Mark Morris Dance Group
Thursday through Sunday, September 4–14, 2003
Zellerbach Hall

Craig Biesecker*         Joe Bowie         Charlton Boyd
Rita Donahue*         Marjorie Folkman         Shawn Gannon         Lauren Grant
John Heginbotham         David Leventhal         Bradon McDonald         Amber Merkens
Gregory Nuber         Maile Okamura         June Omura†         Matthew Rose
Brynn Taylor*         Julie Worden         Michelle Yard

Artistic Director
Mark Morris

General Director
Barry Alterman

Executive Director
Nancy Umanoff

* apprentice
† maternity leave

PROGRAMS

September 4–7, 2003
L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato

September 12–14, 2003
Going Away Party
All Fours (World Premiere)

INTERMISSION
Serenade
Grand Duo

The Mark Morris Dance Group’s performances are made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts Dance Program and the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

The Mark Morris Dance Group New Works Fund is supported by The Howard Gilman Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, as well as The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation; Altria Group, Inc; The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation; and the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation.

The Mark Morris Dance Group’s education and performance activities are supported by Independence Community Foundation.

Cal Performances thanks Linda Rawlings for her generous support of our presentation of the Mark Morris Dance Group.

Cal Performances thanks the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Zellerbach Family Foundation for their generous support.

Cal Performances receives additional funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency that supports the visual, literary, and performing arts to benefit all Americans, and the California Arts Council, a state agency.

L’Allegro,
il Penseroso ed il Moderato
by George Frideric Handel
Pastoral ode after poems by John Milton, rearranged by Charles Jennens

Mark Morris, choreographer
Nicholas McGegan, conductor
Adrienne Lobel, set designer
Christine Van Loon, costume designer
James F. Ingalls, lighting designer

Christine Brandes, soprano
Dominique Labelle, soprano
Iain Paton, tenor
Philip Cutlip, baritone

Mark Morris Dance Group
Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra
Nicholas McGegan, music director
UC Berkeley Chamber Chorus
Marika Kuzma, director

Dancers
Todd Allen, Christina Amendolia, Craig Biesecker, Joe Bowie, Charlton Boyd, Rita Donahue, Marjorie Folkman, Maurice Fraga, Shawn Gannon, Emily Gayeski,* Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham, David Leventhal, Bradon McDonald, Amber Merkens, Gregory Nuber, Maile Okamura, Karen Reedy, Mara Reiner, Matthew Rose, Utufumi Takemura, Brynn Taylor, Noah Vinson, Seth Williams,* Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

*understudy

Overture:
G.F. Handel — Concerto Grosso in G Major, Op. 6, No. 1 (A tempo giusto – Allegro)

There will be one 20-minute intermission.

A libretto for this performance is located on pp. 22-25.
Premiere: November 23, 1988 – Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, Brussels

Choreography by Mark Morris

Going Away Party

Music: Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys
Christine Van Loon, costumes

Michael Chybowski, lighting
Charlton Boyd, Shawn Gannon, Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham, Maile Okamura, Matthew Rose, Julie Worden
Premiere: April 14, 1990 – Halles de Schaerbeek, Brussels, Belgium

PAUSE

All Fours
(World Premiere)

Music: Béla Bartók (String Quartet No. 4)
Martin Pakledinaz, costumes
Nicole Pearce, lighting
Jonathan Gandelsman, violin; Andrea Schultz, violin;
Jessica Troy, viola; Wolfram Koessel, cello

I. Allegro
Joe Bowie, Charlton Boyd, Rita Donahue, Shawn Gannon,
David Leventhal, Amber Merkens, Maile Okamura, Michelle Yard

II. Prestissimo, con sordino
Craig Biesecker, Bradon McDonald

III. Non troppo lento
Craig Biesecker, Marjorie Folkman, Bradon McDonald, Julie Worden

IV. Allegretto pizzicato
Marjorie Folkman, Julie Worden

V. Allegro molto
Joe Bowie, Charlton Boyd, Rita Donahue, Shawn Gannon,
David Leventhal, Amber Merkens, Maile Okamura, Michelle Yard

Commissioned in part by Cal Performances

INTERMISSION

Serenade
Music: Lou Harrison (Serenade for Guitar)
(Round – Air – Infinite Canon – Usul – Sonata)

Isaac Mizrahi, costumes
Michael Chybowski, lighting
Oren Fader, guitar; Stefan Schatz, percussion
Mark Morris

In honor of the divine Mr. Harrison.

Premiere: March 8, 2003 – Center for the Arts, Fairfax, Virginia

PAUSE

Grand Duo
Music: Lou Harrison (Grand Duo for Violin and Piano)
(Prelude – Stampede – A Round – Polka)

Susan Ruddie, costumes
Michael Chybowski, lighting
Jonathan Gandelsman, violin; Ilan Rechtman, piano
Joe Bowie, Charlton Boyd, Marjorie Folkman, Lauren Grant,
John Heginbotham, David Leventhal, Bradon McDonald,
Amber Merkens, Gregory Nuber, Maile Okamura,
Matthew Rose, Brynn Taylor, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard
Mark Morris was born on August 29, 1956, in Seattle, Washington, where he studied as a young man with Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson. In the early years of 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 over 100 works for the company. From 1988–1991, 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 four works on the San Francisco Ballet since 1994, and received commissions from such companies as American Ballet Theatre, Boston Ballet, and the Paris Opera Ballet. His work is in the repertory of the Geneva Ballet, New Zealand Ballet, English National Ballet, and the Royal Ballet, Covent Garden. Morris has worked extensively in opera, directing and choreographing productions for the New York City Opera, English National Opera, and the Royal Opera, Covent Garden. He was named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991, and has received honorary doctorates from The Boston Conservatory of Music, The Juilliard School, Long Island University, Pratt Institute, and Bowdoin College. Morris is the subject of a biography by Joan Acocella (Farrar, Straus & Giroux). In 2001, Marlowe & Company published Mark Morris’ L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato: A Celebration, a volume of photographs and critical essays.

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 US and in Europe, and in 1986, it made its first national television program for the PBS series Dance in America. The Dance Group was invited to become the national dance company of Belgium in 1988, 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. It has maintained and strengthened its ties to several cities around the world, most notably here in Berkeley, where Cal Performances presents the company in two annual seasons, including regular engagements of The Hard Nut in December. MMDG is the official dance company (2000–2005) of the Virginia Arts Festival, and appears regularly in Boston (MA); Fairfax (VA); Seattle (WA); Urbana-Champaign (IL); and at the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival in Becket (MA). 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. Cellist Yo-Yo Ma has frequently collaborated with the Dance Group; their projects include the 1997 Emmy Award-winning film Falling Down Stairs, using Bach’s Third Suite for Unaccompanied Cello, and the 2002 dance Kolam, created for The Silk Road Project in collaboration with Indian composer Zakir Hussain and jazz pianist Ethan Iverson of The Bad Plus. MMDG’s film and television projects include Dido and Aeneas, The Hard Nut, and two documentaries for the UK’s South Bank Show. In 2001, the Mark Morris Dance Center opened in Brooklyn, New York. The 30,000-square-foot facility features three studios and a school for dance students of all ages.

Todd Allen, a native of Salt Lake City, began dancing at age three with Virginia Tanner’s Children’s Dance Theater. He received his BA in Latin American studies from Brigham Young University, and in 1993 joined Utah’s Repertory Dance Theater (RDT). Allen received his MFA in dance from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, where he was a recipient of the Dean’s fellowship. He is a member of Zvi Gotheiner & Dancers, and has also performed with Mark Dendy, Cheryllyn Lavagnino, Amos Pinhasi, Ben Munisteri, and Heidi Latsky. His choreography has been presented recently at Symphony Space and at the Utah Arts Festival.
Christina Amendolia, born and raised in New York City, has been dancing most of her life. After graduating from the College of the Holy Cross with a BA in French language and literature, she lived in France as a Fulbright scholar. Since returning to NYC in 1996, she has worked with MacDuffie/Jones Performance, Valerie Green, Mollie O’Brien, Risa Jaroslow, and Venc Dance Trio, performing at various venues throughout the city, including Dancespace Project at St. Mark’s Church and Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors. Amendolia studies regularly with Marjorie Mussman. She is honored to have been appearing with the Mark Morris Dance Group since January 2000.

Craig Biesecker, from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, received a BS in music education from West Chester University (PA). 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. This is Biesecker’s first year with the Mark Morris Dance Group.

Joe Bowie, born in Lansing, Michigan, began dancing while attending Brown University. After graduating with honors in English and American literature, he moved to New York and performed in the works of Robert Wilson and Ulysses Dove. Bowie danced with the Paul Taylor Dance Company for two years before going to Belgium to work with Mark Morris in 1989.

Charlton Boyd was born in New Jersey, where he studied and performed with Inner City Ensemble Theater & Dance Company. He is a graduate of The Juilliard School and has danced with the Limón Dance Company. He appears in the Jose Limón Technique Video, Volume 1, and other music videos. Boyd first appeared with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1989 and became a company member in 1994.

Christine Brandes (soprano) enjoys an active career in North America and abroad, performing at many of the most distinguished festivals and concert series, in programs ranging from recitals and chamber music to oratorio and opera. In the 2003–04 season, Brandes bows as Susanna in Le Nozze di Figaro at New York City Opera and makes her Opera Theatre of Saint Louis debut as Elisetta in a new Colin Graham production of Cimarosa’s The Secret Marriage. Her busy concert schedule brings her to the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra for Handel’s Jeptha, to The Cleveland Orchestra for Israel In Egypt, to the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra for an all-Purcell program, and to Les Violons du Roy and the San Diego Symphony for Messiah. She also returns to the Philadelphia Orchestra for Beethoven’s Egmont with Wolfgang Sawallisch and joins the Handel & Haydn Society for Bach cantatas and Handel arias. Brandes has recorded for EMI, BMG/Conifer Classics, Harmonia Mundi USA, Virgin Classics, and Koch International.

Michael Chybowski (lighting designer) recently designed Four Saints in Three Acts and V for the Mark Morris Dance Group, as well as Morris’ A Garden for San Francisco Ballet and Gong for American Ballet Theatre and the Royal Ballet. Other work includes Moby Dick and Other Stories with Laurie Anderson (BAM/Barbican), Wit (New York, West End), and Da at the Guthrie. Recent work in New York includes Twelfth Night at the Delacorte, A Skull in Connemara for the Roundabout, and The Late Henry Moss for Signature Theatre. Upcoming work includes Parsifal for Seattle Opera and Antony and Cleopatra for Théâtre de Carouge in Geneva.

Philip Cutlip (baritone) is in demand by concert and opera presenters worldwide, and boasts a repertoire that extends from Bach and Handel to Bernstein and Stravinsky. San Francisco Chronicle music critic Joshua Kosman has said that his “stalwart tone, effortless precision and fluent phrasing” are “a constant delight.” Cutlip’s vast range of experience has seen him in roles from soloist in the Bach Mass in B Minor with the Washington Bach Consort, to the role of Figaro in Le nozze di Figaro with Wolf Trap Opera, to the title role in Don Giovanni with the New York City Opera, to performances of Britten’s War Requiem with the Bangor Symphony (ME) and Aaron Kernis’ Brilliant Sky, Infinite Sky with the Minnesota Orchestra Chamber Players. A distinctive element in Cutlip’s career is his ongoing collaboration with some of
the pre-eminent dance companies and avant-garde ensembles of our time. He recently performed Ives Songs with the New York City Ballet. He has also toured internationally with the Hamburg Ballet, singing Bernstein’s Dances, and has appeared on European and American tours of Philip Glass’ Les Enfants Terribles. His performance of this particular piece was released on a Nonesuch CD. In 2002, Cutlip appeared with the Mark Morris Dance Group in performances of L’Allegro and Acis and Galatea at Lincoln Center.

Rita Donahue was born and raised in Fairfax, Virginia. She graduated with a BFA in dance and a BA in English from George Mason University in 2002, and then joined bopi’s black sheep, dances by Kraig Patterson. She began working with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2003.

Oren Fader (guitar) is active as a performer of classical guitar repertoire, both traditional and contemporary. Reviewing his solo New York recital, Guitar Review magazine stated: “His scholarship, technique, and intelligent musicianship are plainly evident and the beauty of his tone is consistently compelling.” He has performed in London, Tokyo, Munich, Amsterdam, Montreal, Maui, Russia, Mexico, and throughout the United States, and can be heard on over 20 recordings. Recently completed projects include a new recording of an arrangement of The Rite of Spring, performed with the Fireworks ensemble. Since 1994, he has been on the guitar faculty and directed the guitar chamber music program at the Manhattan School of Music.

Marjorie Folkman graduated summa cum laude from Barnard College. She has danced for Amy Spencer and Richard Colton, Sally Hess, Neta Pulvermacher, Kraig Patterson, the Repertory Understudy Group for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, and Sara Rudner. Folkman began dancing with Mark Morris in 1996.

Maurice Fraga is originally from San Francisco, and holds BA and MFA degrees in dance from the University of California at Santa Cruz and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, respectively. Since moving to New York, he has performed with Ben Munisteri, David Parker and the Bang Group, and the Kevin Wynn Collection. He currently dances for Tiffany Mills Company, Creach/Company, and Fluxus Dance (Dublin, Ireland). Fraga has taught nationally and internationally, most recently finishing a two-year position as guest artist at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Jonathan Gandelsman (violin) most recently played with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble at the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival in Washington, DC. He has also toured with the ensemble to the West Coast and Toronto. Other chamber music collaborations have included performances with Lynn Harrell, Nigel Kennedy, James Levine, Franz Helmerson, Sylvia Marcovici, Pavel Vernikov, Sergey Babayan, Gilbert Kalisch, Daniel Gortler, and his father, Yuri Gandelsman, the violist of the Fine Arts Quartet. A recording on EMI of works by Bach and Bartók with Nigel Kennedy was released in January 2003. Since 1990, Gandelsman has been a student of Maya Glezarova. He graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music in 1999.

Shawn Gannon is from Dover, New Jersey, where he received his early dance training with Dorothy Wescott Rosen. He joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1995 after dancing with Lee Theodore’s Dance Machine, Mark Dendy Dance Group, Laura Dean Dancers and Musicians, and Jane Comfort and Company.

Lauren Grant was born in Highland Park, Illinois, and began dancing at age three. She continued training, primarily in classical ballet, through high school. At New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, Grant received her modern dance training and graduated with a BFA. She joined MMDG in 1998.

John Heginbotham is from Anchorage, Alaska, and graduated from The Juilliard School in 1993. He has performed with artists including Susan Marshall and Company, John Jasperse, Ben Munisteri,
and as a guest artist with Pilobolus Dance Theater. Heginbotham’s choreography is featured in the performances and “Emerge” music video of recording artists Fischerspooner. He joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1998.

James F. Ingalls (lighting designer) has designed several works for Mark Morris, including Rameau’s Platée at the New York City Opera and the Royal Opera; L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato; Dido and Aeneas; the first White Oak Dance Project tours; Ein Herz for the Paris Opera Ballet; and Maelstrom, Pacific, and Sandpaper Ballet for San Francisco Ballet. For the Boston Ballet, he has designed The Four Seasons, choreographed by Christopher Wheeldon, Lila York’s Celts, and Nine Lives and Resurrection, choreographed by Daniel Pelzig. Recent work includes A Year with Frog and Toad at the New Victory, The General from America for Theatre for a New Audience at the Lortel, The Children of Herakles for Peter Sellars in Paris and Germany, and Fluid Canvas for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. Ingalls often collaborates with Beth Burns and the Saint Joseph Ballet.

Wolfram Koessel (cello) made his critically acclaimed debut at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 1994, and since then has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in concert halls throughout the world. Strings magazine wrote: “Mr. Koessel, in a very promising debut, played a substantial program with great seriousness, using his excellent technical means only for the music, not for effect or show.” Based in New York City, Koessel appears with a wide range of ensembles and chamber music groups, most notably the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and the Jupiter Symphony. As a soloist, he has performed the standard as well as unusual cello concerto repertoire with the Jupiter Symphony, the New York Metamorphoses Orchestra (which he co-founded in 1994), the Mannes Orchestra, and the symphony orchestras of Cordoba, Mendoza, Costa Rica and Stuttgart. A multifaceted chamber musician, Koessel is on the faculty of the New York Youth Symphony and is the music director of “Sundays on the Island” (a chamber music series on New York’s City Island). He served until recently as cellist with the award-winning Meridian String Quartet. Upon completion of his master’s degree at the Mannes College of Music, he was the recipient of the George and Elizabeth Gregory Award for Excellence in Performance. He has played for the Mark Morris Dance Group since 2000.

Marika Kuzma (chorus director) is the author of several articles on Slavic music for the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians. Her particular expertise is the choral music of Dmitry Bortniansky; her dissertation on his choral concertos won the American Choral Directors Association “Julius Herford Prize” in 1992. As music director of both the University Chorus and Chamber Chorus at UC Berkeley, she has directed music spanning the Middle Ages to the present day. As an orchestral conductor she has made guest appearances with the Berkeley Symphony (co-conducting the American premiere of Takemitsu’s Gemeaux alongside Kent Nagano), the Bay Area Women’s Philharmonic, the National Orchestra of Ukraine, Oklahome City University, and others.

Dominique Labelle (soprano) was born in Montreal, and first came to international prominence as Donna Anna in Peter Sellars’ production of Don Giovanni, which she performed in New York, Paris, and Vienna. Today, she is sought after by such conductors as Pierre Boulez, Bernard Haitink, Christopher Hogwood, Kurt Masur, Sir Roger Norrington, Seiji Ozawa, Leonard Slatkin, and Michael Tilson Thomas. Certainly one of today’s finest interpreters of Handel, she is closely associated with the recently discovered Gloria, the modern-day premiere of which she participated in at the International Handel Festival Göttingen, with Nicholas McGegan conducting Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. Her most recent opera roles include the title role in Lucia di Lammermoor (Seattle and Boston), Violetta in La Traviata (Boston), and the title role in Handel’s Rodelinda (Göttingen). Labelle’s many recordings, with repertoire from the 17th to the 21st centuries, appear on Virgin Veritas, Deutsche Harmonia Mundi, RCA Victor Red Seal, Koss, Denon, New World, and Musica
Omnia labels. Her recording of Handel’s Arminio won the 2002 Handel Prize. Labelle lives in central Massachusetts with her family.

David Leventhal, raised in Newton, Massachusetts, has danced with MMDG since 1997. Previously, he worked with José Mateo’s Ballet Theatre and the companies of Marcus Schuldkind, Amy Spencer/Richard Colton, Ben Munisteri, and Zvi Gotheiner. Leventhal graduated from Brown University in 1995 with honors in English literature.

Adrianne Lobel (set designer). Projects for Mark Morris: Platée (Royal Opera, London, Edinburgh, and New York City Opera); L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato (La Monnaie-Brussels, BAM-NY); The Hard Nut (La Monnaie-Brussels, BAM-NY); Le Nozze di Figaro (Brussels); Orfeo ed Euridice (BAM-NY, US tour). Sets for Broadway: On the Town, directed by George C. Wolfe. Also The Diary of Anne Frank, the Tony award-winning Passion, Twelve Dreams (Lincoln Center), all directed by James Lapine. Other credits include: Lady in The Dark (Royal National Theatre, London) and Street Scene (Houston Grand Opera), both directed by Francesca Zambello. Projects for Peter Sellars: The Rake’s Progress (Chatelet, Paris); Nixon in China (BAM-NY, Bobigny-Paris, Amsterdam); The Marriage of Figaro (PepsiCo Summerfare-NY, Bobigny-Paris); Così fan tutte (PepsiCo Summerfare-NY); The Magic Flute (Glyndebourne Festival, England); The Mikado (Chicago Lyric Opera). Honors: Lucille Lortel, Obie, Emmy, and Jefferson awards; Long Wharf’s Murphy Award; and Drama Desk, Maharam, and Fanny nominations. Lobel teaches graduate set design at NYU and is currently producing and designing A Year with Frog and Toad, a new musical based on the children’s books by her father.

Bradon McDonald received his BFA from The Juilliard School in 1997. After graduation, he won the Princess Grace Award and joined the Limón Dance Company where, for three years, he performed such roles as “Eros” in Limón’s The Winged, “Iago” in Limón’s The Moor’s Pavane, and the third and fifth solos in Tudor’s Dark Elegies, as well as works by Jirí Kylián, Doug Varone, Igal Perry, and Donald McKayle. McDonald has choreographed and presented his own works internationally and has served as choreographer for seven Juilliard Opera Company productions under director Frank Corsaro. Recently, McDonald was the choreographic assistant to Donald McKayle for his new work on the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. He joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in April 2000.

Nicholas McGegan (conductor) was born in England and studied at Cambridge and Oxford universities. He is music director of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, music director of the Irish Chamber Orchestra, artistic director of Germany’s International Handel Festival Göttingen, Baroque Series director of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and artist in residence of the Milwaukee Symphony. Equally at home with modern- and period-instrument orchestras, he has become a favorite guest of many of the world’s major orchestras and opera companies. His wide-ranging repertoire encompasses Handel, Vivaldi, Rameau, Mozart, Beethoven, and extends to Stravinsky, Britten, Tippett, and Philip Glass. In North America, McGegan appears regularly with the symphony orchestras of Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Minnesota, Philadelphia, Saint Louis and Toronto; and in the UK with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and Scottish Chamber Orchestra. He has also conducted the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Göteborg Symphony Orchestra, and the Malaysian Philharmonic. In 2003, he makes his debut with the New York Philharmonic. McGegan has conducted more than 40 operas worldwide, including all the major Mozart operas, nearly two dozen by Handel, and works by Monteverdi, Haydn, Gluck, Purcell, Landi, Offenbach, and Stravinsky. He made his debut with the Royal Opera House in 1997, conducting the world premiere of the Mark Morris production of Rameau’s Platée (Edinburgh Festival and in London). In 2000, he took part in the opening season of the renovated Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, conducting La Clemenza di Tito. He has been principal guest conductor of Scottish Opera and principal conductor at Sweden’s Drottningholm Theatre, and has also conducted at the English National Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and San Francisco Opera. This past summer, he conducted the first ever staged at the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York,
Mozart’s II Re Pastore. McGegan’s 70-plus recordings can be heard on Deutsche Harmonia Mundi, Conifer Classics, Classic fM, Decca, Erato, Harmonia Mundi USA, Hungaroton, Reference Recordings, and Virgin Classics.

Amber Merkens began her dance training with Nancy Mittleman in Newport, Oregon. She received her BFA from The Juilliard School in 1999 and went on to dance with the Limón Dance Company for two years. She is a recipient of the 2001 Princess Grace Award and has presented her own choreography in various venues, including Alice Tully Hall and the Joyce Soho. Merkens joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in August 2001.

Isaac Mizrahi (costume designer) was born in Brooklyn, New York, attended the High School of Performing Arts as an acting major, and studied fashion at Parsons School of Design. Mizrahi opened his own clothing business in 1987, and is a three time CFDA Designer of the Year award winner. In 1998, he closed the ready-to-wear company, but he still designs a shoe collection, a collection of coats, and a collection of fine jewelry. Mizrahi has designed costumes for movies, theater, dance, and opera in collaboration with Mark Morris, Twyla Tharp, Bill T. Jones, and Mikhail Baryshnikov. In 1995, Mizrahi was the subject of the highly acclaimed documentary Unzipped, directed by Douglas Keeve, which won the 1995 Audience Award for Documentaries at the Sundance Film Festival. Distributed by Miramax Films, the film was screened internationally at the Cannes and Venice Film Festivals. In 1996, Isaac Mizrahi and Douglas Keeve received a special CFDA Award for bringing the fashion world to cinema. In 1997, Mizrahi wrote a series of comic books entitled The Adventures of Sandee the Supermodel (published by Simon & Schuster), now in development as a major motion picture with Dreamworks (SKG). He is also developing a script from Jonathan Ames’ The Extra Man in association with Killer Films. Mizrahi recently appeared off-Broadway in his one-man show entitled Les Mizrahi, which was produced by the Drama Department. Currently, he is the host of his own talk show on the Oxygen Network. Mizrahi’s interests lie in the entertainment industry as well as in fashion and he dreams one day of merging the two fields, functioning as the first entertainer/designer.

Gregory Nuber began working with MMDG in 1998 and became a company member in 2001. He was a member of Pascal Rioult Dance Theatre for three years, has appeared as a guest artist with New York City Opera, Cleveland Opera, and Tennessee Repertory Theatre, and has worked with numerous New York-based choreographers. Nuber is a graduate of Arizona State University, where he studied acting and dance.

Maile Okamura was born and raised in San Diego, California. She was a member of Boston Ballet II and Ballet Arizona before moving to New York in 1996. Since then, she has had the pleasure of dancing with Neta Pulvermacher, Zvi Gotheiner, Gerald Casel, and many others. Okamura began working with MMDG in 1998 and became a company member in 2001.

Martin Pakledinaz (costume designer) has been represented in New York by Thoroughly Modern Millie (Tony Award), A Year with Frog and Toad, The Boys From Syracuse, Kiss Me Kate (Tony and Drama Desk awards), The Life, Andrew Lippa’s The Wild Party, and Waste (Lucille Lortel Award), among many others. He designs in regional theaters as well as for opera and dance companies throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. His work with Mark Morris includes The Hard Nut, Wonderland, Le Nozze di Figaro, Ein Herz, Maelstrom, Pacific, A Lake, Orfeo ed Euridice, Rhymes With Silver, Medium, and V.

Iain Paton (tenor) was born in Scotland and studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. He won the first Erich Viethheer Award at Glyndebourne and subsequently appeared in Australia, New Zealand, and Norway, singing the Lloyd Webber Requiem; with the Scottish Early Music Consort in Northern Ireland, Germany, and Poland; and in Zaide with the City of Birmingham Touring Opera. Paton has appeared in numerous productions with Scottish Opera, and has recorded Dallapiccola’s Ulisse for the BBC, under Sir Andrew Davis. He has sung Haydn’s The
Creation with the Ulster Orchestra under Thierry Fischer, the title role in The Rake’s Progress in Berlin, Eugene Onegin for Opera North, Acis and Galatea with Philharmonia Baroque, and Gloriana with Opera North in Barcelona. Last year, he made a highly successful role debut as Albert Herring for Opera North, sang Oronte in Alcina at the Göttingen Festival (with McGegan), and appeared in Britten’s War Requiem. This year, he appears in Istanbul, makes a concert tour of the Far East with Les Arts Florissants under William Christie, and sings his first Orfeo (Monteverdi) in Bilbao under Peter Neumann. Paton has just appeared in a new production of The Magic Flute for Scottish Opera. Future plans include The Seven Deadly Sins for Opera North.

Nicole Pearce (lighting designer). Other dance credits include: The Little Mermaid, Carmina Burana (Ballet Theatre of Maryland), Swan Lake (Ballet Memphis), and, with choreographer Alexandre Proia, Hold the Line (Symphony Space). Theater credits include: Mémoire (LAByrinth Theatre Company) and Blood in the Sink, directed by John Gould Rubin; 16 Wounded (Cherry Lane Alternative) and Judith, directed by Matt August; 99 Histories, directed by Maria Mileaf; The Secret Garden, directed by Victor Maog; An Unseen Energy Swallows Space (The Kitchen), directed by Travis Preston; The New York Play, Farewell Undertaker, From Now On, Lucy and the Conquest, and Much Ado About Nothing (Juilliard School); Waiting For Godot and Mermaid (NYC Fringe); New Works/New Visions (Guggenheim Museum); and scene design for The Magic Flute (New York City Opera Education).

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, since its founding 1981, has dedicated itself to historically informed performance of Baroque, Classical, and early-Romantic music on original instruments. Under Nicholas McGegan, its music director since 1985, Philharmonia performs throughout the Bay Area, and is regularly heard on tour in the United States and internationally. In addition to McGegan, the Orchestra has welcomed several eminent guest conductors to its podium, including William Christie, Andrew Parrott, Jordi Savall, Gustav Leonhart, and Stanley Ritchie.

Under McGegan’s direction, Philharmonia has made several US tours, each of which included an appearance on the Great Performers series at Lincoln Center. In August 2002, the Orchestra made its Mostly Mozart Festival debut in a concert featuring Handel’s newly discovered Gloria in excelsis Deo and four performances of Handel’s L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato with the Mark Morris Dance Group. In March 1998, Philharmonia performed Handel’s Saul and Hercules at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and in 1999, the Orchestra made its European debut at the International Handel Festival in Göttingen, Germany, with return appearances in 2001 and 2002.

In 1989, the Orchestra collaborated with the San Francisco Opera Center in the American premiere production of Handel’s Giustino; in 1988, under the aegis of the E.J. Nakamichi Festival, it presented Landi’s Il Sant’ Alessio; and in 1987, it collaborated with the Long Beach Opera on a production of Monteverdi’s The Return of Ulysses. The Orchestra was featured in every Berkeley Festival & Exhibition from 1990–2000, where it appeared under several celebrated guest conductors, including Sigiswald Kuijken and Jordi Savall.

In 1988, Philharmonia began a successful collaboration with the Mark Morris Dance Group. In May of that year, the Orchestra appeared at the Brooklyn Academy of Music with the Dance Group in Morris’ production of Dido and Aeneas. Subsequent performances have included a program of mixed works, featuring Vivaldi’s Gloria; Handel’s L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato; and the American premiere of Morris’ production of Rameau’s ballet-opera Platée.

Among the most recorded period-instrument orchestras in the United States or in Europe, Philharmonia has made 24 highly praised recordings for Harmonia Mundi, Reference Recordings, and BMG. The Orchestra's live recording of Handel’s oratorio Susanna received a Grammy nomination and a Gramophone Magazine Award for Best Baroque Vocal Recording in 1991.

Ilan Rechtman (piano) has performed with major orchestras throughout the world, including the London Symphony Orchestra, Montreal Metropolitan Orchestra, New Zealand Symphony, Szeland Symphony (Denmark), Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the San Diego Symphony, the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, the New World Symphony (Miami), the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and the Boston Pops. Active as a recitalist and chamber musician, Rechtman has performed in Canada,
Costa Rica, China, the Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Germany, Hungary, France, Mexico, South Korea, and Spain. He has appeared in more than 80 cities throughout the United States, and has frequently performed in New York City. In piano competitions, Rechtman won first prize at the Francois Shapira Competition in Israel and at the first San Antonio International Competition. He also won the Maurice M. Clairmont Piano Prize and the America Israel Cultural Foundation's Norry scholarship. Rechtman is recognized as a composer of note, and Zubin Mehta and Lorin Maazel have each commissioned and performed Rechtman's compositions. Sailor's Rhapsody, a composition for piano and orchestra, has been performed by numerous orchestras, and his chamber work Three Movements for Cello and Piano has had performances in Washington at the Kennedy Center and in New York City's Weill Hall. Ilan Rechtman's works are published by Theodore Presser Company and are released on the Omega/Vanguard, Meridian, MMC, Newport Classics, and Well Tempered Productions labels.

Karen Reedy grew up in the Washington (DC) area and received her BFA in dance from George Mason University at the age of 19. In Washington, Reedy appeared with companies including Eric Hampton Dance and DC Dance Theater, as well as performing her own choreography. Since moving to New York, she has worked with choreographers Louis Johnson, Sue Bernhard, and Robert Battle. Reedy has staged Eric Hampton's work at The Juilliard School, where she has also acted as a rehearsal director for the works of Jirí Kylián and Hans van Mannen. Since 2000, she has appeared with the Mark Morris Dance Group in L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato and The Hard Nut.

Mara Reiner began her professional training at School of American Ballet and continued as a scholarship student at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center. She is a member of the Step's Scholarship Ensemble and Dance Anonymous. Reiner is also a ballroom competitor, actor, sculptor, and clothes designer. She has appeared with MMDG in The Hard Nut since 1999, and in L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato since 2001.

Matthew Rose received his BFA from the University of Michigan. He has appeared with the Martha Graham Dance Company, Pascal Rioult Dance Theater, and Ann Arbor Dance Works. Rose began working with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1997 and became a company member in 1999.


Stefan Schatz (percussion) is a 1995 graduate of New York's prestigious New School Jazz and Contemporary Music Program, with degrees in performance and creative writing. He has performed with some of the finest names in jazz, including Dakota Staton, Jon Hendricks, Milt Hinton, Mark Turner, Ray Bryant, and Buster Brown. As a member of The Glenn Miller Orchestra and an accompanist for the dance troupe Manhattan Tap, Schatz toured extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Central and South America, and Europe. In 1998, he was featured in a jazz trio and traveled to over 30 different countries on the Crystal Symphony World Cruise. Schatz has studied with Vernel Fournier, Marvin “Bugaloo” Smith, Kenny Washington, Lewis Nash, and Bernard Purdie.

Andrea Schultz (violin) currently performs and tours with a number of groups, including the Cabrini Quartet, New York Chamber Ensemble, Sequitur, Brandenburg Ensemble, and the Orchestra of St. Luke's. She has also appeared with the Apple Hill Chamber Players, Da Capo Chamber Players, Sospeso, Ensemble 21, Eberli Ensemble, Cygnus, Mostly Mozart, and the
Limón Dance Company. Schultz has spent summers performing at the Tanglewood, Aspen, Ravinia, Caramoor, Vermont Mozart, and Cape May music festivals, as well as the Pundakit International Chamber Music Festival in the Philippines. She has recorded for the Phoenix, CRI, and New World labels. A graduate of Yale University, she has also received an MM and Artist Diploma from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a DMA from SUNY Stony Brook.

Utafumi Takemura received her BFA from the State University of New York at Purchase and her MFA from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, where she was a recipient of the Seidman Award for Dance. She has performed with various choreographers in New York City and has taught in Europe. She currently dances with Wil Swanson/Danceworks.

Brynn Taylor was raised in San Diego, California, and graduated from UC Berkeley with a double major in molecular biology and dance. As a member of the Bay Area Repertory Dance Company, she performed in works by Marni and David Wood, Martha Graham, and Joe Goode. Taylor joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2002.

Jessica Troy (viola), a native New Yorker, holds degrees from Amherst College, the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and the Musikhochschule in Luebeck, Germany, where her major teachers were Philipp Naegle, Caroline Levine, and Barbara Westphal. She is a member of the Brooklyn Philharmonic and plays regularly with the Jupiter Symphony. Her chamber music activities have included performances with Sequitur and the Eberli Ensemble, as well as with the Acacia, Maia, and Meridian string quartets in venues ranging from The Knitting Factory to the Saratoga Music Festival and the Violin Society of America Conference, where she also served as a judge in the instrument competition. She has been a participant at many chamber music festivals, including Marlboro and Prussia Cove. Troy has had the opportunity to work with many composers on their own works, including Roger Reynolds, Jacob Druckman, Oliver Knussen, and Gyorgy Kurtag.

The UC Chamber Chorus is an ensemble selected from among undergraduate and graduate students in the Berkeley campus community. Sponsored by the Department of Music, the ensemble has earned a fine reputation in the Bay Area, particularly for its performances of early, contemporary, and Slavic music. The Chorus has premiered works by such noted composers as Elinor Armer, Morton Feldman, Lou Harrison, Jorge Liderman, and John Thow. This November, under the direction of Vance George and Kelly Crandell, the Chorus will premiere a new version of Meredith Monk’s Book of Days. Performances of early music have included regular appearances with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. The Chorus’ recordings include the Grammy-nominated Handel Susanna; Icons of Slavic Music; and a newly released recording of Dufay’s Missa Ave regina celorum on the Sanglier label (a subsidiary of Wild Boar Records).

Christine Van Loon (costume designer) was born in Hoeilaart, Belgium, and has studied commercial art and costume and set design. She worked in both the set and costume departments at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, and with Maurice Béjart’s Ballet of the 20th Century. Van Loon has designed the costumes for several Mark Morris productions, including Dido and Aeneas.

Noah Vinson moved to Chicago to attend Columbia College Chicago, where he received his bachelor’s degree in dance. He studied with and performed in works by Shirley Mordine, Jan Erkert, Colleen Halloran, and Brian Jeffrey. Vinson recently danced with the Mark Morris Dance Group in The Hard Nut.

Julie Worden, from Naples, Florida, is a graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts. She worked with Chicago choreographers Bob Eisen, Jan Erkert, and Sheldon B. Smith, and has been dancing with Mark Morris since 1994.

Michelle Yard was born in Brooklyn, New York. She began her professional dance training at the New York City High School of the Performing Arts. Upon her graduation, she received the Helen
Tamiris and B’nai Brith awards. For three years, she was also a scholarship student at the Alvin Ailey Dance Center. Yard attended New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, where she graduated with a BFA. She began dancing with MMDG in 1997.

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP STAFF

Production
Johan Henckens, technical director
A.J. Jackson, assistant technical director
Nicole Pearce, lighting supervisor
Perchik Miller, sound supervisor
Katherine McDowell, wardrobe supervisor

Administration
Aaron Mattocks, company manager
Karyn La Scala, studio manager
Kathleen Cannucci, administrative assistant
José Suarez, facility manager
Luis Mandry, facility maintenance
Marc Castelli, receptionist

Education
Eva Nichols, director of education
Diane Ogunusi, school administrator

Finance
Lynn Wichern, fiscal administrator
Elizabeth Fox, finance manager
Jay Selinger, fiscal assistant

Development/Marketing
Rob Handel, director of foundation and corporate relations
Alexandro Pacheco, director of membership and special events
Erin Dadey, marketing manager
Milena Hamm, intern

Michael Mushalla (Double M Arts & Events), booking representation
Dan Klores Communications, public relations and marketing
Mark Selinger (McDermott, Will & Emery), legal counsel
Kathryn Lundquist, CPA, accountant
David S. Weiss, MD (NYU-HJD Department of Orthopedic Surgery), orthopedist

Thanks to Maxine Morris.

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

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Additional funding has been received from The Capezio/Ballet Makers Dance Foundation; Carnegie Corporation of New York; Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust; Con Edison; Aaron Copland Fund for Music; Eleanor Naylor Dana Charitable Trust; The Fund for US Artists at International Festivals and Exhibitions; The Harkness Foundation for Dance; JP Morgan Chase Foundation; Leon Lowenstein Foundation; McDermott, Will & Emery; The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; The New Yorker; Odegard, Inc.; Resnicow Schroeder Associates; Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation; The Shubert Foundation; and the Friends of the Mark Morris Dance Group.