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Prague Symphony



Photo © Paul Kolnik

Music [Symphony No. 38, in D, K.504 \("Prague"\) \(1786\) by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart](#)



Choreography [Richard Tanner](#)

Premiere [February 8, 1990, New York City Ballet, New York State Theater](#)

Original Cast [Heather Watts, Melinda Roy, Jock Soto, Peter Boal, Zippora Karz, Rebecca Metzger, Margaret Tracey, Wendy Whelan, Michael Byars, Jeffrey Edwards, Nilas Martins, Philip Neal](#)

Symphony No. 38 ("Prague") was completed in Vienna on December 6th, 1786. In composing it, Mozart almost certainly had in mind his forthcoming visit to Prague for the production of *The Marriage of Figaro*: it was performed for the first time in the Czech capital in January of the following year. Prague Symphony is unique among Mozart's last symphonies in that he composed it without a minuet; for once, Mozart said all he had to say in three movements only. The symphony begins with an adagio introduction, followed by the first movement proper in allegro. The second movement is an exquisite andante that has poignant touches of melancholy. The presto finale is unambiguously happy, and bubbles along in a continuous flow of delightful melody and high spirits. Richard Tanner danced with Ballet West before Balanchine brought him to New York City Ballet in 1971. He has done three ballets for New York City Ballet, as well as works for Ballet West, Ballet Oklahoma, Miami City Ballet, the Eglevsky Ballet, and Pennsylvania Ballet. Since 1984, he has staged Balanchine works in America and Western Europe. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791), an Austrian, was the greatest composer of his day. He excelled in all forms of music: opera, symphony, concerti for various instruments, chamber, vocal, piano and choral, leaving a legacy that is one of the supreme achievements in musical history. There was nothing in music that Mozart couldn't do; he was considered the finest pianist, organist and conductor in Europe.

"THE DANCE IS THE MOTHER OF ALL LANGUAGES."

— R.G. Collingwood

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