NEWS RELEASE ­– *For Immediate Release*

**The Musical *Once* Shows the Power of Music to Heal and Inspire**

*(April 30, 2019 – PHOENIX)* Music is a universal language with a power to bring people together in collaboration and in love. One example of this is the production *Once,* a Tony Award-winning musical that tells the simple story of a guy, a girl and the music that brings them together. The actors, serving as the orchestra, play instruments live on stage and take the audience on an emotional journey. *Once* runs live at The Phoenix Theatre Company May 22 through June 16.

*Once* began as a music-filled movie in 2007 with songs from one of Ireland’s most beloved and prolific songwriters, Glen Hansard, and Czech singer-songwriter Marketa Irglova. Their song “Falling Slowly,” won an Academy Award for Best Original Song. Adapted for the stage in 2011, the Broadway production was nominated for 11 Tony Awards and won eight of them, including Best Musical.

The musical closely mirrors the movie. Over the course of a week, Girl convinces Guy to believe in the power of his music and his love for the woman who inspired his songs. Together, they recruit a motley crew of street performers and scrape together enough money to record a demo album. Their friendship evolves into a love story — with a twist.

“At its core, *Once* is about connection,” said Pasha Yamotahari, associate producing director at The Phoenix Theatre Company and director of *Once*. “Two strangers meet and through the music they create together, they explore these tender moments of vulnerability and courage. Through the medium of music, they discover an unexpected kind of love. It’s simply beautiful.”

The Phoenix Theatre Company production stars two familiar faces: Michelle Chin, last seen as Nina in the Theatre’s production of *Airness*, and Kyle Sorrell, seen in last year’s production of *Million Dollar Quartet* as Sam Phillips.

*Once* tickets are on sale now and start at just $29. To purchase by phone, call (602) 254-2151 or visit [www.phoenixtheatre.com](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com).

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**ABOUT THE PHOENIX THEATRE COMPANY**

The Phoenix Theatre Company is the largest professional regional theatre company in Arizona. As the first arts organization in Arizona and a founding member of the Central Arts District, The Phoenix Theatre Company is committed to advancing performing arts in the Valley with nearly 500 performances each year on multiple stages. Located at 1825 N Central Ave in Phoenix, The Phoenix Theatre Company’s mission is to create exceptional experiences by using the arts to articulate messages that inspire hope and understanding. In 2020, The Phoenix Theatre Company will celebrate its 100th anniversary. For more information, visit [www.phoenixtheatre.com](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com/).

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