

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 12, 2016  
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[Press Room](#)

**CAL PERFORMANCES WELCOMES BACK  
MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP WITH A SIGNATURE WORK,  
*L'ALLEGRO, IL PENSEROSO ED IL MODERATO*,  
MARCH 11–13, 2016**

**Residency events with the company are planned on the UC Berkeley campus, including a community dance class and a panel discussion on March 12**

**BERKELEY, February 12, 2016**—[Mark Morris Dance Group](#) (MMDG) returns to Cal Performances with a seminal Morris work, *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, “widely considered one of the great dance works of the 20th century” (*New Yorker*), on Friday and Saturday, March 11–12 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 13 at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. *L'Allegro* features a cast of 27 dancers and a Handel score performed live by longtime MMDG collaborators **Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorus**, conducted by **Nicholas McGegan**, with soloists **Yulia van Doren, Doug Williams, Tom Cooley, and Sherezade Panthaki**. Back by popular demand, the March performances mark *L'Allegro*'s fifth presentation at Cal Performances since its Bay Area debut in 1988.

As part of Cal Performances' ongoing education activities and public programs, members of Mark Morris Dance Group will lead a Community Dance Class on Saturday, March 12 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the Bancroft Studio on the UC Berkeley campus. The class, which will include technique and choreographic phrases from *L'Allegro*, is open to the public and designed for all ages and abilities. Morris, along with Nicholas McGegan of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra will lead a discussion entitled “Handel Playlist,” on Saturday, March 12 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. This discussion of Handel's music is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is requested for both programs at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org).

A pastoral ode to darkness and light, *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* is set to George Frideric Handel's oratorio of the same name. Morris's choreography for this monumental work has been widely praised for its musicality, its inventiveness, and its humanity, and in the

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nearly 30 years since its creation, the work has entered the canon as “one of the most important modern dances...performances are by definition a great occasion” (*Wall Street Journal*).

In September Mark Morris Dance Group returns to Cal Performances to open the 2016-17 season with the world premiere of the Cal Performances co-commissioned *Layla and Majnun*. More details will be announced at a later date.

[Mark Morris](#) has been hailed as the “the most prodigiously gifted choreographer of the post-Balanchine era” (*Time*). In addition to creating more than 150 works for his dance group, which he founded in 1980, Morris conducts orchestras, directs opera, and choreographs for ballet companies around the world. Morris is a MacArthur Foundation Fellow, and has received eleven honorary doctorates to date. His other notable accomplishments include winning the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society, and the Benjamin Franklin Laureate Prize for Creativity.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for *Mark Morris Dance Group* on Friday and Saturday, March 11–12 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 13 at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$40.00 to \$126.00 and are subject to change. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org), and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

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Cal Performances' 2015–2016 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

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**Community Dance Class: Dance with Mark Morris Dance Group**

Saturday, March 12, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bancroft Studio, UC Berkeley Campus

Dancers from Mark Morris Dance Group lead a community class, including technique and choreographic phrases from *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*. For all ages and abilities; pre-registration is required at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org).

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**Discussion: Handel Playlist**

Saturday, March 12, 2:00–5:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus  
Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

A lively discussion around George Frideric Handel's music with Mark Morris, Nicholas McGegan of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. Free and open to the public, pre-registration requested at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org).

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**Friday–Saturday, March 11–12 at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday, March 13 at 3:00 p.m.**

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus  
Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

*Dance*

**Mark Morris Dance Group**

**Mark Morris**, director, choreographer

**Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale**

**Nicholas McGegan**, conductor

**Yulia van Doren**, soprano

**Doug Williams**, bass-baritone

**Tom Cooley**, tenor

**Sherezade Panthaki**, soprano

**Program:**

*L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* (1988): choreography by Mark Morris; music by Handel

**Tickets:** Prices range from \$40.00–\$126.00 and are subject to change.

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