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Performing Arts: Dance

LAR LUBOVITCH DANCE COMPANY

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It's not that Lar Lubovitch has never made dances with sharp edges. He has. But for many years now, Lubovitch has erased the edges in favor of coursing, lyrical dances that swell and recede like ocean waves or the moon's pull on the emotions.

The Lar Lubovitch Dance Company winter season at the Baryshnikov Arts Center showcases his deft choreography and dreamy musicality. The 1978 "North Star" announces the template for long, curvy choreographic lines rotating around a spiraling center. "Duet from MEADOW" (1999) and "Coltrane's Favorite Things" (2010) demonstrate Lubovitch's knack with duets of all gender combinations. Coltrane's mighty be-bop, mind-jagging interpretation is overlaid with attractive, snappy moves and unison combinations that skate over the music rather than inside it.

Lubovitch unveiled "The Legend of Ten" to music by Johannes Brahms performed with gusto by his company. It took its cue from "North Star's" sensibility. A large Greek chorus of dancers moves as a community only to be visited by a woman who becomes incorporated into their movement.

By tracing the outer strokes of the music, Lubovitch forges a loquacious lyricism of varying textures. The eyes are drawn to the dancers' arms that curve overhead, wave, and form flat palmed shaking equestrian-like images. An eerie sense of some impending destiny perfumes the corps sections. Groups of dancers gaze restlessly as couples splinter off and then merge back into the single breathing unit.

As the dance unwinds, folk elements emerge when dancers mimic finger snaps, handclaps and kicky leg combinations. In the end, sheets of movement splinter into two and threes only to reform a sphere of motion draped in music.

By Celia Ipiotis