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Mozart Piano Concerto



Photo © Paul Kolnik

Music Piano Concerto No. 17 in G by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



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Choreography Peter Martins

Premiere May 19, 1994, The Diamond Project II, New York City Ballet, New York State Theater

Original Cast Margaret Tracey, Ethan Stiefel, Jenifer Ringer, Alexander Ritter

Average Length 31 min.

Peter Martins has choreographed several ballets to the music of Mozart: Mozart Violin Concerto (1984, for Pennsylvania Ballet), Les Petits Riens (1987) and Mozart Serenade (1989). Of his latest Mozart ballet Martins says: "I have listened to Mozart concertos all my life, but I found myself coming back to this one." Mozart Piano Concerto, created for the Spring 1994 The Diamond Project, is a cascade of neoclassical dance for six men and six women. At the heart of the ballet are elegant duets, lengthy pas de deux for the principal couple and second leading couple, which are highlighted by inventive and challenging partnering as well as bravura solo variations. Peter Martins was born and raised in Denmark, where he began his dance training at age eight at the School of The Royal Danish Ballet. Mr. Martins joined The Royal Danish Ballet in 1964 and was promoted to the rank of Principal Dancer in 1967. It was also in 1967 that he first danced for George Balanchine, which led to his joining New York City Ballet in 1970. Mr. Martins' first ballet, Calcium Light Night, was choreographed in 1977. In 1981 he assumed the title of Ballet Master, a title he shared with George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins. From 1983 to 1989 Mr. Martins and Mr. Robbins served as co-Ballet Masters-in-Chief of New York City Ballet; since 1990 the Company has been under Mr. Martins' direction. Mr. Martins' choreography includes: The Sleeping Beauty, Ash, Jazz (Six Syncopated Movements), set to a commissioned score by

"BALLET IS IMPORTANT AND SIGNIFICANT—YES. BUT FIRST OF ALL, IT IS A PLEASURE."

— George Balanchine

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Wynton Marsalis, and Symphonic Dances, among 75 other ballets he has created. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791), an Austrian, was one of the supreme musical geniuses of all time. He excelled in all forms of music, including opera, symphonies, concerti for various instruments, and chamber, vocal, piano and choral music, leaving a legacy that is one of the greatest achievements in music. Mozart was considered by many to be the finest pianist, organist, and conductor in Europe. He was a famous child prodigy and possessed a natural facility for music that is unsurpassed in the history of the art.

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