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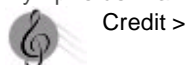
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Music

Excerpts from *La Source* [Naila] (1866) and *Sylvia, ou la Nymphé de Diane* (1876) by Léo Delibes



Choreography

George Balanchine © The George Balanchine Trust

Premiere

November 23, 1968, New York City Ballet, New York State Theater

Original Cast

Violette Verdy, John Prinz

Average Length

24 min.

Balanchine's high regard for Delibes led him to choreograph a pas de deux from *Sylvia* in 1950, which he then expanded into a divertissement in 1965. The present *La Source* uses music from two of Delibes' ballets, *Naila* and *Sylvia*, and includes parts of the earlier pas de deux and divertissement. Léo Delibes (1836-1891) was born in St. Germain du Val and died in Paris. He learned music as a child from his mother and uncle. Although he spent many years as a church organist, he was drawn more to the theater, and he composed many light operas. The decisive advance in his career came in 1870, with his full-length ballet *Coppélia*.

"NEW YORK IS THE ONLY PLACE IN THE WORLD WHERE WE COULD HAVE BUILT THIS COMPANY."

— George Balanchine

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