

## Program Notes — Winter

Premiere: October 18, 1996, The O'Shaughnessy, Saint Paul, Minnesota

Music by Antonio Vivaldi

Choreography by James Sewell

Lighting by Kevin A. Jones

Costumes by Sally Rouse and Linda Auger

Support for the creation of "*Winter*" was provided in part by the Jerome Foundation

### Original Cast:

Jenee Auger

Christian Burns

Penelope Freeh

Anna Laghezza

Sally Rouse

James Sewell

In anticipation of James Sewell Ballet's December 1996 collaboration with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, James Sewell drew upon the flavors of his Minnesota youth and this musical treasure from *The Four Seasons* to create an evocative, vivid spectacle for the full company.

Composer and violinist Antonio Vivaldi (1678–1741) wrote music for operas, solo instruments, and small ensembles. Born in Venice, he played with his father at St. Mark's Basilica and was ordained to the priesthood. He composed most of his instrumental music for the Pietà, one of Venice's four music conservatories for orphaned girls. "*The Four Seasons*," a set of four violin concertos, is his most famous work. In this ballet, the dancers sometimes are actual people, experiencing the season. At other times, they are the elements of winter: frost, ice, leafless birch trees — notions reflected in the whimsical costumes.

— Roy Close, Gary Peterson, Sally Rouse, 1996