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## Words and Pictures as Subversive Allies

By JACK ANDERSON

Blending dance with other arts, Sara Pearson/Patrik Widrig and Company offered an imaginistically rich program on Thursday night at St. Mark's Church. Unfortunately, the strongest images were verbal and pictorial, rather than choreographic.

Mr. Widrig's "Alpsegen" accused Switzerland, a country that often prides itself on its hospitality and political neutrality, of being hostile to Jews during World War II. The charges were made in taped texts and in a monologue spoken -- not always clearly -- by Mr. Widrig as he moved about, placing Swiss flags atop miniature Alps and stamping the letter J on a map of Switzerland. Mr. Widrig's earnestness was evident in his tense runs and falls and his concluding crucifixion pose. But nothing he did matched the power of the words.

Mixing seriousness with wit in her "Be Careful What You Wish For," Ms. Pearson talked about the unexpected ways in which prayers can be answered. The strength of her thoughts sometimes propelled her into agitated motion. Yet one could imagine the words having impact without any accompanying actions.

Ms. Pearson and Mr. Widrig collaboratively choreographed "Terra Firma," in which they were joined by Liz Claire, Rodrigo Esteva, Kyoko Katsura and Francisco Rider da Silva, who jumped on and around bales of hay. John Jenkins, a martial arts exponent and the evening's guest artist, made occasional entrances during which he loomed imposingly.

Video images on a large screen showed people running through fields, diving into lakes, holding cats and babies and dancing inside a garage, a laundromat and a firehouse. "Terra Firma" was lively and presumably had something to do with responses to environments. Yet its point remained vague.