



*International
Presentations of
Music & Dance*

THE UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Alvin Ailey
American Dance Theater

ALVIN AILEY, *Artistic Director*

MARY BARNETT, *Associate Artistic Director*

Sarita Allen
Carl Bailey
Marilyn Banks
Barbara Pounce Beckles
April Berry
Roman Brooks
Kevin Brown
Ronald Brown
Alistair Butler
Debora Chase

*On leave of absence

Masazumi Chaya
Daniel Clark
Gary DeLoatch
Patricia Dingle
Neisha Folkes
Ralph Glenmore
Judith Jamison*
Mari Kajiwara
Keith McDaniel
Deborah Manning
Sharrell Mesh

Michihiko Oka
Nathaniel Orr
Stanley Perryman
Danita Ridout
Maxine Sherman
Linda Spriggs
Gregory Stewart
Dudley Williams
Donna Wood*
Sara Yarborough

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 11, 1981, AT 8:00
POWER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

The Alvin Ailey Company has come a long way since its 1958 debut with seven dancers at New York's 92nd Street YW-YMHA. As early as 1962 the Company appeared in the Far East, Australia, and London, and in 1970 captured first prize in the International Dance Festival in Paris. Also in 1970 the Company created a sensation on a U.S. State Department-sponsored tour to the Soviet Union, performing in towns where Western dancers had never been seen before. Subsequent tours have taken the dancers to Eastern and Western Europe, Scandinavia, Greece, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Africa—all with seasons sold out before they began. The Company now numbers 30 dancers, with a repertory ensemble company, a workshop, a well-established school, and a repertoire that boasts such Ailey classics as *Revelations* and *Blues Suite*, as well as 50 ballets by over 30 major choreographers.

The Ailey Company first performed in Ann Arbor in 1969; this is the ensemble's seventh visit to the city for a total of 17 performances. The three concerts this week comprise a residency under the Dance Touring Program, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Michigan Council for the Arts.

NIGHT CREATURE

(First performance, April 1975)

Choreography: ALVIN AILEY

Music: DUKE ELLINGTON ("Night Creature")*

Costumes: JANE GREENWOOD

Lighting: CHENAULT SPENCE

"Night creatures, unlike stars, do not come *out* at night—they come *on*, each thinking that before the night is out he or she will be the star."

—DUKE ELLINGTON

First Movement

MAXINE SHERMAN GARY DELOATCH

Linda Spriggs

April Berry

Keith McDaniel

Carl Bailey

Danita Ridout

Barbara Pounce Beckles

Daniel Clark

Kevin Brown

Patricia Dingle

Sharrell Mesh

Stanley Perryman

Ronald Brown

Second Movement

MAXINE SHERMAN DUDLEY WILLIAMS

and The Company

Third Movement

MAXINE SHERMAN GARY DELOATCH

and The Company

In 1955, Duke Ellington was commissioned to write a piece to be played by the Symphony of the Air in concert with his orchestra. *Night Creature* was the outcome, and it was subsequently performed not only by the Symphony of the Air, but also by the symphonies of Buffalo, Detroit, and New Haven, as well as by the National Symphony in Washington, D.C. In 1963, the first and second movements were recorded with the Stockholm Symphony, and the third movement with the Paris Symphony.

Originally commissioned by Herman Krawitz and Robert Weiner.

* By arrangement with Tempo Music, Inc., publisher and copyright owner.

TREADING

(First performance, February 1979)

Choreography: ELISA MONTE

Music: STEVE REICH

Costumes: MARISOL

Lighting: BEVERLY EAMMONS

DANITA RIDOUT KEITH MCDANIEL

Elisa Monte is a member of the Martha Graham Dance Company where she has danced many leading roles, including a part especially created for her by Miss Graham. She began her career under the guidance of Agnes DeMille and has appeared with Pilobolus Dance Theater, The Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, as well as appearing throughout Great Britain in her own duet program, entitled "Singles and Doubles." Miss Monte will be appearing with her Company in June in the New York Dance Umbrella season at New York City Center.

"Treading" was made possible in part by a grant from New York State Council on the Arts.

INTERMISSION

THE RIVER

Choreography: ALVIN AILEY
Original Score: DUKE ELLINGTON ("The River")
Costumes: FRANK THOMPSON
Lighting: NICOLA CERNOVITCH

" . . . of birth . . . of the well-spring of life . . . of
reaffirmation . . . of the heavenly anticipation of rebirth . . . "

—DUKE ELLINGTON

Spring

ALISTAIR BUTLER

April Berry, Debora Chase, Patricia Dingle, Neisha Folkes
Deborah Manning, Sharrell Mesh, Barbara Pounce Beckles, Danita Ridout
Carl Bailey, Ronald Brown, Kevin Brown, Daniel Clark
Ralph Glenmore, Gregory Stewart, Nathaniel Orr

Meander

KEVIN BROWN APRIL BERRY CARL BAILEY

Giggling Rapids

LINDA SPRIGGS MASAZUMI CHAYA

Lake

SARA YARBOROUGH ROMAN BROOKS

Vortex

LINDA SPRIGGS

Falls

GARY DELOATCH ROMAN BROOKS KEVIN BROWN STANLEY PERRYMAN

Riba (Mainstream)

MICHIHIKO OKA

April Berry, Debora Chase, Patricia Dingle, Neisha Folkes
Deborah Manning, Sharrell Mesh, Barbara Pounce Beckles, Danita Ridout
Carl Bailey, Ronald Brown, Kevin Brown, Daniel Clark
Ralph Glenmore, Gregory Stewart, Nathaniel Orr

Twin Cities

ALISTAIR BUTLER SARA YARBOROUGH

April Berry, Debora Chase, Patricia Dingle, Neisha Folkes
Deborah Manning, Sharrell Mesh, Barbara Pounce Beckles, Danita Ridout
Carl Bailey, Ronald Brown, Kevin Brown, Daniel Clark
Ralph Glenmore, Gregory Stewart, Nathaniel Orr

Originally commissioned by American Ballet Theatre and performed in 1970, *The River* represented the major collaboration between Duke Ellington and Alvin Ailey, although Ailey had choreographed part of *My People*, the show Ellington produced in Chicago seven years earlier. The original idea behind the music was to depict the rise and course of a river from source to sea, with some attention necessarily given to events on either bank. Ellington characteristically improvised on this idea, translating it into an allegory on birth, life, and rebirth.

INTERMISSION

REVELATIONS

(First performance, January 1960)

Choreography: ALVIN AILEY

Music: Traditional

Decor and Costumes: VES HARPER

Lighting: NICOLA CERNOVITCH

“This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.”

This suite explores motivations and emotions of American Negro religious music which, like its heir the blues, takes many forms—true spirituals with their sustained melodies, song-sermons, gospel songs and holy blues—songs of trouble, of love, of deliverance.

“Spirituals sing of woe triumphantly, knowing well that all rivers will be crossed and the Promised land is just beyond the stream. The Spirituals ask no pity for their words ride on the strongest of melodies, the melody of faith. That is why there is joy in their singing, peace in their music, and strength in their soul.”

—LANGSTON HUGHES

Pilgrim of Sorrow

- I Been Buked The Company
(Arranged by Hall Johnson)
- Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel KEITH MCDANIEL, DEBORA CHASE,
(Arranged by James Miller) NEISHA FOLKES
- Fix Me Jesus SARITA ALLEN, MICHIIHIKO OKA
(Arranged by Hall Johnson)

Take Me To The Water

- Processional DANITA RIDOUT, RALPH GLENMORE,
ROMAN BROOKS, STANLEY PERRYMAN
- Wading in the Water SHARRELL MESH, ALISTAIR BUTLER, APRIL BERRY
- I Want to be Ready DUDLEY WILLIAMS
(Arranged by James Miller)

Move, Members, Move

- Sinner Man GARY DELOATCH, CARL BAILEY, RONALD BROWN
- The Day is Past and Gone The Company
- You May Run On The Company
(Arranged by Brother John Sellers and Howard Roberts)
- Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham The Company

(All arrangements by Howard Roberts unless otherwise noted.)