

NEWS FROM
THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET

For immediate release: Wednesday 18 March 2020



The Australian Ballet's April Sydney Volt season and May Anna Karenina season cancelled due to the evolving COVID-19 situation

In view of the NSW Government's directive that all non-essential gatherings of 500 people or more are banned between March 16th 2020 until June 14th 2020, The Australian Ballet will not proceed with its performances of *Volt* (3 – 22 April 2020) and *Anna Karenina* (30 April – 18 May 2020) at Sydney Opera House, including all associated Step Inside programs.

"The COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences are of great concern to The Australian Ballet. Our priority is the health and wellbeing of our people – dancers, musicians, company members and our audiences. The closure of our performance venues means we are unable to present our seasons and to sell tickets. This has created an unprecedented situation for The Australian Ballet as unlike companies who receive significant government subsidies, the majority of our income is sourced from our tickets sales," said The Australian Ballet Chair Craig Dunn.

"I would like to thank those ticket holders who have already generously offered to assist the company by donating their ticket value or agreeing to defer their attendance to a later performance. With your support we will get through this challenging time together and David McAllister and the rest of the company look forward to the day we see our dancers back on stage doing what they do best," concluded Mr Dunn.

The Australian Ballet's Artistic Director David McAllister said: "While this is disappointing to us all,

the health and safety of our audience and company members is our top priority. The Australian Ballet will continue to rehearse and prepare for our next seasons and we will keep everyone up to date as the situation progresses. We look forward to returning to the stage in great shape and as soon as possible."

All ticketholders will be contacted directly by the team at The Australian Ballet regarding options to donate, defer attendance or offered refunds.

During this time, The Australian Ballet will seek to provide audiences with a host of online content that showcases the company's artistry. The Australian Ballet have a wealth of high-quality production recordings which the company is looking to present via various web and social media platforms to keep audiences engaged in the absence of live performances. The Australian Ballet looks forward to presenting our 'seasons' via these activities.

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