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## Based on original Bauhaus sketches (1923)

The guest performance of „The Mechanical Ballet“ was such a success, that the piece has remained in THEATRE OF SOUNDS's repertory ever since even though this was the ensemble's very first production. „The Mechanical Ballet“ is based on sketches made in 1923 by the Weimar Bauhaus students Kurt Schmidt and George Teltcher. In fact, their original version was staged only twice- once in Jena and once in Berlin- and all we know about these performances comes from prints and photographs.

In 1987 the Theatre of Sounds reconstructed the original figurines on a scale that dancers could carry. A new „Mechanical Ballet“ with music for piano, drums and trombone was choreographed for five two-dimensional figurines.

The piece is in five acts and the flat but colourful, lifesized, geometric figures are controlled by hidden dancers throughout a succession of dance interactions. At first, the ballet has a mechanical, picture- like quality but from Act Three onwards the dance characters gradually become less abstract and more recognizably plastic, interacting with one another from behind the rigidity of the costumes. „The Mechanical Ballet“ combines a reconstructive approach with a contemporary and even humorous interpretation in its choreography and music.

The piece was originally presented as part of a double feature, „The Bauhaus Mechanical Stage“, and later as a part of another double feature, „Dance at the Bauhaus“ and has so far been performed nearly 200 times internationally in various cities. Currently, it may be presented either alone or as part of the double feature „The mecano- electronic Bauhaus-Stage“.

THE MECHANICAL BALLET CAN BE PRESENTED IN COMBINATION WITH THE „SUITE INTERMEDIALE“ AS THE DOUBLEPROGRAM „THE MECANO-ELECTRONIC BAUHAUS-STAGE“

5 DANCER, 3 MUSICIANS, 1 TECHNICIAN/DIRECTOR

### Technical details:

- Stage: min. 8m x 7 m
- Stagedesign: Black back, black wings
- Lights: 18 projectors
- Sound: live Concert-Piano, Drums, Trombone

### Comment:

*It is almost a „historical merit“ that this theatre group is able to bring alive the ideas of the past (which must have seemed revolutionary to theatre-goers in 1923) for a contemporary audience.*

*The music is particularly impressive in the way that jazz elements and popular rhythms of the time can still be enjoyed. The movements of the dancers are machine-like, but also blithe and witty and bubbling with technical optimism. An enthusiastic round of applause for the Theatre of Sound.*

*-what the Bauhaus artists once suspected, these people from Düsseldorf have finally proved: that people from an industrial era can still be at the heart of theatre.*

*(Sueddeutsche Zeitung)*