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**Summerspace (A Lyric Dance)**

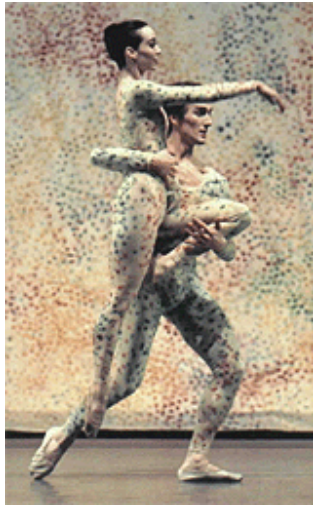


Photo © Paul Kolnik

**Music** Ixion by Morton Feldman

**Choreography** Merce Cunningham

**Premiere** April 14, 1966 (first presented by Merce Cunningham and Dance Company, American Dance Festival, New London, Connecticut)

**Original Cast** Anthony Blum, Deni Lamont, Sara Leland, Kay Mazzo, Patricia Neary, Carol Sumner

**Average Length** 20 min.

In his own words, the choreographer has written about the creation of Summerspace, "The summer part of the title came after the dance was finished, but the notion of space was always present. I fumbled around with steps and written notes about steps, as I often do, but the principal momentum was a concern for steps that carry one through a space, and not only into it, like the passage of birds, stopping for moments on the ground and then going on, or automobiles more relentlessly throbbing along turnpikes and under and over cloverleaves. This led to the idea of using kinds of movement that would be continuous, and carry the dancers into the playing area and out of it."

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— George Balanchine

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