

CACTI

AND OTHER WORKS

March 19 – 22, 2026 at Orpheum Theatre

APOLLO

Choreography by George Balanchine © The George Balanchine Trust

Music by Igor Stravinsky; "Apollon Musagète"

Staging by Ben Huys

Original Lighting Design by Ronald Bates

Lighting Recreated by Michael Korsch

Costume Design by Karinska

CONCERTANTE

Choreography by Hans van Manen

Music by Frank Martin; "Petite Symphonie Concertante"

Staging by Fiona Lummis Eddy

Costume Design by Keso Dekker

Original Lighting Design by Joop Caboort

Lighting Recreated by Bert Dalhuysen

CACTI

Choreography by Alexander Ekman

Music by Franz Joseph Haydn; Ludwig van Beethoven; Symphony in D Minor, "Death and the Maiden" IV Presto By Franz Schubert arranged and orchestrated by Andy Stein, Courtesy by Stepping Grounds, used by permission.

Music Performed Live by Opus 76 Quartet

Staging by Ana Maria Lucaciu

Scenic Design by Tom Visser and Alexander Ekman

Costume Design by Alexander Ekman

Scenery and Costumes Courtesy of Atlanta Ballet, the National Ballet of Canada and Boston Ballet

Original Lighting Design by Tom Visser

Lighting Recreated by Michael Korsch

Please see insert for casting.

Opening Night Series Sponsor:



*F. Francis &
Dionne Najafi*

Produced by:
Bob Benson

Sponsored in part by:

**Beth & Paul Hommert
Dr. Jane Rosenthal
Ann & Van Wolf**

**SNELL
& WILMER**

PRIMA CIRCLE MEMBERS: Please join us during the first intermission for the Prima Circle Reception located in the upstairs rotunda.

Biographies



George Balanchine

George Balanchine, born in St. Petersburg in 1904, revolutionized American ballet through his imaginative and original choreography, creating over 400 works that spanned ballet, film, opera-ballet, revue, and musical theater. Trained at the Imperial Ballet School and Petrograd Conservatory, his deep musical knowledge enabled collaborations with composers like Stravinsky. After joining Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, he moved to the United States at 29, where, with Lincoln Kirstein, he founded The School of American Ballet and later the New York City Ballet, serving as its artistic director and chief

choreographer from 1948 until his death in 1983. Balanchine's innovative style, which streamlined and expanded classical ballet, became influential worldwide, and he famously emphasized movement and visual spectacle in his works, humbly considering himself a craftsman dedicated to the art of dance.



Ballet Arizona dancer in *Apollo*. Choreography by George Balanchine
© The George Balanchine Trust. Photo by Alexander Iziliaev.



Alexander Ekman

Alexander Ekman, is a Swedish dancer and choreographer resident in Stockholm, Sweden. He is known internationally for his work with many dance companies around the world. Ekman has created pieces, mainly for Opera houses and Theatre dance companies around the world. He also directs films, music videos as well as live performances in pop-up locations and museums. Ekman is known for his fast-paced captivating works. One of his main talents is his sense for timing, witty humour and clever transitions. He aims to create work which the majority can relate to, human problems and

situations. Since 2006 he has fully devoted his time creating pieces which both entertain and question the observer. He aims to transform the atmosphere in the theatre and to surprise the audience. Ekman has created 55 works to date, many of which are performed around the world by renowned dance companies such as Nederlands Dans Theater, Paris Opera Ballet, Norwegian National Ballet, Göteborg Danskompani, Joffrey Ballet, among many others. In 2024, Ekman was invited to direct and choreograph the performance segment during the opening ceremony of the Paralympic games in Paris, France.

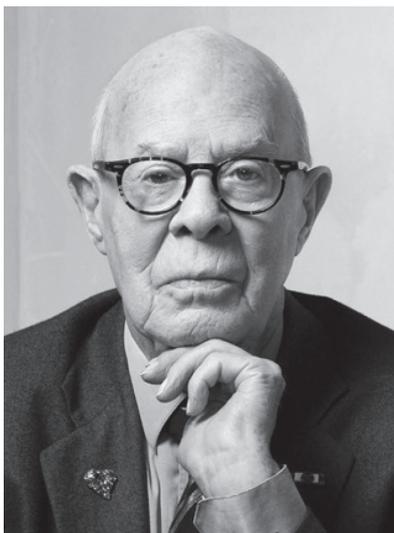


Thomas Anthony Visser

Thomas Anthony Visser is an established lighting designer specializing in dance since 2003.

Tom grew up in the countryside of west Ireland and in 1998, at the age of 18, started working in theatre. In 2003 he joined Nederlands Dans Theater and since then has been primarily creating designs in the field of dance. Tom has created the lighting design for multiple Olivier Award (best new dance production) winners. He has created designs for: Crystal Pite, Alexander Ekman, Hofesh Shechter, The Royal Ballet, Opera de Paris, National Opera and Ballet, National Ballet of Canada and many more.

In Memoriam – Hans Van Manen



I would like to dedicate our performances this weekend to choreographer Hans van Manen, who passed away in December of last year at the age of 93.

Repetiteur Fiona Eddy, a former dancer with Nederlands Dans Theater who worked with Hans for years, taught Hans' ballet *Concertante* to our dancers in October, and we are honored to be the first company in America to present one of his works since his passing.

Besides being the best-known choreographer of the Netherlands for over sixty years, Hans van Manen was—

and still is—regarded internationally as one of the great masters of contemporary ballet. He was also one of the most productive choreographers, creating more than 150 works and his works are now performed all over the world by over a hundred prominent dance companies.

Appointed co-artistic director of Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT) in 1961, Hans van Manen went on to alternate for decades between the Netherlands' two major dance companies, NDT and Dutch National Ballet. He served as resident choreographer with Dutch National Ballet from 1973 to 1987, returned to NDT from 1988 to 2003, and in 2005 became senior choreographer at Dutch National Ballet, a position he held until his death.

Moving between the two companies—and between pointe shoes and flat shoes—profoundly shaped his choreographic language. Yet throughout his 66-year career, his distinctive style remained constant: clarity of structure, refined simplicity, and an aversion to excess. As he said himself, "In my ballets, I strive for less and less movement. Every superfluous step has to be chucked out."

During my time as a dancer with Dutch National Ballet, I became deeply familiar with Hans' work, and today I can say he is one of my favorite choreographers. His work is hard to put into words, but qualities that always stand out to me are musicality, elegance, tension, and simplicity. I hope *Concertante* finds its own voice with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniela Cardim". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Daniela Cardim

Artistic Director, Ballet Arizona



Meet the Dancers

Cheyenne You, Ballet Arizona dancer

When did you start dancing?

I started dancing ballet at the School of Ballet Arizona when I was 4 years old but I actually started taking flamenco dance lessons when I was 3.

How long have you been with Ballet Arizona, and what do you enjoy about dancing with the company?

This is my 4th official season with the company but my 16th year as a part of the Ballet Arizona family. There are so many incredible things about this company but I would have to say that the community within the dancers here has been one of the most welcoming, supportive and loving I have ever experienced. I also feel so honored to be coached and guided by such an amazing and inspiring artistic staff. It truly feels like such a family here.

What part of the 25/26 season are you most excited about?

This season has already been so incredible but I think what I am looking forward to the most is our *Cacti and Other Works* performance in March. We have the honor of getting to dance a piece called *Concertante* by the legendary Dutch choreographer Hans Van Manen and it has been a dream come true to learn and rehearse. I feel like it's something this company has never really done before and I think it will be super exciting for the audiences to witness.

What is your favorite ballet to perform?

There are so many amazing ballets that I have had the honor of performing in but some of my favorites have definitely been *Take Me With You* by Robert Bondara and *Frida* by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa.

For more information about Cheyenne and all of our dancers, visit balletaz.org.

Cheyenne You in *Frida*. Photo by Rosalie O'Connor.



Company

**Brooke Bendick**

Columbus, Ohio | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2022
Training: The School of Ballet Arizona, Balletmet, Houston Ballet, City Ballet of San Diego

**Demitra Bereveskos**

Indianapolis, Indiana | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2019
Training: Valentina Kozlava Dance Conservatory of New York, Canada's National Ballet School, Royal Ballet School, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School, The School of Ballet Arizona

**Lindsay Camden**

Houston, Texas | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2023
Training: American Academy of Dance, Vitacca Vocational School for Dance, Ballet Arizona Studio Company

**Serafin Castro**

Villa Clara, Cuba | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2018
Training: Cuban National Ballet School
Other Companies: National Ballet of Cuba, Ballet of Monterrey

**Alli Chester**

Phoenix, Arizona | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2021
Training: Houston Ballet Academy Professional Program, The School of Ballet Arizona

**Luis Corrales**

Havana, Cuba | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2019
Training: Cuban National Ballet School
Other Companies: Ballet San Antonio, Ecuador National Ballet, Ballet Laura Alonso

**Sarah Diniz**

Maracay, Venezuela | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2020
Training: The School of Ballet Arizona, Orlando Ballet School, Ballet Etudes, The Joffrey Ballet Academy, Pacific Northwest Ballet School, The Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School

**Leticia Ender**

Anápolis, Brazil | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2022
Training: Ballet Zulma Emrich, Cia Paulista de Dança, The School of Ballet Arizona Studio Company

**Atsunari Matsuyama**

Yamaguchi, Japan | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2020

Training: San Francisco Ballet School, The School of Ballet Arizona

**Rachel Gehr**

Westfield, Indiana | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2020

Training: Indiana University Jacobs School of Music,
Central Indiana Academy of Dance**Marco Giuriato**

Budapest, Hungary | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2023

Training: Hungarian Dance University, Vaganova Ballet Academy,
Miami City Ballet School**Veronica Hanson**

Annandale, New Jersey | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2025

Training: Hunterdon Hills Ballet, The School of American Ballet

**Genevieve Heron**

Oxfordshire, England | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2024

Training: Royal Ballet School, Elmhurst School for Dance.

Other Companies: New English Ballet Theatre, Northern Ballet, Royal
Swedish Ballet, English National Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet**Jordan Islas**

Phoenix, Arizona | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2024

Training: The School of Ballet Arizona, Clarendon Former Ballet Program

**Eastlyn Jensen**

Ridgefield, Connecticut | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2019

Training: The Studio at Ballet Etudes, American Ballet Theatre School,
The School of American Ballet, Chautauqua Institution, Houston Ballet,
Ballet West, The School of Ballet Arizona**Helio Lima**

Rio De Janeiro, Brazil | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2015

Training: Ballet Petite Dance School of Dance, New Zealand School of Dance
Other Companies: Theatro Municipal do Rio de Janeiro,
Royal New Zealand Ballet, West Australian Ballet, Boston Ballet**Katherine Loxtercamp**

Bemidji, Minnesota | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2016

Training: Reif Center, Maryland Youth Ballet,
The School of Ballet Arizona

Company continued**Erin Mesaros**

Eagle, Michigan | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2022

Training: Orlando Ballet School

Other Companies: Orlando Ballet Second Company, San Diego Ballet

**Luis Olivera**

Montevideo, Uruguay | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2022

Training: National School of Dance (Sodre), Miami City Ballet School

**Randy Pacheco**

Camagüey, Cuba | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2015

Training: National School of the Arts - Vincentia de la Torre

Other Companies: Ballet de Camagüey, Youth Ballet of Jalisco

**Madison Penney**

Phoenix, Arizona | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2025

Training: Master Ballet Academy, The Royal Ballet School

Other Companies: Birmingham Royal Ballet, Atlanta Ballet

**Braden Pollack**

Chatham, New Jersey | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2025

Training: School of American Ballet

**Ethan Price**

Phoenix, Arizona | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2016

Training: The School of Ballet Arizona

**Trey Puckett**

Spokane, Washington | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2022

Training: Spokane Ballet Studio, Dance Center of Spokane,

Moses Lake Dance Academy, Huntsville Ballet Company, Central

Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Miami City Ballet School

**Natalie Ramirez**

Riverside, California | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2020

Training: Boston Ballet School, The School of Ballet Arizona,

Pacific Northwest Ballet, The School of American Ballet

**Alison Remmers**

Sudbury, Massachusetts | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2014
Training: Walnut Hill School for the Arts, Princeton Ballet,
Pacific Northwest Ballet, San Francisco Ballet
Other Companies: Pacific Northwest Ballet

**Erick Rojas**

Mexico City, Mexico | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2023
Training: DanceFit Impulso al Talento, Miami City Ballet School

**Ricardo Santos**

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2016
Training: Conservatorio Brasileiro de Danca, The Australian Ballet School
Other Companies: Theatro Municipal do Rio de Janeiro, Joffrey Ballet,
Boston Ballet

**Isabella Seo**

Los Angeles, California | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2021
Training: Pittsburgh Ballet Theater Graduation Program,
The Marat Daukayev School of Ballet

**McKenzie Thomas**

Colorado Springs, Colorado | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2025
Training: Zamuel Ballet School, Master Ballet Academy
Other Companies: Orlando Ballet, Colorado Ballet

**Greg Trechel**

Albany, New York | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2025
Training: Northeast Ballet School, Miami City Ballet School,
The School of Ballet Arizonas Studio Company

**Gabriel Wright**

Dallas, Oregon | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2021
Training: Pacific Northwest Ballet Professional Division,
Colburn Dance Academy, American Ballet Academy

**Cheyenne You**

Phoenix, Arizona | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2022
Training: The School of Ballet Arizona

Studio Company



Photo by Ron Brewer.

The Studio Company performs alongside the professional company and presents its own works independently. Acting as a bridge between school and professional life, the Studio Company provides an opportunity for students of the highest rank to pursue a career in dance. Members are selected by audition only and hail from all over the world. An indispensable and important part of their training is understudying and appearing regularly on stage with Ballet Arizona and in Studio Company productions.

Photo: Front Row (from left to right): Emerson Butler, BriAnna Binzak, Nahomi Alafita, Abigail Carpenter, Scarlett Fulton, Laurel Ho **Back Row (from left to right):** Dakota Blake, Dasha Derkach, Emma Taylor, Juliana Utzinger, Noah Finnigan, Elizabeth Millard, Gabriella Agnew- Huertas, Madeleine Smith

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& Accounting

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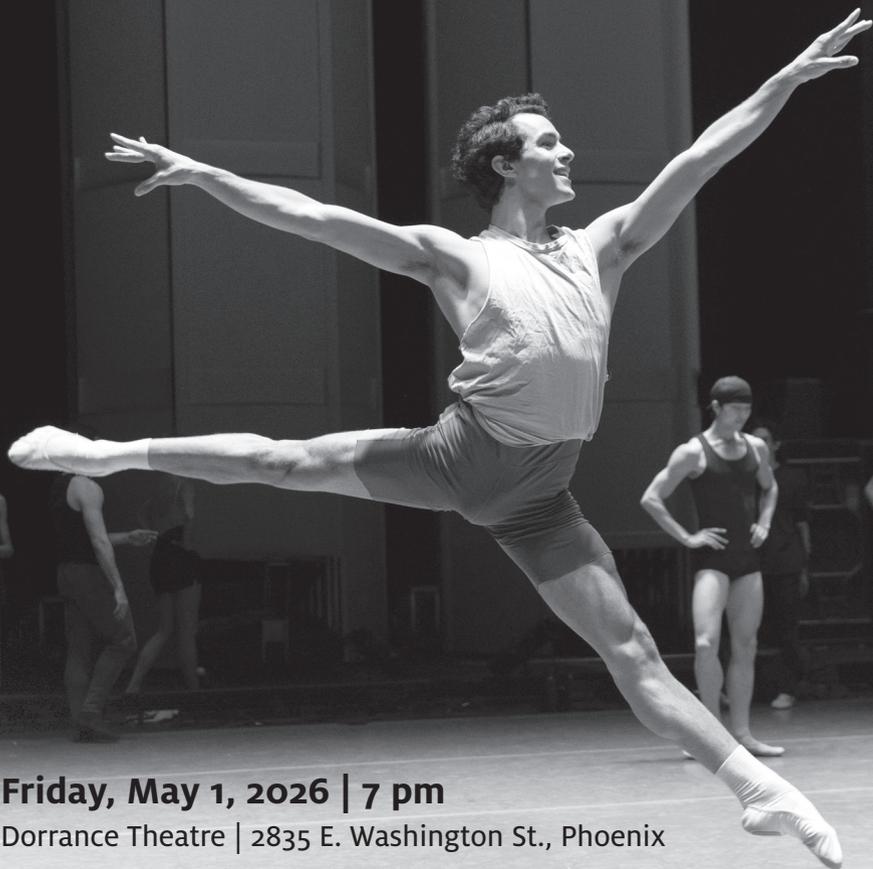
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BALLET IN BLOOM

Studio Spotlight



Friday, May 1, 2026 | 7 pm

Dorrance Theatre | 2835 E. Washington St., Phoenix

Step inside the studio for an intimate rehearsal experience featuring our Artistic Staff and Ballet Arizona dancers. You'll get a behind-the-scenes look at how *Ballet in Bloom* comes to life.

Watch the dancers up close, hear insights from the creative team, and discover what happens before the curtain rises. Each one-hour gathering also includes a Q&A, giving you the chance to ask questions, connect with the artists, and deepen your appreciation for the ballet.

This is a limited-capacity event. If you've been thinking about joining us, now is the time!

Ballet Arizona dancer Luis Olivera. Photo by Rosalie O' Conner

Tickets at balletaz.org

BALLET
ARIZONA

Director Biographies



Daniela Cardim

Artistic Director

Daniela began her career at Ballet of Municipal Theatre of Rio de Janeiro in 1994, becoming a soloist in 1995. She joined the Dutch National Ballet in 1999, performing key roles in ballets such as *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Romeo and Juliet*. She started choreographing as a young dancer and quickly gained recognition with works for the Dutch National Ballet like *Three Movements for Cello & Piano* and *Zahir*. She was selected for the New York Choreographic Institute in 2008 and was named a “New Name to Watch” by *Dance Europe Magazine* in 2015. She has created works for companies including Birmingham Royal Ballet, West Australian Ballet, New English Ballet Theatre, Dutch National Ballet - main and Junior companies, São Paulo Dance Company and Municipal Theatre of Rio de Janeiro. Cardim has also taught, mentored and choreographed at institutions like The Royal Ballet School, Elmhurst Ballet School and English National Ballet. After retiring as a dancer in 2010, she earned a first-class honors degree in arts management from London South Bank University. She has held various leadership roles at the New English Ballet Theatre and was named artistic director of Ballet Arizona in 2024.



Jami Kozemczak

Executive Director

Jami Kozemczak was appointed Executive Director for Ballet Arizona in May 2022, after having served as the Director of Development since 2015. Jami works to advance the organization through a people-centered leadership model that focuses on building culture, expanding programs, and increasing revenue generation. During her tenure, the organization has successfully implemented a culture of philanthropy that permeates throughout the organization. She has secured more than \$50 million in contributed revenue during her time at Ballet Arizona, and increased earned revenue by 53% since her first year as Executive Director.

Jami has 17 years of experience in arts non-profit management which includes fundraising, strategic planning, public relations, communications, donor relations, and marketing. Beginning her career as a marketing professional, she quickly transitioned to fundraising after discovering her true vocation was connecting donors to their passion. Jami holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science from Arizona State University. Jami’s volunteer work centers on mentorship; she served on the AFP Professional Mentoring Program Committee for 7 years and has a passion for helping individuals invest in themselves and their future.

About Us

Ballet Arizona, in its 39th season, is dedicated to preserving and celebrating classical dance while creating new and innovative works. Under the artistic direction of internationally acclaimed choreographer Daniela Cardim—a former dancer with Dutch National Ballet and the Ballet of Municipal Theatre of Rio de Janeiro—Ballet Arizona follows her lead to the future of dance in Arizona. The School of Ballet Arizona promotes access to the art of ballet through dance education, focusing on form and by directing each student to a life-long love of dance. Following this vision, Ballet Arizona connects to more than 25,000 children and families every year through its free and low cost outreach programs.

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*Lifetime members, non-voting
**In Memoriam

Artistic Staff



Maria Simonetti, *Rehearsal Director*

Ms. Simonetti, a Buenos Aires native, trained at Teatro Colón and danced with La Joven Guardia of Ballet Nacional de Cuba before assisting Laura Alonso as stage director for Cuballet. She taught at several institutions, including the Magda Aunon School of Ballet and Pittsburgh's Point Park College, before becoming ballet mistress at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago in 1995. While assisting choreographer Daniel Ezralow, she contributed to various productions, including *Mandala* and choreography for Pope John Paul II's International Youth Day. She has staged works for the Bratislava Dance Theatre and the National Ballet of Greece. In 1997, she became rehearsal director for Ballet Arizona while still working as a visiting artist, returning to Hubbard Street Dance Chicago each summer. Recently, she collaborated with Ib Andersen on *Romeo & Juliet* for Kansas City Ballet's 50th-anniversary season and served as a guest teacher for Nederlands Dans Theater.



Lisbet Companioni, *Ballet Mistress*

A native of Camagüey, Cuba, Lisbet Companioni began her career in ballet as a member of Ballet de Camagüey under the direction of its co-founder, Fernando Alonso. Her repertoire as a dancer includes *Don Quixote*, *Dracula*, *La Bayadère*, *La Fille mal gardée*, *Napoli*, and *The Three Musketeers*. In 2001 Companioni joined Ballet Arizona as a dancer and originated featured roles in Ib Andersen's *2B*, *Elevations*, *Mosaik* and *Play*. Her modern repertoire includes soloist roles in Twyla Tharp's *Sinatra Suite*, *The Golden Section* and *Company B*. Her interest in Balanchine ballets grew as she added George Balanchine's *Agon*, *Apollo*, *Allegro Brillante*, *Serenade*, and *Theme and Variations* to her repertory. Companioni has always had a passion for teaching and coaching dancers, and is also a faculty member at The School of Ballet Arizona. Companioni retired from the stage in 2008 to become Ballet Arizona's Ballet Mistress.



David Krensing, *Ballet Master*

A Minnesota native and former Principal Dancer with Pennsylvania Ballet, David Krensing performed numerous leading classical, contemporary and modern dance roles by renowned choreographers. Mr. Krensing has toured the US and Europe, independently and as a PA Ballet dancer, and has been featured domestically and internationally in both company produced and independent productions. Mr. Krensing holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Stephens College, and a Master of Fine Arts from The University of Arizona. In addition to his ballet master duties, he is a faculty member at The School of Ballet Arizona.



Michael Korsch, *Lighting and Projection Design*

Michael Korsch is a lighting, projection, and scenic designer based in Philadelphia, PA, where he earned his BA in theatre from Temple University. He has worked with various directors and choreographers, creating visual designs for live performances across North America, Europe, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.

Since 1998, he has been the Resident Lighting Designer for Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Ballet Arizona since 2001, and at the Gloria Kaufman International Dance Center at USC. His designs have also been featured in productions for notable companies, including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, and San Francisco Ballet, among others.

Opus 76 Quartet

The *Opus 76 Quartet*, founded in 2017, is acclaimed for its “old-school European elegance” and expressive sound, reminiscent of the golden age of quartet playing. Praised as one of America’s top string quartets, they gained national recognition with their 2023 Carnegie Hall debut. The quartet features award-winning musicians who have performed at prestigious venues including Weill Recital Hall, Cincinnati Music Hall, and the OK Mozart Festival.

Their extensive discography includes complete cycles of Beethoven quartets and notable recordings of works by Brahms, Mozart, and Schubert. The quartet is also recognized for their dynamic collaborations with ballet companies, particularly in Alexander Ekman's *Cacti*, receiving accolades for their captivating performances.

Dedicated to music education, the *Opus 76 Quartet* runs the *Music Making Minds* initiative, engaging underserved communities and teaching at esteemed institutions.

The *Opus 76 Quartet* is represented by Tom Gallant of General Arts Touring. For their upcoming performance schedule, visit their official website.

Additional Artistic Staff

Director of Production

Michael J. Panvini

Technical Director

Jessica Muñoz

Assistant Technical Director/Head Electrician

Sam Cooper

Stage Manager

Laura Cadieux

Deck Crew

Lilly Escobar

Costume Shop

Cecilia Acosta

Flor Loya

Camila Corrales

Edna Orlanes

Vera Solodovnikova

Iris Weng

Costume Director

Leonor Texidor

Wardrobe Supervisor

Kaler Pilar Navazo

Additional stagehands provided by

IATSE Local #336

Company Photographers

Ron Brewer

Ed Flores

Tzu-Chia Huang

Rosalie O'Connor

Angela Sterling

The School of Ballet Arizona

As Ballet Arizona's official training school, we are committed to nurturing the next generation of dancers. Our School offers comprehensive ballet education in a supportive and inspiring environment for students of all ages and skill levels, from beginner to pre-professional. Our curriculum, which emphasizes classical ballet technique, artistry, and performance opportunities, is guided by experienced faculty who bring professional expertise to the studio. We are dedicated to excellence and individual growth, fostering a love for dance while preparing students for a future in the arts or beyond.

A comprehensive syllabus has been developed to maintain the fundamental aspects of classical ballet technique and offers the highest quality training at every level, in every program, through:

- Internationally-renowned faculty
- Live piano accompaniment for most ballet classes
- A unique connection to Ballet Arizona as Arizona's official Ballet Company
- Access to the finest dance facility in the Southwest

Ballet Arizona's state-of-the-art facility allows generous capacity for The School of Ballet Arizona to offer education and dance training programs effectively. With seven studios and locker rooms, students can focus and expand their training in this stimulating environment.

In addition to dance training, The School of Ballet Arizona offers open classes for students ages 14 & up. This program is a great way to experience dance training, stay in shape, and have fun. Classes available for all levels.



**Scan the QR code
to learn more.**



School of Ballet Arizona dancers. Photo by Tzu Chia Huang.



James Payne

School Director

James Payne began his ballet training in Phoenix, Arizona with Nina Marlow, Michel Fokine's great niece. He performed with Ballet West (1989-1994) and Houston Ballet (1994-2001). With over 35 years experience in ballet, he has excelled in both classical and contemporary roles, including soloist and principal roles in major classics by Balanchine, Forsythe, and Kylian.

After retiring from performing, Payne served as Houston Ballet's company manager, co-founded a student company and school in Texas, and choreographed five full-length and numerous one-act ballets. He has held roles including Philadelphia Ballet's School Director, Houston Ballet Academy faculty, and board member of the American Guild of Musical Artists. Currently, he is a Master Teacher, judge for YAGP, and repetiteur for Trey McIntyre, staging his ballets worldwide.

School Faculty and Staff

School Manager

Jasmine Nunn

School Administrator

Tyler Hooten

Upper Division Student Liaison

Gillmer Duran

Principal Faculty

Luis Martinez

Children's & Lower Division Coordinator

Fabiana Poulis

Rehearsal Director, Principal Repetiteur

María Simonetti

Ballet Master & Summer Intensive Coordinator

David Krensing

Arizona School for the Arts Program Manager

Gia Firicano

Teaching Staff

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Daniel Baudendistel, Camila Corrales, Sarah Diniz, Rachel Gehr, Tyler Hooten,

Mishelle Mackle, Gail Passey-Reed,

Natalie Ramirez, Lainie Seretis,

Kleiton Sistélos, Robyn Tennyson

School Assistants

Maya Sarraf

Company & School Accompanists

Shauna Bierly, Larisa Denman,

Kylar Gardner, Amanda Hidalgo,

Robert Kaplan, Klara Kukumi,

Jisun Myung, Larry Phibbs,

Natasha Schwimmer, Terry Seretis,

Bill Swayze, Grace Templeton

SUMMER PROGRAMS

SUMMER BALLET SCHOOL

JUNE 8 – 18 / JULY 13 – 24, 2026

Accepting students ages 7 – 12

The Summer Ballet School is for young students to continue their training through rigorous ballet classes and learn other dance styles, such as contemporary and Horton.*

Auditions are still available!

In-class auditions will be open for registration until May 8th.

**Supplemental class offerings vary.*

Two or four-week sessions are available.



For details visit

balletaz.org

Photos by Rosalie O'Connor and Tzu-Chia Huang.



THE SCHOOL OF
BALLET
ARIZONA

OPEN CLASSES FOR ADULTS

***Enjoy the benefits of quality dance
training in The School of Ballet
Arizona's remarkable studios***

Open to adults of all ages and teens age 14 and up, this program is a great way to experience dance training, stay in shape and have fun! Classes in ballet, Horton technique and more are offered for true beginners through advanced.



Photo by Rosalie O'Connor.



**Named Best Drop-in
Adult Ballet Class by
Phoenix New Times**

For more information visit balletaz.org
or call 602.381.0188

THE SCHOOL OF
BALLET
ARIZONA

Giving Back

Community Engagement

For over 30 years, Ballet Arizona has served Arizona communities based on the belief that the magic of a single performance has the ability to change lives. Ballet Arizona offers a wide variety of Community Engagement programs that seek to educate communities about this transformative power of dance. Through our work we strive to empower individuals to engage more deeply with the art form and eliminate the barriers to participation that prevent people from experiencing dance.



EDUCATE

INSPIRE

IMPACT



**25,662
ARIZONA
RESIDENTS
SERVED**

15 PROGRAMS

Lifelong Learning
Programs for Teachers & Schools
Community Programs
Behind-the-Scenes Programs

Schools served in 67 zip codes



**645
HOURS**
spent engaging
with the community



\$30,300
in scholarship money awarded





Dance for Parkinson's Disease students after class.

At Ballet Arizona, we offer programs for all members of the community:

Programs for Teachers and Schools

- Class Act
- Classroom Visits
- DanceAZ
- Driven to Dance
- Performance Hour Field Trips
- Student Matinee Performances

Creative Aging Programs

- Creative Aging through Dance
- Dance for Parkinson's Disease

Community Programs

- Adaptive Dance
- Community Angel Nights
- Ballet Under the Stars
- Native American Hoop Dance
- Speaking Engagements and Presentations

Behind the Scenes Programs

- Performance Chats
- Studio Spotlight

Community Engagement Teaching Artists:

Eva Bighorse, Debbie Braganza, Sky Duncan, Jonie Henriksson, Angela Patrice, Michelle Reissig, Lainie Seretis, Cecilia Smith, Hannah Stough, Keri Sullivan

“Ballet Arizona welcomes children and their parents to be part of the world of ballet in such an easy way. They come to our communities and leave the door open; letting everyone know that they can participate if they want. It’s very subtle and very powerful.”

– BAZ Partner



For more information about our Community Engagement programs, visit our website at balletaz.org/community-engagement or scan the QR code.

We want to thank our Official Community Engagement sponsor



THE DIANE & BRUCE HALLE
FOUNDATION

Partnership for Change

ADAPTIVE & INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS



Photo by Megan Braganza.

DANCE FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Find renewed strength, confidence, and hope!

Ballet Arizona offers free dance classes to help individuals and their caregivers manage the physical and emotional symptoms associated with Parkinson's Disease or movement and balance disorders.

INSTRUCTOR: Debbie Braganza

ADAPTIVE DANCE

Share the love of dance and foster creativity!

The Adaptive Dance Program is designed for students ages 5–22 to create a class environment that is sensitive to the needs of students with diverse cognitive, physical and developmental needs while nurturing their self-expression and developing their movement, social, and rhythmic skills. Ages for each level are recommendations, each student will be evaluated for final placement.

INSTRUCTOR: Michelle Reissig



Photo by Nikianna Medansky.

For more class information and to register, visit balletaz.org.

BALLET
ARIZONA

2835 E. Washington St. Phoenix, AZ 85034
bazeducation@balletaz.org | 602.343.6508

Join us for

PERFORMANCE CHATS

Admission is FREE with your ticket!

Pre-Performance Chat

Begins 45 minutes before the performance
on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and
Sunday matinee.

Post-Performance Chat

Begins immediately following the
Saturday 2 pm performance.

Each chat is 15 minutes long.
See an usher on where to attend!

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Leave a Legacy

The **Legacy for Dance** program recognized those who provide for Ballet Arizona through a gift in their estate plan. A legacy gift may enable you to support Ballet Arizona, secure the financial needs of your loved ones, and provide you with tax benefits. Legacy gifts of all sizes help us meet our current goals and plan further into the future.

Through our partnership with FreeWill, you have access to a secure, online tool to create or update your will at no cost. In just 20 minutes, you can:

- Protect your loved ones
- Designate guardians for children or pets
- Appoint trusted individuals for healthcare and financial decisions
- Gain peace of mind knowing your plans are in place

Visit balletaz.org/legacy_giving to learn more about FreeWill and our Legacy for Dance program recognizing those who provide for Ballet Arizona through a gift in their estate plan.

Have questions?

Contact the Philanthropy Department at **602.343.6510** or philanthropy@balletaz.org.



Scan the code
below to
learn more!



Investing in our future

Ballet Arizona and The School of Ballet Arizona offer a variety of merit and/or need-based scholarships. Beyond furthering education, and in some cases breaking down financial barriers, scholarships are an investment in people, our school, and the advancement of ballet.

THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS SCHOLARS

This endowed scholarship supports a portion of tuition for four to five students annually.

THE DAVID HALLBERG SCHOLARSHIP FOR BOYS

This scholarship is awarded to one or more boys ages 13 and up who demonstrate a passion for ballet.

THE TED STEPHAN SCHOLARSHIP

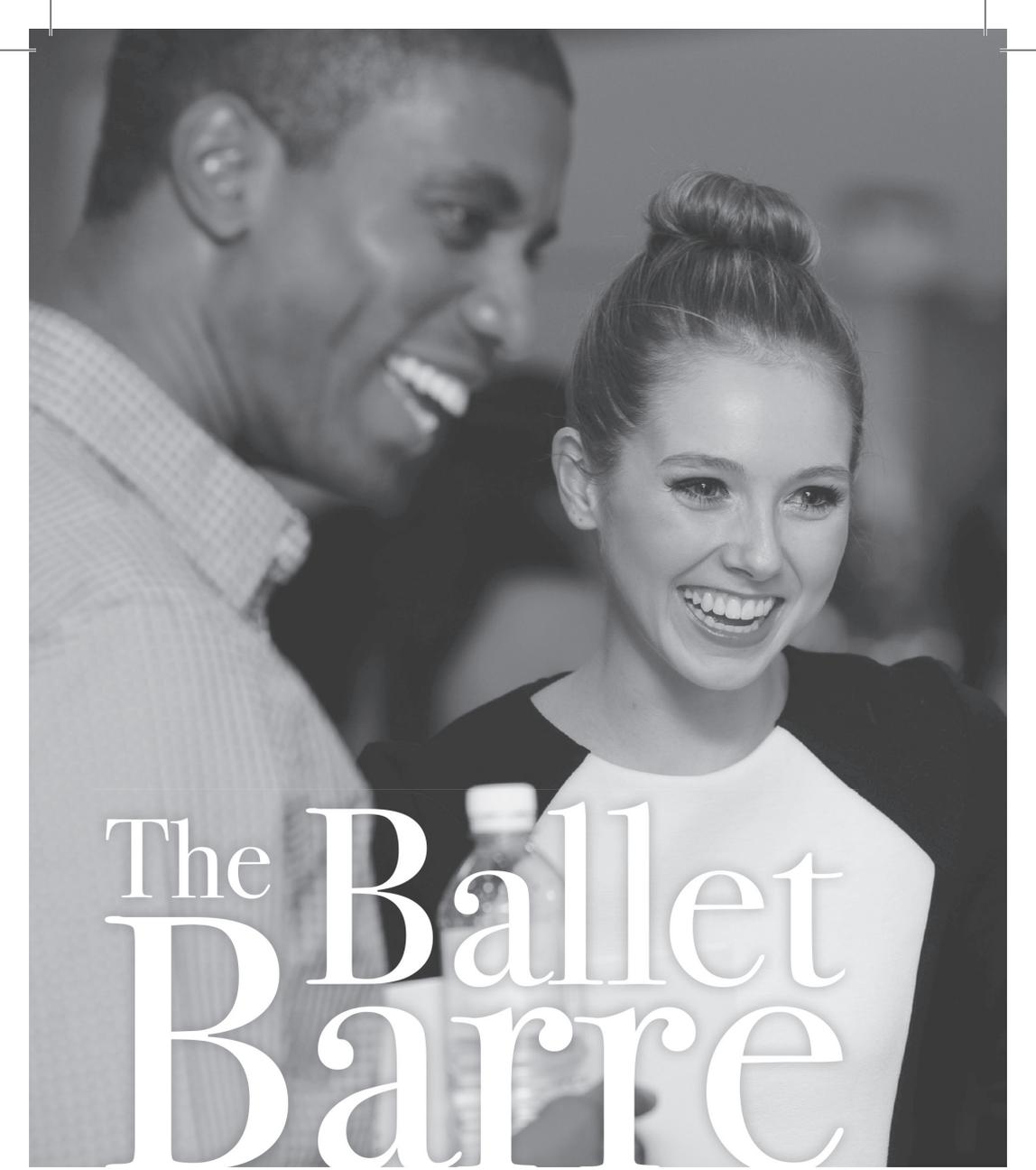
Established by a generous bequest from ballet lover and supporter, Ted Stephan, this endowed scholarship is merit-based and awarded each year. His lifelong passion for dance will now live on through future generations.



Photos by Rosalie O'Connor and Tzu-Chia Huang.

To learn more about how you can support our scholarship programs, contact the Philanthropy Department at **602.343.6510** or **philanthropy@balletaz.org**.

For more information on how to apply for scholarships, please contact The School of Ballet Arizona at **school@balletaz.org**.



The Ballet Barre

Ballet Barre is a dynamic group of young professionals who support Ballet Arizona through membership, volunteerism and their love of dance. **Membership begins at only \$30 annually!** Members enjoy exclusive benefits, including Ballet Barre Night receptions at Saturday evening Symphony Hall performances, and a behind-the-scenes view of the company.

Scan the QR code to join today and see our calendar of events!
For more information email balletbarre@balletaz.org



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ADP
 American Express
 Apple Inc.
 Cisco
 CSAA Insurance
 Discover
 Eaton
 Encore Capital Group
 Franklin Templeton
 GoDaddy
 Intel
 Intuitive Foundation
 JP Morgan Chase
 Lam Research
 Medtronic Premier Healthcare
 Morgan Stanley
 Nordstrom
 Northern Trust
 PNC Bank
 Prudential Financial
 Raytheon Technologies
 Vanguard
 Waymo
 Wells Fargo

GIFTS-IN-KIND

Amazing Flowers
 Angie Slade Design
 APS
 City of Phoenix & Phoenix Convention Center
 Corpus Communications
 Desert Botanical Garden
 Hotel Valley Ho
 Itamar Stern & Foothills Sports Medicine Therapy
 OnMedia
 PHX Beer Co.
 Timothy & Jill Russell
 The Stockyards, Arizona's Original Steakhouse
 Unipak Designs Corp

**** Deceased**

⁵ *Provides support to Ballet Arizona as a member of Arizona 5 Arts Circle*



5 ARTS CIRCLE

• 16 YEARS SUPPORTING THE ARTS •

Ballet Arizona deeply appreciates the support of this organization. Five Arts Circle has given more than \$4 million to the arts in Arizona in the past 20 years.