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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
THE WORLD PREMIERE OF MARK MORRIS'S
ACIS AND GALATEA
WITH MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP AND
PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA AND CHORALE
FRIDAY–SUNDAY, APRIL 25–27 IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

Residency activities include a community dance class on Saturday, April 26, and a talk with Mark Morris and Ara Guzelimian, Dean and Provost of The Juilliard School, on Sunday, April 27.

[View an exclusive video with Mark Morris discussing the production.](#)

BERKELEY, March 25, 2014—Mark Morris Dance Group's 200th appearance at Cal Performances will be celebrated with the world premiere of **Mark Morris's** full-length, fully-staged *Acis and Galatea*. The highlight of the 2013–2014 dance season and the final dance residency, Morris's new production employs Mozart's arrangement of Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, choreographed for his company. **Nicholas McGegan** leads the San Francisco-based **Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale** for three Berkeley performances on Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 27 at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. Singing the work in English, guest soloists include tenor **Thomas Cooley** (*Acis*), soprano **Sherezade Panthaki** (*Galatea*), and bass-baritone **Douglas Williams** (*Polyphemus*).

“[Mark Morris is] the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical” (*The New York Times*).

Acis and Galatea is Handel's popular opera based on Ovid's *Metamorphosis* with the libretto written by John Gay in 1739. Mozart's arrangement, written in 1788, broadens Handel's original orchestration with the addition of bassoon, clarinet, and horn that allows an expanded range of sound, color, and [as Morris puts it](#), “It swings in a way that Handel's doesn't.” Longtime collaborator and fashion and costume designer **Isaac Mizrahi**, artist and scenic designer **Adrienne Lobel**, and lighting designer **Michael Chybowski** join Morris in bringing to

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life this tale of tenderness and rivalry, which focuses on the unrequited love of Acis, an Arcadian shepherd; Galatea, a sea nymph; and Polyphemus, a cyclops, who jealously slays Acis.

In the spirit of other sublime Morris dance / operas that have premiered at Cal Performances—including *Platée* (United States premiere 1998) and *King Arthur* (United States premiere 2006)—Bay Area audiences will get to experience the genius of Morris first. Morris has partnered with Cal Performances for more than two decades and considers Berkeley his West Coast home. In recognition of this significant long-term collaborative relationship, Morris received the Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts in December 2012.

Acis and Galatea is a Mark Morris Dance Group / Cal Performances, Berkeley / Celebrity Series of Boston production, in association with Harriman-Jewell Series, Kansas City; Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Cal Performances is a lead co-commissioner.

Two residency events are planned that will be open-to-the-public. An intergenerational dance class will be held on Saturday, April 26 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Zellerbach Playhouse where participants will learn Mark Morris repertory. Led by members of the Mark Morris Dance Group, the class will begin with a modern dance warm-up and is accompanied by live music. On Sunday, April 27 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Playhouse, Mark Morris will be in conversation with Ara Guzelimian, Dean and Provost of The Juilliard School. For more information about either event, go to calperformances.org.

Mark Morris has been hailed as the “the most prodigiously gifted choreographer of the post-Balanchine era” (Time). In addition to creating over 130 works for his dance group, he conducts orchestras, directs opera, and choreographs for ballet companies around the world. Described as “undeviating in his devotion to music,” (The New Yorker) his work is acclaimed for its ingenuity, musicality, wit, and humanity. Morris is a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation and has received eleven honorary doctorates to date, the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society, the Benjamin Franklin Laureate Prize for Creativity, and

the Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for Mark Morris's *Acis and Galatea* on Friday-Sunday, April 27-29 in Zellerbach Hall range from \$30.00 to \$110.00 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 <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 thanks Wells Fargo and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their major support of the 2013—2014 Season.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday & Saturday, April 25 & 26, at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 27 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Dance/Opera

Acis and Galatea

Mark Morris Dance Group

Mark Morris, director and choreographer

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale

Nicholas McGegan, conductor

Thomas Cooley, tenor (*Acis*)

Sherezade Panthaki, soprano (*Galatea*)

Douglas Williams, bass-baritone (*Polyphemus*)

Isaac Mizrahi, costume designer

Adrienne Lobel, scenic designer

Michael Chybowski, lighting designer

Program: *Acis and Galatea*: music by Handel, arr. by Mozart; choreography by Mark Morris (World Premiere)(Cal Performances co-commission)

Tickets range from \$30.00 to \$110.00 and are subject to change. They are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door.

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Saturday, April 26, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley
Bancroft Way and Dana Street, Berkeley

Program: An intergenerational dance class where participants will learn Mark Morris repertory. Led by members of the Mark Morris Dance Group, the class begins with a modern dance warm-up and is accompanied by live music. Free and open to the public.

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Sunday, April 27, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley
Bancroft Way and Dana Street, Berkeley

Program: Mark Morris will be in conversation with Ara Guzelimian, Dean and Provost of The Juilliard School. Free and open to the public.

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