

PROGRAM NOTES

Midwinter Dreams

Love Fear Loss

Choreography by Ricardo Amarante
Music by Édith Piaf. Arrangement by Nataliya Chepureenko

Inspired by the life of French singer Édith Piaf, *Love Fear Loss* explores the highs and excitement of infatuation through to the fear of intimacy and the inevitable loss of love.

World renown French singer and lyricist, Piaf released mostly ballads focusing on love, loss and sorrow. Her music was a foreshadowing of her own fate which reflected on the melancholy in her personal life.

Ricardo Amarante, uses Piaf's life as the backdrop to explore the beauty that arises in the trials and tribulations of life with three duets. Each duet evokes emotions of unwavering love, indifference, fear and the tragedy of loss.

Concerto Grosso

Choreography by Helgi Tomasson
Music by Francesco Geminiani on a theme by Arcangelo Corelli

Concerto Grosso is a showcase of the agility, strength and evolution of the male dancer. The piece highlights five male dancers, and shows the power and complexity of male dancing outside of jumps and turns.

During the Renaissance era of ballet, male dancers were the focal point on the ballet stage and the technical ability of the male dancer during that time was not contingent on their ability to jump and turn. In fact, male dancing in King Louis XIV's era historically evolved from slow, adage quality movement in which the male dancers were required to show a range of emotion in their dancing.

Tomasson's desire to show that male dancers can evoke emotion, dance poetically with freedom in movement is what makes *Concerto Grosso* an exceptionally powerful piece. The piece demonstrates that male dancers can take up space and execute elegant, poetic movement with dynamic dancing in a virtuosic display of strength and agility.

Snowblind

Choreography by Cathy Marston
Music: Philip Feeney's arrangement of works by Arvo Part, Arthur Foote, Amy Beach
and Feeney's original compositions

Snowblind is a narrative work based on Edith Wharton's 1911 novella, "Ethan Frome." The ballet tells the story of a love triangle and a marriage that has been irretrievably broken.

The novella depicts despair and forbidden emotions set against the austere New England countryside. Marston uses this as the backdrop for her work using the imagery of snow to evoke emotion through the quality of movement. Snow is representative of fascination, beauty and playfulness but also representative of heaviness.

This story is reminiscent of the story ballets from the Romantic era. Romantic era ballets depicted love and loss, foreshadowing and tragedy, with metaphors left open to interpretation by the audience. It was a defining era in which poets, writers, dancers and musicians began to express themselves with an emphasis on imagination, mood, emotion and storytelling. Marston's dramatic interpretation of Wharton's novella creates a moment in which the audience can see remnants of the Romantic era, with rich poetic qualities translated beautifully on today's ballet stage.

Classical Symphony

Choreography by Yuri Possokhov
Music by Sergei Prokofiev: Symphony No. 1 in D Major "Classical Symphony"

Inspired by his boyhood training at the Bolshoi Ballet, *Classical Symphony*, is a tribute to not only the Bolshoi but to Possokhov's beloved and respected teacher, Peter Pestov. The ballet is not just about artistry but about what inspires human beings. *Classical Symphony* is a neoclassical ballet reminiscent of Balanchine's influence and aesthetic. Neoclassical incorporates the romanticism of ballet with modernity.

Possokhov's *Classical Symphony* also references qualities of the Bolshoi Ballet which is known for focusing on strength, musicality, clarity of technique, and personal expression.

The music is by Prokofiev, a Russian composer, pianist and conductor known for his ballet compositions including *Romeo & Juliet*. He is also famous for composing the 1st and 5th Symphonies which numerous choreographers have used as the music for ballet works. However, his work Symphony No. 1 in D Major "Classical Symphony," composed in 1916 and premiered April 18, 1918, has remained one of Prokofiev's most popular works.



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