

PHOTO BY MAT HAYWARD



**MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP AND MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE:**  
***PEPPERLAND***

Friday-Saturday, March 8-9, 2019, at 7:30pm  
Tryon Festival Theatre

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# PROGRAM

## **MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP AND MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE: PEPPERLAND**

Mark Morris, artistic director

Nancy Umanoff, executive director

### **MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP**

Mica Bernas

Sam Black

Karlie Budge\*

Durell R. Comedy

Brandon Cournay

Domingo Estrada, Jr.

Lesley Garrison

Lauren Grant

Sarah Haarmann

Deepa Liegel\*

Aaron Loux

Laurel Lynch

Dallas McMurray

Minga Prather\*

Brandon Randolph

Nicole Sabella

Christina Sahaida

Billy Smith

Noah Vinson

\*apprentice

### **MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE**

Clinton Curtis, vocals

Sam Newsome, soprano  
saxophone

Jacob Garchik, trombone

Rob Schwimmer, theremin

Ethan Iverson, piano

George Shevtsov, keyboard

Vinnie Sperrazza, percussion

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Pepperland is a Mark Morris Dance Group production in association with Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; American Dance Festival, Durham, North Carolina; BAM, Brooklyn, New York; Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity with the Sony Centre, Toronto, Canada; Cal Performances, UC Berkeley, California; Celebrity Series of Boston, Massachusetts; The City of Liverpool, England, U.K.; Dance Consortium UK; Hopkins Center for the Arts, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire; International Festival of Arts & Ideas, New Haven, Connecticut; The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC; La Jolla Music Society, La Jolla, California; Meyer Sound, Berkeley, California; Seattle Theatre Group, Seattle, Washington; Segerstrom Center for The Arts, Costa Mesa, California; UCSB Arts & Lectures, Santa Barbara, California; and White Bird, Portland, Oregon.

Pepperland is supported in part by Friends of MMDG, the Howard Gilman Foundation, PARC Foundation, and New Music USA. Music was commissioned by the Charles and Joan Gross Family Foundation. The premiere engagement was supported by funding from the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation through USArtists International in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Howard Gilman Foundation.

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by American Express; Anonymous; Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners LLP; Frederick and Morley Bland; Booth Ferris Foundation; Allan S. and Rhea K. Bufferd; Suzy Kellems Dominik; Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; Judith R. and Alan H. Fishman; Shelby and Frederick Gans; Isaac Mizrahi and Arnold Germer; Howard Gilman Foundation; Hearst Foundations; Sandy Hill; Elizabeth Amy Liebman; The Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation; Suzanne Berman and Timothy J. McClimon; McDermott Will & Emery; The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; Meyer Sound/Helen and John Meyer; Ellen and Arnold Offner; Sarabeth Berman and Evan Osnos; PARC Foundation; Poss Family Foundation; Diane E. Solway and David Resnicow, Resnicow + Associates; Margaret Conklin and David Sabel; The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation; Iris Cohen and Mark Selinger; The SHS Foundation; The Shubert Foundation; Jane and R.L. Stine; The White Cedar Fund; and Friends of MMDG.

## **PEPPERLAND**

Original songs by The Beatles, arr. by Ethan Iverson\*

Original compositions by Ethan Iverson†

Choreography by Mark Morris

Set Design by Johan Henckens

Costume Design by Elizabeth Kurtzman

Lighting Design by Nick Kolin

Assistant to Mr. Morris: Aaron Loux

## **PERFORMERS**

Mica Bernas

Sam Black

Durell R. Comedy

Brandon Cournay

Domingo Estrada, Jr.

Lesley Garrison

Lauren Grant

Sarah Haarmann

Deepa Liegel

Laurel Lynch

Dallas McMurray

Minga Prather

Brandon Randolph

Nicole Sabella

Christina Sahaida

Billy Smith

Noah Vinson

*Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band\**

*Magna Carta†*

*With a Little Help from My Friends\**

*Adagio†*

*When I'm Sixty-Four\**

*Allegro†*

*Within You Without You\**

*Scherzo†*

*Wilbur Scoville†*

*Penny Lane\**

*A Day in the Life\**

*Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band\**

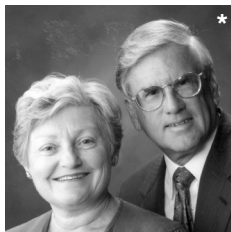
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*This performance will be presented with no intermission.*

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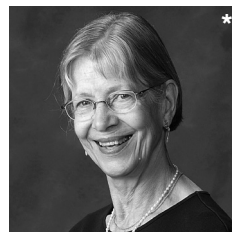
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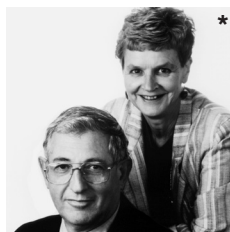
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# PROGRAM NOTES

## NOTES ON THE SCORE BY ETHAN IVERSON IT WAS FIFTY YEARS AGO TODAY

*Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.* The original album ended with an unprecedented effect, a very long chord. Fifty years later, perhaps a similar chord is a good place to begin  
...

*Magna Carta.* A formal invocation of personalities from the LP cover.

*With a Little Help from My Friends.* When Ringo sang it, he was on top of the world. Our version is more vulnerable.

*Adagio.* In the age of Tinder, a Lonely Heart advertisement might seem hopelessly quaint. But everyone has always needed to find a match.

*When I'm Sixty Four.* In between 6 and 4 is 5. All three (counts to the bar) are heard beneath the music hall scuffle.

*Allegro.* A single offhand line of trombone from "Sgt. Pepper" germinates into a full-fledged sonata form.

*Within You Without You.* George Harrison's sincere study of Indian music aligns easily with another Harrison interested in bringing the East to the West: the great composer Lou Harrison, one of Mark Morris' most significant collaborators. The hippie-era sentiment of the lyric remains startlingly fresh and relevant today.

*Scherzo.* Glenn Gould said he preferred Petula Clark to the Beatles. Apparently, Gould, Clark, and a chord progression from "Sgt. Pepper" all seem to have inspired this mod number.

*Wilbur Scoville.* The first thing we hear on the LP is a guitar blues lick, here transformed into a real blues for the horns to blow on. Wilbur Scoville invented the scale to measure heat in hot sauce. The original Sergeant Pepper?

*Cadenza.* After seeing Bach's *Brandenburg 2* on the telly, Paul McCartney came into the studio and told George Martin to add piccolo trumpet to "Penny Lane." Indeed, detailed references to European classical music are one reason so many Beatles songs still stump the average cover band.

*Penny Lane.* Not on *Sgt. Pepper*, but nonetheless originally planned to be, and of course especially relevant to the city of Liverpool.

*A Day In the Life.* Theremin nocturne, vocal descant, apotheosis.

*Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.* Another unprecedented effect on original LP was a reprise of the first theme, which is part of why it is called the first "concept album." Our later vantage point enables us to project into the next decade, the 70s, and conjure a disco ball. Thank you, Beatles! Thank you, *Sgt. Pepper*!



## INVESTING IN DANCE: THE SUPPORT THAT MAKES *PEPPERLAND* POSSIBLE

by Ryan Wenzel

It takes a long time to bring a work like Mark Morris' *Pepperland* to the stage. The steps are many: composing and arranging the music, choreographing the movement, rehearsing the dancers and musicians, designing the decor, lighting, and sound. Seldom mentioned is the funding required to set it all in motion.

Dance companies often rely on support from foundations and individual donors to fund new works, and only after the premiere convince presenters to schedule performances. Mark Morris Dance Group, however, has developed a model that is unusual in the dance world, whereby multiple arts institutions join together to commission a piece—often years before it will reach their stages.

This approach began with *Mozart Dances* (2006), a three-way commission, and grew over time with *Romeo and Juliet* (2008), *Acis and Galatea* (2014), and *Layla and Majnun* (2016). It reaches unprecedented scale with *Pepperland*, which received advance funding from no fewer than 17 institutions. They span the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom; are based in towns, cities, and on university campuses; and include both non-profit and for-profit entities.

"The support provided by these institutions sustains us and shows their unique understanding of the hidden costs involved with creating dance works of this size," says Nancy Umanoff, executive director of Mark Morris Dance Group.

This funding model serves the commissioning partners well, too, and is based largely on Morris' importance and the trust they have in his work. "Like all arts organizations, we need to be careful about how we marshal our resources. But the excellence that Mark represents is at the heart of

what we do, so we support it wholeheartedly," says Matías Tarnopolsky, former executive and artistic director of Cal Performances at the University of California, Berkeley, which has worked with Morris and his dancers for three decades.

Mike Ross, director of Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, echoes Tarnopolsky and adds that the Dance Group's offstage outreach has also been crucial in furthering their close-knit relationship. "In addition to annual performances, they have brought workshops and other activities to our campus and to the local population at large," says Ross. "Because they have become part of our community, it is easy for us to support them and their work on this level."

A separate community—one with a reputation for supporting superior new work—has coalesced around the commissioning organizations themselves, enticing others to join. *Pepperland* marks the Banff Centre's first commission of a Morris work, yet there are no plans for the piece to be performed on its stages in Alberta, Canada; it will instead, by arrangement with the Banff Centre, play at the Sony Centre in Toronto, more than 2,000 miles away. "We wanted to support Mark and his company, of course, but also for audiences to know that we support work of this caliber alongside other great organizations," says Janice Price, the Banff Centre's president. "It is incredibly rewarding to be seen as part of the ecosystem that makes this happen."

And if history is any indication, that ecosystem will only continue to strengthen and grow.

—Ryan Wenzel is a New York-based writer and editor

# PROFILES



## MARK MORRIS

(choreographer, artistic director) was born on August 29, 1956, in Seattle, Washington, where he studied with Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson. In the early years of his career, he performed with the companies of Lar

Lubovitch, Hannah Kahn, Laura Dean, Eliot Feld, and the Koleda Balkan Dance Ensemble. He formed the Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) in 1980, and has since created over 150 works for the company. From 1988 to 1991, he was director of dance at Brussels' Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, the national opera house of Belgium. In 1990, he founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Much in demand as a ballet choreographer, Morris has created 22 ballets since 1986, and his work has been performed by companies worldwide, including San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, and the Royal New Zealand Ballet. Noted for his musicality, Morris has been described as "undeviating in his devotion to music" (*The New Yorker*). He began conducting performances for MMDG in 2006 and has since conducted at Tanglewood Music Center, Lincoln Center, and BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music). He served as music director for the 2013 Ojai Music Festival. He also works extensively in opera, directing and choreographing productions for the Metropolitan Opera; New York City Opera; English National Opera; and The Royal Opera, Covent Garden, among others. He was named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991 and has received 11 honorary doctorates to date. He has taught at

the University of Washington, Princeton University, and Tanglewood Music Center. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, and has served as an Advisory Board member for the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative. Morris has received 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, the International Society for the Performing Arts' Distinguished Artist Award, Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts, the Orchestra of St. Luke's Gift of Music Award, and the 2016 Doris Duke Artist Award. In 2015, Mark Morris was inducted into the Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Hall of Fame at the National Museum of Dance in Saratoga Springs, New York. Morris opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn, New York, in 2001 to provide a home for his company, subsidized rental space for local artists, outreach programs for children and seniors, and a school offering dance classes to students of all ages and abilities.

The **MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP** was formed in 1980 and gave its first performance that year in New York City. The company's touring schedule steadily expanded to include cities in the United States and around the world, and in 1986, it made its first national television program for the PBS series *Dance in America*. In 1988, MMDG was invited to become the national dance company of Belgium and spent three years in residence at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels. The Dance Group returned to the United States



in 1991 as one of the world's leading dance companies. Based in Brooklyn, New York, MMDG maintains strong ties to presenters in several cities around the world, most notably to its West Coast home, Cal Performances in Berkeley, California, and its Midwest home, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. MMDG also appears regularly in New York, Boston, Seattle, and Fairfax. In New York, the company has performed at New York City Center's Fall for Dance Festival, regularly performs at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts' Mostly Mozart and White Light Festivals, and collaborates yearly with BAM on performances and master classes. From the company's many London seasons, it has received two Laurence Olivier Awards and a Critics' Circle Dance Award for Best Foreign Dance Company. Reflecting Morris' commitment to live music, the Dance Group has featured live musicians in every performance since the formation of the MMDG Music Ensemble in 1996. MMDG regularly collaborates with renowned musicians, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma, pianist Emanuel Ax, mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe, and jazz trio The Bad Plus, as well as leading orchestras and opera companies, including the Metropolitan Opera, English National Opera, and the London Symphony Orchestra. MMDG frequently works with distinguished artists and designers, including painters Robert Bordo and the late Howard Hodgkin, set designers Adrienne Lobel and Allen Moyer, costume designers Martin Pakledinaz and Isaac Mizrahi, and many others. MMDG's film and television projects include *Dido and Aeneas*, *The Hard Nut*, *Falling Down Stairs*, two documentaries for the United Kingdom's *South Bank Show*, and *Live from Lincoln Center* on PBS. In 2015, Morris' signature work *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* had its national television premiere on PBS's *Great Performances*. While on tour, the Dance Group

partners with local cultural institutions and community organizations to present arts and humanities-based activities for people of all ages and abilities.

The **MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE**, formed in 1996, is integral to the Dance Group. "With the dancers come the musicians . . . and what a difference it makes" (*Classical Voice of North Carolina*). The ensemble's repertory ranges from 17th and 18th century works by John Wilson and Henry Purcell to more recent scores by Ethan Iverson, Lou Harrison, and Henry Cowell. The musicians also participate in the Dance Group's educational and community programming at home and on tour. The Music Ensemble is led by Colin Fowler, who began to collaborate with MMDG in 2005 during the creation of *Mozart Dances*.



**COLIN FOWLER** (music director) began his musical study at the age of five in Kansas City and went on to study at the prestigious Interlochen Arts Academy. He continued his education at The Juilliard School, where he received his Bachelor of Music

in 2003 and his Master of Music in 2005. While at Juilliard, he studied piano with Abbey Simon, organ with Gerre Hancock and Paul Jacobs, harpsichord with Lionel Party, and conducting with James dePriest and Judith Clurman. A versatile musician and conductor, Fowler works in many areas of the music scene in New York City. He is a veteran of numerous Broadway shows, most recently performing in the Tony Award-winning musical *Jersey Boys*. A seasoned church musician, Fowler is currently the organist at Marble Collegiate Church on Fifth Avenue and also leads services and concerts at Park Avenue Synagogue, where he has served as music director since 2012. As a classical soloist and

collaborative artist, he has performed and recorded with many world-renowned musicians and ensembles, including Deborah Voigt and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He began to collaborate with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2005 and has since then performed over 40 pieces with the company on almost every keyboard instrument possible, including the harmonium and toy piano, and has conducted performances of *Mozart Dances*, *Acis and Galatea*, and *The Hard Nut*. Hailed by *The New York Times* as “invaluable” and “central to Morris’ music,” he was appointed music director in 2013.



**MICA BERNAS** (dancer), originally from Manila, Philippines, received her training at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Dance School. She later joined Ballet Philippines as a member of the corps de ballet, performing as a soloist from 2001 to 2006.

Since moving to New York in 2006, Bernas has worked with Marta Renzi Dance, Armitage Gone Dance, Gallim Dance, Barkin/Selissen Project, and Carolyn Dorfman Dance (2007-2013). She was a guest artist with the Limón Dance Company, performing at the 2013 Bienal Internacional de Danza de Cali in Bogotá, Colombia; Lincoln Center’s David H. Koch Theater; and at The Joyce Theater for the company’s 70th Anniversary in 2015. Bernas also teaches at the Limón Institute and has been on the faculty for BIMA at Brandeis University since 2011. She joined MMDG as an apprentice in January 2017 and became a company member in August 2017.



**SAM BLACK** (dancer) is originally from Berkeley, California, where he began studying tap at the age of nine with Katie Maltsberger. He received his BFA in dance from Purchase College, State University of New York (SUNY) and currently teaches MMDG

masterclasses and Dance for PD® (Parkinson’ disease). Black first appeared with MMDG in 2005 and became a company member in 2007.



**KARLIE BUDGE** (dancer) grew up in Knoxville, Tennessee, dancing with the Tennessee Children’s Dance Ensemble (TCDE). In 2016, she graduated magna cum laude with a BA in dance and BS in statistics from Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland,

Ohio) and danced with Graham 2 dance company. Budge has performed works by Mark Morris, Pascal Rioult, Larry Keigwin, Martha Graham, Ted Shawn, Bertram Ross, Virginie Mecene, Adam Barruch, Michael Mao, and Randy Duncan. She has presented her choreography throughout New York City in Playscape2016, NEXT@Graham, NYC10, SoloDuo Festival, and four Martha Graham School showings. She received the Pearl Lang Award for Excellence in Choreography in 2017. Budge joined MMDG as an apprentice in September 2018.



**DURELL R. COMEDY** (dancer), a native of Prince George's County, Maryland, began dancing at the age of six with Spirit Wings Dance Company. He graduated from the Visual and Performing Arts program at Suitland High School in 2004 and magna cum laude

from George Mason University (Fairfax, Virginia), receiving his BFA in dance performance in 2008. Since then, he's worked and performed with The Metropolitan Opera, Troy Powell, and Kyle Abraham, among others. Comedy was a member of the Limón Dance Company from 2009 to 2015, performing principal and soloist roles. He has also appeared as a soloist dancer in Baltimore Opera Company's *Aida* and worked with Washington National Opera from 2013 to 2014 as a principal dancer and dance captain. He was a former fellowship student at the Ailey School and a 2014 adjunct faculty member at George Mason University's School of Dance. Comedy joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2015 and became a company member in 2016.



**BRANDON COURNAY** (dancer) is originally from Walled Lake, Michigan, and received his BFA from The Juilliard School. As a freelance artist, he has performed with the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, the Mark Morris Dance Group, Morphoses, The

Metropolitan Opera, New York Theatre Ballet, The Chase Brock Experience, Schoen Movement Company, Dance Heginbotham, and KEIGWIN + COMPANY. TV/film/industrial credits include *Great Performances* on PBS, *Musical Chairs* on HBO, *Puma*, *Sesame Street*, and *Target*. As an educator and répétiteur, he has worked with The

Pennsylvania Ballet, Whim W'Him, The Juilliard School/Nord Anglia Education, and universities nationwide. Offstage, he has worked with companies in multiple capacities from artistic direction to administrative management. For many years, he was the rehearsal director and associate artistic director of KEIGWIN + COMPANY. In addition, he has assisted numerous choreographers on creative projects in theatre, film, and dance. He joined MMDG as an apprentice in March 2018 and became a company member in October 2018.



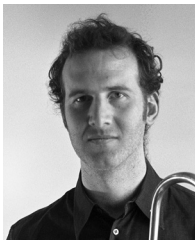
**CLINTON CURTIS** (baritone) is a multi-genre singer, musician, and songwriter originally from Key West, Florida. As a choral singer he has worked with many of the world's luminary conductors and orchestras, most recently including engagements with the New

York Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, and San Francisco Symphony. March 2016 marked his operatic debut in *Curlew River* for the Mark Morris Dance Group. As a popular songwriter and front man for The Clinton Curtis Band, he has toured internationally as a cultural ambassador with the United States Department of State. He has released five original studio albums available at [music.clintoncurtis.com](http://music.clintoncurtis.com).



**DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR.** (dancer), a native of Victoria, Texas, studied martial arts and earned his black belt in 1994. He danced ballet folklorico through his church for 11 years. Estrada earned his BFA in ballet and modern dance from Texas Christian University

in Fort Worth, Texas, and had the honor of working with the late Fernando Bujones. During his undergraduate studies, he attended the American Dance Festival where he had the privilege of performing *Skylight*, a classic work by choreographer Laura Dean. He debuted with MMDG in 2007 and became a company member in 2009.



**JACOB GARCHIK** (trombone) is a multi-instrumentalist and composer. Since moving to New York in 1994, he has been a vital part of the Downtown and Brooklyn scene, playing trombone with the Lee Konitz Nonet, Ohad Talmor/Steve Swallow Sextet, Mary

Halvorson Octet, and the John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble. He has released four albums as a leader, including *The Heavens: The Atheist Gospel Trombone Album*. He co-leads Brooklyn's premiere Mexican brass band, Banda de los Muertos. Since 2006, Garchik has contributed dozens of arrangements and transcriptions for Kronos Quartet of music from all over the world. His arrangements were featured on *Floodplain*, *Rainbow*, and *A Thousand Thoughts*. He composed the score for Kronos for the documentaries *The Campaign* and *Green Fog* directed by Guy Maddin. He has created arrangements for vocalists Anne Sofie von Otter, Angelique Kidjo, Laurie Anderson, Rhiannon

Giddens, kd lang, Natalie Merchant, Tanya Tagaq, and Alim Qasimov. As a trombonist, Garchik has worked with many luminaries of the avant-garde, including Henry Threadgill, Laurie Anderson, Anthony Braxton, Anthony Coleman, Joe Maneri, Frank London, James Tenney, Terry Reilly, and George Lewis. He has also played in ensembles led by emerging artists Mary Halvorson, Darcy James Argue, Dan Weiss, Miguel Zenon, and Steve Lehman, and has been named a "Rising Star" in the *Downbeat* Jazz Critic's Poll.



**LESLEY GARRISON** (dancer) grew up in Swansea, Illinois, and received her early dance training at the Center of Creative Arts in St. Louis, Missouri, and Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, Michigan. She studied at the Rotterdamse Dansacademie in

The Netherlands and holds a BFA from Purchase College, SUNY. She first performed with MMDG in 2007 and became a company member in 2011. Garrison teaches at The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center and for MMDG's Dance for PD® program.



**LAUREN GRANT** (dancer), honored with a New York Dance and Performance Bessie Award for her career with the Mark Morris Dance Group, has danced with MMDG since 1996, appearing in over 60 of Morris' works. In addition to staging Morris'

repertory on his company and at universities, Grant teaches ballet and modern technique for numerous professional dance companies and schools around the globe and is an adjunct faculty member at Montclair State University. Her writing has been published in the journals *Dance*

*Education in Practice*, *Ballet Review*, *Dance Magazine*, and *InfiniteBody*. She also serves as a panelist for the New York State Council on the Arts. Grant earned her MFA in dance from Montclair State University in New Jersey (where she was a member of the Alpha Epsilon Lambda Honor Society) and her BFA in dance from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. She is a recipient of the prestigious American Association of University Women Career Development Grant, the Sono Osato Scholarship for Graduate Studies, and the Caroline Newhouse Grant—all in support of her scholarly pursuits. Originally from Highland Park, Illinois, she lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband David Leventhal (former MMDG dancer and current Dance for PD® program director) and their son, born in 2012.



**SARAH HAARMANN** (dancer) grew up in Macungie, Pennsylvania, and received training at the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts under the direction of Kimberly Maniscalco. She graduated magna cum laude with a BFA

in dance from Marymount Manhattan College (New York City) in 2012. Haarmann has had the pleasure of performing with Pam Tanowitz Dance, Jessica Lang Dance, Dylan Crossman Dans(ce), Pat Catterson, Denisa Musilova, and Bill Young. She joined MMDG as an apprentice in January 2017 and became a company member in August 2017.

**JOHAN HENCKENS** (set realization) became the director of technical production for the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1989 during the company's three-year residency at the Koninklijke Muntscouwburg in Brussels, Belgium.



**ETHAN IVERSON** (composer, arranger, piano) was a founding member of The Bad Plus (TBP), a game-changing collective with Reid Anderson and David King. *The New York Times* called TBP "... Better than anyone at melding the sensibilities of post-60s jazz

and indie rock." During his 17-year tenure, TBP performed in venues as diverse as the Village Vanguard, Carnegie Hall, and Bonnaroo; collaborated with Joshua Redman, Bill Frisell, and the Mark Morris Dance Group; and created a faithful arrangement of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and a radical reinvention of Ornette Coleman's *Science Fiction*. Iverson also has performed with the critically acclaimed Billy Hart Quartet for well over a decade and occasionally performs with an elder statesman like Albert "Tootie" Heath or Ron Carter. For almost 15 years, Iverson's blog *Do the Math* has been a repository of musician-to-musician interviews and analysis, surely one reason *Time Out New York* selected Iverson as one of 25 essential New York jazz icons: "Perhaps NYC's most thoughtful and passionate student of jazz tradition—the most admirable sort of artist-scholar." More recently, Iverson has been writing about jazz for *The New Yorker*. In 2017, Iverson co-curated a major centennial celebration of Thelonious Monk at Duke University, and in 2018, Iverson premiered an original piano concerto with the American Composers Orchestra and released a duo album with Mark Turner on ECM. Many years ago, Iverson was the Mark Morris Dance Group's musical director, and he is thrilled to be back in the pit for MMDG again.





**NICK KOLIN** (lighting design) has designed *Whelm*, *Words*, *A Forest*, *Numerator*, *Pure Dance Items*, *Little Britten*, and *The Trout* for the Mark Morris Dance Group and tours with the Dance Group as lighting supervisor. Recent dance projects include new

works for Philadanco!, *Art of Fugue* with Syren Modern Dance, many collaborations with the Joffrey Ballet School, and lighting supervisor for Daniil Simkin's *Intensio*, Wendy Whelan's *Restless Creature*, the Apollo Theatre's *Get on the Good Foot*, Dance Heginbotham, Lincoln Center Festival, and New York City Center's Fall for Dance Festival. Other projects include productions with the Cincinnati Ballet, Gotham Chamber Opera, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Castillo Theatre, and Signature Theatre. Kolin is an adjunct faculty member at Hunter College, where he is the resident lighting designer for the MFA playwriting program. He holds an MFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.



**ELIZABETH KURTZMAN** (costume design) began her career in the fashion industry after attending the Parsons School of Design (New York City). She has designed textiles and accessories for numerous New York design houses. She has added

costume design and book illustration to her list of vocations, designing numerous pieces for the Mark Morris Dance Group including *Dancing Honeymoon*, *Sang-Froid*, *The Argument*, *Greek to Me*, *Four Saints in Three Acts*, *Empire Garden*, *Visitation*, *The Muir*, *Crosswalk*, *Petrichor*, and *Pure Dance Items*. Kurtzman also designed *L'Isola Disabitata* for the Gotham Opera Company under

Mark Morris' direction. Kurtzman is currently active in providing art and music programs for children with autism in New York City, where she lives and works.



**DEEPA LIEGEL** (dancer) grew up dancing with Cornish Preparatory Dance, Leela Kathak Dance, and Seattle Theater Group in Seattle, Washington. She received her BFA in dance performance with honors and a minor in arts management from

Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, in 2017. Since moving to New York, she has performed with Barkha Dance Company, Broadway Bares, and Monica Kapoor, and apprenticed with the Limón Dance Company. She joined the Mark Morris Dance Group as an apprentice in September 2018.



**AARON LOUX** (dancer) grew up in Seattle, Washington, and began dancing at the Creative Dance Center as a member of Kaleidoscope, a youth modern dance company. He began his classical training at the Cornish College Preparatory Dance Program in Seattle and

received his BFA from The Juilliard School in 2009. He danced at The Metropolitan Opera and with Arc Dance Company before joining MMDG in 2010.





**LAUREL LYNCH** (dancer) began her dance training at Petaluma School of Ballet in California. She moved to New York to attend The Juilliard School where she performed works by Robert Battle, Margie Gillis, José Limón, and Ohad Naharin. After

graduation, Lynch danced for Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, and Pat Catterson. Lynch joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.



**DALLAS MCMURRAY** (dancer), from El Cerrito, California, began dancing at age four, studying jazz, tap, and acrobatics with Katie Maltsberger and ballet with Yukiko Sakakura. He received a BFA in dance from the California Institute of the Arts.

McMurray performed with the Limón Dance Company in addition to works by Jiří Kylián, Alonzo King, Robert Moses, and Colin Connor. McMurray performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.



**SAM NEWSOME** (saxophone) works primarily in the medium of solo saxophone, an approach through which he gained world-wide critical acclaim with the release of his 2009 recording *Blue Soliloquy: Solo Works for Soprano Saxophone*, which received a

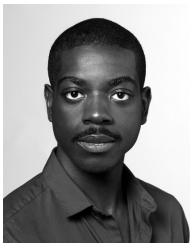
five-star review in *Downbeat* magazine. Newsome sees himself more along the lines of a visual artist who paints with notes and sounds rather than shapes and colors. “My music,” says Newsome,

“is a type of improvisatory art music in which jazz functions more as a resource than a musical genre to be interpreted with stylistic specificity.” Even though Newsome’s approach is unorthodox, it has proven to be very fruitful—musically and critically. Newsome’s creative efforts have earned him such recognition as receiving the 2016 New York Foundation for the Arts’ Artist’s Fellowship for the Music/Sound category; being selected as a nominee for Soprano Saxophonist of the Year by the 2016 Jazz Journalist Association (JJA); and placing fourth in the Soprano Saxophone category in the 64th Annual *Downbeat* Jazz Critics Poll.



**MINGA PRATHER** (dancer), a Dallas, Texas, native, received her training from Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and later graduated with honors in dance from the Ailey/Fordham BFA program (New York City). Prather has

performed with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and Nimbus Dance Works performing works by Alvin Ailey, Alejandro Cerrudo, William Forsythe, Ohad Naharin, Crystal Pite, and Twyla Tharp. She received an award from the National Young Arts Foundation for Modern Dance in 2014. Prather joined MMDG as an apprentice in September 2018.



## **BRANDON RANDOLPH**

(dancer) began his training at the School of Carolina Ballet Theater in Greenville, South Carolina, under the direction of Hernan Justo. At age 14, he was accepted into the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities,

where he studied with Stanislav Issaev and Bobby Barnett. Randolph received his BFA in dance from Purchase College, SUNY, in 2012. There he had the opportunity to perform with Dance Heginbotham as well as repertory by Stephen Petronio, Lar Lubovitch, Paul Taylor, and George Balanchine. Randolph began working with MMDG in 2013 and became a company member in 2014.



**NICOLE SABELLA** (dancer) is originally from Clearwater, Florida, where she studied at the Academy of Ballet Arts and the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School under Suzanne B. Pomerantzeff. In 2009, she graduated from the University

of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, earning her BFA in modern dance performance and the Outstanding Performance in Modern Dance Award. She was a performer with Zane Booker's Smoke, Lilies, and Jade Arts Initiative. Sabella first performed with MMDG in 2013 and became a company member in 2015.



## **CHRISTINA SAHAIDA**

(dancer) grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and began her early dance training at the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School. In 2012, she graduated with honors from Butler University (Indianapolis), receiving a BFA in dance

performance. She has worked with Ballet Quad Cities, Texture Contemporary Ballet, and most recently the Big Muddy Dance Company in St. Louis, Missouri. Sahaida joined MMDG as an apprentice in July 2017 and became a company member in February 2019.



## **ROB SCHWIMMER** (theremin)

is a composer-pianist/ keyboardist, thereminist, and Haken Continuumist. He has worked with Simon & Garfunkel, Wayne Shorter, Antônio Carlos Jobim, Bobby McFerrin, Willie Nelson, Paul Simon, Gotye, The Boston

Pops, Chaka Khan, Laurie Anderson, Arif Mardin, Stevie Wonder, Adam Guettel, Paul Bley, T-Bone Walker, Sam Rivers, Christian Marclay, Matthew Barney, Ang Lee, Maria Schneider, The Klezmatics, Bernie Worrell, Annette Peacock, Gwyneth Paltrow, Mabou Mines, Geoffrey Holder, John Cale, Steve Buscemi, Iva Bittova, Theo Bleckmann, John Stubblefield, The Roches, Jack Quartet, Teo Macero, Hal Willner, Vernon Reid, The Everly Brothers, Kurt Vonnegut, Odetta, Joseph Jarman, Alwin Nikolai/ Murray Louis Dance Company, Marc Ribot, Frank London and Sammy Davis Jr. As a world class thereminist, Schwimmer has been featured on CBS *Sunday Morning*, *The New York Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. A founding member and former co-director of the NY Theremin Society, his

credits as theremin soloist include The Boston Pops, The Orchestra of St. Luke's (which included his theremin arrangement of Bernard Herrmann's "Scene d'Amour" from *Vertigo*), Bobby McFerrin at Carnegie Hall, Gotye's Ondioline Orchestra, and Simon & Garfunkel's world tours. In addition to his CD *Theremin Noir* (with Uri Caine and Mark Feldman), Schwimmer played on Trey Anastasio's CD *Traveler*, Matthew Barney's epic movie *Cremaster 3*, and A&E's *Breakfast with the Arts*.



**GEORGE (YEGOR) SHEVTSOV** (keyboard) has recently appeared at Stormen Konserthus Bodø (Norway), Fajr Festival (Iran), Skirball Center (New York), Tokyo Bunka Kaikan (Japan), the National Theater in Taipei (Taiwan), and Auditorio de

Ciudad de León (Spain). His performances have been singled out for their "Mozartean elegance," "perfect lucidity" (*The New York Times*), and "superb musicianship" (*Miami Herald*). His recording of the piano music of Claude Debussy and Pierre Boulez was selected by *rhapsody.com* as one of the top 25 classical albums of 2013. Shevtsov is a dedicated collaborator in the world of dance, and in addition to working with MMDG since 2008, he has worked with Lar Lubovitch, Benjamin Millepied, Alexander Ratmansky, John Heginbotham, and others. Among the composers who have heard Shevtsov perform their works are Pierre Boulez, John Luther Adams, Elliott Carter, Charles Wuorinen, Georg Friedrich Haas, Steve Reich, Louis Andriessen, and George Crumb. More information at [facebook.com/georgeshevtsovpiano](https://facebook.com/georgeshevtsovpiano).



**BILLY SMITH** (dancer) grew up in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and attended George Mason University (Fairfax, Virginia) under a full academic and dance talent scholarship. He graduated magna cum laude in 2007 and received achievement awards in

performance, choreography, and academic endeavors. While at George Mason he performed the works of Mark Morris, Paul Taylor, Lar Lubovitch, Doug Varone, Daniel Ezralow, Larry Keigwin, Susan Marshall, and Susan Shields. Smith's own piece, *3-Way Stop*, was selected to open the 2006 American College Dance Festival Gala at The Ohio State University, and his original choreography for a production of *Bye Bye Birdie* garnered much critical praise. An actor as well, Smith's regional theater credits include *Tulsa in Gypsy*, *Mistoffelees in CATS*, and *Dream Curly in Oklahoma!*. Smith danced with Parsons Dance from 2007 to 2010. He joined MMDG as a company member in 2010.



**VINNIE SPERRAZZA** (percussion) is an active member of the Brooklyn jazz and creative music community. He leads several bands (including Apocryphal, Haunted, and Pilot House Overhead), writes music, and is a featured collaborator in a

number of bands (including Landline, Hearing Things, and many others). In 2017, he released two widely praised albums of his original compositions: *Juxtaposition* (Posi-Tone Records) and *Hide Ye Idols* (Loyal Label). In 2018, he toured the United States as a member of the MMDG Music Ensemble and did a brief tour of Spain with PLAY, featuring Jacob Sacks and bassist Masa

Kamaguchi. In 2019, Sperrazza will tour extensively with *Pepperland* and release three collaborative albums with The Choir Invisible (with Charlotte Greve and Chris Tordini), Trio Trio (featuring Dave Scott and Rich Perry), and Caleb Curtis/Noah Garabedian/Vinnie Sperrazza.



**NOAH VINSON** (dancer) is originally from Springfield, Illinois, and received his BA in dance from Columbia College Chicago. He was named a *Dance Magazine* Dancer on the Rise in 2009 and assisted Mark Morris in the creation of his most recent work for

Houston Ballet, *The Letter V*. He began dancing with MMDG in 2002 and became a company member in 2004.



PHOTO BY BEOWULF SHEEHAN

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# MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

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Nancy Umanoff

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### **Hilot Therapist**

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Thanks to Maxine Morris.

Sincerest thanks to all the dancers for their dedication, commitment, and incalculable contribution to the work.



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The Mark Morris Dance Group is a member of Dance/USA and the Downtown Brooklyn Arts Alliance.

Headshots of Mark Morris, Colin Fowler, and the Mark Morris Dance Group taken by Beowulf Sheehan.

## **PRODUCTION CREDITS**

Costumes built by Eric Winterling, Inc.

*A Day in the Life, Penny Lane, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, When I'm Sixty-Four, With a Little Help from My Friends* by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

*Within You Without You* by George Harrison

*Pepperland* ©2017 Discalced, Inc.

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## **MMDG AND KRANNERT CENTER**

These performances mark the 20th appearance of the Mark Morris Dance Group at Krannert Center. MMDG and Krannert Center once again join forces to present a program of arts-based and humanities-based activities for people of all ages and abilities in the Champaign-Urbana area. This weeklong series of masterclasses, workshops, and discussions aims to enhance the overall experience of the audience. Close relationships have been developed with University of Illinois students, many of whom have gone on to perform with the company, serve as members of the production team, or work as interns in MMDG's administrative office. The Dance Group gratefully acknowledges the steadfast support of the University of Illinois and staff members at Krannert Center for making this successful partnership possible year after year.