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**CAL PERFORMANCES CELEBRATES THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF
MARK MORRIS'S MASTERWORK
L'ALLEGRO, IL PENSEROSO ED IL MODERATO
WITH THREE PERFORMANCES MAY 29–31 AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

**JANE GLOVER CONDUCTS THE PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA WITH
GUEST VOCALISTS**

**A variety of community events will be held, including a conversation with Mark Morris and
Cal Performances' Robert Cole, a photo exhibit and community master classes**

BERKELEY, April 21, 2009—**Mark Morris Dance Group** (MMDG) returns for its second residency during Cal Performances' 2008/09 season with director/choreographer **Mark Morris's** evening-length *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* **Friday–Sunday, May 29–31** at Zellerbach Hall. Rapturously received at its 1994 West Coast premiere at Cal Performances, *L'Allegro* was heralded as “among the happiest and most endearing works American dance has seen” by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. “There is no question that it is a masterpiece.” Widely regarded as a work for the ages, *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* will unite a formidable ensemble of musicians, led by conductor and frequent Morris collaborator **Jane Glover**. The **Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra** is joined in the pit by the **UC Berkeley Chamber Chorus** under the direction of **Marika Kuzma**, with featured soloists, sopranos **Christine Brandes** and **Lisa Saffer**, tenor **Iain Paton** and baritone **James Maddalena**. The artistic equation is complete when the members of the Mark Morris Dance Group, costumed by **Christine Van Loon**, take the stage in a production that is one of Morris's grandest in both physical and emotional scope. Scenic design is by **Adrienne Lobel** and lighting design is by **James F. Ingalls**.

An array of community events will be offered in conjunction with the engagement of Mark Morris Dance Group. “Mark Morris in Conversation with Cal Performances' Director Robert Cole” will be held at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco on Tuesday, May 26 at 8:00 p.m. *Hidden Soul of Harmony: Mark Morris's L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, a photography exhibition featuring the work of Stephanie Berger and Susana Millman, will be on display at Zellerbach Hall beginning Tuesday, April 21. Free dance classes

for Parkinson's patients and caregivers will be given by MMDG members David Leventhal and John Heginbotham June 1–3 at Oakland's Danspace and Berkeley Ballet Theater; no dance experience is necessary. To register, email dance@pdactive.org or call (510) 479-6119 or contact Berkeley Ballet Theater for details. Shawl-Anderson Dance Studio in Berkeley is offering a workshop taught by a member of MMDG. The class is open to intermediate level dancers and above; the date is to be announced; call (510) 654-5921 for further information.

L'ALLEGRO, IL PENSEROSO ED IL MODERATO

“A masterwork on a scale hardly known in the U.S. outside the field of classical ballet,” wrote the *Wall Street Journal* of *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* in 1990. Created by Mark Morris in 1988 at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie when the company was the resident dance troupe of the state opera house in Brussels, *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* is a tour de force nearly 400 years in the making, inspired by multiple classic works dating back to the English wordsmith John Milton. Morris framed the dance in George Frideric Handel's 1740 choral ode of the same name, *L'Allegro*. The Handel oratorio is based on two poems by Milton (“L'Allegro” and “Il Penseroso,” c.1632), celebrating the extremes of happiness and melancholy; and a third poem by Handel's librettist Charles Jennens (“Il Moderato”), which treads the middle ground. In an inspired twist, Morris reordered and omitted some selections in the original Handel music and also used two movements from Handel's Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 1. This arrangement resolves in such a way that, in Morris's score, melancholy does not win—happiness (allegro) does.

Morris was also influenced by poet William Blake's 1816 volume of 12 watercolors illustrating Milton's poems. Drawing upon each of his predecessors, Morris created *L'Allegro* for 24 dancers, orchestra, chorus and vocal soloists—his most ambitious piece yet. Throughout his interpretation, Morris captures the range of human feeling, traversing the emotional landscape from riotous good humor one minute, to profound pensiveness the next.

Set designer Adrienne Lobel painted a series of watercolors during the early stages of production to show Morris possible variations of color and shape that would eventually appear on stage. The movement of drops and scrims of different colors at various speeds and heights

coordinate with the lighting to set the colorful background and atmosphere for the choreography. The Monnaie's wardrobe supervisor Christine van Loon realized Morris's vision of free-flowing costumes with complementing palettes.

The work was named the #1 Dance Event of the 1990s by London's *Time Out* magazine, and the British premiere with the English National Opera in 1997 earned a Laurence Olivier Award. Since its debut, *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* has been performed in nine countries around the world. With this upcoming engagement, Cal Performances holds the distinction of having presented the work a record four times (1994, 2000, 2003 and 2009).

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* (called "one of the few great works that modern dance has produced in a decade" by *The New York Times*). *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 recently discovered original score.

JANE GLOVER

Jane Glover, Music Director of Chicago's Music of the Baroque since 2002, made her professional debut at the Wexford Festival in 1975, conducting her own edition of Cavalli's *L'Eritrea*. Glover joined Glyndebourne in 1979 and was Music Director of the Glyndebourne Touring Opera from 1981 to 1985. Glover was Artistic Director of the London Mozart Players from 1984 to 1991, and has also held principal conductorships of both the Huddersfield and the London choral societies.

Glover has conducted all the major symphony and chamber orchestras in Britain, as well as orchestras in Europe, the United States, the Far East and Australia. Her recent engagements include Mark Morris's *King Arthur* for English National Opera, New York City Opera and Cal Performances, as well as a major Mozart-based series of concerts in Chicago for the 250th anniversary of the composer's birth. Additionally, she has conducted concerts with the Komische Opera in Berlin, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Chicago College of Performing Arts

(Verdi Requiem), and the Berkshire Choral Festival in Massachusetts, *Così fan tutte* at the Staatsoper in Berlin, *Il ritorno d'Ulisse* in Chicago, *Le Nozze di Figaro* in Bordeaux, and concerts with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, San Francisco Symphony, Houston Symphony and London Mozart Players. Highlights in the 2008/09 season include the opera *The Turn of the Screw* at Bordeaux and concerts with Music of the Baroque, the London Mozart Players and Orchestre Nationale de Bordeaux et Aquitaine. She will be recording a series of Haydn Masses in New York.

Also in demand on the international opera stage, Glover has appeared with numerous companies including the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, English National Opera, Royal Danish Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, New York City Opera, Opera Australia, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Chicago Opera Theater and Teatro La Fenice. She has conducted all the Mozart operas many times. Glover studied at St. Hugh's College, Oxford, where, after graduation, she did her D.Phil. on 17th-century Venetian opera. She holds honorary degrees from several universities, and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Music. She became a Commander of the British Empire in the 2003 New Year's Honours.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* on **Friday & Saturday, May 29 & 30** at **8:00 p.m.**, and **Sunday, May 31** at **3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$36.00, \$60.00, \$82.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; 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.

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 2008/09 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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

**Friday & Saturday, May 29 & 30 at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 31 at 3:00 p.m.**

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

Dance

L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato (1988)

George Frideric Handel, composer

Charles Jennens, librettist, based on the poetry of John Milton

Mark Morris, director/choreographer

Mark Morris Dance Group

Jane Glover, conductor

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra

Marika Kuzma, director

UC Chamber Chorus

Program: Mark Morris Dance Group celebrates Robert Cole's last season with *L'Allegro, Il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, set to Handel's choral work and accompanied by Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra with conductor Jane Glover.

Tickets: \$36.00, \$60.00 and \$82.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.net; and at the door.

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Tuesday, April 21–Sunday, May 31

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

Photo Exhibit

Hidden Soul of Harmony: Mark Morris's L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato

Stephanie Berger, photographer

Susana Millman, photographer

Program: A photography exhibition featuring images from Mark Morris's *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* will be on display at Zellerbach Hall from Tuesday, April 21 - Sunday, May 31.

Tickets: Ticketholders for performances at Zellerbach Hall April 21–May 31 may view the exhibit beginning 90 minutes before a performance.

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Tuesday, May 26 at 8:00 p.m.

Jewish Community Center of San Francisco
32 California St, San Francisco

Discussion

“Mark Morris in Conversation with Cal Performances’ Director Robert Cole”

Program: Acclaimed choreographer Mark Morris appears in conversation with Robert Cole, Director of Cal Performances, who has established the Berkeley institution as Mark Morris Dance Group’s official second home in a decades-long partnership.

Tickets: \$10.00–\$18.00, available through the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco. Go to www.jccsf.org for details.

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Monday, June 1 at 11:30 a.m. & 1:15 p.m.
Tuesday, June 2 at 10:30 a.m.

Danspace
473 Hudson Street, Oakland

Wednesday, June 3 at 11:15 a.m.

Berkeley Ballet Theater
2640 College Ave, Berkeley

Class

Dance for Parkinson’s

Program: Special dance classes for Parkinson’s patients and caregivers will be given by MMDG members David Leventhal and John Heginbotham; no dance experience is necessary.

Tickets: To register, call (510) 479-6119 or email dance@pdactive.org.

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Date and Time TBA

Shawl-Anderson Dance Center
2704 Alcatraz Ave., Berkeley

Workshop

Master dance class

Program: A Mark Morris Dance Group company member will teach a master class at Berkeley’s Shawl-Anderson Dance Center; dancers must be intermediate level or above.

Tickets: For more information call (510) 654-5921.

– Cal Performances –