

Thursday, September 17, 2009, 8pm
Saturday, September 19, 2009, 8pm
Sunday, September 20, 2009, 3pm
Zellerbach Hall

Mark Morris Dance Group

Craig Biesecker Samuel Black Joe Bowie Elisa Clark Rita Donahue
Domingo Estrada, Jr. Lauren Grant John Heginbotham David Leventhal
Laurel Lynch Bradon McDonald Dallas McMurray Amber Star Merkens[†]
Maile Okamura Noah Vinson Jenn Weddel Julie Worden Michelle Yard

[†] on leave

MMDG Music Ensemble

Colin Fowler Cordelia Hagmann Wolfram Koessel Jessica Troy Michi Wiancko

Mark Morris, *Artistic Director*

Nancy Umanoff, *Executive Director*

MetLife Foundation is the Mark Morris Dance Group's Official Tour Sponsor.

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by Carnegie Corporation of New York, JP Morgan Chase Foundation, The Howard Gilman Foundation, Independence Community Foundation, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, and Jane Stine and R. L. Stine.

The Mark Morris Dance Group New Works Fund is supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Ellsworth Kelly Foundation, The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, The PARC Foundation, Meyer Sound/Helen and John Meyer, and Poss Family Foundation.

The Mark Morris Dance Group's performances are made possible with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts Dance Program.

These performances are also made possible, in part, by Patron Sponsors Kathryn and Scott Mercer.

Cal Performances' 2009–2010 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank.

Mark Morris Dance Group



Gene Schiavone

Visitation

(West Coast Premiere)

Music Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827):
Cello Sonata No. 4 in C major,
Op. 102, No. 1 (1815)

Costume Design Elizabeth Kurtzman

Lighting Design Nicole Pearce

MUSICIANS

Wolfram Koessel, *cello*; Colin Fowler, *piano*

DANCERS

Dallas McMurray (Saturday & Sunday), Maile Okamura (Thursday)

I. Andante—Allegro vivace

Craig Biesecker, Joe Bowie, Rita Donahue, Michelle Yard

II. Adagio—Tempo d'andante—Allegro vivace

Craig Biesecker, Joe Bowie, Rita Donahue, John Heginbotham,
Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

*Commissioned in part by Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and
Tanglewood Music Center of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.*

Premiered August 5, 2009, Seiji Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood Music Center, Lenox, Massachusetts.

PAUSE



Gene Schiavone

Empire Garden

(West Coast Premiere)

Music Charles Ives (1874–1954):
Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano, S. 86[†]
(1909–1910, rev. 1914–1915):
I. Moderato; II. TSIAJ—Presto;
III. Moderato con moto

Costume Design Elizabeth Kurtzman

Lighting Design Nicole Pearce

MUSICIANS

Michi Wiancko, *violin*; Wolfram Koessel, *cello*; Colin Fowler, *piano*

DANCERS

Craig Biesecker, Samuel Black, Joe Bowie, Elisa Clark, Rita Donahue,
Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham, David Leventhal, Bradon McDonald,
Dallas McMurray, Maile Okamura, Jenn Weddel, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

*Commissioned in part by Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and
Tanglewood Music Center of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.*

Premiered August 5, 2009, Seiji Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood Music Center, Lenox, Massachusetts.

[†] Music by arrangement with Peer International Corporation, publisher and copyright owner.

INTERMISSION



Robbie Jack

V

Music Robert Schumann (1810–1856):
 Quintet for Piano and Strings in
 E-flat major, Op. 44 (1842):
 Allegro brillante; In modo d'una marcia;
 Un poco largamente—Agitato;
 Scherzo molto vivace; Allegro, ma non troppo

Costume Design Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting Design Michael Chybowski

MUSICIANS

Michi Wiancko, *violin*; Cordelia Hagmann, *violin*; Jessica Troy, *viola*;
 Wolfram Koessel, *cello*; Colin Fowler, *piano*

DANCERS

Craig Biesecker, Elisa Clark, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lauren Grant,
 John Heginbotham, David Leventhal, Bradon McDonald, Dallas McMurray,
 Maile Okamura, Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

Premiered October 16, 2001, Sadler's Wells, London.



Amber Star/Merkena

Mark Morris was born on August 29, 1956, in Seattle, Washington, where he studied as a young man with Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson. Early in his career, he performed with Lar Lubovitch, Hannah Kahn, Laura Dean, Eliot

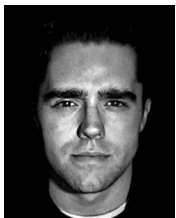
Feld and the Koleda Balkan Dance Ensemble. He formed the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1980, and has since created more than 120 works for the company. From 1988 to 1991, he was Director of Dance at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, the national opera house of Belgium. Among the works created during his tenure were three evening-length dances: *The Hard Nut*; *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*; and *Dido and Aeneas*. In 1990, he founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Morris is also much in demand as a ballet choreographer. He has created seven works for the San Francisco Ballet since 1994 and received commissions from American Ballet Theatre and the Boston Ballet, among others. His work is also in the repertory of the Pacific Northwest Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, New Zealand Ballet, Houston Ballet, English National Ballet and The Royal Ballet. Mr. Morris is noted for his musicality and has been described as “undeviating in his devotion to music.” He has worked extensively in opera, directing and choreographing productions for the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, English National Opera and The Royal Opera, Covent Garden. Mr. Morris was named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991. He has received nine honorary doctorates to date. In 2006, Mr. Morris received the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Mayor's Award for Arts & Culture and a WQXR Gramophone Special Recognition Award. He is the subject of a biography by Joan Acocella (Farrar, Straus & Giroux) and Marlowe & Company published a volume of photographs and critical essays entitled *Mark Morris' L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato: A Celebration*. Mr. Morris is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. In 2007, he

received the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival lifetime achievement award.

The **Mark Morris Dance Group** (MMDG) was formed in 1980 and gave its first concert that year in New York City. The company's touring schedule steadily expanded to include cities both in the United States and in Europe, 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 company returned to the United States in 1991 as one of the world's leading dance companies, performing across the United States and at major international festivals. Based in Brooklyn, New York, the company has maintained and strengthened its ties to several cities around the world, most notably its West Coast home, Cal Performances, and its Midwest home, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in Urbana, Illinois. MMDG also appears regularly in New York City; Boston; Fairfax, Virginia; Seattle; and at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket, Massachusetts. MMDG made its debut at the Mostly Mozart Festival in 2002 and at the Tanglewood Music Festival in 2003 and has since been invited to both festivals annually. The company's London seasons have garnered two Laurence Olivier Awards. MMDG is noted for its commitment to live music, a feature of every performance on its full international touring schedule since 1996. MMDG collaborates with leading orchestras, opera companies, and musicians including cellist Yo-Yo Ma in the Emmy Award-winning film *Falling Down Stairs* (1997); Indian composer Zakir Hussain, Mr. Ma and jazz pianist Ethan Iverson in *Kolam* (2002); The Bad Plus in *Violet Cavern* (2004); pianists Emanuel Ax, Garrick Ohlsson and Yoko Nozaki for *Mozart Dances* (2006); and with the English National Opera in *Four Saints in Three Acts* (2000) and *King Arthur* (2006), among others. MMDG's film and television projects also include *Dido and Aeneas*, *The Hard Nut* and two documentaries for the UK's *South Bank Show*. In fall 2001, MMDG opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn, New York, housing rehearsal space for the dance community, outreach programs for

local children, as well as a school offering dance classes to students of all ages. For more information, visit www.mmdg.org.

The **MMDG Music Ensemble** formed in 1996, performs with the Dance Group at home and on tour and has become integral to the company's creative life. The core group, supplemented by musicians from a large roster of regular guests, has helped the Dance Group achieve an unprecedented streak of close to 800 performances with live music. The Ensemble's repertory ranges from 17th-century works by John Wilson and Henry Purcell to more recent scores by Lou Harrison and Henry Cowell. The Ensemble also presents concerts at the Mark Morris Dance Center and other venues, and participates in the Mark Morris Dance, Music and Literacy Project in the New York City public school system.



Pianist **Colin Fowler** hails from Kansas City, Kansas, and began studying piano at age five. After attending Interlochen Arts Academy, he received his bachelor's and master's degrees at The Juilliard School, where he studied organ with Gerre Hancock and piano with Abbey Simon. He has played and directed music across the country at venues including Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center and the Library of Congress. Mr. Fowler has also performed with the American Brass Quintet, Deborah Voight, James Galway and at many of the churches and synagogues in New York. His Broadway credits include the recent revival of *42nd Street* and the current production of the Tony Award-winning musical, *Jersey Boys*. He is chair of the Theory and Ear Training department at Nyack College, where he is a full-time professor and conductor of the Nyack College Chorale. Mr. Fowler has played with the MMDG Music Ensemble since 2006.



Violinist **Cordelia Hagmann** appears frequently as a chamber musician, recitalist and concertmistress in Europe and the United States. She won a top prize and the audience prize at the Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition in 2004 with the Moirae Trio, the Kiwanis Prize in Zürich in 2001, the concerto competition in Winterthur in 1998 and other prestigious scholarships in her native Switzerland. As a soloist, she has performed with orchestras such as the Musikkollegium Winterthur and the Temple Symphony Orchestra, performing works by Bach, Beethoven, Chausson, Dvořák, Mozart, Sarasate, Saint-Saëns and Vivaldi. Ms. Hagmann began playing the violin at age five with Matthias Steiner in Switzerland. She continued her studies at the conservatory in Winterthur-Zürich with Nora Chastain (B.M. with honors) and Rudolf Koelman. In 2002, she moved to the United States, where she completed her studies with a performer diploma under Miriam Fried at Indiana University in Bloomington. While in Indiana, Ms. Hagmann was a member of the Moirae Piano Trio under the guidance of Menahem Pressler, founding member of the Beaux Arts Trio. Ms. Hagmann has lived in New York City since 2004, where she plays with MMDG, the Onyx Chamber Group, the String Orchestra of New York City and the American Symphony Orchestra, among others, and performs regularly as concertmistress of the New England Symphonic Ensemble in Carnegie Hall. She is on the violin faculty at Lucy Moses School and Opus 118, Harlem School of Music, and teaches chamber music for "New York Youth."



Since moving to New York in 1991, cellist **Wolfram Koessel** has established himself as a much sought after chamber musician, soloist, recording artist and contractor in the New York music scene. He has performed with MMDG since 1999 and was music director from 2004 to 2008. In 2006, Mr. Koessel joined the world renowned American

String Quartet, with which he performs in the foremost concert halls throughout the world, collaborating frequently with today's leading artists. Mr. Koessel appears with a wide range of ensembles and groups, most notably and frequently with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. He has supervised and performed music for Warner Brothers, American Express and many independent film companies besides organizing hundreds of classical orchestra and chamber music concerts in New York during the last decade. He is on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music and the Aspen Music Festival. Mr. Koessel resides with his wife, pianist and writer J. Mae Barizo, in Manhattan.



Violist **Jessica Troy**, a native New Yorker, wears a wide variety of freelance hats. As the violist of the Mark Morris Dance Group Music Ensemble since 1998, she has toured extensively, from Brooklyn to Sydney, and performed throughout the United States and Japan with Yo-Yo Ma. On the baroque viola, she performs with the Dodd String Quartet, Four Nations Ensemble, Rebel, Grand Tour Orchestra, Sinfonia NY, Clarion and a fun feather in this cap, and has appeared with Renée Fleming on *Late Night with David Letterman*. She has seized the stage from Toronto to Lima with the East Village Opera Company, a rock group (without appropriate headgear). She is a member of both the Brooklyn and Westchester philharmonics. Wearing headphones, she has recorded quartet parts for Ani DiFranco, Lou Reed, 2 Foot Yard and Charming Hostess. A participant at many illustrious chamber music festivals, including Prussia Cove and Marlboro, she can be heard on the latter's 50th anniversary CD in György Kurtág's *Microhudes* for string quartet, which she prepared with the composer.



Described in *Gramophone* as an "alluring soloist [with] heightened expressive and violinistic gifts," violinist **Michi Wiancko** has performed with orchestras including the New York and Los Angeles philharmonics, and in recital and chamber appearances across the nation. Ms. Wiancko made her New York solo recital debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall after winning the 2002 Concert Artists Guild International Competition. She was featured as an "artist to watch" on the cover of the January 2007 *Symphony* magazine. She has toured extensively throughout the country as soloist, recitalist and chamber musician, and has appeared in venues such as the Kennedy Center, Sydney Opera House, Metropolitan Museum of Art, National Gallery, Library of Congress, New York Town Hall and Philadelphia Chamber Music Society. Ms. Wiancko has toured with Musicians from Marlboro and the Los Angeles Piano Quartet. In March 2007, she gave the world premiere of a concerto written for her by Margaret Brouwer, which she performed with Cleveland's CityMusic Orchestra. Ms. Wiancko is also the singer and songwriter for her Kono Michi project, comprising string quartet, upright bass and drums. Kono Michi has performed in Merkin Hall, Symphony Space's Thalia Theater, Brooklyn's BAM Café and Barbès and the World Café Live in Philadelphia. Her self-produced debut album of original music, titled *9 Death Haiku*, has recently been released. A native of Southern California, Ms. Wiancko began her violin studies at age three. She continued her studies with Donald Weilerstein at the Cleveland Institute of Music and completed her master's degree at The Juilliard School, working with Robert Mann.

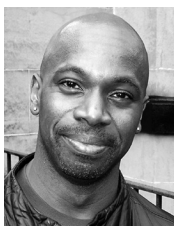
DANCERS



Craig Biesecker, from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, received a B.S. in music education from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. While teaching music in Philadelphia, he studied ballet with John White, Margarita de Saa and Bryan Koulman, and worked with choreographers Tim and Lina Early. In New York City, he has worked with Pascal Rioult, Carolyn Dorfman, New York Theater Ballet, Mark Dendy and Gerald Casel. Mr. Biesecker joined MMDG in 2003.



Samuel Black is originally from Berkeley, where he began studying tap at age nine with Katie Maltsberger. He received his B.F.A. in Dance from SUNY Purchase and also studied at the Rotterdamse Dansacademie in Holland. He has performed in New York with David Parker, Takehiro Ueyama and Nelly van Bommel. Mr. Black first appeared with MMDG in 2005, and became a company member in 2007.



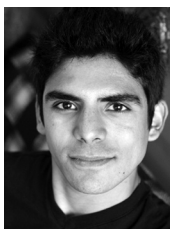
Joe Bowie was born in Lansing, Michigan, and began dancing while attending Brown University, from which he graduated with honors in English and American literature. In New York, he has performed in works by Robert Wilson and Ulysses Dove and also danced with the Paul Taylor Dance Company for two years before going to Belgium to work with Mark Morris in 1989.



Elisa Clark received her early training from the Maryland Youth Ballet and her B.F.A. from The Juilliard School under the direction of Benjamin Harkarvy. She danced with the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Nederlands Dans Theater and Battleworks Dance Company before joining MMDG in 2006. Ms. Clark has also worked with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, as assistant to Robert Battle. She has been on faculty at the American Dance Festival and teaches for MMDG. She is a 2008–2009 Princess Grace Modern Dance Honorarium Award Winner.



Rita Donahue was born and raised in Fairfax, Virginia, and attended George Mason University, from which she graduated with honors in dance and English in 2002. She danced with bopi's black sheep/dances by kraig patterson and joined MMDG in 2003.



Domingo Estrada, Jr., a native of Victoria, Texas, recently earned a B.F.A. in Ballet and Modern Dance at Texas Christian University. Currently, he works with choreographers Leslie Scott, BODYart Dance; Mary Seidman, Mary Seidman & Dancers; and Christian von Howard, Von Howard Project. He made his debut with the Mark Morris Dance Group during *The Hard Nut* at Cal Performances in 2007. Mr. Estrada would like to thank God, his family and all who support his passion!



Lauren Grant, born and raised in Highland Park, Illinois, has danced with the Mark Morris Dance Group since 1996. Appearing in over 41 of Mark Morris's works, she performs leading roles in *The Hard Nut* and *Mozart Dances*. Ms. Grant has been featured in *Time Out New York, Dance Magazine* and the book *Meet the Dancers*, and is the subject of a photograph by Annie Leibovitz. She graduated with a B.F.A. from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Ms. Grant is on faculty at MMDG's school and also teaches dance internationally. She is married to fellow dancer David Leventhal.



John Heginbotham is from Anchorage, Alaska. He is a graduate of The Juilliard School (B.F.A. '93) and has danced in the companies of Susan Marshall, Pilobolus Dance Theater (guest artist), John Jasperse and Ben Munisteri.

His choreography is featured in the work of recording artists Fischerspooner and in *Champ: A Space Opera* (New York International Fringe Festival). As a teacher, Mr. Heginbotham works regularly with members of the Brooklyn Parkinson's Group. He joined MMDG in 1998.



David Leventhal has danced with MMDG since 1997. He performs principal roles in *The Hard Nut*, *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* and *Romeo & Juliet, on Motifs of Shakespeare*. He is a faculty member of the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn and teaches technique and repertory at schools and universities. He is one of the founding teachers of MMDG's *Dance for Parkinson's* program and leads classes around the world for people with Parkinson's disease. Raised in Newton, Massachusetts, Mr. Leventhal received his early training from Boston Ballet School and graduated from Brown University with honors in English literature. He is married to fellow dancer Lauren Grant.

CAL PERFORMANCES EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Sightlines

Mark Morris Dance Group

Saturday, September 19, 2009, 7–7:30 pm, Zellerbach Hall
Pre-performance talk by UC Berkeley musicologist Yael Braunschweig.

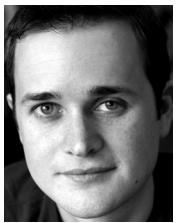
This *Sightlines* event is free to all event ticket holders.



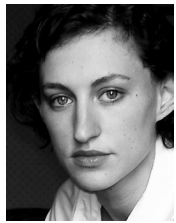
Laurel Lynch began her dance training in Petaluma, California. After a few too many *Nutcrackers*, she moved to New York to attend The Juilliard School, where she performed works by Robert Battle, Margie Gillis, José Limón and Ohad Naharin. Since graduation in May 2003, Ms. Lynch has danced for Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, Pat Catterson, Stephan Koplowitz and T.E.A. (Transpersonal Education and Art). She performed at the Festival Oltre Passo in Lecce, Italy, and appeared as a guest artist with Petaluma City Ballet. Ms. Lynch performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.



Bradon McDonald received his B.F.A. from The Juilliard School in 1997. He danced with the Limón Dance Company for three years and was the recipient of the 1998 Princess Grace Award. He has choreographed and presented his own works internationally, served as choreographer for seven Juilliard Opera Company productions under director Frank Corsaro, and was the choreographic assistant to Donald McKayle at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Mr. McDonald joined MMDG in 2000.



Dallas 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. Dallas performed with the Limón Dance Company in addition to works by Jifí Kylián, Alonzo King, Robert Moses and Colin Connor. Mr. McMurray joined MMDG performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.



Amber Star Merkens is originally from Newport, Oregon, where she began her dance training with Nancy Mittleman. She received her B.F.A. from The Juilliard School in 1999 and then danced with the Limón Dance Company for two years. She is a recipient of the 2001 Princess Grace Award and has presented her own choreography both in New York and abroad. Ms. Merkens joined MMDG in 2001.



Maile Okamura is originally from San Diego, California. She was a member of Boston Ballet II from 1992 to 1993 and Ballet Arizona from 1993 to 1996. She has danced with choreographers Neta Pulvermacher, Zvi Gotheiner and Gerald Casel, among others. Ms. Okamura began working with MMDG in 1998 and became a company member in 2001.



Noah Vinson received his B.A. in dance from Columbia College Chicago, where he worked with Shirley Mordine, Jan Erkert and Brian Jeffrey. In New York, he has danced with Teri and Oliver Steele and the Kevin Wynn Collection. He began working with MMDG in 2002 and became a company member in 2004.



Jenn Weddel grew up in Longmont, Colorado, and received her early training from Boulder Ballet Company. She holds a B.F.A. from Southern Methodist University and also studied at the Boston Conservatory, Colorado University and the Laban Center, London. Since moving to New York in 2001, Ms. Weddel has performed with RedWall Dance Theatre, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, Vencl Dance Trio, Rocha Dance Theatre and with various choreographers, including Alan Danielson and Connie Procopio. She has presented her own work in Manhattan and continues to collaborate with TEA Dance Company under the direction of Ella Ben-Aharon and Sahar Javedani. Ms. Weddel performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.



Julie Worden graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts and joined MMDG in 1994.



Michelle Yard was born in Brooklyn, New York, and began her professional dance training at the New York City High School of the Performing Arts. Upon graduation she received the Helen Tamiris and B'nai B'rith awards. For three years, she was a scholarship student at the Alvin Ailey Dance Center, and she attended New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she graduated with a B.F.A. Michelle joined MMDG in 1997. Mom, thank you.

Mark Morris Dance Group Staff

Artistic Director Mark Morris
Executive Director Nancy Umanoff

Production

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Rehearsal Director Matthew Rose
Lighting Supervisor Keri Thibodeau
Costume Supervisor Katherine M. Patterson
Wardrobe Supervisor Jennifer Perry
Sound Supervisor Jim Abdou

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Orthopedist David S. Weiss, M.D. (NYU-HJD Department of Orthopaedic Surgery)

Hilot Therapist Jeffrey Cohen

Thanks to Maxine Morris.

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

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The Iovino Family Foundation; Leon Lowenstein Foundation; Materials for the Arts;

McDermott, Will & Emery; USArtists International; and the Friends of the Mark Morris Dance Group.

For more information, contact Mark Morris Dance Group, 3 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11217-1415, phone (718) 624-8400, fax (718) 624-8900, info@mmdg.org, www.mmdg.org.