

For Immediate Release: December 12, 2025

[Cal Performances Press Room](#)



Photos of the Mark Morris Dance Group performing *MOON* are available for download from the Cal Performances [Press Room](#).

A video trailer for *MOON* can be viewed on [YouTube](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS**  
**MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP**  
**IN THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF**  
***MOON***  
**A CAL PERFORMANCES CO-COMMISSION**  
**FRIDAY–SUNDAY, JANUARY 23–25, 2026**  
**AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

*MOON* celebrates the mystery and poetry of the Moon  
through Astronauts, Ligeti, and Swing

**Morris Has Assembled an All-Star Creative Team for *MOON*:**  
**Wendall K. Harrington's projections and Isaac Mizrahi's costumes**  
**make for a Celestial Spectacle**

**Berkeley, CA, December 12, 2025**—Cal Performances at UC Berkeley welcomes back the **Mark Morris Dance Group** for the West Coast premiere of Morris' latest creation, *MOON*, on Friday—

Saturday, January 23–24 at 8pm; and Sunday, January 25 at 3pm at Zellerbach Hall. Co-commissioned by Cal Performances, *MOON* poetically explores mankind’s fascination with the Moon in popular imagination and throughout human history. The hour-long work for nine dancers is inspired by the Golden Record, an audio recording placed aboard the two 1977 Voyager spacecrafts as a means of communicating with extraterrestrials. The dreamy, whimsical, and witty performance draws from a wide range of textual, visual, and musical sources, which Morris weaves together with his signature musicality.

For *MOON*, Mark Morris assembled a celebrated team of collaborators to craft a multi-layered sensory experience. **Wendall K. Harrington**—head of projection design at Yale School of Drama, veteran of more than 35 Broadway shows, and winner of numerous awards—contributed her expertise in this first-time collaboration with Morris. Her vivid visual landscape incorporates stunning imagery inspired by NASA and the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum. Harrington says the projections she designed for *MOON* “convey the mathematical magic that conquered gravity and got us the Moon as well as the earthy and romantic imagery that keeps lovers moonstruck.” Dancers are outfitted in lunar-themed costumes created by celebrated designer **Isaac Mizrahi**, who often utilized reflective fabric to interact with the lighting design by **Mike Faba**. The set is completed with animated astronaut sculptures by artist **Ottmar Hörl**.

*MOON* is set to a soundtrack that is both celestial and nostalgic. Live music performed by Mark Morris Dance Group musical director **Colin Fowler** on keyboards and bassist **Michel Taddei** features selections from Marcel Dupré’s *24 Inventions*, Op. 50, Claude Debussy’s *Clair de Lune* and György Ligeti’s *Musica ricervata* interwoven with recordings of popular swing, bluegrass, and country songs from the American songbook of the 1930s and ’40s that share a “moon” theme.

Says Morris, “*MOON* is a dance and music show built on thoughts and studies of our Moon. The source of so much mystery, curiosity, ritual, superstition, art, and fascination, there is a lot to celebrate and to puzzle over. The moon is credited with time and tide, fertility, power, and romance. The desire to touch the moon and know about it has always driven us, as has the compulsion to make contact with potential beings on other heavenly bodies. I hope to provide a possible way to observe and enjoy the Moon and space, without understanding a thing.”

For blind and visually impaired audience members, Cal Performances offers a live audio description for the Sunday, January 25 performance of *MOON*. This live audio track—delivered by a

professional describer to audience members through a wireless headset system—provides clear and engaging descriptions of the meaningful visual details of a performance. Live audio descriptions are provided at no extra charge and the headsets can be reserved at the time of ticket purchase.

The Berkeley performances of *MOON* are the first since the work premiered at the Kennedy Center in April 2025.

### **Mark Morris**

Mark Morris has been hailed as “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 11 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. The *New York Times* describes Morris as “the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical,” and live music is integral to every Mark Morris Dance Group performance. The group has toured with its musicians, the Mark Morris Dance Group Music Ensemble, since 1996.

### **Mark Morris Dance Group & Cal Performances Partnership**

The Mark Morris Dance Group, formed in 1980, first performed in Berkeley in 1987, and began making annual visits in 1994, officially dubbing Cal Performances its “West Coast home away from home” in 2002. Over the course of an artistic relationship spanning nearly 40 years, the Mark Morris Dance Group has performed 14 world premieres in Berkeley, and Cal Performances has commissioned or co-commissioned 12 new works from Morris.

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

**Friday, January 23, 8pm**  
**Saturday, January 24, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**  
**Bancroft Way at Dana Street**

Sunday, January 25, 3pm

UC Berkeley campus

*Dance*

**Mark Morris Dance Group**

*MOON* (West Coast Premiere, Cal Performances Co-commission)

Wendall K. Harrington, *projections*

Isaac Mizrahi, *costumes*

Mike Faba, *lighting design*

Colin Fowler, *musical director, keyboards*

Michel Taddei, *double bass*

**Program:**

Choreographer Mark Morris looks upward at the Moon as his source of inspiration, exploring humankind's fascination with our constant celestial companion. This new multimedia work danced before a backdrop featuring video, animation, and photo stills of the Moon is set to live and recorded music that includes popular American songbook tunes along with selections from Marcel Dupré's *24 Inventions*, Op. 50, Claude Debussy's *Clair de Lune* and György Ligeti's *Musica ricercata*. Morris says of earthlings' attempts to understand their enigmatic neighbor, "I'm interested in how the Moon came to be our fall-in-love token, and the mystery and glamour of it."

For blind and visually impaired audience members, live audio descriptions are available for the Sunday, January 25 performance. Headsets may be reserved free of charge by contacting the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or [tickets@calperformances.org](mailto:tickets@calperformances.org).

**Tickets:** \$46–\$156 (prices subject to change). Tickets for all performances are available at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org), by phone at (510) 642-9988, or in person at the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, Tuesday–Friday, 12–5:30pm and Saturday–Sunday, 1–5pm. For holiday closures, visit Cal Performances' [website](http://calperformances.org).

There is a \$15 per order service charge on ticket purchases made by phone or online that are not part of a subscription package. There is no fee for tickets purchased in person at the Zellerbach Hall Ticket Office unless they are part of a subscription. There is a \$20 service charge on all subscription orders.

UC Berkeley students can access exclusive discounts, including half-price tickets in all sections of the theater, and are also eligible to purchase a limited number of \$10 tickets for the best seats in the house for the Saturday, January 24 8pm performance of *MOON* through the [Golden Bear Circle](http://calperformances.org/golden-bear-circle) program beginning at 12pm on Friday, January 9, online only. Information about all UC Berkeley student tickets and discounts is available at [calperformances.org/ucb-students](http://calperformances.org/ucb-students); information about other discounts can be found at [calperformances.org/discounts](http://calperformances.org/discounts).

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