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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS  
MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP  
IN TWO WEST COAST PREMIERES AND V  
SEPTEMBER 17, 19 AND 20 AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

**MMDG ENSEMBLE PERFORMS THE WORKS BY IVES, BEETHOVEN AND SCHUMANN**

*Sightlines* pre-concert talk will be given by UC Berkeley musicologist Yael Braunschweig on  
Saturday, September 19, 7:00–7:30 p.m.

**BERKELEY, August 14, 2009**—Cal Performances kicks off its 2009/10 season when the celebrated **Mark Morris Dance Group** (MMDG) makes its annual sojourn to Berkeley with two West Coast premieres and a Morris classic on **Thursday, September 17 and Saturday, September 19 at 8:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, September 20 at 3:00 p.m.** *Visitation*, performed to Beethoven's sonata No. 4 for cello and piano, Op. 102, and *Empire Garden*, set to Charles Ives' trio for piano, violin and cello, will debut at Zellerbach Hall. The program is rounded out with **Mark Morris's** 2001 opus *V*, hailed "one of the few great works that modern dance has produced in a decade" (*The New York Times*) and set to Schumann's quintet in E-flat for piano and strings. All music will be performed by the **MMDG Ensemble** with **Michi Wiancko** (violin), **Cordelia Hagmann** (violin), **Jessica Troy** (viola), **Wolfram Koessel** (cello) and **Colin Fowler** (piano).

Morris's usual method of creating a dance begins with a piece of music he finds inspiring. But the process surrounding *Visitation* was slightly different. Cellist Yo-Yo Ma and pianist Emmanuel Ax, both past collaborators of Morris's, suggested Beethoven's second piano sonata as music worthy of a dance. Morris tried, but he ultimately based the 20-minute *Visitation* for nine dancers on Beethoven's fourth sonata. "It's shorter, more romantic and much stranger," explained Morris in the current issue of *TimeOut* New York. For *Empire Garden*, Morris chose a work by Charles Ives, a composer whose work he greatly admired but had never choreographed. Ives rarely-played trio is filled with whimsy, sudden turns in tempo and a number of references to American folk music, hymns and music from Ives' school days at Yale. *Empire Garden*, "a joyous and visually gorgeous romp" (*Boston Globe*), is performed by 15

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dancers colorfully dressed by **Elizabeth Kurtzman** in costumes suggesting a cross between circus and military uniforms. The world premieres of *Visitation* and *Empire Garden* were performed at the Tanglewood Music Center in Massachusetts earlier this month. The Berkeley program is completed by *V*, choreographed for 14 dancers to Schumann's glorious work. The dance was first previewed at Zellerbach Hall in October 2001 and, with its exuberance and celebratory spirit, remains an audience favorite.

A *Sightlines* pre-performance talk will be given by UC Berkeley musicologist Yael Braunschweig on Saturday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. This talk is free to event ticketholders.

### MARK MORRIS

“**[Mark Morris]** has made works that are among the peaks of American dance (and thus world dance) and that have taken dance expression where it has not been before, with visions of human contrast and harmony, comic and bleak at the same time” (*The New York Times*). Though known first and foremost as a choreographer, Morris is also a director, philanthropist and a powerful creative force in dance, music, education and culture. He grew up in Seattle, Washington, studied with Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson, and danced for an eclectic group of companies prior to forming Mark Morris Dance Group in 1980. In 1988, Morris became Director of Dance for the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels. During that three year residency, Morris completed 12 works, including three acclaimed evening-length pieces: *The Hard Nut*; *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*; and *Dido and Aeneas*.

In addition to choreographing more than 120 works for the Mark Morris Dance Group, Morris has created six ballets for the San Francisco Ballet since 1994 as well as works for American Ballet Theatre and the Boston Ballet, among others. He choreographed John Adams's *Nixon in China* for the Houston Grand Opera in 1987 and has collaborated with artists as varied as fellow dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, fashion designer (and close friend) Isaac Mizrahi, *tabla* player Zakir Hussain and sculptor Stephen Hende. Morris made his opera directing debut in the Metropolitan Opera's production of Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* in 2007, marking the first time in 50 years a choreographer has directed at the Met. In March 2009, as part of its 75th season, the San Francisco Ballet presented an all-Morris program of performances in recognition of Morris's brilliance throughout a 15-year collaboration.

Morris was honored with the 2007 Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award at Duke University in Durham and has also received the *Dance Magazine* award in 1991 and the Capezio Award in 1997. In 1991, he was named a fellow of the MacArthur Foundation; he has received eight honorary doctorates, including from the Boston Conservatory of Music, The Juilliard School, Long Island University, Pratt Institute, Bowdoin College and George Mason University. Morris is the subject of a biography by Joan Acocella (Farrar, Straus & Giroux) and, in 2001, Marlowe and Company published *Mark Morris' L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, a volume of photographs and essays.

### **MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP**

The **Mark Morris Dance Group** 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 country 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 in Berkeley and its Midwest home the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in Urbana, Illinois. MMDG also appears regularly in New York City; Boston; Seattle; and at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket, Massachusetts. MMDG was the first dance company to appear at the Mostly Mozart Festival in 2002 and 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 (1997 and 2002), and in 1995 the troupe was awarded the Hamada Prize, the Edinburgh Festival's highest honor.

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 such as cellist Yo-Yo Ma in the Emmy Award-winning film

*Falling Down Stairs* (1997); Indian composer Zakir Hussain, Ma and jazz pianist Ethan Iverson in *Kolam* (2002); The Bad Plus in *Violet Cavern* (2004); pianists Emanuel Ax 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.

The Mark Morris Dance Group first came to Cal Performances in 1987, and since 1994 has returned every year. Its visits to Zellerbach Hall often include world premieres: *Candleflowerdance* (2005); *Rock of Ages* (2004); *All Fours, Something Lies Beyond the Scene* and *Kolam* (2003); *Falling Down Stairs* and *Rhymes with Silver* (1997); and *World Power* (1995). In 2001, MMDG delivered an encore presentation of Rameau's comic opera-ballet *Platée* as well as a preview performance of V. *Four Saints in Three Acts* had its American debut in 2000; and Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* had its West Coast premiere in 1995. Most recently, Cal Performances presented the American premiere of *King Arthur* (2006) and the West Coast premieres of *Mozart Dances* (2007) and *Romeo & Juliet, On Motifs of Shakespeare* (2008), the latter of which was set to Prokofiev's newly discovered original score.

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Mark Morris Dance Group** on **Thursday, September 17** and **Saturday, September 19** at 8:00 p.m. and **Sunday, September 20** at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$38.00, \$52.00, \$68.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5.00 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org).

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID

required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20.00 for all other community members. Information is available at 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances 2009/10 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:  
CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Thursday, September 17 at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday, September 19 at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday, September 20 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

*Dance*

**Mark Morris Dance Group**  
Mark Morris, director/choreographer  
**MMDG Music Ensemble**  
**Michi Wiancko**, violin  
**Cordelia Hagmann**, violin  
**Jessica Troy**, viola  
**Wolfram Koessel**, cello  
**Colin Fowler**, piano

**Program:**

*Visitation* (2009): set to Ludwig van Beethoven's Sonata for Piano and Cello No. 4, Op. 102, No. 1 (West Coast premiere)

*Empire Garden* (2009): set to Charles Ives's Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano (West Coast premiere)

*V* (2001): set to Robert Schumann's Quintet in E-flat major for Piano and Strings, Op. 44

All choreography is by Mark Morris.

**Tickets:** \$38.00, \$52.00 and \$68.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door.

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**Saturday, September 19, 7:00–7:30 p.m.**  
**SIGHTLINES**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

**Mark Morris Dance Group** pre-performance talk by UC Berkeley musicologist **Yael Braunschweig**. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with artists and scholars, designed to enrich the concertgoer's experience. These events are free to ticketholders.

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- Cal Performances -