

# Detroit Opera

MARK MORRIS  DANCE GROUP

## ***THE HARD NUT* MAKES ITS DETROIT PREMIERE AT THE DETROIT OPERA HOUSE, DECEMBER 3-4**

Mark Morris Dance Group waltzes into the Detroit Opera House this holiday season for the local premiere of *The Hard Nut*—a playful and irreverent retelling of *The Nutcracker* set in the swingin’ 70s where raucous parties, and dancing Barbie Dolls and G.I Joes take centerstage amidst a flurry of gender-bending snowflakes.

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 4 at 2:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway Street, Detroit

**LOCAL CONNECTION:** Walled Lake native [Brandon Cournay](#) is returning home this holiday season to star in Mark Morris Dance Group’s production of *The Hard Nut*. Not only is this Brandon’s first time back performing in Michigan since leaving home and attending the prestigious Juilliard School, but this is also the first time the globally recognized Mark Morris Dance group and their celebrated holiday production tours in the area.

**MUSIC:** *The Hard Nut* is set to Tchaikovsky’s enchanting score performed by a live 48-piece orchestra and mines E.T.A Hoffmann’s original story to recreate a world inspired by American comic Charles Burns that is both funny and inventive.

**TICKETS:** Tickets start at \$29 and are available at <https://detroitopera.org/season-schedule/the-hard-nut/>

**ASSETS:** You can find video of *The Hard Nut* [HERE](#), and images [HERE](#) and the full production details and synopsis at <https://markmorrisdancegroup.org/work/the-hard-nut/>

**PRESS SEATS:** As this is the first time Mark Morris Dance Group is performing in Detroit, press tickets are available, as are interviews with members of the creative team leading up to the performances.

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### **ABOUT MARK MORRIS**

Mark Morris has been praised as “the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical” (*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’s 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. Morris’s memoir, *Out Loud*, co-written with Wesley Stace, was released in paperback by Penguin Press in October 2021.

### **ABOUT THE MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP AND MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE**

Founded in New York City in 1980 by artistic director and choreographer Mark Morris, praised by *The New York Times* as “the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical,” the Mark Morris Dance Group has been called “the preeminent modern dance organization of our time” (Yo-Yo Ma). Its members have received the “highest praise for their technical aplomb, their musicality, and their sheer human authenticity.” (*Bloomberg News*). Live music and community engagement are vital components of the Mark Morris Dance Group, which has toured with its own musicians, the MMDG Music Ensemble, since 1996. The Mark Morris Dance Center, opened in Brooklyn in 2001, is the home of the Dance Group and provides educational opportunities in dance and music to people of all ages and abilities.

### **LOCAL MEDIA CONTACT:**

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