

### **Alicia ALONSO (2000)**

As we start the new millennium, the art of dance is experiencing a time of great splendour and perhaps the highest level of development of its long history. As the rich inheritance of the past unites with the creativity and diversity of the present a new style is being created. It can be seen in theatres, movies and in the vast genre of television, musicals, and entertainment. There is also an inexhaustible source of dance in social dances and folklore of people in many diverse cultures. There is no art from foreign to dance.

However, in many respects, dance has not been given the place it deserves among the significant cultural events of the times. I believe that now dancers, choreographers, professors, critics, and other professionals in this field must strive for the universal recognition that dance deserves. To accomplish this goal the bridges of mutual respect and understanding among the various performing styles must be strengthened. Respect for tradition, conservation and development of historical dance – of both the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries – should complement and support the new and experimental styles. The old and the new two parts of the same creative body. Development of dance requires renewed interest in the areas of history, esthetics, and philosophy in order to create an integrated balance between the art of performance and the intellectual ideas of its creators.

In the new century dance must be strengthen its presence in the cultural life of the community, establish academic credentials on the university level, and obtain greater recognition on the institutional and state levels. To accomplish this we must have talent, dedication and above all, a great love for our art.

On an occasion as special as this one I want to wish great success to the dance world in completing these urgent tasks. May our dreams be a beautiful reality in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**& Jirí KYLIÁN**, Czech Republic,  
Dancer, choreographer

Dance is a garden, maybe not big, but infinitely high and endlessly deep. There is a place for everyone. Set yourself rules in order to break them, in order to find new feelings, new realities, new dimensions.

**& Cyrielle LESUEUR**, France,  
Dance student

What movements say,  
They do not know themselves,  
They gather, they assemble,  
Enrich themselves, join together,  
Follow each other, draw their own shapes,  
Develop and fly away.  
Some repeat themselves to survive,  
They rest, they wander,  
And by uniting, they design a dance.