

The Construction Company presents Music/Dance 2004

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The beautiful photograph you see here shows a moment from *Italian Suite*, a recent ballet by Christopher Caines, set to Stravinsky's Suite Italienne for violin and piano--one of several suites that Stravinsky made from the same compositional elements. Italian Suite II, Caines's new staging of the version of Suite Italienne for cello and piano, will be performed at the Merce Cunningham studio on Saturday and Sunday, 17th and 18th January, at 8 p.m., on a shared program that Caines is curating. The three other dances on the bill are by Catherine Gallant, who will present *Sonata*, to Fauré's Sonata for cello and piano, op. 117, no. 1; by Ezra Caldwell, whose work is a collaboration with members of Ezra Caldwell/Daniel Caldwell and the Leverage Group, to Barber's Cello Sonata, op. 6; and by Carolyn Lord, who will perform *Tangent*, a solo to two short works by Astor Piazzolla ("Serenade" and "Pastoral"). All music will be performed live by the cellist Stefano Bonomi and the pianist Giovanna Pezzetta, who are travelling from Italy for the shows.

Caines's *Italian Suite* is a revised version of a work he made last year for his Christopher Caines Dance Company, one of many small, financially-challenged dance groups in New York City and yet also one that consistently manages to produce wonderful programs, marked by innovative step-making and dance imagery, exquisite musicality, and very fine dancing from such company members as Sabra Perry, featured here. In my experience, Caines is the most musically sophisticated choreographer under 45 in the United States. For reservations and information, call 212-924-7882. You can also visit [The Construction Company](#) —Mindy Aloff