

Ballet TUCSON

40th
Anniversary



2026
2027
Season

A LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Ballet Tucson's 2026/2027 Season is one I have been dreaming about for a long time. This is our 40th anniversary — four decades of artistry, community, and the transformative power of dance in Southern Arizona — and I am deeply honored to celebrate it as your Artistic Director, and as a School of Ballet Tucson alumna whose own journey began here in 1998.

As we mark forty years, we are embracing both the richness of our legacy and the limitless excitement of what lies ahead. We welcome back beloved treasures, including Chieko Imada's luminous ***Spirit Garden*** and ***The Nutcracker*** in partnership with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, alongside extraordinary premieres that reflect how far we have come. Three-time Tony Award winner Justin Peck brings his brilliant ***Debonair*** to our stage. George Balanchine's ***Emeralds*** shimmers into our repertoire. Andrea Schermoly's ***Appalachian Spring*** arrives with all its stirring beauty. And I am also thrilled to announce the world premiere of Chieko Imada's ***Carmen***, created in collaboration with the Tucson Desert Song Festival, musician Khris Dodge, and artist Lawrence Lee. We will also unveil a world premiere from one of our own artists, corps de ballet dancer Brooke Amundrud, whose artistry and choreographic voice embody the bright future of this company.

This landmark season is our celebration together, made possible by the generosity of supporters like you. It is a reflection of all we have built and a promise of everything still to come. You can be part of every moment by becoming a Season Subscriber, and please consider making a gift to support our company and school to keep great art alive in Southern Arizona for the next forty years.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you at the Ballet!



Margaret Mullin, Artistic Director

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR 2026/2027
SEASON AND SAVE!



THANK YOU TO OUR SEASON SPONSORS

Florence and Larry Adamson
Reinhaus Family Foundation



* All programming is subject to change
Dancers: Madeleine Kuebler and Edward Oyarce-Solomon

BECOME A SEASON SUBSCRIBER!

Be there for every inspiring moment of our new season, with benefits only subscribers enjoy

Exclusive Subscriber Benefits

- Save 20% on your full season subscription and additional single tickets (excludes Nutcracker VIP Experience)
- Choose from subscription packages, including full season or mixed rep options, and our **NEW Gold and Silver Family Subscriptions**
- Access exclusive invitations to special events, in-studio rehearsals, and behind-the-scenes experiences
- Receive concierge service, including free and flexible ticket exchanges within the same performance (48-hour notice required)
- Exchange tickets for a different performance during the season at no cost, or after a missed performance for a \$10 fee per ticket
- Enjoy priority access to Gold Circle seating before tickets go on sale to the public
- Maintain your preferred seats year to year (based on availability)
- Option to donate unused tickets as a tax-deductible contribution
- Early access to purchase additional tickets, including The Nutcracker before public sale

Upgrade to the Season Subscriber VIP experience! \$100

- Exclusive VIP Lounge at the Temple of Music and Art
- Ballet Tucson merchandise
- Dancer meet and greet opportunities



To subscribe,
visit **ballettucson.org**,
call **520.903.1445**,
or scan the QR code



TICKET GUIDE

To purchase single and group tickets to any of our performances without becoming a Season Subscriber, please see the venue information below!

Temple of Music and Art and Berger Performing Arts Center

Visit ballettucson.org,
call 520.903.1445, or email
tickets@ballettucson.org

Tucson Convention Center: Linda Ronstadt Music Hall

Visit ballettucson.org or visit the
Tucson Convention Center
Box Office at 260 S Church Ave

For questions about our performances,
please contact Ballet Tucson at **520.903.1445**
or **tickets@ballettucson.org**



Dancer: Sarah Wilkerson

STEPS FORWARD

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026



ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY

Berger Performing Arts Center

Fri Sept 11, 2026 7:00pm

Loved by our artists and audiences alike, Steps Forward is a choreographers' showcase that features a batch of all new works, created by current Ballet Tucson company members for their fellow dancers. At the end of this one-night-only collection of premieres, audience members have the opportunity to vote for their favorite, which will receive an encore presentation on the Ballet Tucson mainstage later in the season! This program offers vital career development and transition support for our dancers, allowing them to explore their creativity and their artistic potential as a choreographer. After the show you will hear from the choreographers themselves in a special Q&A moderated by Artistic Director Margaret Mullin.



For ticket information, please see page 4
Become a Season Subscriber to save 20%!

SPIRIT GARDEN

AND OTHER WORKS

OCTOBER 23 - 25, 2026

Ballet Tucson returns to the mainstage this fall with four unique works honoring legacy and the culture of our region. Our artistic leaders Chieko Imada, Margaret Mullin, and Brik Middlekauff join forces to create a world premiere work, **Ovation**, to celebrate our official school and company's 40 years of excellence in classical ballet. The audience favorite work from our **Steps Forward** emerging choreographer's showcase receives an encore presentation, highlighting the creative talent of Ballet Tucson's dancers. Tucson audiences have been captivated by the choreography of Kiyon Ross each season since 2022, and his **(NO HOLDS) barre'd**, a vibrant tutu ballet with a twist is back by popular demand. The highly anticipated return of Chieko Imada's **Spirit Garden** will inspire audiences once again, as a beautiful ballet tribute to Día de los Muertos featuring artwork by notable Southwest artist Lawrence Lee and music by the renowned Tucson band Calexico and guitarist Misael Barraza-Diaz.

PERFORMANCES

Temple of Music and Art

Fri	Oct 23, 2026	7:00pm
Sat	Oct 24, 2026	2:00pm
Sat	Oct 24, 2026	7:00pm
Sun	Oct 25, 2026	2:00pm



Ballet TUCSON THE NUTCRACKER

DECEMBER 18 - 20, 2026

PERFORMANCES

Linda Ronstadt Music Hall

Fri	Dec 18, 2026	7:00pm
Sat	Dec 19, 2026	1:00pm
Sat	Dec 19, 2026	6:00pm
Sun	Dec 20, 2026	1:00pm
Sun	Dec 20, 2026	6:00pm

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



TUCSON
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA



NUTCRACKER VIP EXPERIENCE

Limited availability prime seating, a post-performance meet and greet with the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier with photo opportunity, and a signed pointe shoe or photograph from the Sugar Plum Fairy.

VIP tickets are available for purchase by single ticket buyers and as an add-on for Season Subscribers (see page 3)

A world of wonder awaits at Ballet Tucson's *The Nutcracker*, in partnership with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra!

Treat your loved ones to Tucson's favorite holiday tradition. This award-winning production brings the enchanting story of ***The Nutcracker*** to life with sensational dancing, lavish sets and costumes, and Tchaikovsky's magnificent score performed live by the Tucson Symphony Orchestra's world-class musicians.

For tickets, visit **ballettucson.org** or visit the Tucson Convention Center Box Office: 260 S Church Ave.

Save 20% and avoid Ticketmaster by becoming a Season Subscriber!



*The perfect gift
for the
whole family!*

CARMEN

AND OTHER WORKS

FEBRUARY 26 - 28, 2027

This dazzling program features three exciting Ballet Tucson premieres. Legendary choreographer George Balanchine's iconic ballet ***Emeralds***, set to music by Gabriel Fauré, sparkles and brings to life the elegance and poetry of French Romantic ballet. An homage to the grace, glamour, and vivacity of Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire, ***Debonair*** by three-time Tony Award winning choreographer Justin Peck shines with sleek musicality, sharp footwork, and playful sophistication. Fiery, passionate and dramatic, the world premiere of ***Carmen*** by Ballet Tucson Associate Artistic Director and Resident Choreographer Chieko Imada comes to life in a thrilling partnership with the Tucson Desert Song Festival, featuring new artwork by Lawrence Lee and live music with a modern touch by Khris Dodge.

PERFORMANCES

Temple of Music and Art

Fri	Feb 26, 2027	7:00pm
Sat	Feb 27, 2027	2:00pm
Sat	Feb 27, 2027	7:00pm
Sun	Feb 28, 2027	2:00pm



Dancer: Danielle Corte

APPALACHIAN SPRING

AND OTHER WORKS

APRIL 9 - 11, 2027

This program features a captivating blend of classical and contemporary works that showcases the range of our art form and Ballet Tucson's artists. Margaret Mullin's ***Sobre las Olas***, originally choreographed for the Mexican Independence Day Classical Music Concert, returns with flair and beauty. The virtuosic ***Don Quixote Grand Pas de Deux***, choreographed by Chieko Imada, is a celebratory display of technical brilliance, including Kitri's signature 32 fouetté turns! Ballet Tucson dancer Brooke Amundrud has been the audience favorite winner of our Steps Forward choreographers showcase three times, and now brings her unique artistic voice to our repertoire with the world premiere of ***Interim***, an exploration of connection in a modern world. Internationally renowned choreographer Andrea Schermoly's third contribution to our repertoire, ***Appalachian Spring***, set to the iconic score by American composer Aaron Copeland, brings a powerful conclusion to our 40th anniversary season.

PERFORMANCES

Temple of Music and Art

Fri	Apr 9, 2027	7:00pm
Sat	Apr 10, 2027	2:00pm
Sat	Apr 10, 2027	7:00pm
Sun	Apr 11, 2026	2:00pm



Dancer: Brooke Amundrud

For ticket information, please see page 4
Become a Season Subscriber to save 20%!

SUPPORT THE ART OF DANCE

Your Gift Keeps Ballet Alive in Tucson

As Southern Arizona's professional ballet company, Ballet Tucson is committed to enriching our community through exceptional performances, educational outreach, and opportunities for dancers to thrive. Your generosity fuels every leap, lift, and lasting impression.

WAYS TO GIVE

Make a One-Time Gift

Your donation – of any amount – makes a difference! Donations support general operations, costumes, the professional company dancers, and all community programs.

Become A Sponsor

Interested in a deeper impact? Corporate and individual sponsors receive recognition, behind-the-scenes access, and the joy of supporting a company member as they grow in their artistic endeavors.

Honor or memorial gifts

Celebrate the dance lover in your life with a tribute gift. We'll notify the honoree or their family with a personalized note.

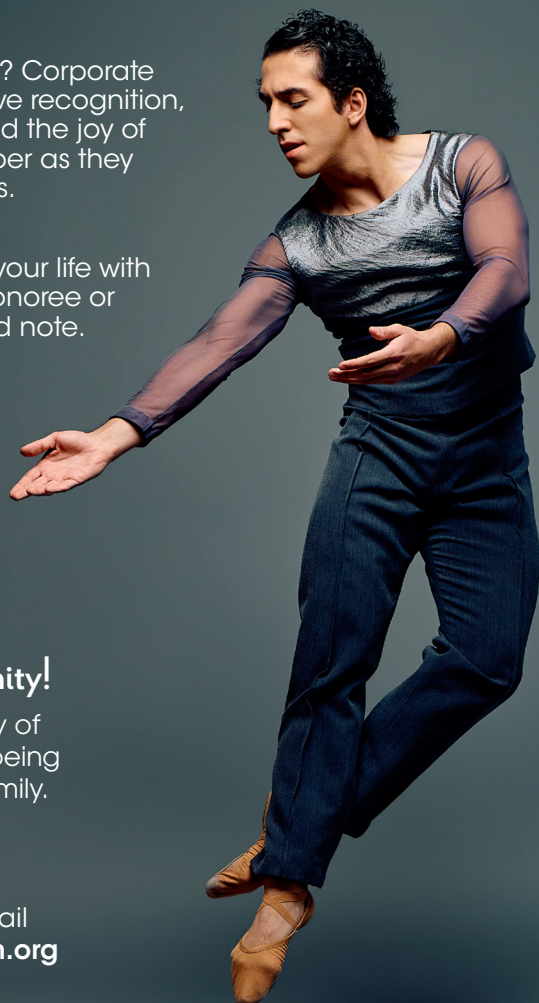


Thank you for Lifting the Arts in our Community!

Every gift keeps the beauty of ballet alive – thank you for being part of the Ballet Tucson family.

Questions?

Contact Lisa Robinson:
Call **520.903.1445** or email
development@ballettucson.org



Dancer: Edward Oyarce-Solomon

BALLET TUCSON IN THE COMMUNITY



As we celebrate our 40th anniversary, we are deepening our love for the city that has shaped us. This season, Ballet Tucson is proud to bring dance beyond the mainstage and into the heart of our region through an exciting array of community partnerships. We continue our cherished collaborations with Children's Museum Tucson, Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson Pops Orchestra, and La Encantada — and we are thrilled to expand our programming with community new partners, including the Tucson Jazz Festival, St. Andrews Bach Society, The Loft Cinema, Arizona Opera, The Treasury 1929, and more! These events are an invitation to experience Ballet Tucson in unexpected places and celebrate 40 years of dance like our city does best, **together**.

INTRODUCING COMMUNITY NIGHTS!

Join us for \$15 Bronze and Copper Circle tickets on Saturday nights of Spirit Garden, Carmen, and Appalachian Spring and Other Works — our way of making great ballet accessible to everyone. Learn more on our website performance pages.

STAY CONNECTED WITH OUR E-NEWSLETTER

Be the first to receive Ballet Tucson news and event information by subscribing to our e-newsletter!



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Hansel and Gretel

MAY 22 - 23, 2027

Ballet Tucson and The School of Ballet Tucson are proud to present Hansel and Gretel, our first annual **Family Matinee Performance**. Perfect for families, these performances are an enchanting and accessible introduction to ballet for young children. These shows offer a shorter, one-act format featuring talented students from The School of Ballet Tucson and guest artists from the Ballet Tucson professional company with a narrator, so each fairytale comes alive with both dance and spoken word.

Presented in partnership with the Children's Museum Tucson, Live Theatre Workshop, and Le Macaron French Pastries, attendees can expect an afternoon of fun and community. Join us in the Temple of Music and Art courtyard before and after the show for playful creative activations, crafts, and community dance classes.

Two matinees will be offered, including a sensory-friendly Sunday performance, specially adapted with adjusted lighting and sound levels to make the experience more comfortable for individuals with sensory sensitivities.

PERFORMANCES

Temple of Music and Art

Sat May 22, 2027 12:00pm

Sun May 23, 2027 12:00pm

Single and Group Tickets
on sale March 1, 2027

Tickets are available now
as part of our Gold and
Silver Family Subscriptions,
and as an add-on for
Season Subscribers. See
page 4 to learn more



Dancers: Emma Flores and August Hartung

THE SCHOOL OF Ballet TUCSON



For 40 years, The School of Ballet Tucson has been the official training home of Southern Arizona's only professional ballet company — and you can be a part of our history!

SBT offers students ages 18 months through adult, an extraordinary training environment: one directly connected to Ballet Tucson, with lessons taught by the very artists and leaders who bring our performances to life. Our faculty bring the rigor, artistry, warmth, and love of dance we share in our company directly into the classroom, offering professional-level training in ballet and a full range of complementary styles, from pointe and modern to jazz, tap, and hip hop.

From our youngest movers in the **Dance With Me** program to our advanced **Pre-Professional** students training for careers in dance, every student at SBT is part of something uniquely special to our region. Whether your child is taking their very first steps, or you yourself want to step into the studio, SBT offers a place to grow — technically, artistically, and personally.

This season, we're proud to celebrate **40 years of dance education** alongside Ballet Tucson's 40th Anniversary Season. SBT students will take the stage in *The Nutcracker* with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, *Spirit Garden and Other Works*, and *Hansel & Gretel* — meaningful performance experiences woven into the fabric of our professional season. If you've been moved by what you've seen on our stage, imagine what it's like to train within our studios. We invite you to become a part of our School of Ballet Tucson legacy, and discover what's possible when exceptional training meets community.

ENROLL NOW! **520.623.3373**
ballettucson.org/school



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Dancers: Danielle Carte and Hunter Solomon
Front Cover Dancer: Sarah Wilkerson
All dance photos by Carlos Chavez

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