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FULL CIRCLE

In 1982, while a dance student at N.Y.U., the Belgian choreographer Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker gave the first performance of her "Violin Phase," a mysterious and austere solo work set to a Steve Reich composition. Sixteen years and more than three hundred performances later, "Fase" (the solo plus three duets, performed with Michèle Anne De Mey) has claimed a place as a snaker-clad masterwork: its simple repetitive movements—turning, kicking, looking aside—change, almost imperceptibly, into concentrated glimpses of character. De Keersmaeker thinks of it as an attempt "to do the maximum with the minimum—a big economy of means." This week, at the Kitchen, she and De Mey perform the complete work for the last time. "I wouldn't call it coming home," the choreographer says. "It's more like closing the circle."

Photograph by Max Vadukul