

Q&A:
*Artistic Director
Ib Andersen*

Letter from the
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Samantha Turner

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Scholarships

Performance
Sneak Peek:
Juan Gabriel

TURNING POINTE



Building Ballet's Future

How your visionary support
helps us today and beyond.

Jillian Barrell and Helio Lima in Naylor Iovino's *Mambaz*. Photo by Alexander Izilliaev.

FALL 2021



Thank you for your continued support and for being a part of our story.

Welcome to Ballet Arizona's 2021-2022 season! We can't wait to celebrate our return to the main stage with you. From vibrant contemporary works like Nayon Iovino's *Mambaz* and Shakespeare's beloved *Romeo & Juliet*, to the Arizona premiere of George Balanchine's *Bourée Fantasque* and the world premiere of *Juan Gabriel*, honoring one of Mexico's most electrifying singers to ever exist, this is going to be a season to remember.

In this issue, Executive Director, Samantha Turner, discusses the future of the company and how we plan to move forward in the wake of the global pandemic. Over the years, Ballet Arizona has become a cultural jewel of our community and it is through the strategic expansion of our mission that we will build upon that legacy. This of course, all began because of you, our donors, and will continue, thanks to your visionary support.

Speaking of the future, learn about scholarships at The School of Ballet Arizona and the vast opportunities they are providing our students. Beyond furthering their education, and in some cases breaking-down financial barriers, scholarships are an investment in people, our school, and ultimately the advancement of ballet.

Thank you for your continued support and advocating for the performing arts in Arizona. I hope you will enjoy this issue of *Turning Pointe!*

Gratefully,

Ib Andersen, Artistic Director

BEHIND THE SCENES with Ib Andersen

Q: How did you feel when you heard the news of the Virginia G. Piper gift to Ballet Arizona?

A: Truly extraordinary! The fact that they have the means and the foresight to do this, will have such an influence on the entire arts community. Without these grants – as we are all trying to recover from the aftermath and the current effects facing us from the pandemic – it would be too horrible to even think about what might have happened. We are honored to be a beneficiary of such monumental giving and I am thankful to all of the Piper Trustees who made this gift possible.

Q: How does it feel to be back in the studios?

A: We are coming out of COVID – or at least that is what it feels like – but the reality is we are still very much in it. You can sense that from everyone. We aren't sure what will come next and we are still holding our breath for what will happen a month or two from now. But I will say, it feels good to be back in the studios and the dancers are working very hard.

We finished our Ballet Under the Stars park shows. This was our 24th year out in the community and our first year back to Glendale at the historic Sahuaro Ranch Park in over a decade. It just felt so good to be performing again.

We are rehearsing for *Contemporary Moves* which will be held in Dorrance Theatre this fall opposed to Orpheum Theatre. We have performed each of these pieces before, but not together, so it will be an eclectic mix with Frederick Ashton's *Les Patineurs (The Skaters)*, Justin Peck's *In Creases*, and Nayon Iovino's *Mambaz*. An old one and then two fairly recent ballets – each with very different aesthetics.



Q: Tell us a bit about the world premiere of Juan Gabriel

A: It was a very productive summer. Our Costume Director, Leonor Texidor, and I went to Mexico City to meet with Designer, Carla Fernández. She is an incredible fashion designer – internationally-renown as one of the top in the world right now. We are lucky to have her. She grew up listening to Juan Gabriel, or Juanga, as many people call him, and is excited to be a part of this project with us. I love that she uses the iconography in her designs that showcase the legacy of the Indigenous communities and people of Mexico.

We are also working with a videographer, Jacob Pinholster, who is the associate dean for enterprise design and operations for the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts at ASU. The ballet is centered around Juan Gabriel's live performance at the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City from 1990, and so we are adding clips from this live performance as a new element. He will be working on the content for the video projection with our Lighting Designer, Michael Korsch. The goal is that you will get the sense of that continuity that comes from a live concert – especially from a pop artist. That is what it is about. The process is a strange thing...you think you are doing one thing and heading in one direction and then the end result is something completely different. It's a work in progress.

Being in Mexico and talking to so many people about Juan Gabriel, I learned so much. Their love of him could be from childhood memories, or from a romance gone right... or wrong! I have never come across an artist that was, and still is, so beloved with such deep and universal passion. I keep thinking, "What is a Dane doing, trying to choreograph a ballet to this revered Mexican Artist? Am I crazy?" I am terrified, but, I think about how much his music inspires me and I am passionate about showcasing his artistry in a completely different medium.

Sneak Peek

JUAN GABRIEL COSTUMES

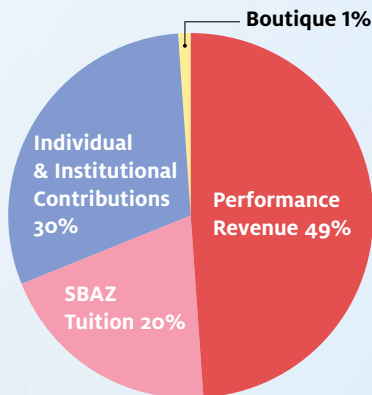


FINANCIAL SPOTLIGHT

Ballet Arizona by the Numbers

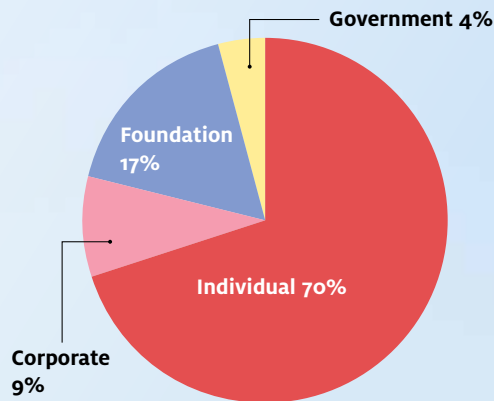
Here is a brief snapshot of how we invest your generous contributions into delivering our mission. Whether it's \$130 for a single pair of pointe shoes, \$125,000 for our annual student matinee program, or the \$600,000 needed to create our performances at Desert Botanical Garden, every dollar matters. Below is a breakdown of the revenue, expenses, and important role you, our donors, play in operating Ballet Arizona.

Total Revenue



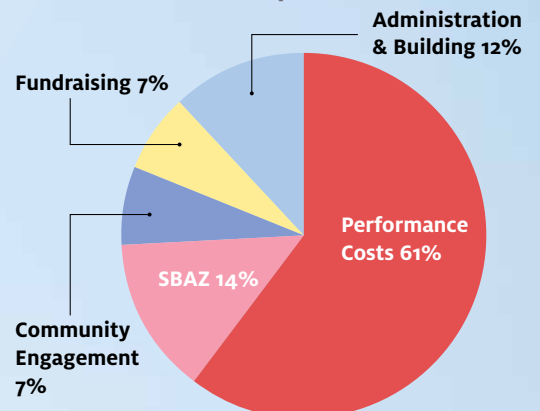
Total: \$8.5 MILLION

Contributed Revenue



Total: \$3 MILLION

Expenses



Total: \$7.8 MILLION

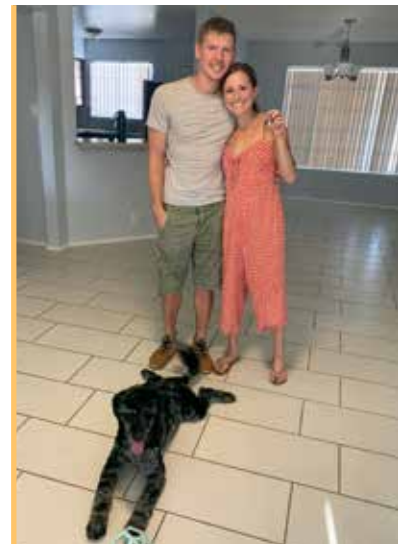
KEEPING UP WITH THE DANCERS



After getting engaged last summer, **Alison Remmers** and **Alberto Morales Perez** officially tied the knot this past June in Maine!



Sasha Vincett traveled around Europe for two weeks, visiting Germany, Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, North Macedonia, Slovenia, and Italy.



Abby Phillips Maginity and her husband, Kevin, celebrated a huge milestone by buying a house!



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Samantha Turner

Where will you be in the future?

That's something we haven't been able to think about in a long while. Uncertainty has been limiting our vision to the range of our headlights, as they say. Slowly, that has been changing.

Your support in the Be our Bridge fund helped make sure we survived when we couldn't perform, train students in our studios, or go out to the community in service. Your continuing support is making it possible for us to return to Symphony Hall this season and, at long last, present the world premiere of Ib Andersen's *Juan Gabriel*.

During the summer, our board and leadership team resumed a strategic planning process that was halted when the pandemic began. As a task force, this group began evaluating opportunities for Ballet Arizona to expand its mission and began formulating plans for a number of strategic initiatives. These initiatives range from creating new works that attract new audiences, to building the capacity and reach of The School of Ballet Arizona. This expansion not only promotes the evolution of the art form, but increases access to the performing arts and provides valuable services to our community.

We see in the future, great opportunity for Ballet Arizona to expand its role as a cultural jewel for the Valley. After the financial devastation of the pandemic, it was unclear how we would move toward that future.

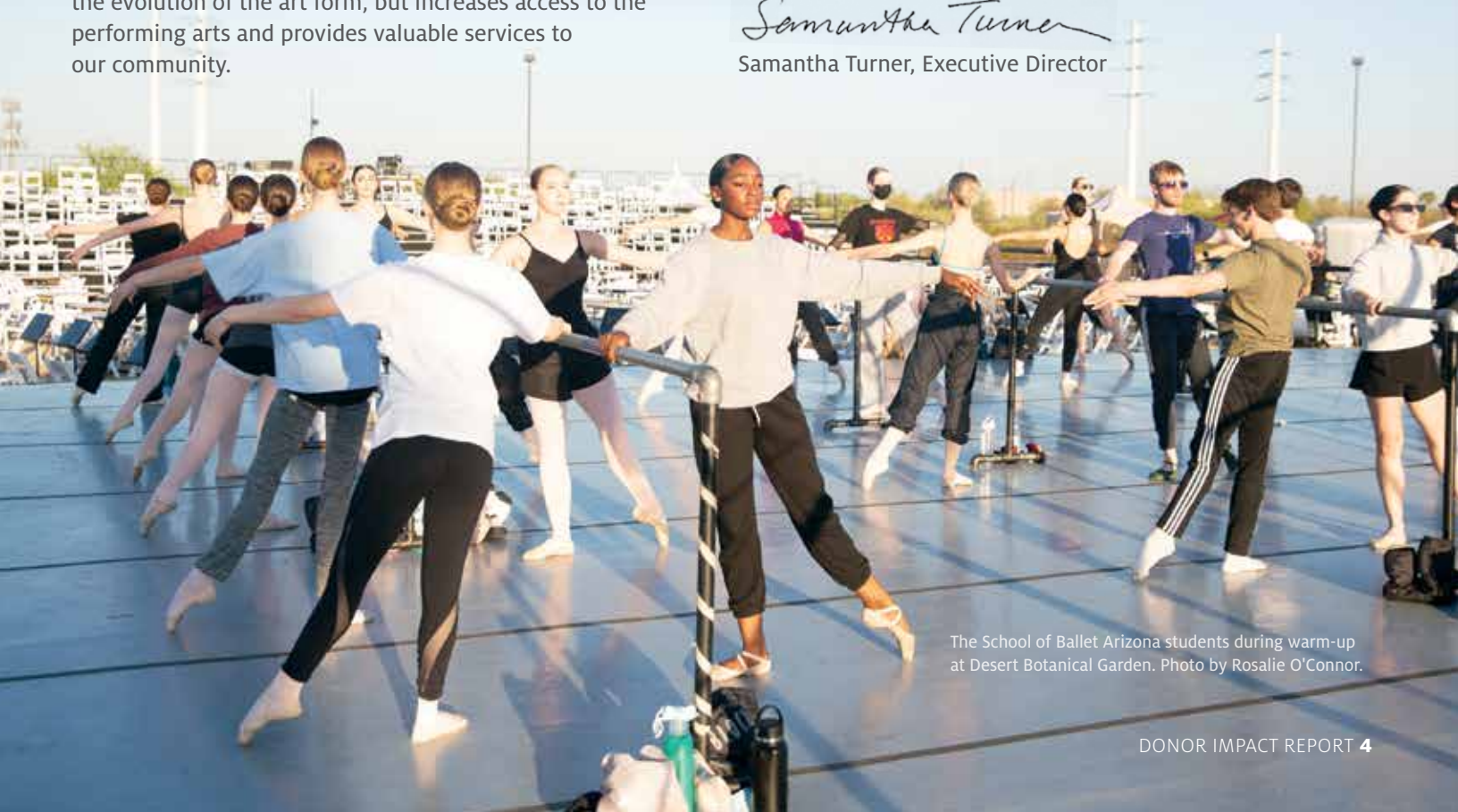
Visionary philanthropy provides hope for these dreams to become a reality and you, are a part of that vision.

In September, the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust included Ballet Arizona in the largest single-day grant initiative in Arizona history, surprising us with an unrestricted grant of \$2.5 million. This extraordinary gift will help fund strategic initiatives we could only dream about. We look forward to sharing more details as those plans take shape.

Thank you for all that you've done to put Ballet Arizona in a position to thrive. Your support means everything to us.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Samantha Turner, Executive Director



The School of Ballet Arizona students during warm-up at Desert Botanical Garden. Photo by Rosalie O'Connor.

Investing in the Future

Did you know about the many scholarship offerings available for students of The School of Ballet Arizona?

The scholarships available are merit and/or need based. This year, we are thrilled to announce The School of Ballet Arizona has awarded 32 scholarships for the 2021-2022 school year, totaling \$68,908 in merit and financial aid. We also awarded 23 students with \$25,870 in scholarships for the 2021 Summer Intensive program. All in, we gave out nearly \$100,000 in scholarships to our students this year. Highlighted below, are some of the scholarships provided at SBAZ and the incredible individuals and foundations that have made this funding possible.

To learn more about how you can support our scholarship programs, contact the development department at **602.343.6520**.

For more information on how to apply for scholarships, please contact The School of Ballet Arizona at **602.381.0188**.



School of Ballet Arizona students. Photo by Tzu-Chia Huang.



THE TED STEPHAN SCHOLARSHIP

In May 2021, Ballet Arizona received the news of a generous bequest from longtime ballet supporter, Theodore R. Stephan. This wonderful gift established the new merit-based, Ted Stephan Scholarship, which will be awarded each school year.

Born in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Ted was raised during the Great Depression and became a young man through the backdrop of World War II. He developed a deep appreciation of music and dance early on through his mother who was a gifted pianist and opera-lover. Those interests, forged during turbulent times, became passions that endured throughout his lifetime. While attending Ohio State University, after serving in the war, Ted worked as a ballroom dance instructor at Arthur Murray's Dance Studio. Ted later established a career in the mortgage banking industry and real estate, was a photo model, and ultimately became a business entrepreneur dealing

in health and nutrition. Through it all, he remained passionate about dance and was still out on the dance floor every week through his 93rd year.

Ted was an active and passionate supporter of Ballet Arizona, as well as many other charities, and we are honored to be remembered by him in this thoughtful and generous way. We look forward to celebrating his lifelong passion for dance and education through the beneficiaries of this scholarship, thereby instilling that same lifelong passion for dance in future generations to come.



THE SCHOOL OF BALLET ARIZONA SCHOLARSHIPS



THE KATHLEEN M. KELLY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This past spring, Kathleen McGillicuddy Kelly's five loving children, memorialized their mother's legacy with The Kathleen M. Kelly Memorial Scholarship. Through the support of family and friends, the scholarship has raised over \$15,000 and has been awarded to two upper division

and two lower division students for the 2021-2022 school year. Inspired by their mother's life-long dedication to dance, the family created the scholarship in order to remove financial barriers that ballet students and parents often face throughout the course of their training.

Born and raised on the east coast, Kathleen was from a Baseball Hall of Fame family, as the granddaughter of the great Connie Mack. Although she was a forever sports fan, Kathleen made a name for herself through dance, as a Radio City Music Hall Rockette in the early 50's. Her dancing days continued in Arizona, where she performed, taught, and choreographed for over 50 years, most notably with her precision tap company, The Kelly Dancers.

Kathleen's passion for dance started at the age of 3 with ballet. She trained throughout her adolescence, and while Kathleen loved all types of dance, she understood the important foundation ballet training provides a dancer, as well as the impact ballet and dance can have on anyone's life. She was the embodiment of vitality and positive energy, whose memory will continue to inspire the students at SBAZ and the community she cared for so deeply.



THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS SCHOLARS

In 1997, the Hearst Foundations established a generous endowment of \$100,000 to support scholarships at The School of Ballet Arizona. The proceeds from this endowed scholarship support a portion of tuition for four to five students annually.

For 24 years, Hearst Foundations has underwritten tuition for more than 100 students at The School of Ballet Arizona. They were the first organization to make the seed gift towards Ballet Arizona's endowment, now valued at \$5 million dollars.

The Hearst Foundations are national philanthropic resources for organizations working in the fields of culture, education, health and social services. Founded in 1946 by William Randolph Hearst, the Hearst Foundations identify and fund outstanding nonprofits to ensure that people of all backgrounds in the United States have the opportunity to build healthy, productive and inspiring lives.

Ballet Arizona is honored by their long-standing support and the opportunities they have provided to students at The School of Ballet Arizona.



The School of Ballet Arizona students in rehearsal for Cinderella. Photo by Tzu-Chia Huang.

HEARST foundations

BALLET ARIZONA 2021-2022 SEASON
UPCOMING DONOR EVENTS

October 28 (\$3,500 @ up)
Contemporary Moves Dress Rehearsal Viewing

October 29 – 31 & November 5-7 | Dorrance Theatre
Contemporary Moves

October 29 – 31 & November 5-7 (All Prima Circle Members)
Contemporary Moves Pre-Performance Receptions

November 17 (All Members)
Legacy for Dance Rehearsal & Luncheon

December 10 – 24 | Symphony Hall
The Nutcracker

January 20 (\$2,500 @ up)
Company Class Viewing

January 28 (All Prima Circle Members)
Prima Circle Evening & Studio Spotlight

April 8 | Heard Museum
Baila Conmigo/Dance with Me - A Ballet Arizona Gala

BALLET
ARIZONA

IB ANDERSEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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Phoenix, AZ 85034

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BALLET ARIZONA'S
The
Nutcracker

December 10 – 24, 2021
with The Phoenix Symphony at Symphony Hall

Ballet Arizona returns to Symphony Hall in grand fashion with this holiday classic. Celebrate the joy and wonder of the season with Ib Andersen's *The Nutcracker* as Tchaikovsky's cherished score is masterfully performed by The Phoenix Symphony.

Tickets:
balletaz.org | 602.381.1096

The Nutcracker is sponsored in part by



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