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The Company

Mission Statement
Ballet Master in Chief
Dancers
Orchestra
Personnel
Volunteers
NYCB Alumni
Repertory Index
The Viewing Room
Brief History
NYCB Lyre
Annual Reports
Job Postings

Home > The Company > Repertory Index Songs of the Auvergne



Photo © Paul Kolnik

Music

Thirteen French folk songs including Bailèro, Lou Coucut, La Pastrouletta è Lou Chibaliè Hé! Beyla-z-y Dau Fé N'ai pas Iéu de Mio, Lo Calhé, Uno Jionto Postouro, Malurous Qu'o Uno Fenno, Brezairola, Chut, Chut, Lou Diziou Bé, Pour l'Enfant, L'Aio dè Rotso, Ound'onorèn Gorda?, Obal Din Lou Limouzi, adapted and orchestrated by Marie-Joseph Canteloube



Credit >

Choreography Peter Martins

Premiere February 6, 1986, New York City Ballet, New York State

Theater

Original Cast Heather Watts, Jock Soto, Soprano Frederica von Stade

Average Length 38 min.

This large work for principal couple, ensemble of 12 dancers, 10 children and soprano evokes the color and atmosphere of the Auvergne region's unique and contradictory landscape of mountains, gorges, extinct volcanoes, verdant pastures and ruined castles. Marie-Joseph Canteloube (1879-1957) was raised in the Auvergne and began collecting and notating the traditional folk music of the region as a student. Between 1923 and 1955, Canteloube published five series of Auvergnat songs whose lyrics are written in the langue d'oc, the unusual dialect of the Auvergne area in southern France that is thought to combine features of an early Celtic language with Latin introduced by Roman invaders. Although Canteloube composed a number of conventional concert works, none ever achieved the critical acclaim or popular appeal of the Chants d'Auvergne.

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

- George Balanchine

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