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Twilight Courante

Music keyboard suites (1720-33) by George Frideric Handel

Choreography Stephen Baynes

Costumes Holly Hynes

Premiere May 22, 2002, The Diamond Project V, New York City Ballet, New York State Theater

Original Cast Wendy Whelan, Jennie Somogyi, Abi Stafford, Rachel Rutherford, Nikolaj Hübbe, Sébastien Marcovici, Benjamin Millepied, Alexander Ritter

In the atmospheric stillness before nightfall, a community of eight young dancers explores a range of human relationships through classical movement. Lyrical partnering reveals a romantic array of emotions. Aspects of relationships and changing emotions are danced in a twilight world and so, remain mysterious and elusive. George Frideric Handel was born a German in Halle on February 23, 1685, and died an English subject in London on April 14, 1759. He is considered to be one of the greatest composers of the Baroque era in both vocal and instrumental music and was a great virtuoso on the organ and harpsichord. According to legend, while in Italy (1707-1710) Handel had a duel on both harpsichord and organ with Domenico Scarlatti. According to Harold Schonberg, "As harpsichordists both were declared equal. As organist, Handel won easily." It has been said that the 12 concerti grossi of Handel's Opus 6 rank with Bach's Brandenburg Concerti as "one of the twin peaks of the Baroque concerto." Stephen Baynes is a Resident Choreographer of The Australian Ballet.

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— Peter Martins

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