

WORLD PREMIERE

TIMING: 40:00

THE SEASONS

Choreography by Alexei Ratmansky,
Inspired by Marius Petipa's original production

Music by Alexander Glazunov

Costumes by Robert Perdziola

Lighting by Mark Stanley

Alexei Ratmansky's *The Seasons* is based on the allegorical ballet of the same name by Marius Petipa, which received its premiere in February 1900 at the Imperial Theater of the Hermitage, the Winter Palace, in St. Petersburg. *The Seasons* was one of three ballets, along with *Les Ruses d'amour* or *The Trials of Danis* and *Harlequinade*, commissioned by Ivan Vsevolozhsky, director of the Imperial Theaters, and created by Petipa for the 1900-1901 season. Alexander Glazunov, who had previously composed the music for the ballet *Raymonda*, wrote the score for *The Seasons* as well as for *Les Ruses d'amour*.

Ratmansky's ballet follows broadly the outline of Petipa's scenario in its evocation of the four seasons and its allegorical characters. For Ratmansky, *The Seasons* represents a "celebration of classical ballet." Unlike *Harlequinade*, for which some choreographic notations exist and were used by Ratmansky for his 2018 staging of the ballet for ABT, none survive for *The Seasons*.

Petipa's one-act plotless work, a *ballet divertissement*, illustrates the four seasons in a series of tableaux, beginning with Winter, followed by Spring, the character Zephyr among an assemblage of enchanted flowers and birds, then Summer and the Spirit of Corn, with satyrs and fauns. In Autumn, the ballet culminates in a *bacchanale* of the seasons, leading to apotheosis, the revelation of the stars. The illustrious cast of the 1900 premiere included Alexei Bulgakov (Winter), Anna Pavlova (Frost), Olga Preobrazhenskaya (the Rose), Matilda Kschessinskaya (the Spirit of the Corn) and Pavel Gerdt (Bacchus).

(more)

SYNOPSIS – Page 2

The Seasons received its World Premiere on May 20, 2019 at the Metropolitan Opera House, danced by Aran Bell, Hee Seo, Katherine Williams, Catherine Hurlin, Luciana Paris, James Whiteside, Sarah Lane, Skylar Brandt, Isabella Boylston, Blaine Hoven, Arron Scott, Tyler Maloney, Cassandra Trenary and Calvin Royal III.

It represents Artist in Residence Alexei Ratmansky's 16th ballet for ABT and celebrates the occasion of his 10-year anniversary with the Company.

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2018/2019