NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jorge Luis González at 413-545-4482 or jlg@admin.umass.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 11, 2010

WHAT: **Mark Morris Dance Group**

WHEN: **Tuesday, February 2 at 7:30 PM**

WHERE: **UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center Concert Hall**
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go online to
www.fineartscenter.com

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RIVETING MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP COMES TO UMASS FINE ARTS CENTER FOR ONE STUNNING NIGHT OF DANCE

"The most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical." - The New York Times

The Mark Morris Dance Group, one of the world's leading dance companies, which regularly performs across the U.S. and at major international festivals, will stage a program of three works at the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Tuesday, February 2 at 7:30 PM. The Fine Arts Center program includes *Looky*, set to composer Kyle Gann's "Studies for Disklavier"; *All Fours*, featuring Béla Bartók's "String Quartet No. 4"; and *V*, with accompaniment provided by a performance of Robert Schumann's "Quintet in E flat for Piano and Strings, Op. 44." All works are performed to live music. There will be a pre-performance talk from 6:30 to 7 PM in the rear seating area of the Concert Hall. And every audience member will receive a special Valentine from Mr. Morris and a $10 scape from Silverscape Designs, one of the sponsors of this performance. One lucky audience member will receive a $500 scape.

The Mark Morris Dance Group has been riveting audiences worldwide for nearly 30 years with fresh, thought-provoking dances that are acclaimed for their craftsmanship, ingenuity, humor, and eclectic musical accompaniments. The company attracts dance aficionados and mainstream audiences, who delight in its prolific repertory of over 100 works.

Once considered the bad boy of the modern dance world, Mark Morris is now an influential and celebrated choreographer whose once-controversial pieces have become the standard of creativity for a new generation. Noted for using live musical accompaniment whenever possible, Morris is renowned for the sublime musicality of his

repertory. He often creates dance steps while scrutinizing the musical score in his hand (he also reads music). In 1996, he created the Mark Morris Dance Group Ensemble, making his troupe the only modern company with its own permanent, exclusive music group.

Based in Brooklyn, NY, MMDG is noted for its commitment to live music, a feature of every performance on its full international touring schedule since 1996. MMDG collaborates with leading orchestras, opera companies, and musicians, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma in the Emmy Award-winning film *Falling Down Stairs* (1997); Indian composer Zakir Hussain, Mr. Ma, and jazz pianist Ethan Iverson in *Kolam* (2002); and pianists Emanuel Ax, Garrick Ohlsson, and Yoko Nozaki for *Mozart Dances* (2006).

The Mark Morris Dance Group was formed in 1980 and gave its first concert that year in New York City. The company's touring schedule steadily expanded to include cities both in the U.S. and in Europe, 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 company returned to the United States in 1991 as one of the world's leading dance companies.

Tickets for MMDG are $40, $30, and $15; Five College/GCC/STCC and youth 17 and under are $15. Tickets are available from the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS, or on the Fine Arts Center www.umasstix.com. This performance is sponsored by Silverscape Designs, *Preview Magazine*, WGBY, and 93.9FM The River

Images suitable for press coverage are available here, and more information on MMDG may be found here.

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