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Urban Dances



Photo © Paul Kolnik

Music Urban Dances (Dance Suite in Five Movements) by Richard Danielpour
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Choreography Miriam Mahdavian

Premiere June 4, 1997, The Diamond Project III, New York City Ballet, New York State Theater

Original Cast Miranda Weese, Jock Soto, Jennie Somogyi, Edwaard Liang, Peter Hansen

Average Length 26 min.

Miriam Mahdavian was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and moved to New York in 1968 to join the School of American Ballet. She was a corps member of New York City Ballet from 1980 to 1993. Miss Mahdavian began her choreographic work in 1985 when she participated in the Carlisle Project in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. During her tenure with New York City Ballet, she choreographed several works for the Company including *The Newcomers* in 1988, *Dance Preludes* in 1991, and *Images* in 1992. She was awarded the General Electric Foundation's American Choreographer Award in 1989, Lincoln Center's Martin E. Segal Award in 1991, the Mae L. Wien Award for Choreography and a Dutchess County Art Council Fellowship in 1993. Richard Danielpour, born in New York City, studied at the New England Conservatory and The Juilliard School. A pianist as well as a composer, he is a member of the composition faculty at Manhattan School of Music. Among the more than 30 organizations that have commissioned his music are the New York Philharmonic, the San Francisco Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. *Urban Dances* (Dance Suite in Five Movements) is the first work by Mr. Danielpour commissioned by New York City Ballet.

"WHAT ATTRACTS ME VERY MUCH TO THE COMPANY IS THAT THERE ARE REALLY NO SET RULES."

— Peter Martins

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