

## Program Notes — Lover

Premiere: October 4, 2002, The O'Shaughnessy, Saint Paul, Minnesota  
Music of Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart  
Choreography by James Sewell  
Lighting by Kevin A. Jones  
Costumes by Mary Hansmeyer

Commissioned by and dedicated to Richard and Sandra Jacobson

### Original Cast:

Penelope Freeh  
Benjamin Johnson  
Matthew Keefe  
Justin Leaf  
Sally Rouse  
Peggy Seipp  
James Sewell  
Julia Welsh

The premiere of "*Lover*" marks a special milestone for James Sewell Ballet patrons Richard and Sandra Jacobson. The couple commissioned the ballet to celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary.

Richard and Sandra met at a college dance at the University of Washington and, 3-1/2 years later, were married in Seattle, July 15, 1967. They moved to the Twin Cities within days of their wedding, and Richard started working for Arthur Andersen on August 1, 1967.

Over the years, Sandra worked for Augsburg Publishing, Miller Publishing, and Augsburg College. She has been a member of The Woman's Club of Minneapolis for more than 25 years, and a member of James Sewell Ballet's board of directors for two years. In 1982, Richard founded Help/Systems, Inc. He continues as CEO of the Minnetonka-based company.

For their 25th anniversary, the Jacobson's commissioned "*Anniversary Sonata*" for oboe and guitar, from Randall Davidson.

Fans of James Sewell's choreography and humor, Richard and Sandra requested that the new work be upbeat and something that James wanted to create. When organizers of the Richard Rodgers centennial contacted him in 2001, James decided to focus on Rodgers's music from the 1930s. "*Lover*" features several duets, trios, and full company dances.

— Gary Peterson, 2002

In "*Lover*," I am trying to capture that feeling of Depression-era musicals where innuendos and miscommunication drive romantic dramas with the strong helping hand

of a cad – or apache – who is happy to throw himself wrenchingly through everyone’s life.

Richard Charles Rodgers (b. 1902, New York City; d. 1979, New York City) composed more than 900 published songs and 40 Broadway musicals in a career that spanned more than six decades. Rodgers was playing the piano at age five and composing at nine. At 14, his brother introduced him to the lyricist who later would become his second longtime collaborator, Oscar Hammerstein. Two years later, at 16, Rodgers met Lorenz Hart, the 23-year-old lyricist with whom he would write music for 25 years.

— James Sewell, 2002