

Program Notes – Protective Coloring for Pointe & Cello

Premiere: March 23, 1996, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Music by Steve Heitzeg

Choreography by Sally Rousse

Lighting by Kevin A. Jones

Costumes by Mary Hansmeyer

Commissioned by the Walker Art Center

Original Cast:

Sally Rousse, Dancer

Laura Sewell, Cello

This collaboration between Steve Heitzeg and Sally Rousse received start-up funds from the Walker Art Center as part of its continuing commitment to the development of new work. The duet for ballerina and cellist explores a select range of animal and human sensations – making movement and sounds which are savage or articulate, baring flesh and teeth, moving from instinct or cultivation – all the while contradicting the title and not being protected either by flesh-colored costume or by the sound-making instruments of pointe shoes and cello.

— Sally Rousse, 1996