

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP**  
**WORLD PREMIERE**  
**& WEST COAST PREMIERE**  
**AT**  
**CAL PERFORMANCES**

**OCTOBER 22-24 WEST COAST PREMIERE OF *VIOLET CAVERN*, SET TO MUSIC COMMISSIONED AND PERFORMED BY CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED JAZZ TRIO, THE BAD PLUS; AND *MOSAIC AND UNITED***

**AND**

**OCTOBER 28-30 WORLD PREMIERE OF *ROCK OF AGES*, SET TO SCHUBERT'S ADAGIO IN E-FLAT *NOCTURNE*; PLUS *IDON'T WANT TO LOVE; V*; AND *MARBLE HALLS***

**BERKELEY, September 20, 2004** – The widely acclaimed **Mark Morris Dance Group** (MMDG) makes its annual visit to Cal Performances and Zellerbach Hall to present two different dynamic programs of repertory to live accompaniment, including a world and a West Coast premiere. **Friday–Sunday, October 22–24** features the West Coast premiere of *Violet Cavern*, set to original music performed live by red-hot jazz trio **The Bad Plus**; as well as 1993's *Mosaic and United*, set to Henry Cowell's String Quartets Nos. 3 and 4. The residency continues **Thursday–Saturday, October 28–30** with the world premiere of *Rock of Ages*, set to Franz Schubert's Adagio in E-flat *Nocturne*. *V*, which the *New York Times* called "one of the few great works that modern dance has produced in a decade," danced to Schumann's Quintet; *I Don't Want to Love*, set to a collection of Monteverdi madrigals performed live by **American Bach Soloists**; and a revival of *Marble Halls* set to Bach's Concerto in C minor for oboe, violin and string orchestra complete the program.

A free *Sightlines* talk will be given by MMDG General Director **Barry Alterman** on Friday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m. MMDG will give a *SchoolTime* performance for Bay Area

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students Wednesday, October 27 at 11:00 a.m. in Zellerbach Hall.

### PROGRAM A

MMDG's first repertory program at Cal Performances (Fri. & Sat., Oct. 22 & 23 at 8:00 p.m., and Sun., Oct. 24 at 7:00 p.m.) features the West Coast premiere of *Violet Cavern*, danced to a score commissioned and performed live by the revolutionary jazz trio **The Bad Plus**. Arguably the jazz breakout story of 2003, The Bad Plus has been hailed as "at once aggressively adventurous and easily accessible...helping to make jazz vibrant and cool again" (*Newsweek*). Fifteen dancers join The Bad Plus' **Ethan Iverson** (pianist and former Music Director of MMDG), drummer **David King** and bassist **Reid Anderson** for seven "entirely exhilarating" (*Newsday*) sections of *Violet Cavern*. Layers of translucent panels designed by sculptor **Stephen Hadee** fill the space above the stage (lit by designer **Michael Chybowski**), and the costumes are by **Elizabeth Kurtzman**. Also on the program is *Mosaic and United*, originally choreographed in 1993 for Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Project and set to Henry Cowell's String Quartets Nos. 3 and 4 (performed in Berkeley by **Yosuke Kawasaki** and **Jonathan Gandelman** (violins), **Jessica Troy** (viola), and **Ariane Lallemand** (cello). "One of Morris' best," writes *The Village Voice*. "The dance is highly formal, but its inventiveness gives it a kind of freedom."

### PROGRAM B

Highlighting Program B of the MMDG is *Rock of Ages*, a world premiere for four dancers set to the music of Franz Schubert (Thurs. – Sat., Oct. 28 – 30 at 8:00 p.m.). Yosuke Kawasaki, Ariane Lallemand and pianist Jonathan Hoch perform Schubert's Adagio in E-flat *Nocturne*; lighting is designed by **Nicole Pearce** and costumes designed by **Katherine McDowell**. Next on the program is *I Don't Want to Love* which premiered at the Edinburgh Festival in 1996 and received its West Coast premiere at Cal Performances in October 1997. Set to a collection of Claudio Monteverdi madrigals expressing various aspects of love ("Non voglio amare," "Ah che non si conviene," "Zefiro torno," "S'el vostro cor, madonna," "Eccomi pronta ai baci," "Lamento della ninfa," and "Soave libertate"), Morris' "wholly ravishing" (*The Financial Times*) work features costumes and lighting by his frequent collaborators, couture designer **Isaac**

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**Mizrahi** and **Michael Chybowski**, respectively. Accompanying the seven MMDG dancers are the American Bach Soloists conducted by Jeffrey Thomas who include tenors Steven Tharp and Wesley Rogers, bass Hugh Davies, and soprano Marguerite Krull; and Dave Tayler and Richard Stone (lutes and theorbos), Steven Lehning, (viola da gamba and violone), and Thomas (harpsichord).

*Marble Halls*, revived this season for the first time in 10 years, was choreographed in 1985 for the Batsheva Dance Company and premiered at Israel's Jerusalem Theater. Bach's Concerto in C minor for oboe, violin and string orchestra will be performed by Kawasaki, Gandelsman, Troy, Lallemand, Hoch, and members of the **Berkeley Symphony Orchestra**. "The vocabulary is all coherent and expressive," observed *The Boston Globe* of a *Marble Halls* performance this summer at Tanglewood. "If there is a fugue in the music there will be a fugue on the stage. But the dance is seldom a form of imitation, instead it is a form of illumination." Program B closes with *V*, set to Schumann's Quintet in E-flat (performed by Kawasaki, Gandelsman, Troy, Lallemand and Hoch), a Bay Area audience favorite since its premiere at Cal Performances in 2001.

### **MARK MORRIS**

"The Mark Morris experience is like nothing else in dance," wrote Arlene Croce in *The New Yorker*. "Morris is a dancemaker and a spellbinder. That is enough to make him transparently a symbol of his times." **Mark Morris** the director, choreographer, and dancer grew up in Seattle, Washington, where he studied with Verla Flowers and Perry Bronson. He began his professional career dancing for an eclectic group of companies and in 1980, formed the Mark Morris Dance Group, now one of the world's leading dance companies. Its talent was recognized abroad, and in 1988 Mark Morris and his troupe accepted positions respectively as Director of Dance and National Dance Company of Belgium for the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels where they remained for three years. Morris' time in Brussels was a highly creative period as he completed three acclaimed evening-length works: *The Hard Nut*, *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, and *Dido & Aeneas*.

In 1990, with Mikhail Baryshnikov, Morris founded the White Oak Dance Project. In addition to choreographing more than 100 works for the Mark Morris Dance Group, Mark

Morris has also created ballets for the San Francisco Ballet (most recently his interpretation of the 1876 full-length story ballet *Sylvia*, music by Léo Delibes), Paris Opera Ballet, and American Ballet Theatre, among others.

Morris was named a fellow of the MacArthur Foundation and has received honorary doctorates from the Boston Conservatory of Music, The Juilliard School, and Long Island University. He 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 began performing at Cal Performances in 1987, and has returned annually since 1994. Recent visits to Zellerbach Hall have been highlighted by world premieres: 2003 featured the first performance of *All Fours*, set to Béla Bartók's String Quartet No. 4; 2002 saw the world premiere of *Something Lies Beyond the Scene*, Morris' singular take on the music of William Walton and the poems of Edith Sitwell, as well as *Kolam*, a work commissioned by Cal Performances as part of Yo-Yo Ma's *Silk Road Project*, with musical accompaniment by Ma, Zakir Hussain, Ethan Iverson, and Ben Street. In 2001 MMDG delivered an encore presentation of Rameau's comic opera-ballet *Platée* as well as a preview performance of the widely acclaimed *V*, and 2000 featured the American premiere of the English National Opera production of Virgil Thomson and Gertrude Stein's *Four Saints in Three Acts*. Past seasons in Berkeley have also witnessed the world stage premiere of *Falling Down Stairs*, created by Morris to Bach's Suite No. 3 for Unaccompanied Cello, performed by cellist Yo-Yo Ma (March 1997); the world premiere of *Rhymes With Silver*, with a commissioned score by Lou Harrison (March 1997); the West Coast premiere of Morris' production of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (October 1995); and the world premiere of *World Power*, choreographed to the music of Lou Harrison (October 1995).

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. Current MMDG members include Craig Biesecker, Joe Bowie, Charlton Boyd, Amber Darragh, Rita Donahue, Marjorie Folkman, Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham, David Leventhal, Bradon

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McDonald, Gregory Nuber, Maile Okamura, June Omura, Julie Worden, and Michelle Yard. Dancers Shawn Gannon and Matthew Rose have retired from the company.

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Mark Morris Dance Group** performing **Friday–Sunday, October 22–24** and **Thursday–Saturday, October 28–30** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$30.00, \$42.00, and \$56.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu).

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The *San Francisco Chronicle* is a season sponsor of Cal Performances; *San Francisco* magazine and Classical 102.1 KDFC are season media sponsors of the 2004/05 performing arts season.

Cal Performances' programs are supported in part by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, and the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

Cal Performances' presentation of the Mark Morris Dance Group is made possible with the generous support of Bank of America.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

### CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

**Friday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**SIGHTLINES**

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

Pre-performance talks by MMDG General Director **Barry Alterman**. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with Cal Performances' guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. These events are free to ticketholders.

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**Fri. & Sat., October 22 & 23 at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Thurs. – Sat., October 28 – 30 at 8:00 p.m.**

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

*Dance*

**Mark Morris Dance Group**  
**Mark Morris**, director and choreographer

Program A (Fri. & Sat., Oct. 22 & 23 at 8:00 p.m., and Sun., Oct. 24 at 7:00 p.m.):

*Violet Cavern* (2004); music by The Bad Plus, choreography by Mark Morris  
(West Coast premiere)

*Mosaic and United* (1993); music by Henry Cowell, String Quartets Nos. 3 and 4; choreography  
by Mark Morris

Program B (Thurs. – Sat., Oct. 28 – 30 at 8:00 p.m.):

*Rock of Ages* (2004); music by Franz Schubert, Adagio in E-flat *Nocturne*; choreography by Mark  
Morris (world premiere)

*I Don't Want to Love* (1996), music by Claudio Monteverdi; choreography by Mark Morris

*Marble Halls* (1985); music by J.S. Bach, Concerto in C minor for oboe, violin and string  
orchestra; choreography by Mark Morris

*V* (2001); music by Robert Schumann, Quintet in E-flat for piano and strings, Op.44; choreography  
by Mark Morris

**Tickets: \$30.00, \$42.00 and \$56.00**, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at  
Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the  
door.

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**Wednesday, October 27 at 11:00 a.m.**  
**SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE**

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

**Mark Morris Dance Company**

**Program:** Members of the Mark Morris Dance Company perform selections from their evening  
program.

**Tickets:** \$3.00 per student or adult chaperone, available in advance only through Cal  
Performances at (510) 642-1082. *SchoolTime* performances are open to students in grades 2  
through 12 in Bay Area public and private schools. Supplemental study guides for the classroom  
are provided. For more information about the *SchoolTime* program, contact the *SchoolTime*  
coordinator at Cal Performances by email at [eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu](mailto:eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu), or by phone at  
(510) 642-0212.