

# **Ballet, Ballroom & Bluegrass**

## **Nine Sinatra Songs**

Choreography by Twyla Tharp  
Staged by Elaine Kudo  
Songs sung by Frank Sinatra  
With appreciation to Sinatra Enterprises  
and The Frank Sinatra Foundation  
Original costume designs by Oscar de la Renta  
Lighting originally by Jennifer Tipton  
Adapted lighting by Nate McGaha  
Scenic design originally by Santo Loquasto

For Rhoda and Jerry Oster – Twyla Tharp

I.

Softly As I Leave You  
Anna Gerberich Joseph Watson

II.

Strangers in the Night  
Jamie Dee Addul Manzano

III.

One For My Baby (and One More For the Road)  
Traci Gilchrest David Ingram

IV.

My Way  
Anna Gerberich Joseph Watson  
Jamie Dee Addul Manzano  
Traci Gilchrest David Ingram

V.

Somethin' Stupid  
Sarah James Max Levy 9/17 & 9/19  
Sarah Hayes Watson Max Levy 9/18

VI.

All the Way  
Kara Wilkes Dustin Layton

VII.

Forget Domani  
Alessandra Ball Justin VanWeest

VIII.

That's Life  
Rebecca Carmazzi Sasha Janes

IX.

My Way

## Company

notes:

Following the workings of her Sinatra-inspired duo, *Once More Frank*, and in the wake of her investigation of the methods of turn-of-the-century exhibition/ballroom dancing, Tharp created her Nine Sinatra Songs. Each one of the songs she has chosen (seven duets and two recapitulation dances—one for the first three couples, another for all seven) has its own musical and dance/theater character. The basic unit of each dancing couple includes Tharp's reinforcement of the traditional ballroom unit, which is upscaled by the active participation of the female dancer.

The opener is based on the theme of infatuation, the next Tharp has characterized as a "bastardized Tango." Another was not based on any particular dance form, but showed a "close" couple in late night, knowing rapport. After a re-gathering of all the "characters" involved, a new dancing couple lends tart, comic relief. Unhurried and unshowy glamour bathes the next dance, while the next, couldn't be showier. This duo plays it straight, fast, front and center, in the manner of actual ballroom competition entrants. The capstone couple is one engrossed in a battle of wits and maneuvers. They play it hot, hard and furious, each giving as hard as he or she gets. The final swell is a repeat of "My Way," recorded later than the first recapitulation's "My Way" accompaniment. The dance has become a wildly popular Tharp classic, presenting its view of 1950s social dancing through the nostalgic and yet sharpened eyes of the 1980s. Oscar de la Renta's dresses and tuxes flash with a similar double edge of present and previous ages.

### **MAP**

Choreography by Alonzo King  
Music by Arvo Pärt\*, "Ludis" and "Fratres"  
Lighting design by Nate McGaha  
Costume Design by Robert Rosenwasser

#### I

First Direction    Look Up  
Alessandra Ball    Anna Gerberich    Dustin Layton 9/17 & 9/19  
Jamie Dee    Kara Wilkes    Dustin Layton 9/18

#### II

Second Direction    Promise  
Addul Manzano

#### III

Third Direction    Persist  
Traci Gilchrest    Sasha Janes  
Rebecca Carmazzi    David Ingram

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notes:

*MAP* was especially created for North Carolina Dance Theatre in March 1998. Challenging dancers and audiences alike, the production demonstrates Alonzo King's extensive range and unique style. Called "exquisitely crafted" and "gem-like" by *The*

*Charlotte Observer*, the work is a metaphor for the different paths individuals must choose in life.

## **Shindig**

Choreography by Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux

Music by Greasy Beans\*

Lighting design by Nate McGaha

Costume design by Betsy Blackmore

Rebecca Carmazzi Sasha Janes

Alessandra Ball

David Ingram Sasha Janes Dustin Layton

Addul Manzano Sam Shapiro

Alessandra Ball Mary Ellen Beaudreau Rebecca Carmazzi

Traci Gilchrest Anna Gerberich Sarah James

Sarah Hayes Watson Kara Wilkes

Max Levy Kendall Teague Justin VanWeest

\*Song Selections: "Get Up John," "Lyndee," "Nine Pound Hammer," "Pistolero," "LaMarie Bell," "Rocky Broad Shuffle," "Dog Patch Scramble"

notes:

Featuring live bluegrass music from the Greasy Beans, *Shindig* combines classical ballet steps with a bluegrass twang. *Shindig* has received critical acclaim and experienced nationwide success. When NC Dance Theatre performed *Shindig* in New York in 2004, *The New York Times* wrote, "A lively mix of toe shoes and bluegrass set the audience cheering at the Joyce Theater." Deborah Jowitt from *The Village Voice* wrote the performance was "a lot of smartly choreographed showing off and having fun" and Terry Rindfleisch from *La Crosse Tribune* wrote it combined "explosive ballet and dance mixed just right with funk, folk, blues and bluegrass music."

As one of NC Dance Theatre's signature pieces, *Shindig* was most recently performed as part of cARTwheels, a North Carolina Arts Council initiative, which provides arts programs for elementary school children. "I'm very traditional. But somehow I just discovered bluegrass by chance through a friend of mine, and it felt natural to put steps on that, with women on pointe and guys in boots. The piece is really relaxed and really fun," said Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux.