

# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

## *Memoria* (1979)

IN MEMORY – IN CELEBRATION

*Choreography by Alvin Ailey*  
*Music by Keith Jarrett*  
*Costumes by A. Christina Giannini*  
*Lighting by Chenault Spence*

This work is dedicated to the joy... the beauty... the creativity...  
and the wild spirit of my friend Joyce Trisler.  
– Alvin Ailey



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Alicia Graf Mack in Alvin Ailey's *Memoria*. Photo by Andrew Eccles

*"How pitiful is her sleep.  
Now her clear breath is still.  
There is nothing falling tonight,  
Bird or man,  
As dear as she.  
Nowhere that she should go  
Without me. None but my calling  
O nothing but the cold cry of the snow."*

– Kenneth Patchen  
(In Memory of Kathleen)

Alvin Ailey wrote: "It's interesting how my personal relationships affect my creativity. It seems as though nearly all of my dances have some basis in an event or a feeling I've had that I can usually trace."

In the tumultuous time of 1979 when Mr. Ailey's great, perennial friend from his Lester Horton days, the choreographer Joyce Trisler, died prematurely, he began choreographing *Memoria*. Later, he wrote, "*Memoria* is about Joyce's life, my memories of her, my image of her. Although these are very abstract images, nobody has ever asked me what *Memoria* is about. People everywhere understand it. Making the dance was a very deep and wrenching experience for me."

The ballet is structured in two parts—"In Memory" and "In Celebration"—to the sublime music of Keith Jarrett.

*Memoria* marked the first time Mr. Ailey combined Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater with Ailey II and advanced students from The Ailey School.

# Memoria

Music Credit Information – listed in order as you hear them in ballet

Song: **Runes**

Performed by: **Keith Jarrett**, from the album: **Arbour Zena**

Song: **Solara March**

Performed by: **Keith Jarrett**, from the album: **Arbour Zena**