

BAM

2017 WINTER/SPRING SEASON

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC PETER JAY SHARP BUILDING 30 LAFAYETTE AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11217—1486

Mark Morris' acclaimed opera double bill receives its New York premiere at BAM, Mar 15—19

Seminal production of *Dido and Aeneas* is paired with a starkly beautiful *Curlew River* for a unique operatic experience

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

***Mark Morris: Two Operas*
An Evening of Britten and Purcell**

***Curlew River* New York Premiere**

By Benjamin Britten
MMDG Music Ensemble
Directed by Mark Morris

Dido and Aeneas

By Henry Purcell
Mark Morris Dance Group
MMDG Music Ensemble
Choreography by Mark Morris
Conducted by Mark Morris

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave)

Mar 15—18 at 7:30pm, Mar 19 at 3pm

Tickets start at \$25

Master Class: Mark Morris Dance Group

Co-presented by BAM and Mark Morris Dance Group

Mar 12 at 11am, Mark Morris Dance Center (3 Lafayette Ave)

Price: \$25

For adults of all levels

Visit BAM.org/master-classes for more information and to register

"The coupling of Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and Benjamin Britten's *Curlew River*—English music dramas composed almost three centuries apart—makes a superlative double bill."—*The New York Times*

Feb 7, 2017/Brooklyn, NY—Widely-praised for his musicality, **Mark Morris** has, throughout his brilliant and distinguished career, choreographed operas as well as directed them. This program of two operas—Henry Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas* and Benjamin Britten’s rarely-seen *Curlew River*—are brought together in exquisite productions which reveal Morris’ ability to create a profound and deeply moving experience that lovers of both music and dance will treasure.

The evening combines two operas from two distinct historical periods into one. First, the musicians and vocalists of the MMDG Music Ensemble take the stage for Benjamin Britten’s *Curlew River*, clad in all-white on an all-white set, both designed by Allen Moyer. Tenor Isaiah Bell reprises his haunting role as the Madwoman in this all male production not presented since its acclaimed premiere at Tanglewood Music Festival in 2013. *Curlew River* is based on a medieval Japanese Noh play and transformed by Britten into a Christian parable of madness and despair that thematically unites with the next work on the bill.

Dido and Aeneas was immediately hailed as a modern classic when Morris premiered it in 1989 as the director of dance at Belgium’s Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie. For this engagement he conducts the chorus and orchestra with dancers of the Mark Morris Dance Group representing the characters on stage. Stephanie Blythe sings the inconsolable Carthaginian queen Dido and the Sorceress. Laurel Lynch dances these roles. Aeneas is sung by Douglas Williams and danced by Domingo Estrada, Jr.

Curlew River cast: Isaiah Bell (Madwoman), Clinton Curtis (Leader/Abbot), Conor McDonald (Traveler), Daniel Moody (Boy/Acolyte), Douglas Williams (Ferryman).

About the artists

Mark Morris has been hailed as the “the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical.” (*The New York Times*). In addition to creating over 150 works for the Mark Morris Dance Group, he conducts orchestras, directs opera, and choreographs for ballet companies worldwide. Morris’ work is acclaimed for its ingenuity, musicality, wit, and humanity. Named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991, he has received eleven honorary doctorates to date, and a multitude of awards, including 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 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, Morris was inducted to the National Museum of Dance in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Formed in 1980, Morris’ internationally-renowned **Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG)** has received “highest praise for their technical aplomb, their musicality, and their sheer human authenticity.” (*Bloomberg News*). Live music and community engagement are vital components of MMDG. It has toured with its own musicians, the MMDG Music Ensemble, since 1996, and regularly collaborates with orchestras and opera companies around the world. MMDG’s film and television projects include *Dido and Aeneas*, *The Hard Nut*, *Falling Down Stairs*, the U.K.’s *South Bank Show*, and *Live from Lincoln Center*. In 2015 Morris’ signature work *L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* premiered on PBS’ *Great Performances*. The Mark Morris Dance Center was opened in 2001 to provide a home for the dance group, rehearsal space for the dance community, programs for local children and seniors, and dance classes for students of all ages and abilities.

For press information contact David Hsieh at dhsieh@BAM.org or 718.636.4129 x5.

Credits

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor.

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General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers a dinner menu prior to most BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances, featuring varied light fare and bar service. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with bar service and light dining available from 6pm.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater); D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM
Car: Limited commercial parking lots are located near BAM. Visit BAM.org for information.

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.

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