



PRINCIPAL PARTNER



Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

**Sydney Opera House and Etihad Airways Present**

## **Mark Morris Dance Group**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June**

**Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House**

Sydney Opera House is delighted to announce the return to Sydney of New York's legendary Mark Morris Dance Group and Music Ensemble. The company will present the Australian premiere of four of Mark Morris' original works that encapsulate the choreographer's dynamic repertoire: A Wooden Tree, Festival Dance, Pacific and Morris' most recent work Whelm, set to the music of Debussy.

Mark Morris Dance Group was formed in 1980 in New York City. Led by illustrious choreographer Mark Morris, it is one of the world's most acclaimed dance groups, famed for its formidable dedication to form and celebrated for its reinvention of modern dance, which offers all the pleasures of high art, without the pretension. Though still based in Brooklyn, Mark Morris Dance Group's impressive touring schedule sees the group perform at the most prestigious venues and festivals across the world.

Jonathan Bielski, Director of Programming at Sydney Opera House, said, *"I am delighted Mark Morris has accepted our invitation to return to Sydney after a too-long absence. Feted on the great stages of the world this company finally makes its triumphant debut at Sydney Opera House this June. There are few more influential artists of our time than Mark Morris, a polymath of extraordinary scope matching his achievements in dance with conducting, directing opera, festival direction and teaching. No choreographer has greater musicality than Mark, his work coming from an intrinsic partnership between movement and music. These will be joyous, beautiful and uplifting performances to stir the soul and fire the imagination."*

The dancers of Mark Morris Dance Group are accompanied by on-stage musicians with music composed by Ivor Cutler, Lou Harrison, Johann Nepomuk Hummel and Claude Debussy.

Praise for A Wooden Tree:

*"The numbers, in which [Ivove Cutler] both speaks and sings, are slight, whimsical and quaint but variously touched by satire, absurdism and pathos. Mr. Morris brings out their sweetness."* – New York Times

*"[An] idiosyncratic masterpiece. [Morris'] choreography finds its own magical way of replicating Cutler's style; an almost childlike dance vocabulary into which Morris embroiders gestures that veer between literal mime and a whimsical commentary of their own."* – The Guardian

Praise for Festival Dance:

*"Intensely musical, graceful, and flowing... Throughout, as the dancers go bounding across the stage, they look like they're having the time of their lives, and so are we."*  
– Seattle Post-Intelligencer

*"...lovely, full of unabashed romantic sweet and balletic grace."* – Boston Globe



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*“Performed against a warm green backdrop of light, it's a swaying, feathery, sprightly affair. ..a reverie on male-female coupledness, with some mischief slipped into it.”*  
– Seattle Times

*“Morris creates the image of a society of 12 celebrating love and community with garlands and vines and whirlpools of dancing.”* – Village Voice

Praise for Pacific:

*“Morris’ melding of music and movement is utterly lucid – not because of the harmony he creates, but because he allows the forms to be heard and seen in pure and equal ways.”*  
– NY Times

*“Morris really knows how to create, and show off, counterpoint between the upper and lower body... a beautiful contemplative piece.”* – NY Times

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**SEASON DETAILS**

**WHAT:** Mark Morris Dance Group

**WHEN:** 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June

**WHERE:** Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House

**TICKETS:** From \$49 at [www.sydneyoperahouse.com](http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com) or 02 9250 7777

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This season is presented by Sydney Opera House and Etihad Airways

Presenting Partner:

