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‘All Balanchine’ Presents Classics from The Father of American Ballet
Ballet Arizona to Stage Three Masterpieces by Legendary Choreographer George Balanchine May 2-5

PHOENIX – George Balanchine, known as The Father of American Ballet, established himself as a dance legend when he put his twist on traditional ballet standards and techniques. Before joining Ballet Arizona, Ib Andersen was mentored by the legendary choreographer during his tenure as a dancer at New York City Ballet. [Ballet Arizona](#) is excited to bring three of Balanchine’s classics to the Phoenix stage with its annual “[All Balanchine](#)” program at Symphony Hall from May 2-5.

“All Balanchine” will feature Ballet Arizona’s company dancers performing three of Balanchine’s finest works, *La Valse*, *Prodigal Son* and *Square Dance*, alongside live accompaniment from The Phoenix Symphony.

The opulent yet haunting *La Valse*, which features a score by Maurice Ravel, showcases dancers waltzing in alluring romantic-length tutus. Set in a decadent ballroom, *La Valse* is often described as a “choreographic poem.”

Prodigal Son takes inspiration from the biblical parable in the gospel according to St. Luke. The parable features a son who rejects his father and squanders his inheritance but returns home ashamed only to find love and forgiveness from his father. Russian dancer, Boris Kochno, further added dramatic material to underscore the themes of sin and redemption and ends the story with the prodigal son’s return.

Ballet Arizona will also present *Square Dance*, a piece where Balanchine blended the style of American folk dance with classical ballet. Although the styles were widely different, he felt they shared common roots. Be prepared for high spirits in this delightful Balanchine ballet.

“It is truly an honor to bring Balanchine’s artistic masterpieces to the Ballet Arizona stage,” said Andersen. “Balanchine’s impact on the ballet world is undeniable, and I’m elated to be able to bring these historic and exquisite pieces to the forefront. This year’s ‘All Balanchine’ program will be an awe-inspiring experience, for both the audience and the dancers.”

Andersen is one of only a handful of artists worldwide trusted to stage these masterpieces by the Balanchine Trust. His understanding of Balanchine’s work draws respect from revered dance critics across the country.

Ballet Arizona’s Opening Night Series Sponsor is F. Francis and Dionne Najafi of Pivotal Foundation. *All Balanchine* is produced in part by Bob Benson. It is sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield and Dr. Eleanore Jane Rosenthal.

Ticket prices for *All Balanchine* start at \$35, with discounts offered for seniors, students, military, and groups. Tickets can be purchased by calling 602.381.1096 or visiting balletaz.org.

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.

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