Shapiro first discovered the violin at age four. She has since performed in venues such as Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall, London’s Wigmore Hall, and across North America, Europe and Asia. As a founding member and second violinist of the critically acclaimed Aeolus Quartet, her musical collaborations include a performance onstage at the Metropolitan Opera alongside Renée Fleming, and appearances with Michael Tree, Jon Kimura Parker, the Juilliard Quartet and the Miró Quartet. In the 17-18 season, Shapiro appears with A Far Cry and on faculty at the TCU Intensive String Quartet Workshop. She holds an artist diploma from the Juilliard School and a doctor of musical arts degree from the University of Maryland. Minorng in English Literature, Shapiro is an avid writer and was recently published in *Strings* magazine.

**Billy Smith** (Dancer)

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, 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 theatre credits include

Tulsa in *Gypsy*, Mistoffelees in *CATS* and Dream Curlly in *Oklahoma!* Smith danced with Parsons Dance from 2007-2010. He joined MMDG as a company member in 2010.

### **Nicholas Tavani** (Violin)

Tavani debuted in Washington, D.C.'s Gaston Hall at the age of eight. The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* recently praised him as "an alert and sensitive artist, with beautiful tone and exquisite phrasing," and the *Washington Post* hailed his "brilliant musicianship." As a chamber musician, recitalist and concerto soloist, Tavani has performed extensively in the United States and around the world. A passionate advocate of new music, Tavani has premiered and recorded several works by living composers, including Samuel Adler, Alexandra Bryant, Christopher Theofanidis and Dan Visconti. Tavani has served on the faculties of the George Washington University School of Music, the MasterWorks Festival and the University of Maryland High School Music Academy, among others. He served as teaching assistant to the Juilliard Quartet at the Juilliard School, where the Aeolus Quartet was 2013-2015 Graduate Quartet in Residence. As first violinist of the Aeolus Quartet, he was a winner of the 2011 Plowman International Chamber Music Competition, the 2011 Yellow Springs Chamber Music competition, and the 2009 Coleman International Chamber Music Competition.

### **Noah Vinson** (Dancer)

Vinson is originally from Springfield, Illinois, and received his B.A. in dance from Columbia College Chicago. He was named a *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 May 2015. He began dancing with MMDG in 2002 and became a company member in 2004.

### **Mark Morris Dance Group Staff**

Artistic Director **Mark Morris**

Executive Director **Nancy Umanoff**

Production

Director of Technical Production **Johan Henckens**

Music Director **Colin Fowler**

Lighting Supervisor **Nick Kolin**

Sound Supervisor **Rory Murphy**

Costume Coordinator **Stephanie Sleeper**

Wardrobe Supervisor **Maria Garcia**

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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