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[Press Room](#)



Images of the Mark Morris Dance Group are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).
Pictured: *Dancing Honeymoon*

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS THE
MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP
PERFORMING THE THEATER PREMIERE OF *WATER*
AND THREE BELOVED REPERTORY WORKS
FRIDAY–SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17–19
AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

Mark Morris to join his long-time friend from his dancing days in Seattle, Balkan vocal music singer Mary Sherhart, in singing duets and solos for *Dancing Honeymoon*

Berkeley, November 22, 2021 — Cal Performances’ longtime artistic partner the Mark Morris Dance Group returns to Berkeley for the first time since the start of the pandemic, performing the theater premiere of Morris’ new *Water* (2021) and three popular repertory works when the company returns to Zellerbach Hall Friday through Sunday, December 17-19. The company’s eagerly anticipated Berkeley homecoming resumes the annual visits Cal Performances patrons have enjoyed for more than 30 years, and marks the company’s formal resumption of touring activities following pandemic shutdowns. The program includes the 2013 duet *Jenn and Spencer*, the playful 1998 *Dancing Honeymoon*, and *V* from 2001. Performances will open with the theater premiere of *Water*, a 2021 work by Morris that was premiered in September at Brooklyn Bridge Park. The musical accompaniment—as is usual for this company—will be performed live.

Morris’ *Water*—described as “delightful” by the *New York Times*—is performed by 14 dancers to excerpts from Handel’s timeless *Water Music*, accompanied here by a chamber ensemble of piano (Colin Fowler), two violins (Colin Jacobsen and Georgy Valtchev), viola (Greg Luce), and cello (Wolfram Koessel). In 1717, Handel’s *Water Music* premiered in London on the River Thames at the request of King George I; the Dance Group premiered *Water* “on the water” as well—at Brooklyn Bridge Park overlooking the East River.

The duet *Jenn and Spencer* is danced to Henry Cowell’s Suite for Violin and Piano, performed by violinist Georgy Valtchev and pianist Colin Fowler, and was most recently performed in Berkeley in 2014. The score for *Dancing Honeymoon* is a collection of songs made popular by the duo of Gertrude Lawrence and Jack Buchanan, arranged by Ethan Iverson for a chamber ensemble of voice (Mary Sherhart and Mark Morris), violin (Georgy Valtchev), percussion (Stefan Schatz), and piano (Colin Fowler). The playful ensemble work, which has previously been performed only once in Berkeley, in 2001, features dancers joking and whirling about the stage with folding chairs as props.

The dance *V*, an abstract and exuberant exploration of color, form, and layered textures, is set to the Piano Quintet in E-flat major by Robert Schumann, performed by pianist Colin Fowler with violinists Georgy Valtchev and Colin Jacobsen, violist Greg Luce, and cellist Wolfram Koessel. Berkeley audiences were treated to a preview of the work before its official premiere in London in 2001, and it has subsequently been performed at Cal Performances several times over the past

decade. The letter “V” in the title refers to the Roman numeral for 5, as related to the musical quintet, and the choreography plays with fast-dissolving V-shaped patterns of dancers.

Prior to the performance, a video conversation between Mark Morris and Cal Performances’ executive and artistic director Jeremy Geffen will be viewable on the *Beyond the Stage* page of Cal Performances’ website. As Cal Performances emerges from the pandemic, traditional program book content has been moved online. The week of the performance, full program book material—optimized for easy viewing on mobile devices—will be available for download or viewing on Cal Performances’ website at calperformances.org/program-notes.

Ticket Information

Tickets for *Mark Morris Dance Group* on Friday, December 17 and Saturday, December 18 at 8pm and Sunday, December 19 at 3pm at Zellerbach Hall range from \$42–\$110 (prices 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 calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, visit calperformances.org/discounts.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, December 17, 8pm
Saturday, December 18, 8pm
Sunday, December 19, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street,
UC Berkeley campus

Dance
Mark Morris Dance Group

Program:

Water (2021; Theater Premiere; music by George Frideric Handel)
Jenn and Spencer (2013; music by Henry Cowell)
Dancing Honeymoon (1998; music arranged by Ethan Iverson)
V (2001; music by Robert Schumann)

Continuing a collaboration that began in 1987, the Mark Morris Dance Group returns to its West Coast home away from home with a theater premiere, and three distinctive works not seen on Cal Performances stages for many seasons, all exemplars of Morris’ supreme choreographic sensitivity to

musical form and expression and performed with live musical accompaniment. 2021's *Water*, called "delightful" by the *New York Times*, is performed by 14 dancers to excerpts from Handel's timeless *Water Music*. The duet *Jenn and Spencer* is danced to Henry Cowell's Suite for Violin and Piano, a work with both modernist and Baroque undertones. *Dancing Honeymoon* is a frolic accompanied by a selection of pop songs, as dancers joke and whirl about with folding chairs as props. The dance *V*, an abstract and exuberant exploration of color, form, and layered textures, is set to the Piano Quintet in E-flat major by Robert Schumann.

Tickets: \$42–\$110 (prices subject to change)