

Steve Reich



Photo credit: Jeffrey Herman

BALLETS

Variations for Vibes, Pianos and Strings

2005

25 min

dance piece for vibraphones, pianos and strings

2 pft-4vib-3 string quartets (or sm string section*)

*no amplification required if more than 3 to a part

"The instrumental writing in the variations is as beautifully crafted as ever, built upon a rotating sequence of four chords and creating a fast-slow-fast scheme, with the movements getting progressively shorter."

The Guardian

"Three string quartets spar with four vibraphones, clashing and aligning in turn. Underneath the subtly changing textures the dark ruminations of two pianos provide a moody balance to some of Reich's most buoyant harmonies."

The Times

World Premiere: 18 Mar 2006

Philharmonie, Köln, Germany

Akram Khan, choreographer; London Sinfonietta

Conductor: Bradley Lubman