

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Ballet Arizona Presents 'The Nutcracker' with Phoenix Symphony

Live Music to Accompany Holiday Classic

PHOENIX, Ariz., (November 6, 2017) – A beloved magical tradition returns this 2017 holiday season with Ballet Arizona's nationally heralded performances of Artistic Director Ib Andersen's *The Nutcracker*. Restoring live music to the classic production after a one-year hiatus, [The Phoenix Symphony](#) will enrich performances with live accompaniment at all shows Dec. 8-24 at [Symphony Hall](#).

"We are delighted to collaborate once again with The Phoenix Symphony for *The Nutcracker* so our audiences can experience a stunning ballet performance accompanied by the riveting live music of Tchaikovsky's score," said Samantha Turner, Ballet Arizona's Executive Director. "*The Nutcracker* is a wonderfully captivating classic that brings families of all ages together, creating long-lasting and cherished memories. We are so happy to be able to offer such a magnificent production."

Experience brilliant special effects as the wonders of childhood come alive when Clara receives a magical nutcracker doll as a Christmas present, sending the little girl and her Nutcracker Prince on a wondrous and fascinating adventure of dancing toys, mischievous mice, a scary Mouse King, waltzing flowers, and sparkling snowflakes.

The \$1.8 million production was created in 2006 by Ballet Arizona Artistic Director Ib Andersen, and features the company's 30 professional dancers, more than 100 youth performers, 100,000 Swarovski crystals, 260 costumes created with 6,500 yards of tulle, and twenty-five different enchanting backdrops. It was named one of the top three productions in the United States by *The New York Times'* chief dance critic, Alastair Macaulay.

Tickets for Ib Andersen's *The Nutcracker* are currently on sale, starting as low as \$25, with discounts available for seniors, active military, and college students. Groups can save up to 35 percent with advance bookings. Tickets can be purchased by calling 602-381-1096 or by visiting www.balletaz.org

HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**Ballet Arizona**

Ballet Arizona, approaching its 32nd season, is dedicated to preserving and celebrating classical dance while creating new and innovative works. Under the artistic direction of internationally acclaimed choreographer Ib Andersen - a former Principal Dancer with The New York City Ballet and The Royal Danish Ballet - Ballet Arizona follows his lead to the future of dance in Arizona. The School of Ballet Arizona, under the direction of Carlos Valcárcel, promotes access to the art form of ballet through dance education, with a focus on excellence in the form, directing each student to a life-long love of dance. Following this vision, Ballet Arizona connects to more than 35,000 children and families every year through its free and low cost outreach programs.