Survivors
(1986)
Choreography: Alvin Ailey and Mary Barnett
Restaged by Masazumi Chaya
Music: Max Roach & Peter Phillips
Costumes: Toni-Leslie James
Original Décor: Douglas Grekin
Lighting: Tim Hunter

Especially for Nelson and Willie Mandela whose determination inspires the survivor in us all.

Alvin Ailey’s Survivors, is an impassioned tribute to the profound courage and terrible anguish of Nelson and Winnie Mandela is, more broadly, a portrait of people transformed by injustice. Max Roach’s richly varied drumming and Abbey Lincoln’s vocals set the emotional tone for this powerful work that lifts up those who resist oppression in any form. Read More on Ailey’s Blog: The Art and Anguish of Survivors


Nelson Mandela
The South African activist and former president Nelson Mandela (1918-2013) helped bring an end to apartheid and was a global advocate for human rights. A member of the African National Congress party beginning in the 1940s, he was a leader of protests against the white minority’s oppressive regime in a racially divided South Africa. His actions landed him in prison for nearly three decades and made him the face of the anti-apartheid movement both within his country and internationally. Released in 1990 by President Frederik Willem de Klerk, Mandela participated in the eradication of apartheid and the establishment of a multiracial government. In 1994, Mandela became the first black president of South Africa, forming a multiethnic government to oversee the country’s transition. After retiring from politics in 1999, he remained a devoted champion for peace and social justice in his own nation and around the world until his death in 2013 at the age of 95.

Max Roach
Brooklyn born Max Roach (1924-2007) was generally considered to be one of the most influential drummers in history. A pioneer of bebop, he collaborated with the greats of jazz -- Charlie Parker, Coleman Hawkins, Dizzy Gillespie and Miles Davis. A composer who often addressed the Civil Rights Movement in his music, Roach wrote "Triptych" for Abbey Lincoln Aminata Moseka in 1957 and "Survivors" in 1986.

Major support of this new production of Survivors is made possible by Judith McDonough Kaminski and Joseph Kaminski, and Daria L. & Eric J. Wallach.

Mr. Ailey wishes to express his gratitude to Ms. James, Mr. Grekin, and Mr. Hunter for their generous contributions of their talents and artistry to this work.

Survivors Music Credit Information
Max Roach ("Survivors" and "Triptych"), Strings for “Survivors” orchestrated by Peter Phillips
“Triptych: Prayer/Protest/Peace” courtesy of Kobalt Music Publishing.
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