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Symphonic Dances



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Music Symphonic Dances, Opus 45 by Sergei Rachmaninoff
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Choreography Peter Martins

Premiere February 3, 1994, New York City Ballet, New York State Theater

Original Cast Darci Kistler, Nikolaj Hübbe

Average Length 33 min.

Symphonic Dances is a large work for a principal couple, four soloist couples and a corps of 16. Rachmaninoff's lush, complex, and turbulent score provides an opportunity for buoyant ensemble dances set in contrast to two expressive pas de deux for a principal couple that give this work its emotional resonance. The costumes were designed by Santo Loquasto, and the lighting designer was Mark Stanley. Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943), Russian composer, conductor and pianist, studied at the St. Petersburg and Moscow Conservatories. His distinctive musical style is characterized by richness of melody, harmony and texture, a particular flair for vocal music and a sensitivity to Russian poetry. His Second Piano Concerto (1900-1) brought him international fame and is still one of the most performed orchestral works. After the Revolution of 1917, he made his home in America where he gave regular concerts and recitals to support himself and his family. His extensive gramophone recordings preserve his own expressive piano style. He died at his home in Beverly Hills, California.

"NEW YORK CITY BALLET HAS PROVIDED A HOME FOR SOME OF THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY ARTISTS OF THE CENTURY."

— Peter Martins

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