

MEDIA CONTACT:

Kathleen Van Gorden
KVG Communications
401-480-1840
kathleenv@kvgcom.com



firstworks
connecting art with audiences

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2014

**FirstWorks Engages Audiences With The World-Class Artistry Of
The Mark Morris Dance Group**

*An Exhilarating Evening of Live Music and Dance Caps Two Weeks of Community Engagement
– Saturday, March 8, 2014, 8:00pm at The Vets, Providence, RI –*

PROVIDENCE, RI – FirstWorks' 10th anniversary celebration continues with a landmark concert by one of the world's most revered dance companies, Mark Morris Dance Group, on Saturday, March 8, 2014, 8:00pm at The Vets, 1 Avenue of the Arts, Providence. Tickets start at \$38 at first-works.org or call 401-421-ARTS (2787).

The Mark Morris Dance Group joins FirstWorks for an exhilarating evening of live music and dance. Christened "one of the greatest living choreographers" by the *New Yorker*, Morris is a master choreographer of endless invention still brilliantly sculpting his legacy. Hailed as the "Mozart of modern dance", he is committed to live music as an integral part of the dance experience.

The concert includes the Rhode Island premiere of *Double*, a selection from *Mozart Dances* performed against a backdrop of rich visuals by British painter Howard Hodgkin. John Rockwell of *The New York Times* describes the work as "a masterpiece, a triumph and one of Mr. Morris's greatest achievements." In the primitive and mysterious *Grand Duo* – acclaimed as "one of the most viscerally charged passages in the annals of modern dance" by *The Boston Globe* – Morris turns to ancient rites inspired by Lou Harrison's thrilling score. The intensely musical Morris, who has conducted musical luminaries including Metropolitan Opera, Convent Garden and Royal Opera, makes his Rhode Island conducting debut with Bach's *Jesu, meine Freude* featuring the Brown University Chorus.

"Mark Morris embodies the highest level of artistry and shares FirstWorks' commitment to building community through the arts," said Kathleen Pletcher, Executive Artistic Director, FirstWorks. "Mark's signature style couples joyous movement with gorgeous live music. It is really two performances in one."

The FirstWorks Mark Morris Dance Group concert is part of *Widening the Circle: Intersections of Art, Science and Community*, February 21-March 8, 2014. FirstWorks and American Dance

Legacy Initiative, in collaboration with Artists and Scientists as Partners, Brown University, and Mark Morris Dance Group, have formed a partnership to present this series of master classes, lecture demonstrations, performances, and seminars providing unique opportunities for investigation which culminates in the March 8 concert by the Mark Morris Dance Group. Please visit www.first-works.org for more detail. Presented with leading support from the Brown University Creative Arts Council.

About FirstWorks

FirstWorks is a non-profit arts organization that builds the cultural, educational, and economic vitality of our community through world-class performing arts and education programs. Since 2004, FirstWorks has offered Rhode Islanders access to some of the most exciting artists of our time including Yo-Yo Ma & the Silk Road Ensemble, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Wynton Marsalis, Joffrey Ballet, and the master artists of Pakistan through the Caravanserai project (2011-12). Beginning with an unprecedented collaboration with Providence's Department of Art, Culture + Tourism, FirstWorks has produced 22 groundbreaking arts festivals, attracted more than 155,000 participants, presented over 361 international artists and innovators, engaged more than 100 nonprofit community organizations and schools, and grown into a multidimensional arts organization recognized with 15 National Endowment for the Arts grants. In fall 2012, FirstWorks partnered with the City of Providence to present the inaugural FirstWorks Festival: On the Plaza, leading a consortium of 18 organizations to create an event that drew 40,000 people into downtown Providence. In July 2013, the City of Providence and FirstWorks were named recipients of a second NEA Our Town grant to support a community design effort to create a cultural corridor in downtown Providence along Washington Street, and to establish the FirstWorks Festival: On the Plaza as a biennial signature event in Providence. Visit www.first-works.org to learn more.

###