NEWS RELEASE ­– *For Immediate Release*

**Artist and Managing Director Honored in 2019 Governor’s Arts Awards**

*(March 20, 2019 – PHOENIX)* On Thursday, March 7, the Governor’s Arts Awards celebrated individuals and companies in the community that have made considerable impact on the arts and culture of Arizona. Out of fifty-nine nominations submitted by three volunteer selection panels, twenty-one finalists in seven categories were chosen. Seven total winners took home the honor of a Governor’s Art Award, including The Phoenix Theatre Company Managing Director Vincent VanVleet and composer Craig Bohmler.

VanVleet won the Individual Award, which Arizona Citizens for the Arts recognizes as “an individual with significant contributions to the arts in Arizona in the areas of arts leadership and personal commitment of time and talent.” In the 2019 Governor’s Arts Award, Vincent VanVleet received the Individual Award for his dedication to the arts in Arizona. Celebrating over twenty years with The Phoenix Theatre Company, Vincent has been instrumental in the theatre’s continued success and growth over the years. The Phoenix Theatre Company will be celebrating 100 years in January 2020.

“I am deeply honored to have been considered beside so many talented, dedicated individuals in our community.” VanVleet says. “The arts are as important to the community as the community is to the arts. I’m so grateful to all of the people in Arizona that make art happen every day, and so privileged to be considered among them.”

Craig Bohmler, a pianist and composer for the stage who has composed shows for and performed at The Phoenix Theatre Company as well as many others all through the United States, Canada, Europe, and Japan, was awarded the Artist of the Year award, which “recognizes an Arizona artist of significant merit, leadership or reputation whose creations or contributions enrich the state and the field of the arts.”

For more information on The Phoenix Theatre Company, 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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