

# MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP



DANCEMOTION  
USA

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## MARK MORRIS

Artistic Director

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CHELSEA ACREE\* SAM BLACK\* MAX CAPPELLI-KING RITA DONAHUE\*  
DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR.\* LESLEY GARRISON\* LAUREN GRANT  
BRIAN LAWSON\* AARON LOUX\* LAUREL LYNCH STACY MARTORANA  
DALLAS McMURRAY MAILE OKAMURA\* BRANDON RANDOLPH  
BILLY SMITH NOAH VINSON JENN WEDDEL MICHELLE YARD\*

\*performing with DanceMotion USA

### MMDG Music Ensemble:

COLIN FOWLER

Music Director

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### Italian Concerto

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach—  
*Italian Concerto in F Major, BWV 971*

Lighting Design: Paul Palazzo

- I. *Allegro*
- II. *Andante*
- III. *Presto*

Colin Fowler, *keyboard*

Sam Black, Rita Donahue, Brian Lawson, Aaron Loux,  
Maile Okamura

Premiere: January 17, 2007—  
James and Martha Duffy Performance Space, Mark Morris Dance Center,  
Brooklyn, New York

### Words

Music: Felix Mendelssohn—*Songs without Words*

Costume Design: Maile Okamura  
Lighting Design: Nick Kolin

Colin Fowler, *keyboard*

Chelsea Acree, Sam Black, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada, Jr.,  
Lesley Garrison, Brian Lawson, Aaron Loux, Maile Okamura

Premiere: October 8, 2014—New York City Center, New York, New York

*Commissioned by New York City Center for the Fall for Dance Festival with generous  
support from the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.*

### Excursions

Music: Samuel Barber—  
*Excursions for the Piano (Op. 20, IV, III, II, I)*

Costume Design: Katherine M. Patterson  
Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

Colin Fowler, *keyboard*

Sam Black, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada, Jr.,  
Lesley Garrison, Aaron Loux, Michelle Yard

Premiere: June 26, 2008—Seiji Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood Music Center, Lenox, MA  
*Commissioned in part by the Tanglewood Music Center of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.*

Music by arrangement with G. Schirmer, Inc., publisher and copyright owner.

### Polka

Music: Lou Harrison—*Grand Duo for Violin & Piano, Mvt. 4*

Costume Design: Susan Ruddle  
Lighting Design: Michael Chybowski

Local musicians to be announced; Colin Fowler, *keyboard*

Chelsea Acree, Sam Black, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada, Jr.,  
Lesley Garrison, Brian Lawson, Aaron Loux, Maile Okamura

Premiere: April 7, 1992—Manhattan Grand Center Ballroom, New York, New York

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Note: The specific selection and order of the four pieces in this program are  
subject to change depending on the DanceMotion USA performance location.

# MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

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**Mark Morris** (Artistic Director) 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 eighteen 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 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 (2007), the Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society (2010), the Benjamin Franklin Laureate Prize for Creativity (2012) and Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts (2013). 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.

**Nancy Umanoff** (Executive Director) was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She received a B.A. in Dance from the State University of New York at Brockport and an M.F.A. in Performing Arts Administration from Brooklyn College. She worked at Pentacle/Danceworks, Inc. as administrator of the Foundation for Independent Artists and Project Coordinator for the National Choreography Project. She became the Managing Director of the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1986 and Executive Director in 2000, the same year she received the Arts & Business Council's 2000 Encore Award for Excellence in Arts Management. Under her leadership the Dance Group built the Mark Morris Dance Center in Ft. Greene Brooklyn which provides a home for the company, rehearsal space for the dance community, outreach programs for local children and seniors, and a school offering dance classes to students of all ages. She has guest lectured on arts administration, served on numerous arts panels and currently serves on the boards of directors for the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership and Dance/USA .

**Sarah Horne** (Company Manager) is originally from Groton, Massachusetts. She received a B.F.A. in Theatre from Syracuse University and an M.F.A. in Performing Arts Administration from Brooklyn College. In the past, Sarah worked as the General Management Coordinator for Ars Nova. She has also worked as an Artist Services and Special Events Associate at BAM, and served as the Assistant Managing Director of The Builders Association and as Company Manager for both TeatroStageFest and PickUpPerformance Company.

**Johan Henckens** (Technical Director, Stage Manager)

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## PERFORMERS:

**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 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 Purchase College and also studied at the Rotterdamse Dansacademie in The Netherlands. He has performed with David Parker, Takehiro Ueyama, and Nelly van Bommel, and currently teaches MMDG master classes and Dance for PD®. He first appeared with MMDG in 2005 and became a company member in 2007.

**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 kraig patterson 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 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, keyboard) is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy and holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from The Juilliard School. He has performed and recorded throughout the world with numerous soloists and ensembles including Deborah Voigt, the American Brass Quintet, James Galway, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In addition to performing and conducting a number of Broadway shows, Fowler has been a professor at NYU and Nyack College. He is currently the organist and assistant music director at both Calvary Church and Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City. He began collaborating with MMDG in 2006 and was named 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, where she received the Modern Dance Faculty Award. She has performed with Erica Essner, Dance Heginbotham, the Kevin Wynn Collection, Neel Verdoorn, Nelly Van Bommel's NØA Dance, Rocha Dance Theater and Sidra Bell Dance New York. 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.

**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.

**Maile Okamura** studied primarily with Lynda Yourth at the American Ballet School in San Diego, California. She was a member of Boston Ballet II and Ballet Arizona before moving to New York to study modern dance. Okamura has been dancing with MMDG since 1998. She has also had the pleasure of working with choreographers Neta Pulvermacher, Zvi Gotheiner, Gerald Casel, and John Heginbotham, with whom she frequently collaborates as dancer and costume designer.

**Michelle 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.

# ABOUT MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

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The Mark Morris Dance Group has inspired international critics and audiences alike throughout its more than 30-year history. Founded in New York in 1980 by artistic director/choreographer Mark Morris, the company spent three years in residence at Brussels' Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie as Belgium's national dance company, returning to the United States in 1991. The Mark Morris Dance Group tours domestically and internationally to great acclaim, and is distinguished as the only modern dance company with a deep commitment to live music in performance, founding the MMDG Music Ensemble in 1996.

Outreach is interwoven into every aspect of the company's life, both at its Brooklyn home, the Mark Morris Dance Center, as well as on tour. The company brings opportunities for dance, music, talks, and education to Brooklyn and around the world, from an in-school residency with school-age children to Dance for PD®, which offers teacher training and free classes for people with Parkinson's disease in 11 countries. In Brooklyn, the Mark Morris Dance Center offers affordable dance classes, workshops, and master classes for adults of all skill levels, as well as subsidized rehearsal space for the dance community. The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center additionally provides low-cost dance classes to over 1500 students ages 3 to 17, all accompanied by live music.

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## Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by:

American Express, Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Booth Ferris Foundation, William Randolph Hearst Foundation, Ellsworth Kelly Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Meyer Sound/Helen and John Meyer, PARC Foundation, Poss Family Foundation, The Billy Rose Foundation, Inc., The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The SHS Foundation; The Shubert Foundation, and Jane Stine and R.L. Stine.

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This engagement is supported by Mid Atlantic Arts foundation through *USArtists International* in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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## Thanks:

Thanks to Maxine Morris.

Sincerest thanks to all the dancers for their dedication, commitment, and incalculable contribution to the work.

The Mark Morris Dance Group is a member of Dance/USA and the Downtown Brooklyn Arts Alliance.

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## Mark Morris Dance Group Staff

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

## Production

*Technical Director* Johan Henckens  
*Rehearsal Director* Matthew Rose  
*Music Director* Colin Fowler  
*Sound Supervisor* Ken Hypes  
*Costume Coordinator* Stephanie Sleeper  
*Lighting Supervisor* Nick Kolin

## Administration

*Chief Financial Officer* Elizabeth Fox  
*Finance Manager* Rebecca Hunt  
*Finance Associate* Jamie Posnak  
*General Manager* Huong Hoang  
*Company Manager* Sarah Horne

## Development

*Director of Development* Michelle Amador  
*Development Associates* Sophie Mintz, Sara Sessions

## Marketing

*Director of Marketing* Karyn LeSuer  
*Marketing Associate* François Leloup-Collet  
*Marketing Assistant* Myriam Varjacques

## Education

*Director of Education* Sarah Marcus  
*School Director* Sydnie Liggett  
*School Administrator* Colleen Pictor  
*Outreach Director* Eva Nichols  
*Dance for PD® Program Director* David Leventhal  
*Dance for PD® Program Coordinator* Maria Portman Kelly  
*Intern* Jennifer Moskowitz

## Dance Center Operations

*Facility and Production Manager* Peter Gorneault  
*Senior Operations Manager* Karyn Treadwell  
*Operations Manager* Elise Gaugert  
*Operations Administrator* Sam Owens  
*Front Desk Assistant* Jillian Greenberg  
*Maintenance* Jose Fuentes, Vincent Guerrero, Orlando Rivera, Diana Velazquez  
*Booking Representation* Michael Mushalla (Double M Arts & Events)  
*Media and General Consultation Services* William Murray (Better Attitude, Inc.)  
*Legal Counsel* Mark Selinger (McDermott, Will & Emery)  
*Accountant* O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins, LLP  
*Orthopaedist* David S. Weiss, M.D. (NYU Langone Medical Center)  
*Physical Therapist* Marshall Hagins, PT, PhD  
*Hilot Therapist* Jeffrey Cohen






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## For more information contact:

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Brooklyn, NY 11217-1415  
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# ABOUT DANCEMOTION USA<sup>SM</sup>

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DanceMotion USA<sup>SM</sup> is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the US Department of State, produced by BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music), to showcase the finest contemporary American dance abroad while facilitating cultural exchange and mutual understanding.

From April to November 2014, three dance companies are making month-long tours, each to a different region of the world: David DorfmanDance (Armenia, Turkey and Tajikistan); CONTRA-TIEMPO (Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador); and Mark Morris Dance Group (Cambodia, China, Taiwan, and Timor Leste).

DanceMotion USA<sup>SM</sup> helps US embassies partner with leading cultural, social service, and community-based organizations and educational institutions to create unique residencies that allow for exchange and engagement. In addition to person-to-person interactions, the program reaches a wider audience through an active social and digital media initiative, and through educational resources housed in Embassy and consulate libraries.

Since the launch of DanceMotion USA<sup>SM</sup> in 2010, 14 American dance companies have toured to different regions around the globe, including Sub-Saharan and Northern Africa, South America, the Middle East, the Iberian Peninsula, Central, South and Southeast Asia. In its second year, DanceMotion USA<sup>SM</sup> expanded the cross-cultural exchange, by hosting a foreign company in the US to collaborate with a participating American company.

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**For tour information, please contact:**

Michael Blanco, Project Director,  
DanceMotion USA<sup>SM</sup>

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BAM  
30 Lafayette Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11217  
Telephone: 1.718-623-7817

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## PARTNERS

### US Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) promotes international mutual understanding through a wide range of academic, cultural, private-sector, professional, and sports exchange programs. ECA exchanges engage youth, students, educators, artists, athletes, and emerging leaders in many fields in the United States and in more than 160 countries. Alumni of ECA exchanges comprise over one million people around the world, including more than 50 Nobel Laureates and more than 300 current or former heads of state and government.

### BAM

BAM's mission is to be the home for adventurous artists, audiences, and ideas. It is America's oldest performing arts institution and is recognized internationally for innovative dance, music, and theater programming – including its renowned Next Wave Festival. BAM also features an acclaimed repertory film program, literary and visual arts events, and extensive educational programs. Select events are now streamed worldwide online.

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