



Dear Friends,

Of all the challenges we've faced over the years, nothing has seemed to test our community as deeply and intensely as the COVID-19 crisis. There's much we could say about the severity of the situation and the pressing concerns non-profits like Ballet Arizona now face, but instead, we'd like to bestow a small reminder.

In times like this, when fear and uncertainty abound, we must remember that the arts have the power to restore positivity, inspire goodwill, and remind people to have hope.

At present, we are taking each day in stride and are working as a team to make the most prudent decisions we can with the information that is available to us. Thanks to your support, we can weather this storm.

It is with heavy hearts that we have to make disappointing decisions based on the current social distancing guidance set forth by public health agencies and governmental organizations. Ballet Arizona's *All Balanchine* performances, *The Four Seasons* production at Desert Botanical Garden, and the *Dance With Me* Gala are cancelled, as are all Ballet Arizona community events and activities through the end of May. The School of Ballet Arizona is currently closed and the production of *Coppelia* is cancelled. We are monitoring the current guidance to determine the status of the remainder of the school year and the Spring Performance at the end of May. Ballet Arizona's offices are closed to the public and rehearsals are postponed. Our administrative staff is working remotely when possible to provide you service by phone and email.

As we address the unprecedented circumstances of this global health crisis, the arts community will face significant financial challenges. Now, more than ever, the support of Ballet Arizona donors, subscribers and ticket buyers is critically important. If you have purchased tickets to an event, performance or class that is cancelled or you are unable to attend, consider transferring that amount to a donation or a future performance. You can also help by making a donation of any amount by [clicking here](#).

These decisions are not made lightly and we kindly ask for your support and patience as we, as an organization, work through the complications of the circumstances. We will, of course, keep everyone informed and updated as quickly as we are able.

And now for some uplifting news – something fortunate that has come of this situation is that we are beginning to think in new and exciting ways about how we can continue to share beauty, hope, and dance with you while this shutdown persists. Our administrative and artistic teams are looking at the possibility of live-streaming shows and lectures, our school staff is filming and streaming classes for all of our School of Ballet Arizona students, and our dancers will be staying in touch by sharing their lives and stories with you on social media.

Ballet Arizona is your ballet company and we are in this together. Though we are living in a difficult chapter of history, we know we will come out of this stronger and more resilient than ever. We hope that all the hard work we've done together bringing dance to the desert and building up our community has earned your trust and that you'll continue to support us during this crisis. Ballet Arizona, like all our



friends in the Arizona arts community, needs your support now, more than ever. Let's remember that these times shall pass, but we will still be here to serve you, our audience, our patrons, our students, and our community.

To you and all your loved ones, stay safe, stay healthy, and stay connected. We are here for you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ib Andersen".

Ib Andersen
Artistic Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samantha Turner".

Samantha Turner
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Simonetti".

Maria Simonetti
School Director