

# FINAL CURTAIN

## CHAMBER MUSIC WEST ENDS 34-YEAR RUN ON HIGH NOTE

STAFF REPORT

**T**hree Grammy Award winners and Valley favorite Caio Pagano will take Chamber Music West to its final curtain in 2010-11, ending a 34-year run with six memorable performances beginning Oct. 25 with Chanticleer, Musical Americas 2008 Ensemble of the Year.

Steadily declining audience numbers prompted the Chamber Music West board of directors to decide last year to make the 2010-11 season its last, not so much because of finances, but because of a shrinking audience, Board President Ellen Straney said. "We have been very conservative with our operations, and the organization remains on solid financial footing, but we haven't been able to build, or rebuild, our audience that has dropped significantly the last few years," Straney said. "It's really a shame."

Even with that backdrop, Straney remains enthusiastic about the coming season.

"Just because this is our last season is no reason to cut back on the quality of the artists we have built our legacy upon," she said. "In fact, that probably created even more of a commitment to ensure that we leave a lasting impression. The artists and their performances will certainly make that happen."

And it begins with Chanticleer, the Grammy Award-winning vocal ensemble known worldwide as the orchestra of voices for its seamless blend of 12 male voices ranging from countertenor to bass. Founded in 1978 and based in San



SUBMITTED PHOTO

David Finckel (cello) and Wu Han (piano) will close out the 34th and final season at Chamber Music West April 18.

Francisco, Chanticleer was named for the clear-singing rooster in Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales."

Chanticleer will be followed by Venice-based Interpreti Veneziani Nov. 22. Specializing primarily in baroque music, these 13 master musicians perform more than 200 concerts worldwide each year using original instruments.

On Dec. 13, the 2009 Grammy Award winner for Best Chamber Music Performance, Pacifica Quartet, will bring its compelling and critically acclaimed interpretation to the Valley. Named Musical Americas 2009 Ensemble of the Year, the quartet is preparing the monumental Shostakovich cycle for a performance at the Metropolitan Museum

of Art in Chicago and the complete Beethoven cycle at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio will perform Feb. 21. The Kennedy Center Chamber Ensemble in Residence since 2003-04, the trio has been performing on stages worldwide for three decades after debuting in January 1977 at the White House during the Carter inauguration. The trio celebrated its 30th anniversary at Carnegie Hall and the 92nd Street Y in New York.

Caio Pagano, the internationally celebrated concert pianist and distinguished professor of piano at Arizona State University, will perform March 7.

**SEE CHAMBER, A16**

## Chamber Music West ends 34-year run with strong 2010-11 season

By Steve Carr

Special to the Independent

Three Grammy Award winners and valley favorite Caio Pagano will take Chamber Music West to its final curtain in 2010-11, ending a 34-year run with six memorable performances beginning Oct. 25 with Chanticleer, Musical America's 2008 Ensemble of the Year.

Steadily declining audience numbers prompted the Chamber Music West board of directors to decide last year to make the 2010-11 season its last, not so much because of finances, but because of a shrinking audience, board president Ellen Straney said. "We have been very conservative with our operations, and the organization remains on solid financial footing, but we haven't been able to build, or rebuild, our audience that has dropped significantly the last few years. It's really a shame."

Even with that backdrop, Ms. Straney remained enthusiastic about the coming season.

"Just because this is our last season is no reason to cut back on the quality of the artists we have built our legacy upon," she said. "In fact, that probably created even more of a commitment to ensure that we leave a lasting impression. The artists and their performances will certainly make that happen."

And it begins with Chanticleer, the Grammy Award winning vocal ensemble known worldwide as the orchestra of voices for its seamless blend of 12 male voices ranging from countertenor to bass. Founded in 1978 and based in San Francisco, Chanticleer was named for the clear-singing Rooster in Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales."

Chanticleer will be followed by Venice-based Interpreti Veneziani Nov. 22. Specializing primarily in baroque music, these 13 master musicians perform more than 200 concerts worldwide each year using original instruments.



Submitted Photo

**David Finckel, on cello, and Wu Han, piano, will close out the 34th and final season at Chamber Music West April 18, 2011.**

On Dec. 13, the 2009 Grammy Award winner for Best Chamber Music Performance, Pacifica Quartet, will bring its compelling and critically acclaimed interpretation to the Valley. Named Musical America's 2009 Ensemble of the Year, the quartet is preparing the monumental Shostakovich cycle for a performance at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Chicago and the complete Beethoven cycle at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio will perform Feb. 21, 2011. The Kennedy Center Chamber Ensemble in Residence since 2003-04, the trio has been performing on stages worldwide for three decades after debuting in January 1977 at the White House during the Carter inauguration. The trio celebrated its 30th anniversary at Carnegie Hall and the 92nd Street Y in New York.

Caio Pagano, the internationally celebrated concert pianist and distinguished professor of piano at Arizona State Univer-

## Chamber

Continued From Page 14

sity, will perform March 7. The Washington Post wrote that Ms. Pagano is such a fine performer that any opportunity to hear him should be seized, and thousands have heeded that advice.

The season closes April 18 with a return appearance by David Finckel on cello and pianist Wu Han, considered among the world's most esteemed and influential classical musicians. Mr. Finckel also is cellist for the Grammy winning Emerson String Quartet. He and Ms. Han have served as artistic directors of The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center since 2004.

All concerts are performed 7:30 p.m. at Faith Presbyterian Church, 16000 N. Del Webb Blvd. A preview lecture starts at 6:30 p.m. Season tickets for current subscribers for the 2010-11 season can be purchased through the Chamber Music West office at 623-972-0478. All seating is reserved.

Single tickets, which also can be purchased through the Chamber Music West office or at the venue during the season, are \$25 and student tickets are free with a valid ID. Chamber Music West is supported by The Arizona Commission on the Arts with funding from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts, the city of Peoria and Target.

Call 928-972-0478.

*Editor's Note: Steve Carr writes for the The Kur Carr Group, Inc.*

KIC - Chamber Music

# Chamber Music West will end 33-plus year run after 2010-11 season

STAFF REPORT

Chamber Music West, which has been presenting chamber music and artists in the West Valley for 33 years, will suspend operations after the 2010-11 season because of the impact of a steady decline in audience over the past five years.

"It's not so much a matter of finances as it is about audience development," said Chamber Music West Board of Directors President Ellen Straney. "The organization remains financially sound today, but looking beyond 2010-11 is very difficult given the consistent drop in audience size despite our best efforts to raise interest and awareness. Without significant increases in ticket sales and fund-raising, we will be forced to suspend operations after what we expect will be a shortened 2010-11 season."

Chamber Music West's six-concert 2009-10 season begins Nov. 9 with a

performance by the Brentano String Quartet at 7:30 p.m. at Faith Presbyterian Church, 16000 N. Del Webb Blvd. in Sun City.

Chamber Music West's subscriber base stands at 230, down from a high of 851 in 1984.

"We have maintained a very conservative financial approach to our operations, but we have been forced to dip into our savings and the principal of our Arizona Community Foundation-managed endowment the last few years," Straney said. "Our financial position will enable us to present the full six-concert schedule this season, but our current assets and revenue projections will not support a similar schedule next year. We are now designing a program for 2010-11 that will continue our tradition of engaging quality artists and performances although the length of the season will probably will have to be reduced."

Ticket sales generally account for less than 50 percent of a nonprofit arts organization's revenues with the rest generated from grants and donations.

"This was an incredibly difficult decision by the Board of Directors," Straney said. "And while we will explore all options available to us over the next two years, we believe this decision is both financially and strategically prudent."

She said the organization hopes "that our loyal audience members and donors will continue their support to the degree that we can present a full schedule of the quality performances they have come to expect in 2010-11."

In a letter to subscribers, Straney expressed her gratitude for Chamber Music West's being able to be "an important component in the West Valley's cultural life over the past 33 years. We would like to continue

in that role, but in our responsibilities as board members, we are also realistic and pragmatic in our approach."

Season tickets for current subscribers for the 2009-10 season will be mailed the beginning of October. Single tickets can be purchased online ([www.chambermusicwest.org](http://www.chambermusicwest.org)) or at the venue on concert nights. The full concert schedule is online at [www.chambermusicwest.org](http://www.chambermusicwest.org).

Single tickets are \$25 and student tickets are free with a valid ID. Season packages for the six-concert series are available for \$120. All seating is reserved.

Chamber Music West is supported by The Arizona Commission on the Arts with funding from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts, the city of Peoria, Target and The West Valley Arts Council.

For information, call 928-972-0478.

Revised

# Music society changes name

## Group is now Chamber Music West

By Joy Hepp  
SPECIAL FOR THE REPUBLIC

As the West Valley continues to grow, the art and culture of the area evolve and reflect that development. The Sun Cities Chamber Music Society is the latest example of these changes: In October, the group announced its new name, Chamber Music West, just in time to launch its 2006-07 season.

"The society has gone through several name changes during the past 29 seasons, however, the legacy of presenting the world's finest chamber music has not," Chamber Music West President Muriel Stone Johnson said in an announcement of the name change. The group originally was known as the Sun City Fine Arts Society in 1979, and was renamed Sun Cities Chamber Music Society in 1982 to reflect the growth of Sun City West.

The most recent idea for a name change has been brought up several times in the past nine years, so when the group underwent strategic planning with a facilitator from the Arizona Commission on the Arts in 2005, it was an easy decision.

"We wanted to make sure that we're still a viable arts organization in this day and age, especially with all the growth in the West Valley," said Mona Myhre, Chamber Music West's executive director.

Along with the name change, Chamber Music West also has relocated to a larger venue, Faith Presbyterian Church, 16000 N. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City.

"We always have subscribers from outside of the Sun Cities," Myhre said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHAMBER MUSIC WEST

Cantus, a male vocal ensemble, is on the schedule for Chamber Music West. The group will appear Feb. 5 in Sun City.



Muriel Stone Johnson

fans.

"It's been very well received," Myhre said. "We have a few original members that have been with us for 30 years, and

"We're presenting world-class artists, so we draw from across Phoenix metro area and sometimes out of state."

So far, the changes have sparked positive reactions from West Valley chamber music

they have been very pleased with it."

Myhre said efforts to promote the new name continue.

"It's an ongoing process," she said. "There are all of the financial aspects, and no matter how many times you tell people (about the new name) it takes a while to get it all straightened out."

It might take more time to see the full results of the name change, but for now, there is at least one immediate benefit.

"It takes less time to answer the phone now," Myhre said.

### Upcoming events

**Who:** Nokuthula Ngwenyama.

**What:** The acclaimed violinist performs Beethoven and Shostakovich.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Monday.

**Where:** Faith Presbyterian Church, 16000 N. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City.

**Who:** Fine Arts Quartet.

**What:** This Chicago group will present Shostakovich and Mendelssohn.

**When:** Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Faith Presbyterian Church, 16000 N. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City.

**Who:** Cantus.

**What:** The male vocal ensemble performs songs from *There Lies the Home*, *Surprise* and *American Voices*.

**When:** Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Faith Presbyterian Church, 16000 N. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City.

**Who:** Alfredo Rolando Ortiz.

**What:** A South American harpist, Ortiz will be the featured performer at the Chamber Music West sixth annual gala.

**When:** Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m.

**Where:** Palmbrook Country Club, 9350 W. Greenway Road, Sun City.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call (623) 977-8815 or visit [www.ChamberMusicWest.com](http://www.ChamberMusicWest.com).



Nokuthula Ngwenyama

*Sun Cities*  
*Chamber Music Society*  
Announces Its 29th Season

The thermometer may be hovering around 100 degrees but autumn will be here before you know it. Mark your calendar now so that you don't miss any of these magnificent performances.

**Nov. 7, 2005** - Concertante, a young string sextet who hail from far and near, was established by six graduate students of the Julliard School in 1995. Concertante draws from a rich pool of artistic talent to perform a wide array of repertoire.

**Dec. 5, 2005** - Emerson String Quartet. Acclaimed for its insightful performances, brilliant artistry and technical mastery, the Emerson String Quartet is one of the world's foremost chamber ensembles. *Time Magazine* calls it, "America's greatest quartet".

**Jan. 9, 2006** - 12th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Medalist 2005. In keeping with the Sun Cities Chamber Music Society's mission of promoting young artists, a top winner from this prestigious competition will present a solo recital.

**Feb. 6, 2006** - Artemis Quartet. This group has achieved prominence among the world's young string quartets. *The New York Times* calls the German-based Artemis Quartet, "... the most impressive quartet among the new generation."

**Mar. 6, 2006** - Zukerman Chamber Players. In an effort to motivate future generations of musicians through education and outreach, renowned violinist/violist Pinchas Zukerman teams up with four proteges to form this impressive group.

**Apr. 3, 2006** - Orion String Quartet. Hailed for its exquisite artistry, technical mastery and astute approach, the Orion String Quartet is one of the most admired ensembles on the international scene.

The Society will present a Gala on February 28, 2006 featuring Nokuthula Ngwenyama viola and Michael Long guitar.

The cost of the six-concert series is \$102. Call 623-972-0478 weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Single concert seats are \$22 and \$24. Single tickets purchased through November 30 may be applied to the purchase price of a season subscription.

Information on the Society and the concerts may be found on the website: [www.sccmonline.com](http://www.sccmonline.com). ☉

# Sun Cities Chamber Music Society kicks off 24th season



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the Ysaye Quartet are, from left; Miguel Da Silva, viola; Guillaume Sutre, violin; Francois Salque, cello and Luc-Marie Aguera, violin.

## Prize-winning French quartet first in series

BRUCE ELLISON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun Cities Chamber Music Society inaugurates its 24th season on Nov. 6 in Bellevue Heights American Baptist Church with the Ysaye Quartet, the first French quartet ever to take first prize at the Evian Festival.

Quartet members are Guillaume Sutre and Luc-Marie Aguera, violin; Miguel Da Silva, viola and Francois Salque, cello.

They will play the three-movement Quartet in C Minor, opus 53, of Ernest Chausson; the four-movement Quartet in D Major of Cesar Franck, and, after intermission, Maurice Ravel's String Quartet in F Major.

The instruments the quartet uses are antique and valuable, with violins from Tononi (1727) and Amati of Cremona (1680); a viola of Storioni, also of Cremona (1790) and cello of Miremont, Paris, (1874).

The society's series of six chamber music presentations continues on Dec. 4 with the Brentano String Quartet, founded in 1992 and now quartet-in-residence at Wigmore Hall in London, and at New York and Princeton universities.

On Jan. 8, 2001, the Pacifica Quartet, in residence at the University of Chicago and the Music Institute, begins year 2001 performances.

On Feb. 5, 2001, cellist David Finckel of the Emerson Quartet will join his pianist wife Wu Han for an evening recital. Both teach at the Isaac Stern Chamber Music Workshops in Israel, Japan and New York.

March 5, 2001 brings a visit by the touring French group, the

Paris Piano Trio, whose 1998 and 1999 U.S. tours won high acclaim.

The season ends on April 2, 2001, with the Muir String Quartet, featuring clarinetist David Shifrin.

Music to be performed at each event will be announced as the show approaches.

While visiting the Valley, many of the groups will also play at schools around the region as part of the Chamber Music Society's award-winning educational outreach program.

Each of the performances will be preceded by a free preview, "Speaking of Chamber Music..." presented by an expert in the subject matter.

Last season, the Sun Cities Symphony boosted ticket prices;

now the Chamber Music Society has followed suit for this season's events.

Season reserved-seat tickets for the series, all scheduled for Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m., are \$75. Individual seats (as available) are priced at \$18.

The Bellvue Heights American Baptist Church is accessible to wheelchairs. Each performance often is accompanied by an art exhibit in the foyer area.

Tickets and season tickets may be reserved or purchased at the Chamber Music Society office, Suite 126-A, 10451 Palmeras Drive, Sun City, or by calling 972-0478.

Note that the Chamber Music Society offices have moved down one floor in the structure it long has occupied.

The office is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

# Music society wins national grant

By JUDY TORRES  
Daily News-Sun Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Sun Cities Chamber Music Society has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support its concerts and music residencies in local schools.

A total of \$868,375 in NEA grants from the agency's midyear funding cycle is being awarded to 26 applicants in Arizona.

Quillian Ditto, president of the chamber society, said that although the organization primarily serves the local retirement community, it also hopes to teach children about classical music.

"Kids don't know that there is classical music out there. They just know about rap,"

Ditto said. "The residencies help with the educating of children of our music."

The chamber music society has been in existence since about 1976 and is in its 17th consecutive season of presenting performances by national performers to the retirement community.

"The society presents six concerts of world class chamber music performances every season," Ditto said. "We are presenters — we offer to the public these six concerts."

The artists who come and do the concerts then usually complete a residency at local public schools to bring their music to the children, Ditto added.

"These same musicians ... almost always will stay over the next day and do one or two

residency concerts — lecture demonstrations for children in the schools to give them good classical music education and introduce them to this kind of music that they don't get in their regular curriculum," she said.

Most of the residency concerts are done in Phoenix schools, but they do cover the Dysart and Peoria School Districts as well, she said.

The chamber music society uses the grant money to help pay the artists' fees for both the concerts and the school residencies.

Society membership consists of people who buy season tickets to the concerts. "They are our members. We have about 700 right now," Ditto said. The society is governed by a board of directors.

# Sun Cities Chamber Music Society announces 17th series

SUN CITIES — The Sun Cities Chamber Music Society has announced musicians and ensembles for its 1993-94 chamber-music subscription series, its 17th season.

I Musici de Montreal, which is called the most listened-to Canadian chamber orchestra in the world, will perform Nov. 8. Since its founding in 1984 by cellist Yuli Turovsky, this 15-member group has won international acclaim through tours and recordings.

Pianist Stephen Hough will present a concert Dec. 6. A native of England, Hough achieved prominence on the American music scene after winning first prize in the 1983 Naumburg Piano Competition. Since then, he has performed with most major American and Canadian orchestras and has been featured at summer festivals around the world.

The Lafayette String Quartet will appear Jan. 10. Formed in 1984, the group has gained recognition as one of America's most exciting chamber ensembles. Its musicians met as members of a Detroit-based chamber orchestra and today are hailed as one of the leading quartets of their generation. In 1988, the quartet won the

grand prize at the Fischhoff National Chamber music Competition. Additional prizes were awarded at the 1988 Portsmouth (England) International String Quartet Competition and the 1989 Chicago Discovery Competition. The group also was cited as Young Artists to Watch by *Musical America*.

The Haydn Trio, acclaimed as Austria's leading piano trio, will perform Feb. 7. Since its founding in 1964, the group has performed in more than 1,000 concerts, and has appeared in the United States almost every year since its 1979 debut in Carnegie Hall. The trio has its own sold-out annual series in Vienna.

Menahem Pressler, a pianist who has appeared with almost every major orchestra in the Western world since his 1948 debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra, will perform March 7. Pressler has devoted himself to building the Beaux Arts Trio into a chamber ensemble of world renown. Appearing with him for the Sun Cities concert will be four artists of the New York Chamber Soloists, a group of Americans known for innovative and imagina-

tive performances.

The Orion String Quartet will appear April 11. Singled out by Isaac Stern as representative of the next generation of excellence in chamber music, the ensemble performed, at his invitation, in Carnegie Hall's Centennial Celebration tribute to the next 100

years of music making.

All concerts are held at 7:30 p.m. Mondays in the Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave. The cost of the six-concert series subscription is \$50. Checks payable to the society may be mailed to P.O. Box 1043, Sun City 85372. Information is available weekday

mornings at 972-0478.

Officials said the society's combination of modest prices and superb concerts are made possible through additional contributions of subscribers, from corporations and from grants from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts

and the Phoenix Arts Commission. The society is a member of the Western Alliance of Arts Administrators and Chamber Music America, an organization of performers, managers, educational institutions and presenting organizations created to advance the interests of chamber music in all its forms.



# Chamber music makes a comeback

## Local series finds renewed interest from Sun Cities audiences

By KATHLEEN WINSTEAD  
Sun Cities Independent

Developing a chamber-music series that offers local audiences variety and diversity has allowed the Sun Cities Chamber Music Society to establish a reputable name for itself nationwide.

A growing reputation, says Dr. Rebecca Johnson, chairwoman of the Sun Cities Chamber Music Society, offers the organization a better chance at attracting top-name performers.

The society's 1993-94 series, she says, will be the best it has ever scheduled.

In recognition of the Sun Cities Chamber Music Society's growing notoriety, Dr. Johnson was elected in January to serve on the national Chamber Music America's Board of Directors.

Chamber Music America is comprised of performers, managers, educational institutions and presenting organizations and was created to advance the interests of chamber music in all its forms.

Constance Castillo, a society board member, says "Dr. Johnson having this national post is certainly good for us. The person who selects your performers is

"Artists and management throughout the country recognize the society for its excellence and for the quality, size and enthusiasm of the audience."  
— Dr. Rebecca Johnson  
Chairwoman, Sun Cities Chamber Music Society

very important."

Dr. Johnson has been with the Sun Cities Chamber Music Society for six years and has served as chairman of the Art Selection Committee for five years.

Art Selection Committee members meet three times a year to listen to recordings and attend performances to determine which performers they would like to bring to the area, Dr. Johnson says.

Despite the fact she hails from a musical family, Dr. Johnson did not intend to become so involved

in the world of chamber music.

"Everybody in my family and in my husband's family, they're all musical," she says. "My father was a violinist; my sister was a concert pianist. Our third child demanded violin lessons. That started it. We have two daughters who are professional musicians.

"I've been involved with musical productions and got to know the world of music and the world of musicians. We moved to Minneapolis and I produced a concert of music by living women composers. The composers were all present and we had a panel discussion at the end."

Sun City's musical abundance and variety drew Dr. Johnson and her husband here in 1985.

"This is why a lot of people come here," she says. "We went to a chamber music concert and said, 'This is a place we can happily live.' It's important to people to know that this is here."

The Sun Cities Chamber Music Society is considered one of the most prestigious in the country, Dr.

See ■ CHAMBER, Page B3



Dr. Rebecca Johnson, chairwoman of the Sun Cities Chamber Music Society, says the organization's recently announced 1993-94 subscription series will feature some of the nation's finest chamber music performers.

COVER

Johnson says.

"The artists and management throughout the country recognize the society for its excellence and for the quality, size and enthusiasm of the audience," Dr. Johnson says.

"We're known for being very warm and hospitable to the artists. We have this wonderful reputation. The artists love to come here because they're so well-received here and they like the climate."

Members of the society, which was organized in the late 1970s and known as the Sun Cities Fine Arts Society, consistently strive to bring top-notch musicians to the Sun Cities.

Bringing a variety of artists to the community is also important to the society.

"We try to have some diversity over a period of years," Dr. Johnson says. "We don't want to have all quartets, all winds. This last year we had Chanticleer, a vocal group. We want diversity of instrumentation, diversity of period of music and diversity of artists. We don't want them all to be from Massachusetts, all from the U.S., we don't want them all to be from other countries."

Sun City is destined to be well-known for its artistic atmosphere and musical variety, Dr. Johnson believes.

"I think we're making great strides (creatively)," she says. "The symphony is an amazing community symphony. I would like to see our society grow and prosper

and I would like to see someone build us a 1,000-seat auditorium. I think we need another auditorium that size."

## Businesses invited to help local Society

For the first time in its 16-year history, the Sun Cities Chamber Music Society will seek sponsors in an effort to continue bringing quality musicians to the area, says Dr. Rebecca Johnson, the Society's Art Selection Committee chairman.

The society is seeking individual and corporate sponsors to offset increasing costs and help maintain low ticket prices.

Revenue from ticket prices account for only 42 percent of the organization's budget, says Dr. Johnson. A subscription for six concerts is \$50, while a single ticket costs \$12.

Twelve percent of the society's budget comes from grants. "For the rest, we have to depend on contributions," Dr. Johnson says.

Funds are used to bring quality musicians to the Sun Cities and also to underwrite the society's educational program.

# Chamber music series offers look at classics

By BRITT KENNERLY  
Daily News-Sun staff

**T**he name is different but the aim is the same.

The Sun Cities Chamber Music Society, formerly known as the Sun Cities Fine Arts Society, will continue to provide the best possible chamber music to the residents of the Northwest Valley, said Mary Ellen Danley, SCCMS president.

The name change comes simply because the 16-year-old society's original plan — to bring music, theater, ballet and other fine arts events to the Northwest Valley — changed to a music-only thrust, she said.

So far, that hasn't been a problem. About 700 people are on the group's membership roster, and interest is high, Danley said.

"If anything, we'd like to see more people from the West Valley coming to hear these musicians," she said. "A lot of people from Peoria and Glendale don't realize that they don't have to be a member of a recreation center to come to these concerts. So we're trying very hard to do several things, and that includes scheduling music that appeals to everyone."

To that end, the SCCMS arranges for visiting guest artists to visit area schools, providing free concerts for Valley students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The 9-year-old in-school program, supplemented by grants, has reached more than 30,000 students to date.

Each of the SCCMS's 1992-'93 regular concerts will be conducted in Sundial Auditorium, 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard. All concerts are hosted at 7:30 p.m. Mondays.

Cost of the complete series of six concerts is \$50; individual tickets are \$12. With student ID, tickets are \$1.

At 9:30 a.m. the Saturday morning prior to each performance, a preview, "Speaking of Chamber Music," is hosted at El Dorado of Sun City, 10330 W. Thunderbird, Sun City.

Each preview, led by a member of the Valley's musical community, take a look at the coming concert's program and musicians. Previews are free.

The SCCMS 1992-'93 schedule:

■ **Nov. 2:** Carter Brey, cellist and Christopher O'Riley, pianist

■ **Dec. 14:** Chanticleer, vocal ensemble

■ **Jan. 11:** Camerata Musica of Berlin orchestra

■ **Feb. 1:** The Muir String Quartet

■ **March 8:** Fine Arts Quartet

■ **April 12:** An die Musik

For information, call 972-0478.



Submitted photo

Camerata Musica of Berlin stars in the Sun Cities Chamber Music Society's January concert.



Slated for a February performance for the Sun Cities Chamber Music Society is the Muir String Quartet, artists-in-residence at Boston University.



The Chanticleer, an "orchestra of voices," is the only full-time professional a capella vocal ensemble in the United States.

# Chamber music series slated

## SCFAS season kicks off Nov. 2

SUN CITIES — The Sun Cities Fine Arts Society has announced a program of six concerts for its 1992-93 chamber music subscription series, its 16th season.

Cellist Carter Brey and pianist Christopher O'Riley will open the season Nov. 2. Brey, billed as one of the outstanding instrumentalists of his generation, performs on a rare 1754 J.B. Guadagnini violoncello. He is the winner of such prestigious awards as the Gregor Piatigorsky Memorial Prize, an Avery Fisher Career Grant, the Michaels Award of Young Concert Artists, and a prize in the first Rostropovich International Cello Competition.

O'Riley, a founding member of the Boston Chamber Music Society, also has won several of the world's most famous competitions, including the Montreal, Leeds, Busoni and Van Cliburn International competitions.

The Chanticleer, the only full-time professional a cappella vocal ensemble in the United States, will perform Dec. 14. The group is famed for its interpretive renderings of a broad range of vocal literature, from Renaissance to gospel. For the past four years, this "orchestra of voices" has been the recipient of the National Endowment of Arts' largest choral grant.

On Jan. 11, the Camerata Musica of Berlin, one of Germany's leading chamber orchestras, will appear in concert. Composed of

outstanding soloists and specialists in 18th century music in the original instrumentation and authentic rendering, the Camerata is directed by Wolf-Dieter Batzdorf, first concertmaster of the Berlin State Orchestra. The group has received many prizes, including the National Order of Merit and the National Order of Art.

The Muir String Quartet and pianist Frederick Moyer will appear Feb. 8. In residence at Boston University, the Muir won the 1981 Naumberg Chamber Music Award, 1980 Evian International String Quartet Competition (equivalent to an Olympic gold medal) and *Gramophone* magazine's 1987 award for Chamber Music Record of the Year, as well as two Grand Prix du Disque Awards for chamber music. Since his 1982 Carnegie Hall debut in New York, Moyer has won acclaim through his solo recitals and solo performances with leading orchestras in America and abroad.

On March 8 there will be a concert by the Fine Arts Quartet, founded in Chicago in 1946 and current artists-in-residence at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. The quartet has toured internationally without pause since the end of World War II and is one of Europe's favorite American quartets.

The season will close with an April 12 concert by An die Musik, which draws its name from Schubert's song in praise of music. This unusual combination of oboe, string trio and piano is also celebrating its 16th season, like the SCFAS. It performs and re-

records in eight countries and is featured in concert each season on national radio in the United States and in Europe.

Many SCFAS subscribers will recognize some of these performers as having appeared in previous series, including Carter Brey, who appeared with the Rogeri Trio in 1983; Jerry Horner, violist with Fine Arts who performed with the Borodin Trio in 1985; An die Musik, which appeared in 1986; Muir String, with a 1987 concert; Christopher O'Riley, with Manhattan String in 1990; and the Camerata Musica of Berlin concert in 1991.

The 7:30 p.m. Monday concerts, open to everyone, take place in Sun City's Sundial Auditorium, 14801 103rd Ave. at Boswell Boulevard. Ample parking and handicapped facilities are available; rec cards are unnecessary.

The cost of a series subscription of six concerts is \$50; checks payable to the society may be mailed to P.O. Box 1043, Sun City, 85372. To retain present seating arrangements, renewals must be received by March 31. Further details are available at 972-0478 weekday mornings.

Generous additional contributions from subscribers, corporations and government grants enable SCFAS to present the continuing series of programs at modest prices.

The society is a member of the Western Alliance of Arts Administrators and Chamber Music America, an organization of performers, managers, educational institutions and presenting organizations.

## Art group observes 15 years

**S**un City Fine Arts Society celebrates its 15th anniversary today with an afternoon performance featuring the world-acclaimed 38-member Hanover Band.

After the performance, society members will honor the "fearsome foursome," Richard Walsh, Marjorie Boone, Betty Dietz and Jack de Ward, pioneers of the musical society.

Walsh and Boone are accepting plaques recognizing their efforts; Dietz and de Ward are being honored in memoriam.

"They were instrumental in obtaining performers" for the fledgling musical group," Wilbur Lockwood said. In the society's early days, he said, the four would travel to artist conventions at least twice a year to negotiate appearances.

"They put Sun City on the map," he said. "Artists love to come here and perform, especially in the dead of winter."

Attendance at society concerts ranges from 600 to 1,000.

"We've been told we have the largest attendance anywhere in the world," Lockwood said.

The next concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11. Other concerts are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb. 3, March 2 and April 13. For information, call 972-0478.

Rebecca Johnson has selected performers for the society's annual concert schedule for the past four years.

Chamber music began as a way for people to entertain themselves at home, she said.

Johnson said chamber music is played in a room, which call a chambre or chamber. Traditionally, performers played music designed for the smaller, more intimate setting.

Johnson said chamber music brings "a group of people together to play one to a part — one flute, one clarinet, one violin."

Today's presentation of the Hanover Band was the society's treat to itself on its 15th anniversary.

The band has been acclaimed for creating renditions so true to Bach, Beethoven and other classical composers that national music critics have said the composers themselves would applaud.

"We've wanted the band for years," Johnson said. Scheduling conflicts and cost prohibited the appearance until now.

When Johnson moved to Sun City, she joined the musicians club and that led her to the fine arts society.

When asked what she wanted to do, Johnson remembered saying, "Oh, I don't know; I'll do anything."

She landed on the artists' selection committee and has been negotiating ever since to obtain artists.

When Johnson and her husband, Merton, were looking at Sun City as a possible place to

See Did, C5

— From C1  
live, the availability of musical opportunities was the clincher in their decision to move here.

"By osmosis, I had become involved with the care and feeding of artists," Johnson said. Through her two daughters, Sarah and Rebekah, who are musicians, Johnson became ac-

quainted with performers.

In 1983-1984 in Minneapolis, Johnson organized "Due Sorelles," a concert comprised of scores written by women composers.

## SC Fine Arts Society to open new season

### 1991-92 season begins with special anniversary concert



#### **Hanover Band**

**2 p.m. Nov. 4**  
**Sundial Recreation Center**  
**Tickets: \$10 Fine Arts**  
**Society members; \$15**  
**non-members.**  
**Call 972-0478**

The Sun Cities Fine Arts Society will open its 1991-92 season with a special 15th anniversary concert 2 p.m. Nov. 4 at the Sundial Recreation Center in Sun City.

The Hanover Band, a chamber orchestra featuring some of Europe's most noted period instrument specialists, will be the featured performers for the event.

In 1988, the Royal Philharmonic Society of London chose the Hanover Band to celebrate its 175th anniversary. The band participated in a series of concerts recreating the 19th century programs sponsored by the society.

The 38-member band was organized in 1980 and is directed by Roy Goodman. The band ("band" is what a classical orchestra was called back in Beethoven's time) is modeled after the Viennese Akademie orchestras, circa 1800.

The Hanover Band uses authentic instruments and performs regularly in London and throughout Britain.

Last year it was awarded the Fono Forum Record of the Year for its complete Beethoven Symphonies compact disc set on Nimbus Records.

At its Sun City concert, the band plans to perform Mozart's "Overture, La Clemenza di Tito;" Beethoven's "Violin Concerto in D major" and Haydn's "Symphony No. 101 (Clock)."

A special reception to meet the director and the performers will be held at Sundial Recreation Center immediately following the Nov. 4 concert.

During the reception, special tribute will be paid to former officers and charter members of the Fine Arts Society.

Reserved seats are available to non-members of the Fine Arts Society for \$15 each; \$10 for members.

Call 972-0478 for information.

# Sun Cities Fine Arts Society announces 1991-92 season

The Sun Cities Fine Arts Society is about to begin its 15th year of bringing world-renowned musical ensembles and artists to the West Valley.

The concerts for the 1991-92 season will be presented at the Sundial Auditorium, located at Boswell Boulevard and 103rd Avenue in Sun City.

SCFAS will present the following programs:

- The 38-piece, London-based Hanover Band, a classical orchestra modeled after Beethoven's 1800 Burgtheater Orchestra of Vienna, will perform at 2 p.m. Nov. 4.

- The Los Angeles Chamber

Orchestra Winds will perform 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11, playing selections by Gounod, Mozart, Ligeti and Dvorak.

- The Cleveland Quartet will perform 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9. They will be playing quartets by Beethoven, Paulus and Dvorak on a matched set of Stradivarius instruments once owned by the legendary Paganini.

- The Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio will lend their talents to trios by Haydn, Schubert, Schumann and Rebecca Clark 7:30 p.m. Jan. 13.

- The Emerson String Quartet, winner of the 1990 Grammy award

for the best classical album and Gramophone's Record of the Year Award, will be in concert 7:30 p.m. Feb. 3.

- Solo bassist Gary Karr will perform 7:30 p.m. March 2, accompanied by keyboard virtuoso Harmon Lewis.

- The WESTAF-funded De Capo Chamber Players, winners of the 1973 Naumburg Chamber Music Award, will provide the climax to SCFAS's line-up for the season at 7:30 p.m. April 13. The acclaimed "poets of the contemporary music scene" will combine Mozart and Bartok's "Contrasts, Villa Lobos" "Jet Whistle," Shulamit Ran's "Excursions" and Schoenberg Webern's Klammersymphonie, Op. 9.

Cost of a season subscription is \$55. (Cost of individual tickets for the Hanover concert for non-subscribers is \$15).

Checks should be made payable to the Sun Cities Fine Arts Society and may be mailed to P.O. Box 1043, Sun City, Ariz., 85372.

Subscription price includes the membership fee of \$15.

For more information, call 972-0478 weekday mornings.



Theatre West will stage its first show of the season, a studio production of "The Second Time Around," Oct. 2-6. Tickets are \$3 and are available at the Stardust Theatre box office. Rehearsing, from left, standing, Arnold Ross and Connie Allemann. From left, sitting, Rosemary Campbell and George Edin.



# Fine Arts Society honors 15th year

Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — The 15th anniversary of the Sun Cities Fine Arts Society will be celebrated with an array of chamber music designed to fit every classical mood.

The club's 15th anniversary celebration is at 2 p.m. Nov. 4, with a reception to meet members of the Hanover Band, a classical orchestra. All concerts and the anniversary reception are at Sundial Auditorium, 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard.

In honor of the anniversary, the SCFAS announces the following performers for its 1991-92 season:

■ 2 p.m. Nov. 4: The London-based Hanover Band, a classical orchestra modeled after Beethoven's 1800 Burgtheater Orchestra of Vienna.

■ 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11: The Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra Winds, acclaimed for having one of the best wind sections of any orchestra in the world.

■ 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9: The Cleveland Quartet, who will play on a matched set of Stradivarius instruments once owned by Paganini.

■ 7:30 p.m. Jan. 13: The Kalichstein-

Laredo-Robinson Trio, playing literature for piano trios.

■ 7:30 p.m. Feb. 3: The Emerson String Quartet, winner of the 1990 Grammy award for best classical album.

■ 7:30 p.m. March 2: Gary Karr, named by Time magazine as the "world's leading solo bassist." Karr will be accompanied by keyboardist Harmon Lewis.

■ 7:30 p.m. April 13: The Da Capo Chamber Players, winner of the 1973 Naumburg Chamber Music Award.

Pre-concert preview lectures are hosted by El Dorado of Sun City, 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard. Previews are at 9 a.m. Fridays before Monday concerts.

Six-concert season tickets are \$45, plus \$10 for the Hanover Band's kick-off concert. Students discounts are available. Requests and checks made payable to the SCFAS should be sent to P.O. Box 1043, Sun City 85372. Subscription price includes \$15 SCFAS membership fee.

For information, call 972-0478.



Chamber music award winners the Da Capo Chamber Players will entertain Sun City music lovers in April. OVER



Bassist Gary Karr will perform March 2 in Sun City.



Submitted photos

The Hanover Band will help the Sun City Fine Arts Society kick off its 15th season with a Nov. 4 concert.

# Sun Cities concert season to kick off in November

SUN CITIES — A series of six concerts and a special presentation to mark the 15th anniversary of The Sun Cities Fine Arts Society will be presented for the group's 1991-92 season, for a total cost of \$55.

This year's schedule includes two time changes that may make it easier for patrons, said Rebecca Johnson, chairwoman of the artist selection committee.

"We're starting concerts at 7:30 p.m. instead of 8, and we're trying one afternoon concert, a change that has been very successful in other communities around the country," Johnson said.



■ GOODMAN

All concerts are presented at the Sundial Auditorium, 14801 103rd Ave., at Boswell Boulevard.

The season will open with an appearance by the 38-piece, London-based Hanover Band, a classical orchestra modeled after Beethoven's 1800 Burgtheater Orchestra of Vienna, to help celebrate the society's 15th anniversary at 2 p.m. Nov. 4. Following the concert, which will feature works by Mozart, Beethoven and Hayden, artists and music director Roy Goodman will join patrons at a



Special to Community  
The Cleveland String Quartet will perform Dec. 9 at Sundial Auditorium in Sun City. The program will include works by Beethoven, Paulus and Dvorak.

reception at the Sundial.

The Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra Winds, acclaimed as one of the best wind sections of any orchestra in the world, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11, playing selections by Gounod, Mozart, Lig-

eti and Dvorak.

The Cleveland Quartet, recognized internationally as one of the great string quartets of our time, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9. They will be playing quartets by

See CONCERTS, Page 10

## Fine Arts Society selection committee looks to the future

By Julia Jones  
Staff writer

SUN CITIES — As the Sun Cities Fine Arts Society embarks on its 15th year of presenting chamber music concerts, the six members of the Artist Selection Committee are already immersed in the sounds of the 17th season.

Rebecca Johnson of Sun City is chairwoman of the committee. A sort of apprenticeship many years ago, she said, left her "somewhat qualified" to wrestle with agents, managers, budgets and calendars while continuing to indulge a life-long appreciation of good music.

"I have two daughters who are violinists, professional musicians," she said. "I sat through a lot of years of violin lessons." As the girls progressed, Johnson developed a long familiarity with programs at the Juilliard School in New York City. After her daughters' performance of a double concerto written for them at Iowa State University, Johnson was invited to bring the program to their hometown, Minneapolis, as an independent production.

"I arranged the whole thing —

getting the hall, dealing with the union, arranging publicity. You could say I've had some experience at how difficult it really is," she said.

When, as chairwoman of the Artist Selection Committee of the Fine Arts Society, she started making annual trips to the Western Alliance of Arts Administrators Conference, an informational meeting that enables managers and about 400 presenters in the western states to make an initial contact, she discovered a bonus.

"The music world is very small," she said, "and it has helped me tremendously that my kids are who they are."

Sarah Johnson is a touring violin soloist, and her sister, Rebekah Johnson, free-lances in New York, playing regularly with the New York Philharmonic. Rebekah's husband, Scott Ballentine, is principal cellist of Mostly Mozart.

Contacts can help get the ball rolling, but it's those long hours and dedicated work on the part of committee members that pull a good season together, the chairwoman said.

See FINE ARTS, Page 10

# FINE ARTS

From Page 9

"Our members have been heads of music departments, performers, and so on," Johnson said.

She comes back from the conference with an idea of who will be available for a season two years down the road, fees and recordings offered by managers and agents so committee members can refresh their memories. Armed with their "wish lists," the group convenes, plots and recommends a series of performers to the society's governing board.

The committee also gets information from the Chamber Music Society of America, and individual members faithfully follow radio programs broadcast by stations in Tucson and Flagstaff that present artists of international reputation along with up-and-coming per-

formers.

Throughout, she said, the committee aims to strike a balance with a diversity of artists and ensembles. "It wouldn't do to have all quartets or all pianists, but I think we do please some of the people most of the time."

The system must be working, said Dee Parsons, who handles publicity for the Fine Arts Society. Some similar chamber-music presenters have about 300 subscribers, she said. Over the years, the Sun Cities group has attracted audiences ranging up to 900.

With an audience response like that, Johnson said, the committee will occasionally invite artists to come back. Last year's highly successful performance by the Camerata Musica of Berlin earned

them a return in the 1993 season, for instance.

"It's always rough, planning a season," Johnson said. "Everyone has funding problems, but we get support from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Phoenix Arts Commission and the Western States Arts Federation.

"And then we also consider that we have a program we take out to the schools, and whenever possible, we book artists who are willing to do that," Johnson said.

"Our theory on taking these artists to the schools is that if we don't do something to acquaint children with this good music, we won't have an audience in the future."

winners of the 1973 Naumburg Chamber Music Award, will appear at 7:30 p.m. April 13. The acclaimed "poets of the contemporary music scene" will combine Mozart with Bartok's "Contrasts,"

Villa Lobos' "Jet Whistle," Shumlamit Ran's "Excursions" and Schoenberg/Webern's Klammer-symphonie, Op. 9.

The cost of tickets for the Hanover Band concert and the

other six concerts is \$55. Individual tickets for the Hanover concert for non-subscribers is \$15. Information is available weekday mornings at 972-0478.

IC

## Fine Arts Society is cog in cultural wheel of SCs

By YOLANDA MUHAMMAD  
Sun Cities Independent

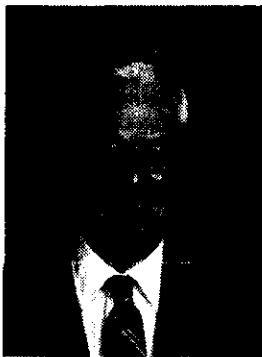
Clicking her ruby slippers three times, Dorothy had to learn the hard way, what everyone knows -- there's no place like home.

And the motto of the Sun Cities Fine Arts Society is that "you don't need to travel far from home to hear the finest in chamber music artistry."

In its 13th season, the Society presents six distinguished chamber music ensembles each year.

Byron Healy, president of SCFAS, says, "Our Society is extremely well recognized by the artists and agencies.

"We have a lot of prestige. We are regarded as a good group to give concerts for."



Byron Healy,  
president of  
SCFAS

This is due largely, he says, to the efforts of the late Jack DeWard, founding member of SCFAS, who helped build an international reputation for the Society. "Artists like to come here. Our people are good audiences and they like that."

Mr. Healy says he is pleased with his association with the Sun Cities Fine Arts Society because it is a "very successful attempt to bring world class chamber music to the whole West Valley area.

"You would have to go a long way to find any music like it." Mr. Healy stresses that the quality of the programs presented by SCFAS is equal to anything found in Phoenix or Scottsdale.

"We do not interfere with what goes on in the Sundome because of its size; or the Symphony, which is our other major thrust of bringing fine classical music to this area, because of the difference in the kind of music we present."

Most people, he says, think of chamber music as string trios and quartets, but "it can be much more than that -- we have had the Chicago Brass and singing groups with Medieval instruments and pianists."

And the Society is interested in education as well. Their program to bring music appreciation to youths reaches about 5,000 students a year, giving them a chance to hear fine musicians perform, explain their music, answer questions, show their instruments and talk about their travels.

"We feel it is a worthwhile thing. Contrary to what other people might think, people in Sun City are very interested in bringing something to the community and contributing," Mr. Healy says.

In presenting these concerts to the schools, "we get the artists to take an approach that will stimulate these young people to be interested in this kind of music." Mr. Healy says the impact of the performances is tremendous and the Society gets very positive feedback from school officials.

"One of the big challenges we have is to expand our audience from the Sun Cities to the entire West Valley.

"We would very much like to bring in the audience from Glendale and Peoria," Mr. Healy says.

"If we can increase interest, so that we truly are representing this level of musician to the whole West Valley, from Northwest Phoenix all the way out to Goodyear, if we can really become the supplier of this kind of music to that whole area, that would be ideal."

The challenge for SCFAS, Mr. Healy says, is also to extend the programs that are offered to the schools. And to offer more variety in the groups presented.

Mr. Healy says the performances presented by SCFAS are made affordable to the public by dedicated volunteers. "People are really wonderful here to work like they do. We would not be able financially to do what we do, if not for our volunteers." The board of directors themselves are most generous financially to the cause, he says.

It is the sense of team effort and love of music that binds the Society. As president, Mr. Healy sets an example of diligence and sensitivity to the arts.

Mr. Healy moved to Sun City in 1978, with his wife, Helen. "We both have a strong interest in music and we got involved right away," he says.

Mrs. Healy is a cellist with the Sun Cities Symphony and Mr. Healy is a singer. He says music has been a way to make friends in the community.

His voice training began in college and he says he has always felt that he wanted to be the best it was possible for him to be, and has continued his studies all his life.

"I was a businessman all my life, in marketing, but music was a very strong avocation. Retiring to Sun City gave us a golden opportunity to really get involved in music, whereas, if we had stayed where we were and simply retired in a mid-western community, we probably would have joined the old folks and not been involved at all."

Mr. Healy has done work in opera and a good deal of community theater. A baritone, he has had roles in "South Pacific," "Kismet," "Oklahoma" and "Kiss Me Kate."

He is currently a soloist at the Church of the Palms and Temple Beth Shalom; and a member of the Sun Cities Symphonic Chorus.

SCFAS concerts are a bargain. Mr. Healy says the ticket price of \$42 per season or \$10 for a single concert is about the same that would be paid for one concert, with these same artists, in New York City.

"We strive for 700 subscribers each year, not quite making it, and we figure our budgets on this number," Mr. Healy says. The single ticket sales are between 30 to 100 per concert, so the audience is often up to 800.

"The capacity of the Sundial, where we have our performances, is 1000, so of course, we would like to have about 100 more subscribers," Mr. Healy says.

Concerts for the 1989-90 season begin Nov. 13 with a performance by the Chilingirian String Quartet. Other artists will include the Pablo Casals Trio in December and the Boston Chamber Music Society in April, 1990.

Mr. Healy views support of the Sun Cities Fine Arts Society as a point of pride for the community. He urges residents to call 972-0478 between 9 a.m. and noon for more information on the group and to subscribe to the concerts.

16

## Surprise of surprises Fine Arts Society Thrives

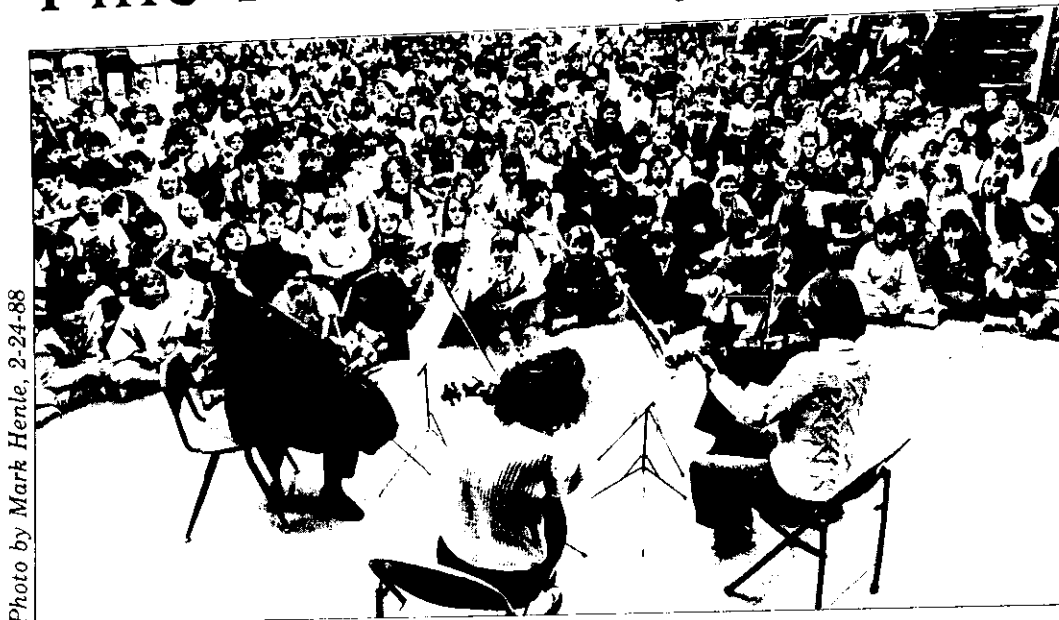


Photo by Mark Henle, 2-24-88

Reprinted with permission of the Phoenix Gazette. Permission does not imply endorsement.

By Dee Parsons

**Y**ou say you've never heard of the Sun City Fine Arts Society? Well, let me clue you in. The SCFAS, as it is known among local music circles, is the presenter of world-class musicians and ensembles in a subscription series of six concerts, all performed at the Sundial Auditorium, 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard, Sun City.

You're surprised to find a classical-music series of such stature in a retirement center? It is unprecedented.

How did it start? When did it start? Well, back in 1977, some of the music-lovers in the area wearied of trekking over to Scottsdale to hear chamber music concerts. So they put their heads together and

came up with their own series. They publicized their first concerts as the Fine Arts Series, presented by the Musicians Club of Sun City in cooperation with the Del E. Webb Development Co. (Del E. Webb, incidentally, generously offered to underwrite this novel venture on the part of these senior citizens—just in case the whole thing fell flat on its face.)

Well, surprise of surprises, it didn't flop. The series was solvent from day one—and still is.

So, encouraged by the community's interest, the volunteer management group voted on January 5, 1979, to incorporate the Sun City Fine Arts Society as a non-profit membership organization.

Originally, the SCFAS concerts took place at Mountain View Recreation Center, showcasing promising young performers. In 1982 the SCFAS concerts moved to the more central location of Sundial Auditorium. In a record seven months' time, more than half the membership chipped in enough money to buy the Society's own nine-foot Steinway concert grand piano!

It seems hard to believe that the SCFAS is now entering its 12th year of bringing nationally- and internationally-known artists to the west Valley. Perhaps the best-kept secret in Maricopa County is the fact that for the past five years, the Society has been funding and arranging for world-famous musicians appearing

### 1988-89 SCFAS LINEUP

**Nov. 7, 1988** Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (replaces Oct. 31 performance of Scottish Chamber Orchestra, with pianist Cecile Licad)

**Dec. 12, 1988** Mendelssohn String Quartet

**Jan. 9, 1989**

**Feb. 13, 1989**

**Mar. 13, 1989**

**Apr. 10, 1989**

Los Angeles Piano Quartet

Maria Joao Pires, pianist

Ridge String Quartet, with violinist John Graham

Beaux Arts Trio

The season ticket series of six concerts is \$42; \$21 of that counts as tax-deductible contribution for membership in the Society. Individual tickets are \$10. Call 972-0478 (9 a.m.-noon), or write SCFAS, P.O. Box 1043, Sun City, AZ 85372.

in their subscription series to give free, informal concerts to nearby community schools. For instance, during the past season SCFAS worked with representatives of the Arizona Department of Education to schedule the following performances: 1) the Vermeer String Quartet at Paradise Valley High, Estrella School, and Glendale's Bicentennial; 2) the Chicago Chamber Brass at Cactus High, Orange-wood, and Shadow Mountain High; 3) the Colorado String Quartet and James Campbell at Moon Valley High, Ironwood Elementary, and Glendale American; and 4) Joshua Bell, violin, and Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano, at Ironwood High, Spitalny Elementary, and Mountain Sky Elementary.

Are the kids appreciative? Well, with comments like, "You are the best Colorado Stringers . . . I want to be like you guys" and "The music was great . . . I like the cello best," there's no doubt.

Mindful of the value of this cultural experience for children, Hugh Callison, curriculum specialist for fine arts of Washington School District, pointedly commented: "Those who tend to be critical of the contributions of Sun Cities' residents toward education need to be made aware of what the SCFAS is doing. This is a wonderful service being provided to the schools."

Dee Ann McAllister, Sunset School's music specialist, echoed the same sentiments. "To have live musical performances at Sunset has been one of my goals, and it is wonderful to see it fulfilled. These musical experiences do so enrich our children's lives."

What does the SCFAS have in store for neighboring youngsters during the 1988-89 season? To date, 11 school concerts by the Mendelssohn String Quartet, the Los Angeles Piano Quartet, and the Ridge String Quartet with John Graham, viola.

The SCFAS also has a rich and vibrant 1988-89 agenda for music lovers in general—see sidebar at left. **IL**

# Happy birthday to you, SCFAS!

The Sun City Fine Arts Society (SCFAS) is celebrating its 10th anniversary with six of the world's most accomplished chamber music ensembles in its 1986-87 season.

SCFAS subscribers can look forward to the following:

—Nov. 10, The New York Philomusica, a group consisting of strings, winds, piano and percussion that performs music from the 18th century to the present.

—Dec. 1, The Tobias/Moschetti Duo, a husband and wife team that performs on cello and piano, respectively. He was awarded the Gregor Piata-gorsky Award as "America's outstanding young cellist."

—Jan. 12, 1987, The Waverly Consort, a group of 10 singers and players who perform on authentic reproductions of Renaissance and Baroque instruments.

—Feb. 9, 1987, The Takacs String Quartet, a Hungarian quartet, the first European quartet to have a U.S. residency, and first prize winner in four international string quartet competitions.

—March 9, 1987, Carol Wincenc, winner of the Naumburg Solo Flute Competition,

with the Muir String Quartet, winners of the Naumburg and Evian Competitions.

—April 6, 1987, The Quartet to Beethoven di Roman, a piano quartet that formed during the Beethoven Bi-Centenary by former soloists of the celebrated I Musici.

Season tickets, at \$36, are now available and include an \$18 tax-deductible contribution for SCFAS membership. Present ticketholders may retain their seats by renewing their subscriptions no later than the end of February. Beginning March 1 new subscribers will be allocated seats in the order in which orders are received by the SCFAS.

The combination of reasonable ticket prices and superb concerts are made possible to the public by generous additional tax-deductible contributions on the part of subscribers, corporate support and grants from the Arizona Commission on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C.

Mail subscription requests and checks made payable to the Sun City Fine Arts Society, Box 1043, Sun City, Ariz. 85372 or phone 972-0478 between 9 a.m. and noon.



THE WAVERLY CONSORT





THE NEW YORK PHILOMUSICA



THE TAKACS QUARTET



CAROL WINCENC, above  
TOBIAS/MOSCHETTI DUO,

## Sun City Fine Arts Society's 1984-1985 Season

The Sun City Fine Arts Society announces that for a mere \$30, a subscription to its forthcoming 8th highly acclaimed chamber music series can be renewed or obtained. Dividing that \$30 by six concerts slated, music lovers will be paying only about the same price as they would pay for admission to a first-rate movie—and these are live performances by some of the world's finest musicians:

Nov. 5: The Orford String Quartet, recognized internationally as one of the finest string quartets in the world, with Anton Kuerti, one of the most extraordinarily creative pianists in music today.

Dec. 10: Ondine Ensemble, an attractive instrumental combination of flute, violin, viola, cello and harp, on their first American tour.

Jan. 14, 1985: The Arden Trio (violin, cello and piano), rapidly becoming known as one of America's finest young chamber ensembles.

Feb. 11, 1985: Heidi Lehwalder, harp, and the Annapolis Brass Quintet, America's first full-time performing brass quintet.

Mar 11, 1985: The Colorado String Quartet, winner of four major competition awards, fast-emerging as one of the outstanding young groups on today's concert scene.

Apr. 8, 1985: The Borodin Trio (Violin, cello and piano) and Jerry Horner, viola, and James Campbell, clarinet. The members of the Borodin Trio fled the Soviet Union in 1976, and the group was reborn in the West.

Interestingly enough, this will mark the second appearance in Sun City of the Orford String Quartet, Heidi Lehwalder and the Annapolis Brass Quintet.

All of these concerts are scheduled for 8 PM, Mondays—usually the second Monday of the month—in the Sundial Auditorium.