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Appalachia Waltz



Photo © Paul Kolnik

Music Excerpts from Appalachia Waltz, by Edgar Meyer and Mark O'Connor



Choreography Miriam Mahdavian

Premiere June 20, 2000, 2000 Diamond Project, New York City Ballet, New York State Theater

Original Cast Jenifer Ringer, Jennie Somogyi, Albert Evans, Nilas Martins

Average Length 28 min.

Appalachia Waltz is the title piece of a 16-part instrumental work composed by fiddler/violinist Mark O'Connor and double bassist Edgar Meyer. The piece explores the roots of American folk music in contemporary arrangements. Authentic folk tunes combine with new melodies, heavily influenced by traditional music. Mark O'Connor (b. 1961) was named Musician of the Year by the Country Music Association for six consecutive years (1990-95). Born in Seattle, O'Connor received early classical training. His parents were both dance instructors. He began studying guitar at age six and moved on to violin at age 11. O'Connor absorbed knowledge from different genres and styles, working with masters including Texas fiddler Benny Thomasson and French jazz violinist Stephane Grappelli. O'Connor's own compositions include a symphonic concerto for fiddle. Edgar Meyer (b. 1960) began studying bass with his father at age five and grew up with a wide range of musical influences from classical to country. At Indiana University Meyer continued to study different styles assuming a unique identity. He combines a classical career with a blues drenched compositional style. Meyer lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

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— George Balanchine

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