

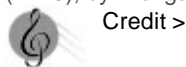
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Mozart Serenade



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Music Serenade Nos. 4 and 5 in D Major, K.V. 203 (1774) and 204 (1775), by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



Choreography Peter Martins

Premiere February 2, 1989, New York City Ballet, New York State Theater

Original Cast Margaret Tracey, Roma Sosenko, Zippora Karz, Marisa Cerveris, Jeffrey Edwards, Michael Byars, Ben Huys, Philip Neal

This ensemble ballet for four principal couples, four women demi-soloists, and eight corps women, showcases some of the Company's brightest young talent. The silver-gray draperies impart the aura of a ballroom, with the dancers dressed in shades of formal silver (gray, white and black tones) in costumes suggestive of the 18th century. The choreography for Mozart Serenade matches the music's lace-like progressions and has a dazzlingly complex structure, which not only highlights the classical virtuosity of the dancers in a fresh and lively way, but does so with unusual and densely symmetrical patterns. Born January 27, 1756 in Salzburg, Austria, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was already composing by the age of five. His father, a violinist and composer, used his gifted son to his own commercial advantage, introducing him to various courts throughout Europe. Mozart spent most of his later life in his beloved Vienna, where he lived frugally by teaching and by borrowing; he eventually received a nominal salary as court composer to the Emperor. Despite his success, especially in his operatic work, there were no lucrative commissions, and Mozart died in poverty in December 1791, aged thirty-five.

"A BALLET IS A MOVEMENT IN TIME AND SPACE, A LIVING MOMENT."

— George Balanchine

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