

Critique: Jin-Wen Yu Dance – River

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On February 22nd, the Jin-Wen Yu dance concert – River was presented at the Margaret H'Doubler Performance Space, Lathrop Hall, University of Wisconsin-Madison. The whole evening was magnificent, and lingers still in memory. The most lyrical passages came in the last work – Cascading. Elements of eastern-style movements danced to the music composed by Philip Glass gave the piece its initial grace, while modern-style dynamics gave it energy. The dance was a seamless flow of solos, duets and group sections that vividly depicted the character and emotionally conveyed the spirit of its subject, a river. Jin-Wen Yu's choreography embedded symbolic meaning into the body language, producing the cascading effect with human architectures out of a pair or trio, folding, turning and arching one group after the other. The solo dancer, Yun-Chen Liu, moved adroitly from mechanical dips and bends to a flexible body, presenting a visceral sense of weight and a lovely quality of grace. Cascading is a fascinating aesthetic song, poem and legend of a river.