

## ***Concerto Barocco***

Choreography by **George Balanchine** ©The George Balanchine Trust

Music by **Johann Sebastian Bach\***

Staged by **Miami City Ballet**

Lighting design by **John Hall**

If any ballet can be considered Balanchine's signature work it is *Concerto Barocco* — simple, yet exalted; formal, yet with jazzy accents. Eight women in plain white leotards comprise a corps de ballet — they never leave the stage. Two ballerinas lead the first and third movements, representing Bach's first and second violins as they echo and contrast each other's steps. In the second movement, a man joins the first "violin" for a ravishing pas de deux — an extended passage of soaring lifts and profound connections. For all its deceptive modesty, *Barocco's* variety of invention, structural genius, and consummate detail is unparalleled, and its history is crucial to the development of ballet in our time — from it derives the revolutionary school of plotless works that we now equate with 20th Century neoclassicism. This is Balanchine at his greatest — in Alastair Macaulay's recent phrase, "dense, unstoppable, sublime."

Miami City Ballet premiere: April 22, 1987, Bailey Concert Hall, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

*\*Double Violin Concerto in D minor*

The performance of *Concerto Barocco*, a Balanchine® Ballet, is presented by arrangement with The George Balanchine Trust\_ and has been produced in accordance with the Balanchine Style® and Balanchine Technique® Service standards established and provided by the Trust.