

Lincoln Center's

white light festival

October 18–November 15, 2017

Thursday–Saturday, October 26–28, 2017, at 7:30 pm

Sunday, October 29, 2017, at 3:00 pm

Layla and Majnun (New York premiere)

Mark Morris Dance Group

Mark Morris, *Choreographer and Director*

Silk Road Ensemble

Alim Qasimov, *Majnun*

Fargana Qasimova, *Layla*

Howard Hodgkin, *Scenic and Costume Design*

James F. Ingalls, *Lighting Design*

Music composed by **Uzeyir Hajibeyli** and arranged by
Alim Qasimov, Johnny Gandelsman, and Colin Jacobsen

Libretto based on the poem *Leyli and Majnun* by **Muhammad Fuzuli**

Dancers: Mica Bernas, Sam Black, Durell R. Comedy,
Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lesley Garrison,
Lauren Grant, Sarah Haarmann, Brian Lawson, Aaron Loux,
Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, Brandon Randolph,
Nicole Sabella, Christina Sahaida*, Billy Smith, Noah Vinson

This program is approximately 70 minutes long and will be performed without intermission.

*Please join the artists for a White Light Lounge following the performances on
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.*

* apprentice

(Program continued)

This presentation of Mark Morris Dance Group's *Layla and Majnun* is made possible in part by endowment support from the American Express Cultural Preservation Fund.

Endowment support for the White Light Festival presentation of Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by Blavatnik Family Foundation Fund for Dance.

These performances are made possible in part by the Josie Robertson Fund for Lincoln Center.

Rose Theater
Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall

*Please make certain all your electronic devices
are switched off.*

WhiteLightFestival.org

American Airlines is the Official Airline of Lincoln Center

Nespresso is the Official Coffee of Lincoln Center

NewYork-Presbyterian is the Official Hospital of Lincoln Center

Artist Catering provided by Zabar's and Zabars.com

Layla and Majnun is made possible, in part, through the MMDG New Works Fund with support from the Friends of MMDG, Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, the Howard Gilman Foundation, Ellsworth Kelly Foundation, Elizabeth Liebman, a special grant from The Henry Luce Foundation, PARC Foundation, Poss Family Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Trust for Mutual Understanding.

Funding has also been provided by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Layla and Majnun is a Mark Morris Dance Group/Cal Performances, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, California production in association with Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, New York, New York; Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago, Illinois; Hopkins Center for the Arts, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire; The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.; Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, College of Fine + Applied Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Meany Center for the Performing Arts, Seattle, Washington; Melbourne Festival, Victoria, Australia; Sadler's Wells, London, England; and University Musical Society of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Love and Death, the original painting by the late Howard Hodgkin on which his scenic design for *Layla and Majnun* is based, will be on view through November 3 at Gagosian on West 24th Street.

UPCOMING WHITE LIGHT FESTIVAL EVENTS:

Wednesday–Thursday, November 1–2, at 7:30 pm in the Rose Theater

Stabat mater (New York premiere)

Jessica Lang Dance

Jessica Lang, director and choreographer
Orchestra of St. Luke's

Speranza Scappucci, conductor

Andriana Chuchman, soprano

Anthony Roth Costanzo, countertenor

MOZART: Divertimento in F major

PERGOLESI: Stabat mater

November 1–11

The Psalms Experience (U.S. premiere)

Choir of Trinity Wall Street

Netherlands Chamber Choir

Tallis Scholars

Norwegian Soloists' Choir

150 psalms. 150 composers. 4 choirs. 12 concerts.
Visit PsalmsExperience.org for full concert schedule.

Thursday, November 9 at 7:30 pm at Church of the Ascension

Darkness and Light (U.S. premiere)

Bernard Foccroulle, organ

Lynette Wallworth, video

Works by BACH, BUXTEHUDE, MESSIAEN, GRIGNY, ALAIN, TOSHIO HOSOKAWA, BERNARD FOCCROULLE, and SOFIA GUBAIDULINA

For tickets, call (212) 721-6500 or visit WhiteLightFestival.org. Call the Lincoln Center Info Request Line at (212) 875-5766 to learn about program cancellations or to request a White Light Festival brochure.

Visit WhiteLightFestival.org for full festival listings.

Join the conversation: [#WhiteLightFestival](https://twitter.com/WhiteLightFestival)

We would like to remind you that the sound of coughing and rustling paper might distract the performers and your fellow audience members.

In consideration of the performing artists and members of the audience, those who must leave before the end of the performance are asked to do so between pieces. The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment are not allowed in the building.

MEDLEY OF AZERBAIJANI MUSIC: BAYATI SHIRAZ*

Kamila Nabiyeva, *Mugham Vocals*
Miralam Miralamov, *Mugham Vocals*
Rauf Islamov, *Kamancheh*
Zaki Valiyev, *Tar*

LAYLA AND MAJNUN

Music by Uzeyir Hajibeyli (1885–1948),
arranged by Alim Qasimov, Johnny Gandelsman, Colin Jacobsen
Sung in Azerbaijani with English supertitles

Choreography and Direction: Mark Morris
Scenic and Costume Design: Howard Hodgkin
Lighting Design: James F. Ingalls
Set realized by: Johan Henckens
Costumes realized by: Maile Okamura

CAST

Layla: Fargana Qasimova, *Mugham Vocals*
Majnun: Alim Qasimov, *Mugham Vocals*
Rauf Islamov, *Kamancheh*; Zaki Valiyev, *Tar*; Kojiro Umezaki, *Shakuhachi*;
Jin Yang, *Pipa*; Shane Shanahan, *Percussion*; Georgy Valtchev, *Violin*;
Xiaofan Liu, *Violin*; Max Mandel, *Viola*; Karen Ouzounian, *Cello*;
Shawn Conley, *Bass*

Act I: Love and Separation

Layla: Mica Bernas *Majnun:* Dallas McMurray

Sam Black, Lesley Garrison, Lauren Grant, Sarah Haarmann, Brian Lawson,
Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch, Christina Sahaida, Billy Smith, Noah Vinson

Act II: The Parents' Disapproval

Layla: Nicole Sabella *Majnun:* Domingo Estrada, Jr.
Layla's Parents: Lauren Grant, Noah Vinson
Majnun's Parents: Christina Sahaida, Billy Smith

Mica Bernas, Sam Black, Lesley Garrison, Brian Lawson, Dallas McMurray,
Brandon Randolph

Act III: Sorrow and Despair

Layla: Laurel Lynch *Majnun:* Aaron Loux

Mica Bernas, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Lauren Grant, Sarah Haarmann, Brian Lawson,
Dallas McMurray, Nicole Sabella, Christina Sahaida, Billy Smith, Noah Vinson

(Program continued)

Act IV: Layla's Unwanted Wedding

Layla: Lesley Garrison *Majnun*: Sam Black *The Husband*: Durell R. Comedy
Layla's Parents: Lauren Grant, Noah Vinson

Domingo Estrada, Jr., Sarah Haarmann, Aaron Loux, Nicole Sabella,
Christina Sahaida, Billy Smith

Act V: The Lovers' Demise

Layla: Mica Bernas, Nicole Sabella, Laurel Lynch, Lesley Garrison
Majnun: Dallas McMurray, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Aaron Loux, Sam Black
Layla's Parents: Lauren Grant, Noah Vinson
Majnun's Parents: Christina Sahaida, Billy Smith

*These performances are presented in loving memory of Howard Hodgkin,
a great artist and friend.*

*** Medley of Azerbaijani Music: Bayati Shiraz**

All pieces in this medley are based on the melodic patterns of Bayati Shiraz, which is one of the major mughams of Azerbaijani music. The composition proceeds from the melancholic and sad music expressions toward the upbeat and playful closing piece; such development is highly typical for Azerbaijani traditional music. The medley opens with the famous Azerbaijani folk song "I have watered the street," which is about a girl who is waiting for her beloved and wishing that they never be separated. The second part of this composition features the actual mugham Bayati Shiraz where both singers and instrumentalists demonstrate their ability to improvise. The song "You have been apart from me" is a closing part of the medley. Alibaba Mammadov (b. 1929), Azerbaijani mugham singer, composed this song following all the rules and stylistic features of the traditional songs known as tasnifs. Tasnif is a romance-like lyrical song that is usually performed within mugham composition. This medley, therefore, features three vocal genres of traditional music of Azerbaijan, such as mugham, folk song, and tasnif.

Synopsis

Layla and Qays are in love from childhood but are not allowed to unite. Qays (called Majnun, which means “possessed”) is perceived to be mad in his obsession with Layla. Layla is married off to another and Majnun becomes a hermit, devoting himself to writing verses about his profound love of Layla. Although they attempt to meet, they die without ever realizing a relationship.

Please turn to page 9 for the full libretto and to page 68 for an article on the love story of Layla and Majnun.

Into the Divine: The Music of *Layla and Majnun*

By Aida Huseynova

At the age of 23, the composer Uzeyir Hajibeyli (1885–1948) put Azerbaijan—and himself—on the map of music history with his *Leyli and Majnun*. This opera was the first piece of composed music created in Azerbaijan, premiering in 1908 in Baku (then part of the Russian Empire, now the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan). Azerbaijanis have revered their first national composer and his work ever since. For decades, every season at the Azerbaijan State Opera and Ballet Theater has opened with *Leyli and Majnun*. Each Azerbaijani singer appreciates the honor and responsibility of participating in these productions, and audiences throughout the country enjoy broadcasts of the performances.

Nearly a century after the Baku premiere, Hajibeyli's opera found a new life half a world away thanks to the Silk Road Ensemble under the artistic direction of Yo-Yo Ma. In 2007, the group created a chamber arrangement of Hajibeyli's work that was entitled *Layla and Majnun*, following the pronunciation of the heroine's name in Arabic culture, in which this ancient legend had originated. From 2007 to 2009, the arrangement was a highlight of the ensemble's repertoire, delighting large audiences around the world.

The rich multicultural potential of Hajibeyli's opera perfectly resonates with Silkroad, the cultural organization Yo-Yo Ma founded to house the Silk Road Ensemble. Silkroad envisions music as a global phenomenon, with musical forms, genres, and styles serving as bridges across time and between cultures. Azerbaijani opera offers many possibilities for such musical and cultural synthesis. In *Leyli and Majnun*, Hajibeyli combined Western opera with

two artistic treasures of Central Asia and the Middle East: the story of Layla and Majnun and the genre of *mugham*.

The ill-fated lovers Layla and Majnun are often compared to Romeo and Juliet, although their story in oral tradition predates Shakespeare's play by more than a thousand years. Layla and Majnun have been celebrated in tales by Turks, Arabs, Persians, Indians, Pakistanis, and Afghans. Known in many poetic renditions, their story also has inspired works of visual art, literature, cinema, and music. It is not accidental that Hajibeyli chose the poetic setting of the Azerbaijani poet and philosopher Muhammad Fuzuli (1483–1556). Written in the Azerbaijani language, Fuzuli's work is one of the most famous versions of this ancient legend.

Musical interpretations of the legend of Layla and Majnun appear in diverse genres and national traditions, attesting to the tale's enduring popularity. Hajibeyli's opera—the first piece of composed music to set this ancient story—was based on *mugham*, the quintessential genre of traditional Azerbaijani music. *Mugham* is a branch of the large *maqam* tradition cultivated in the Middle East and Central Asia. An improvised modal music, *mugham* historically has been performed by a *mugham* trio that consists of a singer playing *gaval* (frame drum) and two instrumentalists playing *tar* (lute) and *kamancheh* (spike fiddle). *Mugham* remains a precious part of the traditional music heritage of Azerbaijan. Since the early 20th century, *mugham* also has become the main source of creative inspiration and experimentation for Azerbaijani composers. In 1977, Azerbaijani *mugham* was one of the 27 musical selections put in *Voyagers I and II*. Sent beyond our solar system, these American spacecraft carried this music as a testament to the emotional life of human beings. In 2003, UNESCO recognized Azerbaijani *mugham* as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

Throughout its long history, the *mugham* genre has attracted many outstanding performers in Azerbaijan. Among them is Alim Qasimov, who occupies a unique and honorable place in Azerbaijan's national music history. Qasimov is revered as a National Treasure of Azerbaijan, and he also has enjoyed substantial acclaim abroad. In 1999, Qasimov won the International IMC-UNESCO Music Prize—a highly respected award that previously had been bestowed on Dmitry Shostakovich, Leonard Bernstein, Olivier Messiaen, Daniel Barenboim, Munir Bashir, and Ravi Shankar, among others. Qasimov possesses an in-depth knowledge of *mugham*. At the same time, he is renowned for his innovative approach to tradition and his openness to experimentation. This is why it is no surprise that Qasimov initiated the idea of a new embodiment of Hajibeyli's old "*mugham* opera."

Qasimov shared his vision with members of the Silk Road Ensemble and received a positive response. He was intimately familiar with Hajibeyli's *Leyli and Majnun*, as he had been involved in its productions in the Azerbaijan State Opera and Ballet Theater in the 1980s. For his Silk Road work, Qasimov selected the portions of Hajibeyli's score that focus on Majnun's solo and duet scenes with Layla, the heroine, whose role was performed by Fargana Qasimova, Qasimov's daughter and student, now a highly reputed *mugham* singer on her own. Qasimov also included choral and ensemble episodes, along with instrumental interludes. Based on these selections, Silk Road Ensemble members Johnny Gandelsman and Colin Jacobsen, both violinists, created a score.

In the interpretation of the Silk Road Ensemble, the story of Layla and Majnun is presented in a condensed version: the three-and-a-half-hour-long opera is compressed into an hour-long chamber piece. Hajibeyli's five acts are rearranged into six

parts. These changes have resulted in a reordering and even an omission of many operatic episodes. Ultimately, the Silk Road Ensemble's alterations highlight the story's time-honored messages. The legend of Layla and Majnun has a strong Sufi component, with the love between a man and a woman being seen as a reflection of love for God. The death resulting from separation from one's beloved is a supreme fulfillment, as it takes the individual into the divine. In Hajibeyli's opera, this idea was conveyed through the chorus "Night of Separation," which opens and concludes the work. These episodes can be compared to the Chorus in Greek tragedies, which comments on events before they occur in the narrative. Reconstituting the Chorus as a cello solo, both at the beginning and at the end of the piece, is one of the new arrangement's most insightful interpretations: the lonely melody of the cello sounds as the voice of eternity.

The new arrangement of Hajibeyli's opera has created a different balance between Western and Eastern traits. In Hajibeyli's opera, these two components mostly are kept separate: the symphony orchestra plays all episodes of composed music and remains silent during the *mughams*. Only the *tar* and *kamancheh* accompany singers during *mugham* episodes. In the new version, however, the role of the ensemble—with *tar* and *kamancheh* included—is crucial throughout the entire piece, and both the improvised and written parts of the composition are firmly integrated.

Layla and Majnun is a constantly changing and developing project. Every performance is unique, and it is impossible to take a snapshot of this work. Yo-Yo Ma called this a "part of the thrill" and described the project as "perhaps the finest example of group intelligence at work" (*New York Times*, March 1, 2009). A reviewer of a performance by the Silk Road Ensemble noted, "*Layla and Majnun* was the apex of

the program. Classical music making rarely achieves this combination of spontaneity and superb craftsmanship” (*Washington Post*, March 14, 2009).

Indeed, this composition is a result of collective effort and is imbued with the spirit of improvisation. Hajibeyli was aware of the large cultural span of his project, in terms of its musical and literary contents. However, Hajibeyli limited the cultural, aesthetic, and stylistic scope of the opera to the context of his native culture. In so doing, he reflected the social and cultural expectations of early 20th-century Azerbaijan as well as his own professional experience (or rather, its absence, as *Leyli and Majnun* was Hajibeyli’s first work). The Silk Road Ensemble has expanded the cultural reach of Azerbaijani opera deep into the Middle East and Central Asia. No less importantly, they have increased the Western elements in Hajibeyli’s score, creating a work of

global East-West significance. The new musical arrangement of *Layla and Majnun* is a respectful and highly artistic transformation of Hajibeyli’s “*mugham*” opera, now shaped by creative energies coming from diverse cultural, stylistic, and temporal sources.

Aida Huseynova has a PhD in musicology and teaches at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Her publications include Music of Azerbaijan: From Mugham to Opera (Indiana University Press, 2016). Huseynova also serves as a research advisor for Silkroad under the artistic direction of Yo-Yo Ma. Her numerous awards include an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant (2016) and a Fulbright scholarship (2007–08).

—Copyright © by Aida Huseynova. Reprinted with kind permission.

Libretto

Layla and Majnun

Libretto by Uzeyir Hajibeyli (based on the poem by Muhammad Fuzuli)
Translation by Aida Huseynova and Isabelle Hunter

1. LOVE AND SEPARATION

Majnun:

My soul is on fire because we are apart
I want to join my beloved
My heart is heavy because I am alone
I want to see my beloved
I feel like a nightingale that cries in pain,
trapped in a cage
I want a flower garden.

Layla:

My heart has been breaking since I was overcome by love
What kind of sorrow is this?
I do not have the strength to describe the sorrow in my heart
I cannot bear being apart from you

Majnun:

Seeing your face—as lovely as the sun—has made me weak
I cannot be still
My only wish is to perish in the world of love
I thank God that my wish is granted
I have no more desire

Layla:

My true love knows my heart is breaking
He knows what sadness lives in my heart
There is no need for me to explain my grief
He knows every sliver of sorrow in my heart

Majnun: Yes, I know

Layla: Yes, he knows

Majnun: Yes, I know

Layla and Majnun:

Your movements tantalize me
Your smile—like a flower—makes me weep
Your sweet scent renders me motionless
Your tousled hair drives me mad

2. THE PARENTS' DISAPPROVAL

Both:

You fell in love, desperately in love
And your love is mixed with sadness and grief

Majnun:

Father and Mother—my soul, my spirit
Father and Mother—my heart
How could I know that falling in love with Layla
would turn out this way?
What could I say, what could I do?
I cannot control this love
I'm powerless—I have no strength
I can only worship this one idol
until the very end of my life

Layla:

Mother, Father—it's not my fault that I went to school
I've never done anything to disobey you
I swear this was not my intention
I just wanted to be a carefree schoolgirl
Don't say any more
Have mercy and stop tormenting me

Majnun:

Father, Mother, my love will drive me mad.

3. SORROW AND DESPAIR

Majnun:

Dear God, let me be at peace with my troubles
Let me feel the despair of my love
Have mercy on me in my grief
Let me feel even more despair for my love

Layla:

Your eyes are closed, your heart is broken
Your mind tortured, and your legs are bound
You are burning from head to toe
And your heart smolders

Majnun:

I yearn to feel this sorrow as long as I live
I need this sorrow because this sorrow needs me
I will not surrender
I will not be called unfaithful

Layla:

I am as faithful as you are
Maybe even more so

You are on fire only at night
While I am on fire night and day

Both:

Like Fuzuli, I am inspired. Please, God, let me be.

4. LAYLA'S UNWANTED WEDDING

Majnun:

Why are you in the garden with a stranger
Enjoying yourself, bestowing favors on him?
How could you break your word?
Did you forget about our vows? How cruel!

Layla:

No, no, my soul mate, please listen to me
If this were up to me I would never want anyone but you
Fate has dealt me a cruel blow
I don't know how this happened

Majnun:

What did I do to make you turn away from me?
How could you choose a stranger to share your grief and happiness?
Is this what you call love?
You are cruel! You broke our vows!

Layla:

God, what torture! What agony!
I was burning with love for you. Now I know the torture of being apart.

Majnun:

So this is your loyalty, Layla?
Can someone who is unfaithful be loved?

5. THE LOVERS' DEMISE

Layla:

The wheel of fate has not turned the way I wanted
It has not cured the pain of separation
My beloved gave me so much pain
My heart is filled with suffering that has no remedy
My beloved promised to love me forever,
But he forgot about his vows and about our love.

Majnun:

True love means sacrificing one's life for his beloved
A soul that has not been given to a beloved is a wasted soul
Lovers want to be together
But separation brings them joy forever.

Meet the Artists



BEOWULF SHEEHAN

Mark Morris

Mark Morris was born on August 29, 1956, in Seattle, 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, and Eliot Feld, as well as 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 La Monnaie, and in 1990 he founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Mr. Morris has created 22 ballets since 1986, and his work has been performed by companies worldwide, including American Ballet Theatre, Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, and the Royal New Zealand and San Francisco Ballets. He began conducting performances for MMDG in 2006 and has since conducted at Tanglewood Music Center, Lincoln Center, and BAM. 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 House, Covent Garden, among others.

Mr. Morris was named a MacArthur Fellow 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. Mr. 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 Creativity Foundation's Laureate Prize, the International Society for the Performing Arts's Distinguished Artist Award, the Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts, the Orchestra of St. Luke's Gift of Music award, and a 2016 Doris Duke Artist Award. In 2015 Mr. Morris was inducted into the Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Hall of Fame at the National Museum of Dance. He opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn in 2001.



Alim Qasimov

Alim Qasimov (Majnun, mugham vocals) is a prominent mugham singer who has been named a Living National Treasure of Azerbaijan. He has been passionate about mugham since his early childhood, but only started pursuing a career in music at age 19, after various jobs as an agricultural worker and driver. Mr. Qasimov studied at the Asaf Zeynalli Music College and the Azerbaijan University of Arts. His teacher was well-known mugham singer Aghakhan Abdullayev. Mr. Qasimov perceives and presents mugham not only as an ancient art and a part of Azerbaijan's musical and cultural heritage but also as a constantly developing tradition. His performing style is unique, combining deep knowledge of centuries-old rules of mugham with challenging innovations, willingly juxtaposing mugham with other music styles, such as jazz and contemporary composition. He was awarded the IMC-UNESCO International Music Prize in 1999 in recognition of his musical contributions to world peace. Past winners of this prize have included Yehudi Menuhin, Ravi Shankar, Olivier Messiaen,

and Daniel Barenboim. Mr. Qasimov's numerous awards also include the title of the People's Artist of Azerbaijan, the highest artistic rank in the country. On his 50th birthday in 2007, the president of Azerbaijan awarded Mr. Qasimov the Medal of Glory.



**Fargana
Qasimova**

Fargana Qasimova (Layla, mugham vocals), Alim Qasimov's daughter and protégée, is an accomplished mugham singer. Her father has been the major influence in her life and career. Ms. Qasimova grew up with sounds of mugham and verses from the classical poetry of Azerbaijan and from the age of four, often performed along with her father at home and first joined him on tour at age 16. She studied mugham at the Azerbaijan National Conservatory and has earned recognition as a master of mugham, performing frequently with Qasimov in both Azerbaijan and abroad. In 1999, *Love's Deep Ocean*, a CD featuring Qasimov and Ms. Qasimova, was released by Network Medien in Frankfurt, Germany. Ms. Qasimova made her first appearance as a soloist in 2002 at the Women's Voices Festival in Belgium.

Mark Morris Dance Group

The Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) 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 around the world, and in 1986 it made its first national television program for the PBS series *Great Performances: Dance in America*. In 1988, MMDG was invited to become the national dance company of Belgium and spent three years in residence at La Monnaie, returning to the U.S. in 1991 as one of the world's leading dance companies. Based in Brooklyn, MMDG maintains strong ties to WhiteLightFestival.org

presenters in several cities, most notably its West Coast home, Cal Performances in Berkeley, California, and its Midwest home, the 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. The company has performed at New York City Center's Fall for Dance Festival, regularly performs at Lincoln Center's 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 National Dance Award for Best Foreign Dance Company.

MMDG regularly collaborates with renowned musicians, including Yo-Yo Ma, Emanuel Ax, Stephanie Blythe, and jazz trio The Bad Plus, as well as leading orchestras and opera companies, including the London Symphony Orchestra, Metropolitan Opera, and English National Opera. The company also frequently works with distinguished artists and designers, including costume designers Martin Pakledinaz and Isaac Mizrahi, painters Robert Bordo and the late Howard Hodgkin, and set designers Adrienne Lobel and Allen Moyer. MMDG's film and television projects include *Dido and Aeneas*, *The Hard Nut*, *Falling Down Stairs*, two documentaries for the U.K.'s *South Bank Show*, and PBS's *Live from Lincoln Center*. In 2015 Morris's signature work, *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, had its national television premiere on PBS's *Great Performances*.

Silk Road Ensemble

Founded by cellist Yo-Yo Ma in 1998, Silkroad creates music that engages difference, sparking radical cultural collaboration and passion-driven learning to build a more hopeful world. The musicians of the Grammy Award-winning Silk Road Ensemble represent dozens of artistic traditions and countries, from Spain and Japan to Syria and the U.S.

The ensemble is a musical collective that appears in many configurations and settings, from intimate groups of two and three in museum galleries to rousing complements of 18 in concert halls, public squares, and amphitheaters. Silkroad musicians are also teachers, producers, and advocates. Off stage, they lead professional development and musician training workshops, create residency programs in schools, museums, and communities of all sizes, and experiment with new media and genres to share Silkroad's model of radical cultural collaboration.

Mica Bernas

Mica Bernas, originally from Manila, Philippines, received her training at the Cultural Center of the Ballet Philippines Dance School. She later joined Ballet Philippines as member of the corps de ballet, performing as a soloist from 2001 to 2006. Since moving to New York in 2006, Ms. Bernas has worked with Marta Renzi's Project Company, Armitage Gone! Dance, Gallim Dance, Barkin/Selissen Project, and Carolyn Dorfman Dance (2007–13). She was a guest artist with the Limón Dance Company, performing at the 2013 Bial International de Danza de Cali in Bogota, Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater, and at the Joyce Theater for the company's 70th anniversary in 2015. Ms. Bernas also teaches at the Limón Institute and has been on the faculty of BIMA at Brandeis University since 2011. She joined the Mark Morris Dance Group as an apprentice in January 2017 and became a company member in August 2017.

Sam Black

Sam Black is originally from Berkeley, California, where he began studying tap at age nine with Katie Maltsberger. He received his bachelor of fine arts degree in dance from Purchase College, and currently teaches Mark Morris Dance Group master classes and Dance for PD. He first appeared with MMDG in 2005 and became a company member in 2007.

Durell R. Comedy

Durell R. Comedy, a native of Prince George's County, Maryland, began dancing at age six with Spirit Wings Dance Company. He graduated magna cum laude from George Mason University, receiving his bachelor of fine arts degree in dance performance in 2008. Since then, he has performed at the Metropolitan Opera and worked with Troy Powell and Kyle Abraham, among others. Mr. Comedy was a member of the Limón Dance Company from 2009 to 2015, performing principal and soloist roles. He has also worked as a soloist dancer with the Baltimore Opera and was a principal dancer and dance captain with Washington National Opera from 2013 to 2014. He was a former fellowship student at the Ailey School and an adjunct faculty member at George Mason University's School of Dance in 2014. Mr. Comedy began working as an apprentice with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2015 and became a company member in 2016.

Shawn Conley

Shawn Conley (bass), born in Honolulu, won a position with the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra (now known as the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra) while in high school before going on to earn degrees in music performance from Rice University. Mr. Conley won the Jazz Division of the 2009 International Society of Bassists' Double Bass Performance Competition, was a semifinalist in the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz International Bass Competition, and received a Wagoner Scholarship. He has performed with Sting, Peter Gabriel, Yo-Yo Ma, and Emanuel Ax, among others. He teaches at the Hawaii Contrabass Festival and regularly performs with Hot Club of Detroit, NOW Ensemble, and The Knights.

Rita Donahue

Rita Donahue was born and raised in Fairfax, Virginia and attended George Mason University. She graduated magna cum laude in 2002, receiving a bachelor of arts degree in English and a bachelor of

fine arts degree in dance. Ms. Donahue danced with Craig Patterson's Bopi's Black Sheep and joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2003.

Domingo Estrada, Jr.

Domingo Estrada, Jr., a native of Victoria, Texas, danced ballet folklórico through his church for 11 years. He earned his bachelor of fine arts degree in ballet and modern dance from Texas Christian University and worked with the late Fernando Bujones. During his undergraduate studies, he attended the American Dance Festival and performed *Sky Light*, a classic work by choreographer Laura Dean. He debuted with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2007 and became a company member in 2009.

Lesley Garrison

Lesley Garrison grew up in Swansea, Illinois and received her early dance training at the Center of Creative Arts in Missouri and Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan. She studied at the Codarts Rotterdam in the Netherlands and holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from Purchase College. She first performed with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2007 and became a company member in 2011. Ms. Garrison teaches at The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center and Dance for PD.

Lauren Grant

Lauren Grant, 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's works. She stages Morris's repertory on his company, at universities and conservatories, and teaches ballet and modern technique for the Dance Group, The School at the Mark Morris Dance Center, Jessica Lang Dance, Liz Gerring Dance Company, Ballet Preljocaj, and at schools and universities around the globe. Her writing has been published in the journal *Dance Education in Practice* and in *Dance Magazine* and *InfiniteBody*. She

also serves as a panelist for the New York State Council on the Arts. Ms. Grant holds a bachelor of fine arts degree in dance from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and is currently pursuing her master of fine arts degree in dance at Montclair State University, where she is also an adjunct professor and a member of the National Honor Society for graduate and professional students. 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 academic pursuits.

Sarah Haarmann

Sarah Haarmann grew up in Macungie, Pennsylvania and received training at the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts under the direction of Kimberly Maniscalco. She graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of fine arts degree in dance from Marymount Manhattan College in 2012. Ms. Haarmann has had the pleasure of performing with Pam Tanowitz Dance, Jessica Lang Dance, Dylan Crossman Dans(c)e, Pat Catterson, Denisa Musilova, and Bill Young. She joined the Mark Morris Dance Group as an apprentice in January 2017 and became a company member in August 2017.

Rauf Islamov

Rauf Islamov (kamancheh) was born in Baku, Azerbaijan and studied kamancheh at the Asaf Zeynally Music College, the Azerbaijan National Conservatory, and received his master's degree from the Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts. He has toured widely with the Alim Qasimov Ensemble.

Brian Lawson

Brian Lawson began his dance training in Toronto at Canadian Children's Dance Theatre. There he worked with choreographers David Earle, Carol Anderson, and Michael Trent. Mr. Lawson spent a year

studying at Codarts Rotterdam in The Netherlands and graduated summa cum laude in 2010 from Purchase College, where he was also granted the President's Award for his contributions to the dance program. Mr. Lawson has had the pleasure of performing with Pam Tanowitz Dance, Dance Heginbotham, and Nelly van Bommel's NØA Dance, among others. He joined the Mark Morris Dance Group as an apprentice in 2011 and became a company member in 2013.

Xiaofan Liu

Xiaofan Liu (violin) has established himself as an exciting and highly sought-after young musician. Mr. Liu received the Jules C. Reiner Violin prize at the Tanglewood Music Center, and has performed under the baton of such conductors as Christoph von Dohnányi, Charles Dutoit, and Andris Nelsons, among others. As an avid chamber musician and soloist, Mr. Liu has appeared at venues such as Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Jordan Hall (Boston), Seiji Ozawa Hall and Koussevitzky Music Shed (Lenox, Massachusetts), National Theater & Concert Hall (Taiwan), and at the Kennedy Center in 2015, where he performed alongside Yo-Yo Ma in celebration of Seiji Ozawa's lifetime achievements. He began his violin studies at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing before moving to California to attend Idyllwild Arts Academy. Mr. Liu received his bachelor's degree from the New England Conservatory as the last student of the late Masuko Ushioda. Mr. Liu is currently pursuing his master of music degree at the New England Conservatory under the tutelage of Boston Symphony Orchestra concertmaster Malcolm Lowe.

Aaron Loux

Aaron Loux grew up in Seattle, Washington, and began dancing at the Creative Dance Center as a member of Kaleidoscope Dance Company, a youth modern dance ensemble. He began his classical training at the Cornish Preparatory

Dance Program and received his bachelor of fine arts degree from The Juilliard School in 2009. He danced at the Metropolitan Opera and with ARC Dance Company before joining the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2010.

Laurel Lynch

Laurel Lynch began her dance training at California's Petaluma School of Ballet. 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, Ms. Lynch danced for Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, and Pat Catterson. She joined the Mark Morris Dance Group as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.

Max Mandel

Max Mandel (viola) is an acclaimed chamber musician. Comfortable in many styles and genres, the Canadian violist's current group affiliations include the Silk Road Ensemble, FLUX Quartet, The Knights, Metropolitan Museum Artists in Concert, Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players, Smithsonian Chamber Players, Caramoor Virtuosi, Blarvuster, Class Notes, and I FURIOSI Baroque Ensemble. Having founded the string quartet Metro Strings, Mr. Mandel has forged his dedication to chamber music through his collaborations with colleagues and teachers such as Lorand Fenyves at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. Mr. Mandel has been guest principal of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Camerata Bern (Switzerland), Camerata Nordica (Sweden), and the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra. He is also a frequent guest of Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra.

Dallas McMurray

Dallas McMurray is from El Cerrito, California and began dancing at age four, studying jazz, tap, and acrobatics with Katie Maltsberger and ballet with Yukiko

Sakakura. He received a bachelor of fine arts degree in dance from the California Institute of the Arts. He has performed with the Limón Dance Company, in addition to appearing in works by Jiří Kylián, Alonzo King, Robert Moses, and Colin Connor. Mr. McMurray performed with the Mark Morris Dance Group as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.

Miralam Miralamov

Miralam Miralamov (mugham vocals, understudy) was born in the Shamakhi district of Azerbaijan. He studied at the Asaf Zeynally Music College in Baku, Azerbaijan and in 2012 joined the Azerbaijan National Conservatory, where he is a member of the graduate program. Mr. Miralamov studied with such outstanding masters of Azerbaijani mugham as Alim Qasimov and Zabit Nabizade. In 2011 he was awarded first prize at the Mugham competition held by the Azerbaijan State Television company and the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. In 2013 Mr. Miralamov won both the National and International Mugham Competition and frequently appears as a soloist on Azerbaijan National Television. He has introduced Azerbaijani mugham to audiences in Canada, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Norway, Romania, Russia, Sweden, Ukraine, and the U.S., among other countries.

Kamila Nabiyeva

Kamila Nabiyeva (mugham vocals, understudy) was born in the Khanagah village in the Ismayilli district of Azerbaijan. In 2004 Ms. Nabiyeva became a winner at the International Children's Mugham Festival held by the Kainat Youth Center. She studied at the Baku Humanitarian College and in 2014 began attending the Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts, where she studies with renowned Azerbaijani female mugham performer Gulyanag Mammadova. In 2011 she was awarded at the Mugham competition held by the Azerbaijan State Television company and the

Heydar Aliyev Foundation and frequently appears as a soloist on Azerbaijani National Television. Ms. Nabiyeva has introduced Azerbaijani mugham to audiences in Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Macedonia, Russia, Sweden, Ukraine, and the U.S., among other countries.

Karen Ouzounian

Karen Ouzounian (cello) approaches music-making with a deeply communicative and passionate spirit. She is a founding member of the Aizuri Quartet, currently the quartet-in-residence at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and former quartet-in-residence at the Curtis Institute of Music, Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, and the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia. Ms. Ouzounian's commitment to adventurous repertoire and the collaborative process has led to her membership in the Grammy-nominated, self-conducted chamber orchestra A Far Cry, and the critically-acclaimed new music collective counter|induction. Additionally, she has performed with such ensembles as The Knights, Trio Cavatina, IRIS Orchestra, and as guest principal of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia.

Brandon Randolph

Brandon Randolph began his training with 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 Robert Barnett. Mr. Randolph received his bachelor of fine arts degree in dance from Purchase College 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. Mr. Randolph began working with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2013 and became a company member in 2014.

Nicole Sabella

Nicole Sabella is 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 Philadelphia's University of the Arts, earning her bachelor of fine arts degree in dance and the Outstanding Performance in Modern Dance Award. She was a performer with Zane Booker's Smoke, Lilies and Jade Arts Initiative. Ms. Sabella first performed with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2013 and became a company member in 2015.

Christina Sahaida

Christina Sahaida grew up in Pittsburgh and began her early dance training at the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School. In 2012 she graduated with honors from Butler University, receiving a bachelor of fine arts degree in dance performance. She has worked with Ballet Quad Cities, Texture Contemporary Ballet, and most recently the Big Muddy Dance Company in St. Louis. Ms. Sahaida joined the Mark Morris Dance Group as an apprentice in July 2017.

Billy Smith

Billy Smith grew up in Fredericksburg, Virginia and attended George Mason University 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. Mr. Smith's own piece *3-Way Stop* was selected to open the 2006 American College Dance Festival Association Gala at Ohio State University, and his original choreography for a production of *Bye Bye Birdie* garnered critical praise. He is an actor as well; regional theater credits include *Tulsa in Gypsy*, *Mistoffelees* in *Cats*, and *Dream Curly* in *Oklahoma!* Mr. Smith danced with

Parsons Dance from 2007 to 2010. He joined the Mark Morris Dance Group as a company member in 2010.

Shane Shanahan

Shane Shanahan (percussion) is a percussionist, composer, and arranger who has combined his studies of drumming traditions from around the world with his background in jazz, rock, and Western art music to create a unique and highly sought-after style. In addition to being an original member of the Silk Road Ensemble, he has performed with Bobby McFerrin, James Taylor, Aretha Franklin, Philip Glass, Alison Krauss, Chaka Khan, and Deep Purple, among others, and has appeared multiple times at the White House playing for former President and Mrs. Obama. He frequently hosts workshops and clinics at the world's leading universities and museums and serves as one of the Silk Road Ensemble's learning advisors to help design and implement residencies, workshops, and education programs.

Kojiro Umezaki

Kojiro Umezaki (shakuhachi) is a Japanese-Danish performer and composer originally from Tokyo. He is renowned as a virtuoso of the shakuhachi, but his work also encompasses traditional and technology-based music mediated by various forms of electronics. His recent commissioned works and producer credits include those for Brooklyn Rider, Joseph Gramley, Huun-Huur-Tu, and the Silk Road Ensemble. Mr. Umezaki is currently associate professor of music at the University of California, Irvine, where he is a core faculty member of the Integrated Composition, Improvisation, and Technology (ICIT) group.

Zaki Valiyev

Zaki Valiyev (tar) was born in Ganja, Azerbaijan. He studied at the Ganja Music College and received a bachelor's degree from the Azerbaijan National Conservatory. He is a member of the Alim Qasimov Ensemble, with whom he has toured extensively.

Georgy Valtchev

Georgy Valtchev (violin) has appeared as soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician throughout the U.S., Europe, and Asia. Originally from Bulgaria, he came to the U.S. in 1992 as a scholarship student of Dorothy Delay and Masao Kawasaki at The Juilliard School, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees. As a soloist, he has been heard with orchestras in Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Miami, and New York, and in Bangor, Bulgaria, and Japan. Since 2011, Mr. Valtchev has been a guest concertmaster of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. As a chamber musician he has appeared at such venues as Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Kennedy Center, London's Barbican Centre, and the Guangzhou Opera House in China, among others. He has been featured in such festivals as Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, Sofia Music Weeks, Varna Summer International Music Festival in Bulgaria, and Båstad Chamber Music Festival in Sweden. He is a founding member of Bulgarian Concert Evenings in New York.

Noah Vinson

Noah Vinson is originally from Springfield, Illinois, and received his bachelor of arts degree in dance from Columbia College Chicago. He was recognized by *Dance Magazine* as an upcoming talent in 2009 and assisted Mark Morris in the creation of his most recent work for Houston Ballet, *The Letter V*, which premiered in May 2015. He began dancing with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2002 and became a company member in 2004.

Jin Yang

Jin Yang (pipa) was born in Datong, China, and began studying pipa at age nine. In 1995 she was admitted to the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, where she received both her bachelor and master of arts degrees. Before relocating to the U.S., she served as a pipa instructor at the Wuhan Conservatory of Music. Ms. Yang has received many awards, including first prize in the TianHua Cup national youth traditional

WhiteLightFestival.org

music competition (1997), and the silver award at the Chinese Golden Bell Awards for music. She has performed in mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, France, the U.S., Britain, Japan, and the Philippines. In 2010 she was the only mainland Chinese pipa performer selected (by Wu Man) to participate in a workshop led by the Kronos Quartet and Wu Man at Carnegie Hall. Ms. Yang served as visiting scholar at Kent State University from 2013 to 2014 and currently lives in Pittsburgh.

Howard Hodgkin

Howard Hodgkin (1932–2017, scenic and costume design) studied at the Camberwell College of Arts and the Bath School of Art and Design in the U.K. In 1984 he represented Britain at the Venice Biennale and won the Turner Prize the following year. He was knighted in 1992 and made a Companion of Honour in 2003. An exhibition of his work, *Paintings 1975–1995*, organized by the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, opened in 1995 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and toured to museums in Fort Worth and Düsseldorf, and to London's Hayward Gallery. In 2006 a retrospective opened at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, traveling to the Tate Britain and Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía.

Born in London and evacuated to the U.S. during the second World War, Hodgkin first worked in the theater in 1981, when he designed the set and costumes for Richard Alston's *Night Music* with the Ballet Rambert. They later collaborated on *Pulcinella*, which was filmed by the BBC and released on DVD. For the Mark Morris Dance Group, he designed the sets for *Rhymes with Silver* (1997), *Kolam* (2002), and *Mozart Dances* (2006). His artwork is represented by Gagosian Gallery and has been exhibited in New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Rome, and London. Hodgkin was passionate about India and Indian art for most of his life. Toronto's Aga Khan Museum exhibited Hodgkin's paintings in

the exhibition *Inspired by India* along with Indian miniatures from his collection in 2015. *After All*, an exhibition of his prints, was featured at the Alan Cristea Gallery in London in 2016. Hodgkin died March 9, 2017 in London.

James F. Ingalls

James F. Ingalls (lighting design) has designed several productions for the Mark Morris Dance Group, including *Mozart Dances*, *Romeo and Juliet: On Motifs of Shakespeare*, *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, and *Dido and Aeneas*. For Mark Morris, he has designed *Orfeo ed Euridice* at the Metropolitan Opera; *King Arthur* at English National Opera; *Sylvia*, *Sandpaper Ballet*, *Maelstrom*, and *Pacific* at San Francisco Ballet; and *Platée* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and New York City Opera. Mr. Ingalls's designs for dance include *The Nutcracker* for Pacific Northwest Ballet; *The Sleeping Beauty*, choreographed by Alexei Ratmansky, for Ballet Company of Teatro alla Scala and American Ballet Theatre; Twyla Tharp's 50th anniversary tour; *Celts*, choreographed by Lila York for Boston Ballet; and *Sea Lark* and *Death and the Maiden* for Paul Taylor Dance Company. Mr. Ingalls's work in theater includes *Desdemona*, directed by Peter Sellars at UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance and at the Melbourne and Sydney Festivals; *DruidShakespeare*, directed by Garry Hynes on tour in Galway and at the Lincoln Center Festival. He often collaborates with Melanie Ríos Glaser and The Wooden Floor in California.

Uzeyir Hajibeyli

Uzeyir Hajibeyli (1885–1948) was an Azerbaijani and Soviet composer, conductor, scientist, publicist, playwright, teacher, translator, and social figure. He is recognized as the founder of Azerbaijani notated music and composer of its first opera. Hajibeyli was born into an educated family in a village near Shusha in mountainous Karabagh. The town's rich traditions in the performing arts played a special role in his

musical education. Hajibeyli was educated at an Azerbaijani-Russian school. He then studied at the Gori Teachers Seminary in Georgia in 1899–1904. At the seminary, he mastered the major works of classical music and learned to play the violin. He arranged folk music for the student choir and performed in the choir himself. In 1908 *Leyli and Majnun*, the first of seven operas and three musical comedies, premiered in Baku. He based the libretto on the poem *Leyli and Majnun* by the 16th-century Azerbaijani poet Muhammad Fuzuli. The music fused traditional Azerbaijani music and European classical opera, creating a new musical genre that merged eastern and western culture and set a new direction for Azerbaijani music.

White Light Festival

I could compare my music to white light, which contains all colors. Only a prism can divide the colors and make them appear; this prism could be the spirit of the listener. —Arvo Pärt. Now in its eighth year, the White Light Festival is Lincoln Center's annual exploration of music and art's power to reveal the many dimensions of our interior lives. International in scope, the multidisciplinary festival offers a broad spectrum of the world's leading instrumentalists, vocalists, ensembles, choreographers, dance companies, and directors, complemented by conversations with artists and scholars and post-performance White Light Lounges.

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (LCPA) serves three primary roles: presenter of artistic programming, national leader in arts and education and community relations, and manager of the Lincoln Center campus. A presenter of more than 3,000 free and ticketed events, performances, tours, and educational activities annually, LCPA offers 15 programs, series, and festivals including American Songbook, Great Performers, Lincoln Center Festival, Lincoln

Center Out of Doors, Midsummer Night Swing, the Mostly Mozart Festival, and the White Light Festival, as well as the Emmy Award-winning *Live From Lincoln Center*, which airs nationally on PBS. As manager of

the Lincoln Center campus, LCPA provides support and services for the Lincoln Center complex and the 11 resident organizations. In addition, LCPA led a \$1.2 billion campus renovation, completed in October 2012.

Lincoln Center Programming Department

Jane Moss, *Ehrenkranz Artistic Director*

Hanako Yamaguchi, *Director, Music Programming*

Jon Nakagawa, *Director, Contemporary Programming*

Jill Sternheimer, *Director, Public Programming*

Lisa Takemoto, *Production Manager*

Charles Cermele, *Producer, Contemporary Programming*

Mauricio Lomelin, *Producer, Contemporary Programming*

Andrew C. Elsesser, *Associate Director, Programming*

Luna Shyr, *Senior Editor*

Regina Grande Rivera, *Associate Producer*

Daniel Soto, *Associate Producer, Public Programming*

Walker Beard, *Production Coordinator*

Nana Asase, *Assistant to the Artistic Director*

Olivia Fortunato, *Programming Assistant*

Dorian Mueller, *House Program Coordinator*

Janet Rucker, *Company Manager*

For the White Light Festival

Andrew Hill, *Production Electrician*

Amy Page, *Wardrobe*

For *Layla and Majnun*

Andy Barker, *Assistant to Howard Hodgkin*

Aida Huseynova, *Consultant*

Backdrop painted by Scenic Art Studios. Special thanks to Joe Forbes, Susan Jackson, and Richard Prouse. Stools built by Matthew Eggleton. Costumes built by Eric Winterling, Inc. Costume fabrics digitally printed by Dyenamix, Inc.

Silkroad Staff

Eduardo A. Braniff, *Executive Director*

Liz Keller-Tripp, *Artistic Administrator*

Yo-Yo Ma, *Founder and Artistic Director*

Ben Mandelkern, *Director of Communications*

Patrick McGuire, *Communications Associate*

Jessica Shuttleworth, *Digital Content Manager*

Ed Sweeney, *Comptroller*

Lori Taylor, *Education Specialist*

Mark Morris Dance Group/Silk Road Ensemble



Mica Bernas



Sam Black



Durell R.
Comedy



Shawn Conley



Rita Donahue



Domingo
Estrada, Jr.



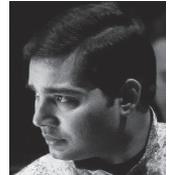
Lesley
Garrison



Lauren Grant



Sarah
Haarmann



Rauf Islamov



Brian Lawson



Xiaofan Liu



Aaron Loux



Laurel Lynch



Max Mandel



Dallas
McMurray



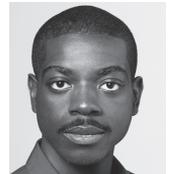
Miralam
Miralamov



Kamila
Nabiyeva



Karen
Ouzounian



Brandon
Randolph



Nicole
Sabella



Christina
Sahaida



Billy Smith



Shane
Shanahan



Kojiro
Umezaki



Zaki Valiyev



Georgy
Valtchev



Noah Vinson



Jin Yang

Mark Morris Dance Group

Mark Morris, *Artistic Director*

Nancy Umanoff, *Executive Director*

Production

Johan Henckens, *Director of Technical Production*

Colin Fowler, *Music Director*

Nick Kolin, *Lighting Supervisor*

Rory Murphy, *Sound Supervisor*

Stephanie Sleeper, *Costume Coordinator*

Administration

Elizabeth Fox, *Chief Financial Officer*

Natalia Kurylak, *Finance Manager*

Rebecca Hunt, *Human Resources Manager*

Jen Rossi, *Company Manager*

Geoff Chang, *Associate General Manager*

Julia Weber, *Management Assistant*

Stephanie Neel, *Archive Project Manager*

Sandra Aberkals, *Archive Project Associate*

Regina Carra, *Archive Project Assistant*

Marianny Loveras, *Retail Store Manager/Administrative Assistant*

Carmel St. Hilaire, *Intern*

Development

Michelle Amador, *Director of Development*

Sophie Mintz, *Manager of Institutional Giving*

Tyler Mercer, *Individual Giving Officer*

Makayla Santiago, *Development Associate*

Sarah Branch, *Development Fellow*

Yuanhao Zhang, *Intern*

Marketing

Karyn LeSuer, *Director of Marketing*

Julie Dietel, *Marketing and Communications Associate*

Alexa Smithwick, *Marketing Fellow*

Education

Sarah Marcus, *Director of Education*

Kelsey Ley, *School Director*

Rachel Merry, *Education Programs Coordinator*

Alexandra Rose, *Community Education Programs Manager*

Jessica Pearson, *Education Programs Assistant*

Myko Campbell, *Education Intern*

Eva Nichols, *Outreach Director*

David Leventhal, *Dance for PD Program Director*

Maria Portman Kelly, *Dance for PD Programs and Engagement Manager*

Amy Bauman, *Dance for PD Programs Assistant*

Claudia Hanna, Jilian Pesce, Rachel Stanislawczyk, *Dance for PD Interns*

Dance Center Operations

Elise Gaugert, *Operations Manager*

Mark Sacks, *Facilities Manager*

Annie Woller, *Rental Programs Manager*

Aria Roach, *Operations Coordinator*

Mario Flores, Jr., Liz Law, Roxie Maisel, Tiffany McCue, Dominique Terrell, Zoe Walders, Kareem Woods, *Front Desk Associates*

Jose Fuentes, Hector Mazariegos, Orlando Rivera, Justin Sierra, Arturo Velazquez, *Maintenance*

Michael Mushalla (Double M Arts & Events), *Booking Representation*

William Murray (Better Attitude, Inc.), *Media and General Consultation Services*

Mark Selinger (McDermott, Will & Emery), *Legal Counsel*

O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins, LLP, *Accountant*

David S. Weiss, M.D. (NYU Langone Medical Center), *Orthopedist*

Marshall Hagins, PT, PhD, *Physical Therapist*

Jeffrey Cohen, *Hilot Therapist*

Thanks to Maxine Morris.

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

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by American Express, Anonymous, Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners, LLP, Morley and Frederick Bland, Booth Ferris Foundation, Allan and Rhea Bufferd, Suzy Kellems Dominik, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, Judith R. and Alan H. Fishman, Shelby and Frederick Gans Fund, Isaac Mizrahi and Arnold Germer, Howard Gilman Foundation, Sandy Hill, Ellsworth Kelly Foundation, Elizabeth 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, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Ellen and Arnold Offner, Sarabeth Berman and Evan Osnos, PARC Foundation, Poss-Kapor Foundation, Diane Solway and David Resnicow, Resnicow + Associates, Jennifer P. Goodale and Mark Russell, 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 Stine and R.L. Stine, The White Cedar Fund, and Friends of MMDG.

Additional support provided by The Amphion Foundation, Inc., Arnow Family Fund, Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc., Bossak/Heilbron Charitable Foundation, Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts, Inc., The Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, Estée Lauder Companies, ExxonMobile Corporate Matching Gift Program, Google Matching Gift Program, The Charles and Joan Gross Family Foundation, Guggenheim Partners Matching Gifts, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, Marta Heflin Foundation, IBM Corporation Matching Gifts Program, JP Morgan Chase, Kinder Morgan Foundation, Leatherwood Foundation, The Henry Luce Foundation, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Materials for the Arts, Megara Foundation, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, Harris A. Berman and Ruth Nemzoff Family Foundation, New England Foundation for the Arts, New Music USA, New York Life Foundation, Wilhelmina Parris, FLP, The L. E. Phillips Family Foundation, Jerome Robbins Foundation, Rolex, Billy Rose Foundation, Inc., San Antonio Area Foundation, Schmeer Foundation, SingerXenos Wealth Management, Trust for Mutual Understanding, and Viad Corp.

The Mark Morris Dance Group is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, Mayor Bill de Blasio, Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, Council Member Helen Rosenthal, the New York City Department for the Aging, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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

Layla and Majnun ©2016 Disalced, Inc.