

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Amber Godbehere**Phone:** 602-321-0492**Email:** Amber@evolveprandmarketing.com

Ballet Arizona Establishes Andersen-Panvini Endowment

Artistic Investment Will Support New Performance Works

PHOENIX – [Ballet Arizona](#) is proud to announce the creation of a new endowment fund, established in honor of Artistic Director, Ib Andersen, and Director of Production, Michael Panvini. *The Andersen-Panvini Repertory Selection Fund* will work to support Ballet Arizona as it produces new and innovative works chosen by the artistic director.

The investment is made possible through an initial gift of \$400,000 from Mr. Robert S. Benson of Evergreen Colorado, who has supported production development with Ballet Arizona since 2013. The gift, supplemented by future bequests from Bensons' estate, will finance choreographer fees, rights and royalties, music accompaniment and incoming repetiteurs.

"When we view a Ballet Arizona program, of course we appreciate the beauty, talent, and professionalism of the dancers in front of us, along with the music we hear," Benson notes. "The secret sauce that sometimes goes under-appreciated is the composition of the program - the selection of repertoire to be presented, negotiation of program rights, and assemblage of all the necessary resources - typically all accomplished months in advance."

Over the years, Benson's contributions have helped commission new works for Ballet Arizona, such as *Threads* by Nayon Iovino; produced Arizona premieres, such as Justin Peck's *In Creases*; and presented 10 ballets by George Balanchine, including *Symphony in Three Movements*, which will be returning to the Ballet Arizona stage in 2023.

The Andersen-Panvini Repertory Selection Fund also honors the contributions of two longtime Ballet Arizona artistic staff—Andersen and Panvini. Andersen joined the company in 2000 and will be concluding his storied tenure at Ballet Arizona in the upcoming 2023-2024 season.

Panvini came to Ballet Arizona after 15 years as a tour Production Manager for Columbia Artists Management, Inc. He notes, "the part of the process this endowment emphasizes is usually invisible, happening behind the scenes. To elevate it like this is a profound statement, and I'm touched."

Ballet Arizona is honored to accept such a generous gift and proud to celebrate visionary artists Ib Andersen and Michael Panvini to ensure their legacies and the legacy of Ballet Arizona lives on for future generations.

Ballet Arizona

Ballet Arizona 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 balletaz.org.

BALLET
ARIZONA

IB ANDERSEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



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Evolve PR and Marketing
4300 N. Miller Rd. #212
Scottsdale, AZ 85251