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Bet Ann's Dance



Photo © Paul Kolnik

Music Steal the Thunder (1984) by Jean Piché; Angels (1983) by Gary Kulesha

Choreography John Alleyne

Premiere May 29, 1992, 1992 Diamond Project, New York City Ballet, New York State Theater

Original Cast Stacey Calvert, Kathleen Tracey, Simone Schumacher, Wendy Whelan, Jeffrey Edwards, Albert Evans, Lindsay Fischer, Nilas Martins

"Ann is no one in particular, and the title doesn't really mean anything. I like odd titles and I've called some of my previous ballets Interrogating Slam, Split House Geometric and Go Slow, Walter. This new one is a high-energy piece that's an exploration of the company's dancers and my mind."--John Alleyne

John Alleyne was born in Barbados and raised in Canada, where he trained as a dancer at The National Ballet School of Canada. In 1978 he joined the Stuttgart Ballet where he took part in choreography workshops. The Stuttgart Ballet premiered his work *Wiederkehr* in 1985. Mr. Alleyne danced with The National Ballet of Canada. Jean Piché is at the forefront of the new music movement in Canada, and has been creating experimental, electroacoustic, and computer compositions since the late 1960's. Born in Québec, he studied in the United States at Stanford University, in Canada at Simon Fraser and Laval Universities, and in the Netherlands. He joined the faculty of music at the University of Montréal in 1988. He has had many special commissions, including one from the Canadian Pavilion at Expo '86 in Vancouver. *Steal the Thunder* is a composition for tympani, gongs and computer (which manipulates the sounds created by a kettledrum). Mr. Piché has described *Steal the Thunder*, which extends the range of sounds and rhythms usually composed for tympani, as being "about heroes; mythical heroes; the men and women who tame fire, move mountains and make the rain fall. It is about strength, light and purpose." Gary Kulesha, Canadian pianist, composer, and conductor, studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, with John McCabe in London, and with John

"THE DANCE IS THE MOTHER OF ALL LANGUAGES."

— R.G. Collingwood

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Corigliano in New York. Mr. Kulesha has been Principal Conductor with the Festival Theater, Stratford Festival, and the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Canadian Contemporary Music Workshop and the Composers' Orchestra. His works range from orchestral to chamber to experimental, such as Angels, which is for marimba and prepared tape. Mr. Kulesha has stated that his "influences are as diverse as Mozart, Brahms... serialism, minimalism, jazz, rock and new wave." His compositions often use mathematical procedures to determine their form, but never to the exclusion of expressiveness.

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