

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2024

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

The School of Ballet Arizona Presents The World Premiere of Peter and the Wolf

The Next Generation of Dancers and Musicians Unite to Celebrate Ib Andersen's Iconic Career at Ballet Arizona

PHOENIX – [The School of Ballet Arizona](#) is excited to announce its annual Spring performance, *Peter and the Wolf and Other Works*, in collaboration with the [Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras](#) on May 25 and 26 at the Orpheum Theatre. Before concluding his final season as artistic director with Ballet Arizona, Ib Andersen will present the world premiere of *Peter and the Wolf*, along with some of his beloved pieces from over the years.

First composed in 1936 by Sergei Prokofiev, *Peter and the Wolf* is a “symphonic tale for children” featuring a narrator and different themes for each character in the story. The highly anticipated narrator for this performance will be Geoffrey Owens, a well-known actor, teacher and director. Owens is best known for his role on “The Cosby Show,” but has appeared in numerous stage productions, was a member of a diverse Shakespeare company and recently narrated Aaron Copland’s “Lincoln Portrait” for The Phoenix Symphony.

In addition to the premiere of *Peter and the Wolf*, The School of Ballet Arizona will celebrate several other works created by Andersen throughout his storied career at Ballet Arizona, including:

- *Swan Lake* – Premiered with Ballet Arizona in March 2003, this storybook ballet was the first production the School of Ballet Arizona and the Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras collaborated on in 2021.
- *The Firebird* – Set to one of Ib Andersen’s favorite pieces of music, *Firebird* originally premiered in February 2019 with Ballet Arizona.
- *Play* - An Andersen original that first premiered in June of 2007 by Ballet Arizona. This ballet uses innovative choreography, costuming and lighting techniques to reshape traditional dance moves to familiar music, including “Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star.”
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – A hilarious masterpiece of dreams, illusion, love, and fantasy, this ballet initially premiered with Ballet Arizona in October 2008 and was revamped in 2020 with costumes by Fabio Toblini.
- *Romeo & Juliet* – First premiered in February 2003, this was the first full-length ballet that Ib Andersen choreographed for Ballet Arizona.

“We are absolutely thrilled to showcase several of Ib Andersen’s iconic works from over the years during our annual spring performance,” María Simonetti, the director of The School of Ballet Arizona. “These young dancers and musicians are truly the next generation of performing artists. Their passion, dedication and talent are showcased with every movement performed and every note played. This is one performance you won’t want to miss!”

“It is an honor to present one final premiere with The School of Ballet Arizona,” said Andersen. “Peter and the Wolf is a fun and well-known tale that I am delighted to bring to life through this ballet.”

The School of Ballet Arizona is the only professional school to offer live music through a youth symphony orchestra with its performances. In addition to performing works choreographed for professional companies, students have the unique opportunity to perform with live music for both its Spring and Fall showcases, providing training that will help prepare them for professional productions. From primary to pre-professional levels, each student will showcase their talents and training from the wide variety of classes available at SBAZ.

Young musicians in the Youth Symphony enjoy weekly rehearsals led by world-class conductors, sectionals coached by professional musicians, weekend retreats, and the opportunity to perform before thousands of audience members in the highest-quality venues throughout the Valley. Through this partnership, these musicians can also hone their skill for playing in time with the dancers.

The School of Ballet Arizona has partnered with Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestra for several performances over the past few years. These include the inaugural performance of *Swan Lake* with three sold-out performances in May 2021, *The Sleeping Beauty* in May 2022, Ballet Arizona’s Fall Showcase in November 2022 and 2023, as well as *Raymonda* in June 2023.

Peter and the Wolf and Other Works is presented by the Richard P. Stahl Charitable Fund and sponsored in part by [Freed of London](#). Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased at balletaz.org or by calling 602.381.1096.

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

Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras

Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras exists to Expand Horizons Through Music and develop the next generation of Artists, Patrons, and Leaders. We seek to encourage social and emotional development, contribute to our community through inclusive recruitment and instill long-life values of responsibility, cultural appreciation, and a pursuit of excellence. PYSO was founded in 1952 and its orchestral training program, Young Musicians Competition and education initiatives have steadily grown over their nearly seventy-year existence. PYSO serves between 250 and 300 talented young musicians in its training program each year and reaches over 7,000 young students annually with its education initiatives. The young musicians enjoy weekly rehearsals led by world-class conductors, sectionals coached by professional musicians, weekend retreats and the opportunity to perform before thousands of audience

members in most prestigious venues in the valley. PYSO now includes six ensembles: The Symphony Orchestra, The Philharmonic Orchestra, The String Orchestra, The Prelude String Orchestra, The Wind Orchestra and Percussion Ensemble. Visit pysorchestras.org for more information.

###