

For Immediate Release: March 13, 2024

[Cal Performances press room](#)



Pictured: Mark Morris Dance Group performs *Socrates* (2010)

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

A video of Mark Morris Dance Group performing *Socrates* can be viewed on [YouTube](#).

A video of harpist Parker Ramsay performing “Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus” from *The Street* by Nico Muhly based on texts by Alice Goodman can be viewed on [YouTube](#).

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP
APRIL 19–21
AT ZELLERBACH HALL

Performances feature the world premiere of Morris’ *Via Dolorosa*, set to music by Nico Muhly based on texts by Alice Goodman; paired with Morris’ *Socrates*, a 2010 repertory work with music by Erik Satie

Berkeley, March 13, 2024—Returning for its highly anticipated annual engagement, the Mark Morris Dance Group performs April 19–21 at Zellerbach Hall. The performances feature the world premiere of Morris’ 2024 work *Via Dolorosa* paired with *Socrates*, a 2010 repertory piece that Cal Performances presented in its West Coast premiere that same year. Morris, whose choreography is always inspired by and rooted in music, set *Socrates* to the 1918 composition by Erik Satie. The music will be performed live in Berkeley by members of the Mark Morris Dance Group Music Ensemble. *Socrates* dramatizes the philosopher’s death through a series of tableaux. The company dances *Via Dolorosa*, referring to the processional route in the Old City of Jerusalem that Jesus took on the way to be crucified, to Nico Muhly’s meditative composition *The Street*. The music is inspired by the



evocative, mysterious, and poetic texts of Alice Goodman. Harpist Parker Ramsay performs the score solo.

[Mark Morris](#) has been hailed as the “the most prodigiously gifted choreographer of the post-Balanchine era” (*Time*). In addition to creating more than 150 works for his dance group, which he founded in 1980, Morris conducts orchestras, directs opera, and choreographs for ballet companies around the world. Morris is a MacArthur Foundation Fellow, and has received eleven honorary doctorates to date. His other notable accomplishments include winning the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society, and the Benjamin Franklin Laureate Prize for Creativity. The *New York Times* describes Morris as “the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical,” and live music is integral to any Mark Morris Dance Group performance. The group has toured with its musicians, the Mark Morris Dance Group Music Ensemble, since 1996.

The Mark Morris Dance Group first performed in Berkeley in 1987, and began making annual visits in 1994, officially dubbing Cal Performances its “West Coast home away from home” in 2002. With the performance *Via Dolorosa* the Mark Morris Dance Group brings its 14th world premiere to Cal Performances.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

[Friday, April 19, 8pm](#)
[Saturday, April 20, 8pm](#)
[Sunday, April 21, 3pm](#)

**Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street,
UC Berkeley campus**

Dance

Mark Morris Dance Group

Mark Morris Dance Group Music Ensemble

Mark Morris/ *Socrates* (2010; music by Erik Satie)

Via Dolorosa (World Premiere; 2024; music by Nico Muhly based on texts by Alice Goodman)



Program:

Returning to its West Coast home away from home, the Mark Morris Dance Group performs the world premiere of Morris' *Via Dolorosa* paired with his *Socrates*, a 2010 repertory work that Cal Performances presented in its West Coast premiere that same year. *Socrates* is danced to the 1918 composition by Erik Satie performed live by members of the Mark Morris Dance Group Music Ensemble in choreography that dramatizes the philosopher's death through a series of tableaux. *Via Dolorosa* is set to Nico Muhly's meditative composition *The Street*, inspired by the evocative, mysterious, and poetic texts of Alice Goodman and features solo harpist Parker Ramsay who performs the score live.

Tickets: \$44–\$156 (prices subject to change). UC Berkeley students can access exclusive discounts, including half-price tickets in all sections of the theater. More information about student tickets and discounts is available at calperformances.org/ucb-students.

Tickets for all performances 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, 1–5pm. For information about discounts, visit calperformances.org/discounts.

###

PRESS CONTACT:

Louisa Spier

Cal Performances

Media Relations Manager

(510) 643-6714

lspier@calperformances.org