



IB ANDERSEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



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The School of Ballet Arizona and Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras Unite to Showcase Swan Lake

Reimagined Performance Showcases Local Student Talent May 30, 31st and June 6 at Desert Botanical Garden

PHOENIX – [The School of Ballet Arizona](#) (SBAZ) and [Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras](#) (PYSO) announce a unique partnership to perform *Swan Lake* at Desert Botanical Garden May 30, 31, and June 6, 2021. This inaugural collaboration presents a unique opportunity for both SBAZ and PYSO students to gain valuable experience presenting a main stage performance with live music.

"This collaboration with SBAZ is by far the largest and most extensive production undertaken by two youth arts organizations ever in Phoenix," said Matthew Kasper, Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras artistic and general director. "Not only is this a wonderful opportunity for PYSO's musicians that will give them the experience of performing an entire ballet with a ballet school at a breathtaking venue such as the Desert Botanical Garden, but it is also going to be an amazing experience for the entire Phoenix Arts Community. We felt it was important to keep the arts going in Phoenix during the pandemic and I believe this will be a clear signal to all that the arts are and will continue to thrive in Phoenix."

"Our students and teachers are incredibly thrilled to be back in the studio rehearsing for *Swan Lake*," said School of Ballet Arizona Director and Ballet Arizona Rehearsal Director, Maria Simonetti. "This year's performance holds even greater significance coming after a very challenging year of cancelled performances. It is a tremendous opportunity for our students to learn how to perform to live orchestral music and we hope this is a collaboration that continues into the future."

To ensure the safety of all involved in the performances, Ballet Arizona has partnered with local company, [HealthyVerify](#) to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all patrons, dancers and staff.

Performances, set against the stunning backdrop of Arizona landscape, begin at 8:00 p.m. Tickets will start at \$40 and will go on sale later this spring. A very limited number will be available to the public and can be purchased by visiting [balletaz.org](#).

The School of Ballet Arizona

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The School of Ballet Arizona (SBAZ) promotes access to the all-encompassing art form of ballet through dance education. With a focus on excellence in the form, SBAZ directs and nurtures each student to a life-long love of and appreciation for dance. The School is proud to offer comprehensive dance training that meets the expectations of professional dance companies, as well as those looking to dance as a supplement to enrich their lives. SBAZ exists to empower and enrich students, their families and fellow community members. Following this vision, Ballet Arizona connects to more than 35,000 children and families every year through its free and low-cost outreach programs to bring the timeless beauty of ballet to Arizona. For more information, visit balletaz.org/school.

Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras

Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras exists to Expand Horizons Through Music and develop the next generation of Artists, Patrons and Leaders. We seek to encourage social and emotional development, contribute to our community through inclusive recruitment and instill long-life values of responsibility, cultural appreciation and a pursuit of excellence. PYSO was founded in 1952 and its orchestral training program, Young Musicians Competition and education initiatives have steadily grown over their nearly seventy-year existence. PYSO serves between 250 and 300 talented young musicians in its training program each year and reaches over 7,000 young students annually with its education initiatives. The young musicians enjoy weekly rehearsals led by world-class conductors, sectionals coached by professional musicians, weekend retreats and the opportunity to perform before thousands of audience members in most prestigious venues in the valley. PYSO now includes six ensembles: The Symphony Orchestra, The Philharmonic Orchestra, The String Orchestra, The Prelude String Orchestra, The Wind Orchestra and Percussion Ensemble. Visit pysorchestras.org for more information.

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