

Limón

LICENSING REPERTORY



A CHOREOGRAPHIC OFFERING

A Joyful and kaleidoscopic tapestry of community celebrating Limón's mentor, Doris Humphrey. An exuberant and musical celebration of dancing itself.

"'A Choreographic Offering', revealed sparks of vitality...a luscious spontaneity... this was alive.'"

- The New York Times

Choreography: José Limón

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach

Cast: 12 - 22 dancers

Running Time: 12 - 58 minutes



Limón

CHACONNE

Celebrated for its musicality and emotional power, this was a solo Limón created for himself. With Chaconne, part of the intensity we feel is watching the performer rising to the challenge of form.

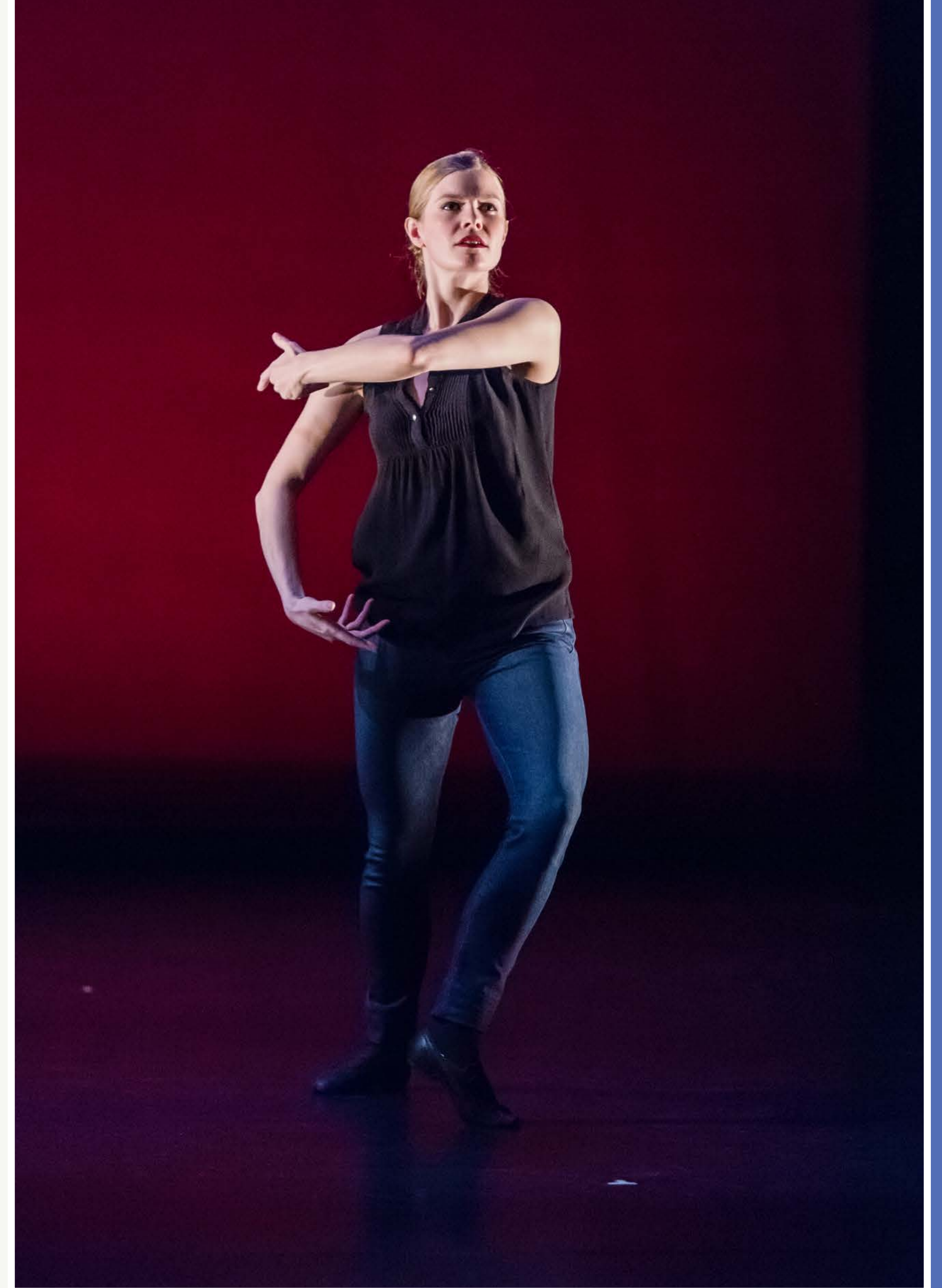
“Limón’s choreography goes beyond zestful musicality, revealing his mastery of composition and emotional modulation. This Mexican man traveled far to realize his dreams and left a legacy on par with Alvin Ailey and Martha Graham.” — The DancEnthusiast

Choreography: José Limón

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach

Cast: Solo or in relay format with 3 - 5 dancers, or as an ensemble.

Running Time: 10 minutes



Limón

CONCERTO GROSSO

Limón at his most classical, this three-part choreographic invention evokes the formal beauty of the high baroque and reflects the contrasting moods of the music's movements: the elegance of the opening fugue; the tender melancholy of the largo, and the brilliance of the finale.

"[Limón] took his place unquestionably as one of the most important artists in contemporary dance."
— The New York Times

Choreography: José Limón
Music: Antonio Vivaldi
Cast: 3 or 9 dancers
Running Time: 13 minutes



Limón

DANCES FOR ISADORA

Lushly musical with Chopin piano, this wonderfully-diverse set of five solos evoke aspects and periods of the life of Isadora Duncan whom Limón regarded as his “dance mother.”

“It breathes honorably of another era and hence remains well worth seeing.” — The New York Times

Choreography: José Limón

Music: Frédéric Chopin

Cast: 5 solos

Running Time: 20 minutes



Limón

THE EMPEROR JONES

Limón re-imagines the classic Eugene O'Neill play. A phantasmagoric and powerful piece of theater set to a dramatic score. The Emperor Jones climbs out of the pit of enslavement only to impose it on others. Thoughts of his comrades in slavery leap out of the past to taunt him. He becomes what he once despised. An ironic portrait of cruelty begetting cruelty.

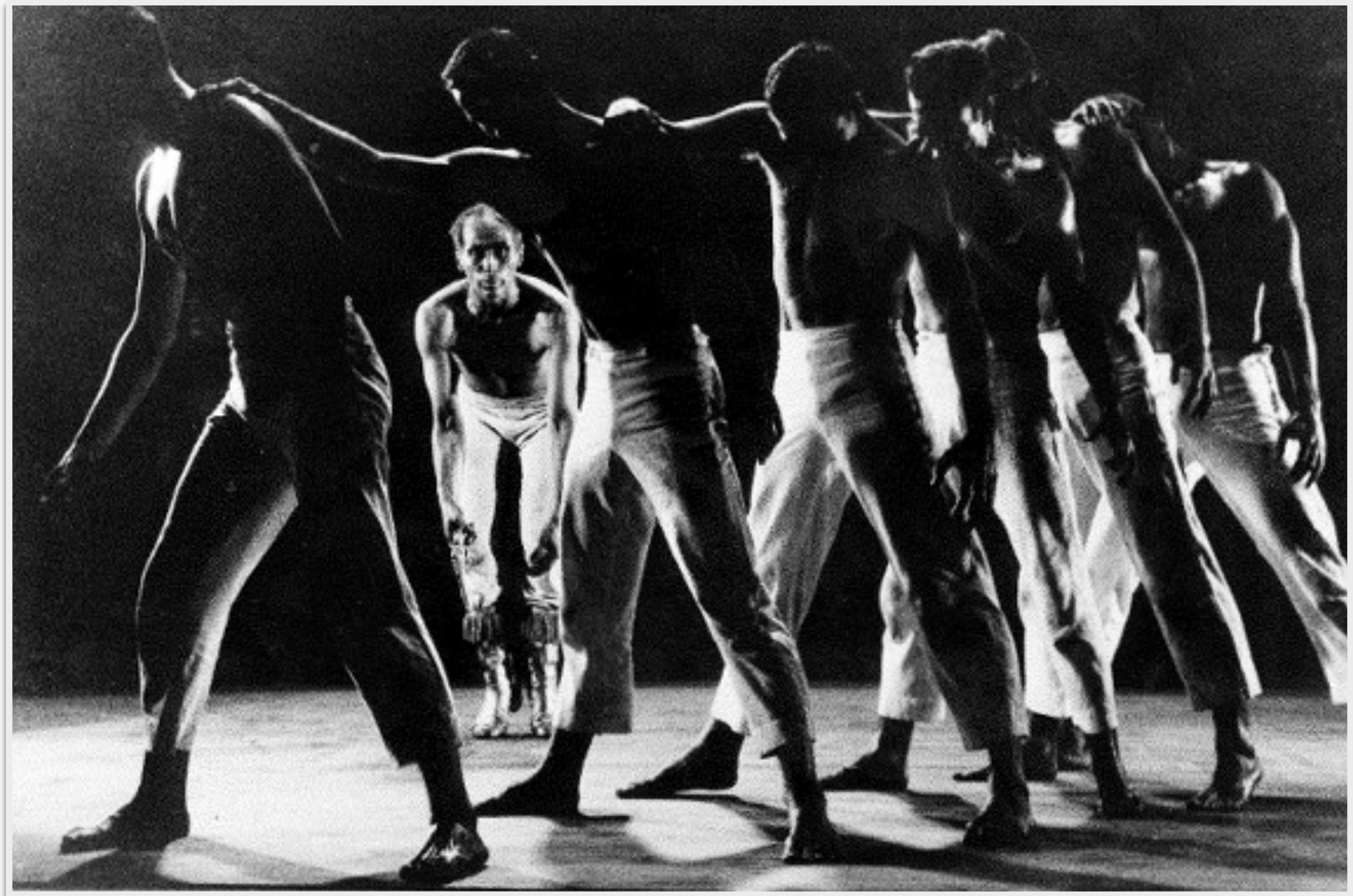
"Mr. Limón succeeded in creating a work of much power and of gripping intensity" — Special Report to The New York Times

Choreography: José Limón

Music: Hector Villa Lobos

Cast: 5 dancers

Running Time: 24 minutes



Limón

THE EXILES

The Exiles is a virtuosic duet that carries a powerful emotional world. It is a story of the expulsion from Eden, of immigrants to the United States, of refugees. It is every story of leaving behind the familiar and venturing into the unknown.

“Not only powerful but showing an enormous range of emotions...Their off-kilter leaps and turns, and their intricate duets were pure passion.” — Reading Eagle

Choreography: José Limón

Music: Arnold Schoenberg

Cast: 2 dancers

Running Time: 18 minutes



Limón

LA MALINCHE

This 1949 trio, the first work Limón created for his own company, is a product of Limón's childhood memories of Mexican fiestas. With three characters, La Malinche, El Conquistador, and El Indio, the work exemplifies his deeply rooted and personal invocations of Mexican culture and an introspective relationship to self-identity and community.

"A winning piece choreographed by Mr Limón... Altogether a most delightful work." — The New York Times

Choreography: José Limón

Music: Norman Lloyd

Cast: 3 dancers

Running Time: 16 minutes



Limón

MAZURKAS

Mazurkas is a lyrical work of exuberant and musical dancing. After a visit to post-WWII Poland, Limón created this to honor the spirit of the Polish people.

“Grandiloquently conceived by Limón...[Mazurkas is] an ode to joy, seemingly urging the music on.” — The New York Times

Choreography: José Limón

Music: Frédéric Chopin

Cast: 7-9 dancers. It can be performed with the piano onstage and suites can be created from its solos, duets, trio, quartet, and group dances.

Running Time: 20-40 minutes



Limón

MISSA BREVIS

Limón's powerful choreography is a memento to human resilience and the cities destroyed during WWII. The score is written for mixed chorus and organ, and the Company often performs the work with live music in monumental spaces such as Riverside Church in New York City and the National Cathedral in Washington, DC.

"What could be more relevant today, than this anti-war masterpiece...". —Dance Enthusiast

"A very beautiful and poignant piece — a celebration of the dauntlessness of the human spirit."
— The New York Times

Choreography: José Limón

Music: Zoltán Kodály

Cast: 10-22 dancers

Running Time: 40 minutes



Limón

THE MOOR'S PAVANE

Based on Shakespeare's "Othello", *The Moor's Pavane* is a picture of the corrosive force of jealousy and the destruction of good by evil. The stately and formal choreography provides a stark contrast to the emotional and passionate characters in this tragic story.

"'The Moor's Pavane' is one of Limón's most critically acclaimed pieces. Originally performed in 1949, one would find it hard to believe that this Shakespearian variation could continue to be relevant seventy years later. And yet, with tones of deception, chaos, mistrust and injustice, suddenly 'The Moor's Pavane' becomes eerily appropriate and suited to this year"
— Eye on Dance

Choreography: José Limón

Music: Henry Purcell (arranged by Simon Sadoff)

Cast: 4 dancers

Running Time: 21 minutes



Limón

ORFEO

“Orfeo” is Limón at his most poetic. Orfeo’s love and loss of Eurydice and his failed attempt to rescue his beloved from the dead is brought to life by the urgent and haunting choreography set to a score by Beethoven.

“...an efficient and moving retelling of the Orpheus and Eurydice myth -as interpreted by [Limón] a mature artist.”
— Theater Scene

Choreography: José Limón

Music: Ludwig Van Beethoven, String Quartet Opus 95, #11

Cast: 5 dancers

Running Time: 18 minutes



Limón

PSALM

Drawn by the Jewish story of The Righteous", Limón weaves together mysticism, ritual, and history into a stunning choreographic achievement of anguish and joy. Psalm counterpoints emotionally evocative solo work with a powerful rhythmic ensemble and a rich sense of spatial architecture. Psalm can be danced to its original Eugene Lester score or the compelling Jon Magnussen score created in 2002.

"Elating... Limón knew how to sculpt the stage with movement... Wonderful to see...Psalm's suspensions, glides, and the staccato changes elicit our participation. Even as we sit, we breathe with the dancers." — DancEnthusiast

Choreography: José Limón
Music: Jon Magnussen or Eugene Lester
Cast: 11-16 dancers
Running Time: 16-30 minutes



Limón

SCHERZO

This energetic, athletic dance for four dancers and a drum tossed between them is a compelling exploration of rhythm and movement. In moments when the percussion score stops, the dancers create the music by beating their bodies.

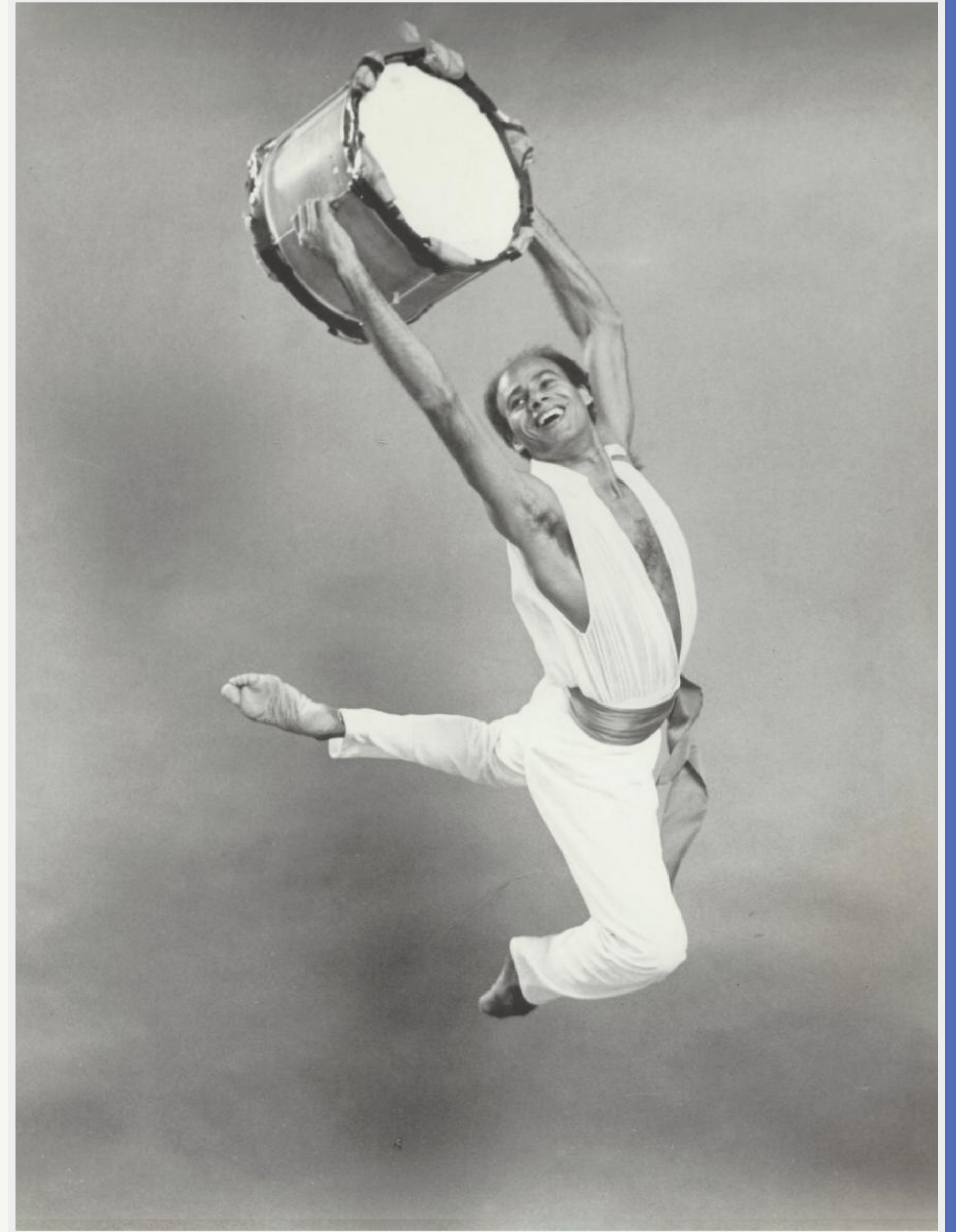
"Here is a dance so simple, so strong, so vital, so immediate in its appeal that one would welcome its presence in a concert, in a musical show or anywhere that there is a place for dance entertainment." — The New York Times

Choreography: José Limón

Music: Hazel Johnson

Cast: 4 dancers

Running Time: 11 minutes



Limón

THERE IS A TIME

Choreographed to a Pulitzer Prize winning score by composer Norman Dello Joio, *There is a Time* was inspired by a passage from 'Ecclesiastes': "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the sun." The dance conveys a powerful sense of community, it evokes the breadth of the human experience and the cyclical nature of life.

"The dance motifs are sharply focused and brilliantly expressive...Emotionally the work shows a constant interplay of light and shade". — The New York Times

Choreography: José Limón

Music: Norman Dello Joio

Cast: 10-16 dancers

Running Time: 35 minutes



Limón

THE TRAITOR

The Traitor, one of modern dance's most significant works of the 1950's, it's Limón's response to the McCarthy hearings and the climate of betrayal that haunted the arts and entertainment fields during this period. Against a musical score of violence, passion, and tenderness, the tragedy of Judas and the theme of betrayal are eloquently portrayed. With wonderfully vibrant movement, lush musicality and haunting images, this presently relevant work illuminates how we can betray ourselves and our beliefs, and what that can do to each of us. Created for eight men, the work has also been performed by a mixed gender cast.

"This is a dance made to last and to retain its power..."
— The New York Times

Choreography: José Limón
Music: Gunther Schuller
Cast: 8 dancers
Running Time: 20 minutes



Limón

THE UNSUNG

A tribute to Native American chiefs and the prowess of the dancer, this unforgettable work is accompanied only by the physical sounds—running, stamping, leaping, breathing—of the movement. Each dancer has a solo in addition to the ensemble work.

“Stealthy or wild, attacking, grieving, and fleeing in distraction, these dancers brought Limón’s glorious manscape to life....This sophisticated portrait is entirely free from clichés.”
— DancEnthusiast

Choreography: José Limón
Music: Danced in silence
Cast: 6-8 dancers
Running Time: 18-30 minutes



Limón

THE WINGED

Through movement that resembles the intricate patterns and rhythms of birds in flight, *The Winged*, transports you to a world of nature that blends with the world of man. Choreographed by José Limón in 1966, the piece possesses an unmatched sense of beauty and breath. José Limón noted: “*The Winged*, is a metaphor...this work is not about birds, it’s about our obsession with the idea of flight”.

“‘The Winged’ is a marvelous work, both spacious and delicate – a distillation of what it means to float, to flutter, to soar.” — The Washington Post

Choreography: José Limón

Music: Jon Magnussen

Cast: 16-22 dancers

Running Time: 29-48 minutes



Limón

JOSÉ LIMÓN DANCE FOUNDATION

Choreographer and dancer José Limón is credited with creating one of the world's most important and enduring dance legacies— an art form responsible for the creation, growth, and support of modern dance in this country. Numerous honors have been bestowed upon both Limón and the Company he founded in 1946, including most recently the White House's 2008 National Medal of Arts for Lifetime Achievement. José Limón immigrated to the United States in 1918 and is considered one of Mexico's greatest artistic exports, making him a role model for Latino communities throughout North America. His story is a powerful vehicle for reaching young people today. Our arts in education program *Limón4Kids* is an important addition to the Institute's mission taking the Limón legacy directly into the classrooms of the most under represented New York City's public schools and community centers.

The José Limón Dance Foundation supports two entities: the Limón Dance Company (this country's first modern dance repertory company), and the Limón Institute, an educational and archival resource center. In our home-base of New York City, the Limón Institute reaches more than 50,000 students and scholars annually through its education programs, archival library, and New York City classes and workshops.

A stylized, handwritten-style signature of the word "Limón" in a light beige color. The signature features a large, flowing 'L' and a long, horizontal underline that extends across the width of the word.

CONTACT

Give your dancers and audiences the experience of performing and watching the classic American masterworks of José Limón.

Limón's rich repertory has been performed by dance companies, colleges, and conservatories throughout the U.S. and abroad.

To request more information or materials,
contact Director of Education Programs,
Lena Lauer: llauer@limon.org

A stylized, handwritten-style signature of the word "Limón" in a light beige color. The signature features a prominent, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

PHOTO CREDITS

Cover Page: Gabriel Morales

A Choreographic Offering: José Limón Dance Foundation

Chaconne: José Limón Dance Foundation

Concerto Grosso: Kiera Chang

Dances For Isadora: Beatriz Schiller

The Emperor Jones: José Limón Dance Foundation

The Exiles: Andrea Mohin

La Malinche: Walter Strate

Mazurkas: Bill Herbert

Missa Brevis: Scott Groller

The Moor's Pavane: José Limón Dance Foundation

Orfeo: Beatriz Schiller

Psalm: Anthony Collins

Scherzo: Martha Swope

There is a Time: Unknown

The Traitor: Beatriz Schiller

The Unsung: Beatriz Schiller

The Winged: Beatriz Schiller

The logo for the Limón Dance Foundation, featuring the word "Limón" in a stylized, cursive script with a horizontal line underneath.