

For Immediate Release: January 23, 2023

[Press Room](#)



Images of the Mark Morris Dance Group, and choreographer Mark Morris are available for download from the online [press room](#).

Behind the scenes videos from rehearsals for *The Look of Love* are available for viewing [here](#); embed codes for the rehearsal videos can be found [here](#).

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP
IN THE BAY AREA PREMIERE OF
THE LOOK OF LOVE
AN EVENING OF DANCE TO THE MUSIC OF BURT BACHARACH
AT ZELLERBACH HALL
FRIDAY–SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17–19

Berkeley, CA, January 23, 2023—Cal Performances at UC Berkeley welcomes back longtime collaborator and artistic partner the **Mark Morris Dance Group** in the Bay Area premiere of Morris' latest creation, *The Look of Love: An Evening of Dance to the Music of Burt Bacharach*, with three performances taking place on Friday and Saturday, February 17–18 at 8pm, and Sunday, February 19 at 3pm at Zellerbach Hall. The company has been visiting Berkeley annually (with a brief pandemic hiatus) to perform at Zellerbach Hall for more than 30 years, and in those decades has presented numerous premieres and commissions. *The Look of Love* follows the success of Morris' Beatles

tribute production *Pepperland*, which had its Bay Area premiere in the 2018–19 Cal Performances season.

For *The Look of Love*, Morris again partners with pianist/arranger **Ethan Iverson**, his musical collaborator from *Pepperland*, to create an homage to the popular and influential songs of Burt Bacharach. A towering figure through decades of popular music, Bacharach is known for catchy, clever melodies embedded in unique orchestrations influenced by jazz, rock, and Brazilian music. Bacharach’s longtime lyricist Hal David sets a bittersweet tone with characteristically poignant, unsentimental lyrics. The production includes more than a dozen songs—both chart-topping hits and lesser-known tunes—by Bacharach that probe the complexities of romantic relationships, from hope to despair, from the thrill of romance to the pain of loss. Selections include “Walk on By,” “I Say a Little Prayer,” “Do You Know the Way to San Jose,” “What the World Needs Now,” “Alfie,” “I’ll Never Fall in Love Again,” and “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ on My Head.”

Of the collaboration Morris shared that, “The idea came from Ethan Iverson, who years ago was music director of my company and who remains a brilliant jazz musician, writer, and friend. Long before we did *Pepperland* together, he wanted me to consider choreographing to Burt Bacharach’s music...I love this music and so it came about quite naturally.”

Iverson expounded, “I always loved the way Mark responds to text, meaning lyrics. Of course, many of his biggest successes—like *L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* and *Dido and Aeneas*—deal with text, but there’s also something like the magnificent *Going Away Party* to country and western ballads from Bob Willis. Hal David’s lyrics to Bacharach are phenomenal. Although this is heresy, it was easy for me to imagine certain moves Mark might do to David’s text. Also, Mark is very sophisticated. He reads a musical score well and can work with hard meters and melodies. While some might consider

Bacharach a “light” composer, it turns out that, under the hood he is marvelously sophisticated. The songs are intricate but also catchy—which might be the hardest thing to do in music.”

For this new evening-length production, Iverson’s arrangements are performed live by an ensemble featuring Iverson on piano; **Jonathan Finlayson** (a Berkeley High School alumnus) on trumpet; **Simón Willson** on bass; and **Vinny Sperrazza** on drums; with singer, actress, and Broadway star **Marcy Harriell** on lead vocals, supported by backing singers **Clinton Curtis** and **Blaire Reinhard**. **Nicole Pearce** is the lighting designer and the production’s bright and playful costumes were created by **Isaac Mizrahi**.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

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

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street,
UC Berkeley campus

Dance

Mark Morris Dance Group

The Look of Love

An Evening of Dance to the Music of **Burt Bacharach** (Bay Area premiere)

Mark Morris, *choreographer*

Burt Bacharach, *composer*

Hal David, *lyricist*

Ethan Iverson, *arranger*

Marcy Harriell, *lead singer*

Nicole Pearce, *lighting designer*

Isaac Mizrahi, *costume designer*

Program:

Following the success of his Beatles tribute production *Pepperland*, choreographer Mark Morris teams up again with musical collaborator Ethan Iverson for an evening-length dance performance by the

Mark Morris Dance Group of *The Look of Love*, an homage to the songs of Burt Bacharach. Bacharach is known for his melodies embedded in orchestrations influenced by jazz, rock, and Brazilian music, with lyrics provided by his longtime collaborator Hal David. For this new production, Iverson's arrangements are performed live by an ensemble of lead singer with backup vocals, trumpet, and rhythm section.

Tickets: \$36–\$135 (prices subject to change). Half-price for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available at 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, 1–5 pm. More information about student tickets and discounts is available at calperformances.org/ucb-students. For information about other discounts, visit calperformances.org/discounts.

COVID-19: The latest information on Cal Performances' COVID-19 safety policies is available at calperformances.org/safety.

###

PRESS CONTACT:

Louisa Spier

Cal Performances

Media Relations Manager

(510) 643-6714

lspier@calperformances.org