

INTRODUCTION

Executive Director *Winifred Muench* and Founding Artistic Director *Nayon Iovino* will open the evening with a warm welcome and introduction to the inaugural *Sedona Choreography Retreat*. Developed in collaboration with *Ballet Arizona*, this exciting new initiative offers an immersive space to cultivate creativity, encourage collaboration, and uplift emerging voices in dance. Their opening remarks will set the stage for an evening of innovation and artistry, launching what promises to become a vibrant annual tradition in Sedona's cultural scene.

BALANCHINE® BALLET, EXCERPT FROM *SERENADE* CHOREOGRAPHY BY GEORGE BALANCHINE © THE GEORGE BALANCHINE TRUST

Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Dance Artists: Cheyenne You, Sarah Diniz, Natalie Ramirez, Dimitra Bereveskos, Eastlyn Jensen, Alli Chester, Carlin Ciocchetti, Emma Taylor, Abigail Carpenter, Brianna Binzak, Kasey Fox, Mary Jane Girard, Tatiana Marsalli, Devin Lentz, Giana Bragger, Dasha Derkach, Nahomi Alafita

Costume Design: Barbara Karinska

We are honored to present *Sonatina*, an excerpt from George Balanchine's iconic ballet *Serenade*—a landmark in American dance history. Performed with permission from the esteemed Balanchine Foundation, this excerpt offers a rare opportunity to experience the brilliance of one of the 20th century's most influential choreographers. With its sweeping musicality and timeless grace, *Serenade* reflects Balanchine's visionary blend of classical technique and modern expression. *Sonatina* pays tribute to his enduring legacy, inviting audiences to be moved by the lyricism, precision, and emotional depth that define his work.

* A special thank you to María Simonetti & Alecia Good-Boresow for their help with this project.

TAKE ME WITH YOU (PAS DE DEUX)

Choreography: Robert Bondara

Music: "Rekoner" by Radiohead

Dance Artists: Katelyn May & Luis Corrales

Costume Design: Robert Bondara

Robert Bondara's acclaimed duet *Take Me With You* has captivated audiences worldwide with its raw emotion and striking contemporary aesthetic. Originally performed by international ballet stars Roberto Bolle and Melissa Hamilton to the hauntingly evocative music of Radiohead, the piece blends lyrical intimacy with powerful physicality, exploring themes of longing, connection, and the unspoken dialogue between two bodies in motion. Since its debut, *Take Me With You* has continued to resonate across borders and companies—it was staged for the renowned Stanislavsky Ballet in Moscow, brought to life by the Czech National Ballet in 2024, and is set to be performed by both Dance Theatre of Harlem and Ballet Arizona in 2025. Each new staging offers a fresh interpretation of this emotionally charged work, reaffirming its place as a compelling addition to the global contemporary ballet repertoire.

VASTWAVE

Choreography: Natasha Adorlee

Music: Michael Wall- 6_170,4_150

Original Sound Design: Natasha Adorlee

Dance Artists: Emma Taylor, Abigail Carpenter, Brianna Binzak, Kasey Fox, Mary Jane Girard, Tatiana Marsalli, Devin Lentz, Giana Bragger, Dasha Derkach, Nahomi Alafita, Natalie Nerat, Cheyenne You, Sarah Diniz

Costume Design: Natasha Adorlee & SBAZ Studio Company

Emmy Award-winning choreographer, filmmaker, composer, and educator Natasha Adorlee will present *Vastwave*, an evocative new work brought to life in collaboration with dancers from Ballet Arizona's Studio Company.

Known for her dynamic interdisciplinary approach and emotionally resonant storytelling, Adorlee crafts a kinetic journey through movement, sound, and visual narrative. *Vastwave* captures the ebb and flow of human experience—its intensity, its stillness, its surges of connection—through bold choreography and immersive composition. This performance marks a powerful meeting of emerging talent and seasoned artistry, offering audiences a glimpse into the future of contemporary dance shaped by innovation, heart, and creative vision.

INTERMISSION

FLOW STATE

Choreography: LaTasha Barnes (sponsored by M. Byrd)

Music: to be developed during Choreography Retreat

Dance Artists: LaTasha Barnes, j. bouey*, Shayla Eshelman, Honestine Mbuyenge, Diana Toledo

Costume Design: LaTasha Barnes

Acclaimed dancer, choreographer, and scholar LaTasha Barnes is set to debut *Flow State Project*, a groundbreaking interdisciplinary performance that blurs the boundaries between dance, technology, and sound. In this innovative work, Barnes explores the intricate relationship between the body and data by translating live movement into real-time digital signals. These signals are then transformed into immersive, responsive soundscapes, creating a living dialogue between motion and music. *Flow State Project* invites audiences into a fully sensory experience—where each gesture leaves a sonic imprint, and the dancer becomes both performer and composer in a dynamic ecosystem of rhythm, energy, and expression. Bridging her deep roots in Black social dance traditions with cutting-edge media, Barnes redefines how we perceive the physical and the digital, offering a bold new vision of embodied storytelling.

SANTA FE & ESMERALDA - NOSTALGIA

Film/Story/Music: Christel Veraart

When Christel Veraart's *Nostalgia* met the pages of *Santa Fe & Esmeralda*, a quiet alchemy occurred—birthing cinematic vignettes that shimmer with emotion and linger like memory. Each scene, a poem in motion, deepens the pulse of her music and the soul of her story. For the Sedona Choreography Retreat, and as an overture to Nayon Iovino's new work, Veraart conjured a fresh vignette—an elegant weaving of sound and word, drawn from her album *Nostalgia* and book *Santa Fe & Esmeralda*, echoing through the choreography like a whispered dream.

SANTA FE & ESMERALDA

Choreography: Nayon Iovino (Sponsored by Mary Byrd)

Music: Vals and Zamba (Album: *Nostalgia*) by Christel Veraart

Dance Artists: Leticia Endler, Luis Corrales, Helio Lima, Katelyn May

Costume Design: Rosemary Mays

A world premiere collaboration between Ballet Arizona's resident choreographer Nayon Iovino and Sedona based award winning composer, author, and filmmaker Christel Veraart. Based on Veraart's book and music, this new work transports you to Argentina with a captivating 'nostalgic' story and stunning performances by top *Ballet Arizona* dance artists.

INTERVIEW AND Q&A

Nathan Quinn Jenkins will host an on-stage interview with choreographer Nayon Iovino and composer Christel Veraart. Following the interview, they will answer questions from the audience.