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Jan. 8, 2024

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Ballet Arizona Receives Bequest of \$2 Million

Donation Will Support the Growth of Ballet Arizona as a Leading Performing Arts Institution

PHOENIX – The legacy of Dr. Amy Barmeier Dru lives on at [Ballet Arizona](#). The Valley’s only professional ballet company is honored to have received a gift of \$2 million from the Estate of Amy Barmeier Dru.

This bequest will grow Ballet Arizona’s endowment by more than 30 percent. The endowment funds both long-term and immediate mission-based programs such as the creation of new works, live music accompaniment, expansion of educational services, and community engagement initiatives. Dr. Dru’s gift will have an immediate impact on the organization by supporting the world premiere production of *Moving Movies* in February of 2024.

Dr. Amy Barmeier Dru passed away on Dec. 3, 2021, after a courageous battle with lymphoma. She was born on April 25, 1951 and was raised in Youngstown, Ohio. She obtained a doctorate degree in Psychology from Western Michigan University. Barmeier-Dru moved to Arizona shortly after marrying her husband, where she spent her time managing commercial real estate properties and raising her two sons.

One of her many passions in life was tap dancing. She took classes at her local community college and would practice on the wood floor because the sound was excellent. While she also enjoyed horseback riding and fly fishing, dance always held a special place in her heart.

“On behalf of the entire organization, we are humbled to receive this incredible gift from an even more incredible individual,” said Ballet Arizona’s Executive Director, Jami Kozemczak. “Amy was an extraordinary and tenacious individual with a generous and courageous heart. This is a transformational gift to our organization and I am reminded of her often, as we put forward visionary plans aimed for the stars. We have a bright future ahead thanks to people like her. Our gratitude for Amy and her forward-thinking generosity is beyond compare.”

“Mom always said she wanted to come back as a ballet dancer in her next life,” said Dr. Christopher Dru. “I hope this donation helps to make her dream a reality for young men and women in the Valley. Mom will be watching all your performances. Please make her proud.”

Ballet Arizona is the official ballet company of the State of Arizona, whose mission is to create, perform and teach outstanding classical and contemporary ballet. The company is dedicated to preserving and celebrating classical dance while creating and commissioning new innovative works. To learn more about how Ballet Arizona continues to evolve, visit balletaz.org.

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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 22,000 children and families every year through its free and low-cost outreach programs. For more information, visit balletaz.org.

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