

Thursday, September 30, 2010, 8pm
 Friday, October 1, 2010, 8pm
 Saturday, October 2, 2010, 8pm
 Sunday, October 3, 2010, 3pm
 Zellerbach Hall

Mark Morris Dance Group



Gene Schiavone

Mark Morris Dance Group in *Socrates*

Samuel Black Joe Bowie Elisa Clark Rita Donahue Domingo Estrada, Jr.
 Lauren Grant John Heginbotham David Leventhal Aaron Loux† Laurel Lynch
 Bradon McDonald Dallas McMurray Amber Star Merkens Maile Okamura
 Spencer Ramirez† William Smith III† Noah Vinson Jenn Weddel
 Julie Worden Michelle Yard

† apprentice

MMDG Music Ensemble

Colin Fowler Michael Kelly

Mark Morris, Artistic Director

Nancy Umanoff, Executive Director

Cal Performances' 2010–2011 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

MetLife Foundation is the Mark Morris Dance Group's Official 30th Anniversary Sponsor.

Mark Morris Dance Group

PROGRAM

Behemoth

PAUSE

Looky

INTERMISSION

Socrates



Gene Schiavone

Behemoth

(West Coast Premiere)

Costume Design Christine Van Loon

Lighting Design Michael Chybowski

DANCERS

Samuel Black, 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, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

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

PAUSE



Gene Schiavone

Looky

(West Coast Premiere)

Music Kyle Gann (b. 1955), *Studies for Disklavier* (1997–2002): “Tango de Chiesa,” “Despotic Waltz,” “Bud Ran Back Out,” “Despotic Waltz,” “Folk Dance for Henry Cowell,” “Texarkana”

Costume Design Elizabeth Kurtzman, Isaac Mizrahi, Martin Pakledinaz, Katherine M. Patterson, Susan Ruddle, Christine Van Loon

Lighting Design Michael Chybowski

DANCERS

Samuel Black, Elisa Clark, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham, David Leventhal, Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch, Bradon McDonald, Dallas McMurray, Amber Star Merkens, Maile Okamura, William Smith III, Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

Commissioned by the Poss Family Foundation.

Yamaha Disklavier grand piano provided courtesy of Yamaha Corporation of America.

Premiere May 15, 2007, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Massachusetts

Music by special arrangement with the composer.

INTERMISSION



Gene Schiavone

Socrates

(West Coast Premiere)

I. PORTRAIT OF SOCRATES

II. ON THE BANKS OF THE ILISSUS

III. DEATH OF SOCRATES

Music Erik Satie (1866–1925), *Socrate* (1917–1918): “Portrait de Socrate,” “Bords de L’Ilissus,” “Mort de Socrate”

Costume Design Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting Design and Décor Michael Chybowski

MUSICIANS

Michael Kelly, *tenor*; Colin Fowler, *piano*

DANCERS

Samuel Black, Elisa Clark, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham, Laurel Lynch, Bradon McDonald, Dallas McMurray, Amber Star Merkens, Maile Okamura, Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

Premiere February 23, 2010, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn, New York

Socrates titles, Roger Nichols © 1985.



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 dance companies of 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 time there are three evening-length dances: *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*; *Dido and Aeneas*; and *The Hard Nut*. In 1990, he founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov.

Mr. Morris is also a ballet choreographer, who has created seven works for San Francisco Ballet since 1994 and received commissions from many others. His work is in the repertory of the Pacific Northwest Ballet, Boston Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, New Zealand Ballet, Houston Ballet, English National Ballet, and the Royal Ballet. He 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, Gotham Chamber Opera, English National Opera, and the Royal Opera, Covent Garden.

In 1991, Mr. Morris was named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation. He has received 10 honorary doctorates to date. In 2006, he received the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Mayor’s Award for Arts & Culture and a WQXR Gramophone Special Recognition Award “for being an American ambassador for classical music at home and abroad.” He is the subject of a biography, *Mark Morris*, by Joan Acocella (Farrar, Straus & Giroux), and Marlowe & Company has published a volume of photographs and critical essays entitled *Mark Morris’ L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato: A Celebration*.

Mark Morris is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American

Amber Star Merkins

Philosophical Society. In 2007, he received the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2010, he received the prestigious Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society.

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 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. MMDG also appears regularly in New York City; Boston; Fairfax, Virginia; and Seattle. 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. From the company’s many London seasons, it has garnered two Laurence Olivier Awards.

MMDG is noted for its commitment to live music, a feature of every performance on its 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); percussionist and composer Zakir Hussain, Mr. Ma, and jazz pianist Ethan Iverson in *Kolam* (2002); The Bad Plus in *Violet Caern* (2004); pianists Emanuel Ax, Garrick Ohlsson, and Yoko Nozaki for *Mozart Dances* (2006); and with 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*, two documentaries for the UK’s *South Bank Show*, and PBS’s *Live from Lincoln Center*

In September 2001, the Mark Morris Dance Center opened in Brooklyn, New York, to provide 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. For more information, visit www.mmdg.org.

The Mark Morris Dance Group’s most recent Cal Performances engagement was in September 2009. The company made its Cal Performances debut in 1987.

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, 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.

THE COMPANY



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.



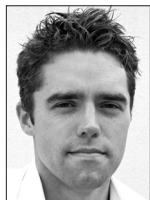
Elisa Clark received her early training from the Maryland Youth Ballet and her B.F.A. from the Juilliard School under the direction of Benjamin Harkarvy. She danced with the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Nederlands Dans Theater, and Battleworks Dance Company before joining MMDG in 2006. Ms. Clark has also worked with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as assistant to Robert Battle. She has been on the 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 and became a company member in 2009. Mr. Estrada would like to thank God, his family, and all who support his passion!



Colin Fowler (*piano*) is a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy and holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the Juilliard School. He has recorded and performed 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 numerous Broadway shows, Mr. Fowler is a professor at New York University and Nyack College. He began collaborating with MMDG in 2006.



Lauren Grant, born and raised in Highland Park, Illinois, has danced with the Mark Morris Dance Group since 1996. Appearing in over 40 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. 1993) 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 Group. He joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1998.



Michael Kelly (*tenor*) was most recently heard in Schubert's *Winterreise* in Houston and in the role of Count Almaviva in John Corigliano's *The Ghosts of Versailles* in Aspen, Colorado. Upcoming performances include a recital in Houston, Texas; Aeneas/Sailor in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* with Festival de Musica Barocca de San Miguel de Allende in Mexico; and performances of Bach's *St. John Passion* with Ars Lyrica. He won second prize in the 2009–2010 Liederkranz Foundation Lieder/Art Song Competition and was a semi-finalist in the Wigmore Hall Song Competition. Mr. Kelly holds a master's degree from the Juilliard School, where he created the dual roles of Bartender and Radio Singer in the world premiere of Lowell Liebermann's *Miss Lonelyhearts* with the Juilliard Opera Center. Mr. Kelly was also a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center, where he sang the role of Don Ottavio in a concert staging of *Don Giovanni* with James Levine. He was a prize-winner in the Oratorio Society of New York's Lyndon Woodside Solo Competition in 2009, and he won first place in the Jessie Kneisel Lieder Competition in 2004.



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 and 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 PD program, and leads classes around the world for people with Parkinson's disease. Raised in Newton, Massachusetts, he 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.



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 as an apprentice in 2010.



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 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 his B.F.A. in dance from the California Institute of the Arts. Mr. McMurray performed with the Limón Dance Company in addition to works by Jiří Kylián, Alonzo King, Robert Moses, and Colin Connor. He 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 in 1992–1993 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.



Spencer Ramirez began his training in Springfield, Virginia, studying under Melissa Dobbs, Nancy Gross, Kellie Payne, and Marilyn York. From there, he continued on to the Maryland Youth Ballet, training with Michelle Lees, Christopher Doyle, and Harriet

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Williams. In 2008, he entered the Juilliard School under the direction of Lawrence Rhodes, where he performed works by José Limón, Jerome Robbins, Sidra Bell, and Fabien Prioville. Mr. Ramirez is excited to be in his first season with MMDG and is extremely thankful for his family and friends' love and support.



William Smith III grew up in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and attended George Mason University under a full academic and dance talent scholarship, graduating *magna cum laude* in 2007. 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. Mr. 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. As an actor, Mr. Smith's regional theater credits include Tulsa in *Gypsy*, Mr. Mistoffelees in *Cats*, and Dream Curly in *Oklahoma!* He danced with Parsons Dance from 2007–2010 and became an apprentice with MMDG in April 2010.



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, Vencil 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 T.E.A. 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, from which she graduated with a B.F.A. Ms. Yard joined MMDG in 1997. Mom, thank you.