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#SpeakingInDance: The Stage Is a Desert, And 'It's Like I'm Flying'

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#SPEAKINGINDANCE

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"My mind goes into imagination land," the dancer Jacqueline Green (left) said about performing a luminous solo from Alvin Ailey's "The Lark Ascending."

"At the beginning the stage is clear, and it reminds me of being in a desert: I'm the only bird out there, searching." The dance, set to music by Ralph Vaughan Williams and performed as part of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 60th-anniversary season at City Center, shows Ailey's musicality and balletic command. As he once said, the lark in the title is "an image of the heart's aspiration and the soul's longing." Ms. Green can relate. "It's like I'm flying," she said. "I like to think that my feet don't touch the ground except for the one part where I actually go down to it. You realize how small we are and how big the world is."

GIA KOURLAS

#SpeakingInDance is a weekly exploration of dance. For more, follow @nytimes on Instagram.

Click [here](#) to watch Jacqueline Green in Alvin Ailey's *The Lark Ascending* for #SpeakingInDance