



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 10, 2020

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Ballet Arizona to Present World Premiere of 'The Four Seasons'

All-New Performance Interprets Spirit of Nature May 19-June 6 at Desert Botanical Garden

PHOENIX – <u>Ballet Arizona</u> will present *The Four Seasons*, a journey through winter, spring, summer and fall in movement, May 19-June 6 at <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> for the company's annual season-concluding performance of *An Evening at Desert Botanical Garden*.

The world premiere performance, choreographed by acclaimed Artistic Director Ib Andersen, will run for 14 breathtaking evening performances with the backdrop of lush desert landscape and the setting sun, set to the vibrant score of Antonio Vivaldi.

Now in his 20th year with Ballet Arizona, *The Four Seasons* is one of Andersen's most impactful pieces yet, with all-new set design and multimedia elements that embrace the surrounding desert landscape.

"This idea has been on my mind for quite some time and I am thrilled I get to create it as the finale of my 20th season with Ballet Arizona," said Artistic Director Ib Andersen. "This score has to be one of the most celebrated in the classical canon and it is proving to be as fun as it is challenging to choreograph on our dancers. There is so much depth and so many layers to this piece. It is actually twelve different movements and it changes constantly and dramatically. This piece will be a visual feast full of exquisite energy that can only be enhanced by the outdoor desert landscape."

Andersen's previous work at the Garden inspired *The New York Times* chief dance critic Alastair Macaulay to designate Ballet Arizona as "one of the most enterprising companies anywhere." Past Desert Botanical Garden debuts *Eroica*, *Topia* and *Round* have drawn critical acclaim, with sellout crowds at nearly every performance.

Tickets for *The Four Seasons* are available now and expected to sell out. All performances begin at 8 p.m. Prices start at \$49. Arrive early and watch the professional company take ballet class on stage. A gournet picnic menu is available for purchase including beer, wine and non-alcoholic refreshments. For the best tickets and prices, always purchase directly from Ballet Arizona at <u>balletaz.org</u>.

Ballet Arizona

Ballet Arizona, now in its 34th 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 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. For more information, visit <u>balletaz.org</u>.

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