



RYAN KENNEDY/THE REPUBLIC

# SYMPHONY GETS 2ND CHANCE IN W. VALLEY

Financial upheaval 2 years ago  
brought music to temporary end

The West Valley Symphony, led by maestro Cal Stewart Kellogg, has come back to life thanks to a large private donation and a dedicated board of trustees.

**PAGE 3**

# Donation revives west-side symphony

By Philip Haldiman

THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

The West Valley Symphony is rising from the ashes after a two-year hiatus, thanks to a hefty donation from a private donor.

On Dec. 7, the symphony's Christmas concert will be held at Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church in Sun City West, performing the stylings of Georges Bizet and Leroy Anderson, as well as Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*.

The symphony's second show of its first full season since it disbanded coincides with its first performance 40 years ago.

The symphony's return doesn't simply spell relief for local classical music lovers. Its rebirth adds to the cultural offerings for residents of the Sun Cities and Surprise, while also helping attract new residents and making the Northwest Valley a des-

## West Valley Symphony concerts

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	COST
Christmas concert featuring Bizet, Anderson and Tchaikovsky's <i>Nutcracker Suite</i>	3 and 7 p.m., Dec. 7	Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, 13658 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West	General admission tickets are \$25
"Melodies You Know," featuring Rossini, Schubert and Beethoven	3 p.m., Jan. 11	Faith Presbyterian Church, 16000 N. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City	General admission tickets are \$25
"French Romantics," featuring Ravel, Saint Saëns and Bizet	3 p.m., March 8	Prince of Peace Church, 14818 W. Deer Valley Road, Sun City West	General admission tickets are \$25

tinuation point for people living elsewhere in the Valley.

The revitalization was sparked by the efforts of a dedicated board of trustees and \$240,000 bequeathed by J.E. Donald Hastie, said Fred Berkenkamp, former president of the

symphony's board of trustees.

"You never do these things by yourself," said Berkenkamp. "The board of trustees and that generous donation were instrumental in



Cal Stewart Kellogg conducts the West Valley Symphony at Faith Presbyterian Church.

See **DONATION** Page 4



Ken and Marge Clark (center) wait for the West Valley Symphony to perform at Faith Presbyterian Church.

RYAN KENNEDY/  
THE REPUBLIC

**DONATION**

*Continued from Page 3*

bringing the symphony back.”

The West Valley Symphony has been a staple of the west side since 1968, when it was known as the Sun City Symphony Orchestra, opening to a capacity crowd of nearly 1,000 people. Sun City was barely 8 years old at the time, and the symphony has since endured numerous name and venue changes, but the waves of woodwinds and the roll of the tympani never fully disappeared from the West Valley landscape – until 2006.

The symphony cut spending, obtained legal counsel, and launched a quick fund-raising campaign in hopes of stopping the financial hemorrhage, but customers were all tapped out, Berkenkamp said.

Declining season-ticket sales, smaller audiences and less support from donors contributed to the closure, Berkenkamp said.

The symphony was \$100,000 in debt and went dormant halfway through its 2005-06 season, nearly going bankrupt. Ticket holders were allowed to redeem their last two tickets of the season for shows at the Phoenix Symphony.

“We inventoried everything, including our music library, and put it up for sale. There was no money to pay the musicians,” Berkenkamp said. “We didn’t have a choice but to shut down operations.”

Barbara Lashmet, vice president of the symphony’s board of trustees, was in tears when the symphony disbanded, but she said she was thrilled to death when the symphony received the lifeline donation from Hastie last year.

“Sometimes miracles happen, but you have to be ready for them,” Berkenkamp said.

The board of trustees began organizing immediately, Berkenkamp said, assisting the rebirth by trying to create a more in-

**Symphony details**

**Conductors**

Maestros Warren Cohen and Cal Stewart Kellogg

**Guest artists**

Dec. 7: Ken & Brenda Goodenberger, vocalists.

March 8: Walter Cosand, piano.

**To contribute**

Tax-deductible gifts are accepted. Mail checks to: West Valley Symphony, PO Box 1417, Sun City, Ariz. 85372.

Other donation methods are available.

**More info**

623-236-6781, westvalleysymphony.org

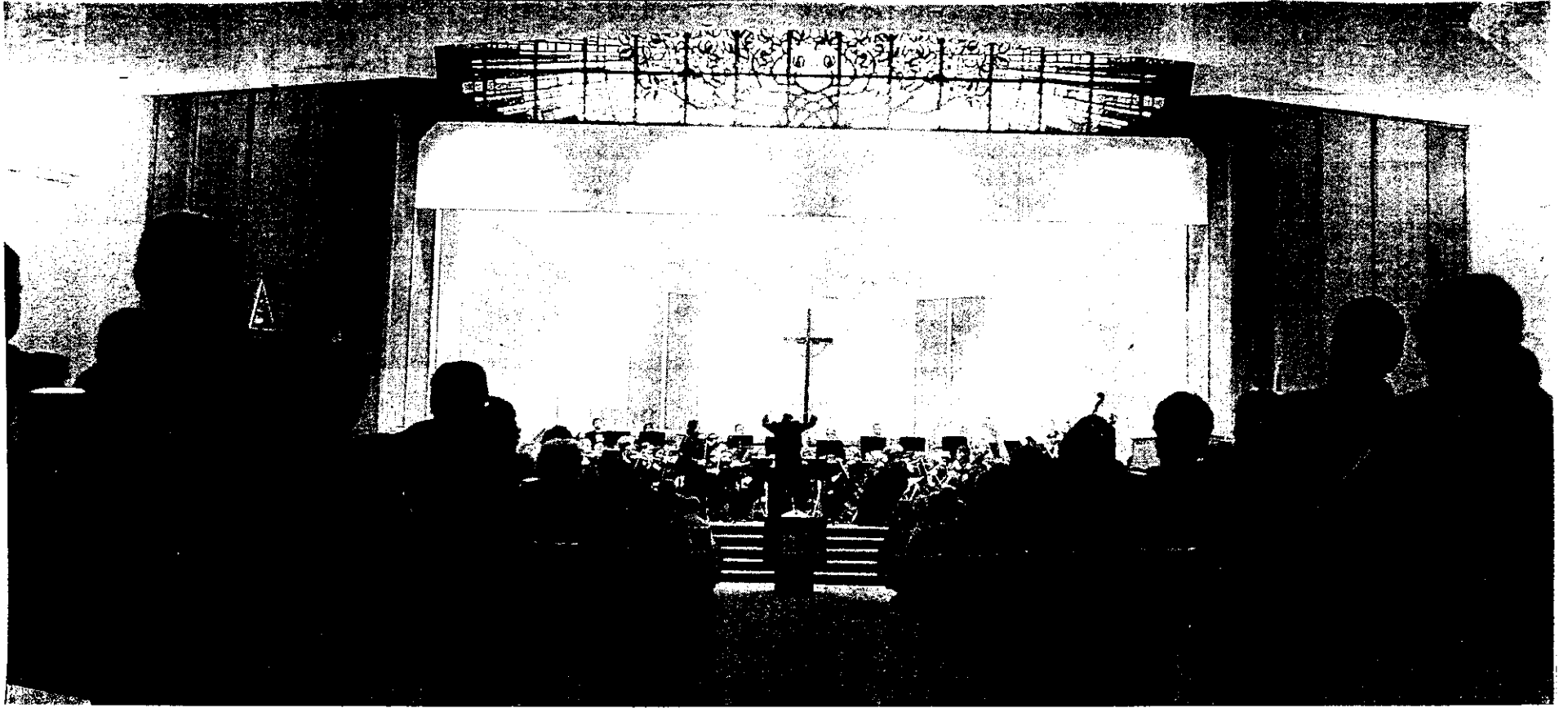
timate symphony. That meant choosing smaller venues such as churches rather than large ones such as Sun City West’s Maricopa County Events Center, the symphony’s traditional home.

“Rather than targeting a large number of people, let’s stay within our means,” Berkenkamp said. “It’s worked well. We’re going to make it.”

The symphony also created an ambassador program to foster more awareness of the West Valley Symphony. The program includes 55 volunteers who put the word out about the symphony to friends and neighbors.

“It’s important that the volunteers talk to people who they know and trust,” Berkenkamp said. “We seniors, we don’t pay attention to advertising. But we will listen to someone we know and trust.”

The West Valley Symphony’s performance earlier this month had a strong showing. More than 400 tickets were sold for its first show of the season at Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City, Lashmet said.



PHOTOS BY RYAN KENNEDY/THE REFUGEE

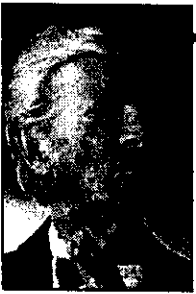
The West Valley Symphony performs on a recent Sunday afternoon at Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City.

# Classical orchestral music fills art museum

STAFF REPORT

Former members of the West Valley Symphony, under the name of The Sinfonietta and conducted by Maestro James Yestadt, will play at 3 p.m. Aug. 20 in the West Valley Art Museum as part of the museum's ongoing Butterfield Musicales series.

Sponsored by Surprise, the program will have an international scope, mirroring the museum's international ethnic dress collection.



Yestadt

This small-scale summer concert — 21 musicians and an anticipated audience of 220 — attempts to address the missing classical component of concerts in the West Valley. Live orchestral classical music has not been heard in the West Valley since the symphony ceased operations in February.

With compositions by Mozart, Finzi, Barber and Tchaikovsky, the concert also will feature guest soloist John Craig Barker on clarinet.

After 38 years of performances, the West Valley Symphony closed its operations Feb. 6, citing ongoing financial problems and less than stellar ticket sales. It filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy in April following failure to raise sufficient funds to pay creditors.

Concert tickets for the Aug. 20 show, priced at \$20, will be available in the museum store, which is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Credit card purchases may be made by phone, 972-0635, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Tickets may be picked up in advance in the museum store or at the door one hour before the performance. In case of a sold-out performance, walk-ins will be welcome to sit in the gallery outside the theater doors to listen to the concert.

The West Valley Art Museum is at 17420 N. Avenue of the Arts, at 114th Avenue and Bell Road, Surprise. For information, call 972-0635 or visit [www.wvam.org](http://www.wvam.org).

# Sundome loses staple

## WV Symphony heads to Glendale Arena, Prince of Peace

MITCHELL YANTREASE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

West Valley Symphony officials delivered a "huge blow" to the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts Monday when they announced they would move the 2005-06 classical and pops concert series to the Glendale Arena and Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Sun City West.

The decision ends more than two decades of symphony performances

at the Sundome, which is owned by Arizona State University. ASU plans to sell the facility.

"I believe we really can't plan a season with this kind of information," said Rich Shelton, West Valley Symphony executive director.

Dee Hjermstad, president of the Sundome Performing Arts Association board of directors, said she's disappointed with the West Valley Symphony's announcement. However, she believes there was no other

choice.

"It's a huge blow to the Sundome, but the symphony must go on," she said. "ASU dragged its feet for 10 months, and they had to find another venue."

Shelton said the West Valley Symphony board of directors voted unanimously to "move the symphony forward in what we believe will be a new beginning for our organization."

Shelton said the two new venues were selected because they're the largest in the West Valley. Prince of

From A1

Peace, located 1 mile north of the Sundome, seats about 1,500 people and will be used for the classical concerts.

The Glendale Arena, which seats up to 17,000, could be reconfigured depending on ticket sales. Shelton said initial plans are for seating 6,500.

"There had to be a season whether we were still in the Sundome or not," he said.

Glendale Mayor Elaine Scruggs said in a written statement that she "welcomes (the symphony) as our newest partner at the Glendale Arena and with them greater successes in the coming years."

Use of the Sundome Performing Arts Center has been up the air for more than a year. Event organizers, including the West Valley Symphony, can't book any shows without knowing if it's available next season.

"They had to do what they had to continue their season," said Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Chairman Max Wilson.

Wilson has tried to take

the Sun City West venue under the county's wing, but no agreement between ASU and the supervisors has been approved in the 10 months since ASU announced it was selling the Sundome. A 20-year deed restriction requiring the facility to remain as an entertainment venue expired last year. Del Webb Corp. placed that restriction on the Sundome when it gave ASU the facility for \$10 in 1984.

Wilson said the county and ASU are still in talks to reach an agreement. He said it's unfortunate the symphony had to move, but hopefully not for long.

"After we're through this, we hope that they can come back," he said. "The Sundome is the best place to hear the symphony because of the acoustics."

Following a Glenn Miller tribute performance and a few high school graduations booked at the Sundome, the doors will remain closed until further notice. It's expected to go dark by the middle of the summer.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Glendale Arena Senior Vice President and General Manager Ron Woodbridge points out the venue's interior features to, from left to right, Symphony Executive Director Richard Shelton, Board President Frank Cavalier, Maestro James Yestadt and Symphony Principal clarinetist J.C. Barker.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2005

# Symphony struggles with bleak financial outlook

## Sundome syndrome plagues orchestra

CLAUDIA SHERRILL  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Richard Shelton, executive director of the West Valley Symphony, said the proceeds from this year's Black and White Ball were lower than in past years.

Despite the help of Pets-Mart, which was the major sponsor for the dinner, and Northern Trust, Arrowhead Community Bank and Orcutt Winslow Architects, which were the other major corporate sponsors of the ball, Shelton expressed disappointment at the lack of community support.

The ball, which is one of the symphony's two major fund raising activities, attracted 179 guests to Briarwood Country Club Friday and raised only \$49,065.

Shelton attributes the decline in donations and ticket sales to apprehension about the fate of the Sundome.

"People have told me that when the Sundome issue is resolved, they might be willing to buy tickets and send

### From A1

donations," Shelton said.

Ticket sales for the symphony are at an all-time low, he said, and contributions are at a five-year low.

"What I can't seem to convince people of, is that the West Valley Symphony plans to be around regardless of what happens with the Sundome.

"If we continue to get support as in the past, we can go anywhere and perform," he said.

However, ticket sales and contributions have not met budgeted expenses for musicians, staff, advertising and other costs.

"All the gains from last year have been lost," Shelton said. "This is the worst year we've had in years."

Despite efforts to educate

the public, Shelton said people are convinced that the West Valley Symphony is inextricably linked with the Sundome.

He expressed appreciation for the patrons who understand the nature of the situation and have continued their support, some even more than in past years.

"For those people, we are grateful," he said.

He said that the symphony is looking at all available possibilities for a new performance space, but other than ballrooms and some recreation centers, there are few options to fit the bill.

"In order to have a season, we need to book artists," Shelton said. "This Sundome (situation) is like a ball and chain pulling us down with it."

Arizona State University

has removed the Sundome issue from the agenda for its upcoming meeting Thursday and Friday, further delaying any action by the Maricopa Board of Supervisors as well.

"We don't like being in this position," Shelton said. "But it seems as though the community is transferring their feelings about the Sundome to the symphony."

"Unless things change, residents in the West Valley stand to lose a large supplier of cultural events in the area. It could become a cultural wasteland."

To support the symphony, send contributions to West Valley Symphony, P.O. Box 1417, Sun City, AZ 85372, or go to a performance.

Pianist Lilya Zilberstein joins the symphony at 3 p.m. Sunday and Grammy-winner Jack Jones takes the stage

for the final pops show of the season April 2. Sunday's ticket prices range from \$10 to \$30, and tickets for Jack Jones' performance range from \$15 to \$40 or cabaret-style at \$125 or \$450 for a table of four. Tickets for either event are available at the Sundome box office, 975-1900 or at TicketMaster, 480-784-4444.

Claudia Sherrill may be reached at 876-2511 or [csherrill@aztrib.com](mailto:csherrill@aztrib.com).

# The 21st Century Orchestra

1C

## Symphony Guild 'to' sponsor conductor lecture series

STAFF REPORT

**J**ames Yestadt, music director and conductor of the Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley, will present six lectures next year under the general title, "The 21st Century Orchestra."

Yestadt is in his 13th season as leader of the Sun Cities symphony.

In its compressed 2000-2001 Festival Season, the orchestra's players, board and management must cope with the loss of their usual venue, the Sundome in Sun City West, for all of 2001, while the 7,000-seat hall is renovated, remodeled and enlarged in a \$5 million overhaul.

That has prompted some different venues for 2001 performances and some different ways of presenting fine classical music to the public.

The lecture series is one of those newer events, and is sponsored by the Symphony Guild.

Each lecture will be held on a Wednesday, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the West Valley Art Museum, north of Bell Road at 115th Avenue in Surprise.

Here are the year's topics, each discussed by Yestadt:

- Feb. 7, 2001: The 21st Century Symphony Orchestra: Its History.
- March 7, 2001: The Orchestra's Product: Its Performance.
- April 4, 2001: Listening to a Symphony; the Composer; the Players.
- Oct. 3, 2001: The Repertoire: Symphonies, Concertos, Overtures; Suites and Program Music.
- Oct. 17, 2001: continuation of Repertoire, as above, and
- Nov. 7, 2001: The Orchestra's Role in the Community.

Cost for the entire series is \$60 in advance, or three lectures for \$30. Single tickets are \$10 in advance, but will cost \$15 at the door. To order tickets, make checks payable to Sun Cities Symphony Guild, and mail to P.O. Box 1537, Sun City, AZ 85372. Specify dates and package option.

The lecture series is under the auspices of the Symphony Guild, an independent fund-raising and educational arm of the orchestra.

The Guild also presents pre-concert lectures by notable music authorities before each season's classical concert. Those previews are free to ticket holders.

Other Guild activities this year are a Symphony Dine-Out, in which participating restaurants offer a contribution to the orchestra for each meal served, this year for dining on Nov. 2. Those restaurants are Applebee's, 8001 W. Bell Road; Black-eyed Pea, 7310 W. Bell Road; Carvers, 8172 W. Bell Road; Earl's Mexican and American Foods, 9440 W. Peoria Ave.; JiMichaels, 13039 N. 103rd Ave.; Lakes Club, 10484 Thunderbird Blvd.; LeRhône Restaurant, 94th Drive and W. Thunderbird Blvd.; The Olive Garden, 7889 W. Bell Road; Portofino Restorante West, 12851 W. Bell Road; Ruby Tuesdays, 7708 W. Bell Road; and the Lakes Restaurant in Westbrook Village. Reservations are required at the Lakes Club, Carvers, Le Rhone, Portofino and The Lakes Restaurant. All restaurants require reservations for parties of six or more.

Participants may also attend open rehearsal of the orchestra from 7 to 8:15 p.m. that day at United Church of Sun City, 11250 N. 107th Ave.

Later this year, the Guild presents its traditional Holiday Musical House

**See Guild plans, AA2**

### From AA1

Walk, in which participants visit beautifully decorated homes in the area while live musical entertainment is provided. Tickets for the Dec. 2 walk are \$10.

In 2001, in addition to the Maestro's Lecture Series, the Guild will again sponsor the Walling Music Competition for High School Seniors (March

10), and a March style show at the Luke Air Force Base Officer's Club. With the orchestra association, the guild will sponsor the Symphony Gala Jan. 15 at Union Hills Country Club featuring the Drifters and the "Swing With the Maestro" golf tournament April 25 at Briarwood Country Club..

For details, call the symphony office at 972-4484.

*1 over*





James Yestadt, music director and conductor of the Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley is scheduled to give six lectures next year.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Members of the Symphony Guild, top and above, sells items in the lobby of the Sundome each concert Sunday to support the endeavors of the Symphony of the West Valley. The Guild is sponsoring a lecture series in 2001 featuring Maestro James Yestadt.

# Symphony Guild program opens world of classical music to West Valley students

By KATHLEEN WINSTEAD  
Sun Cities Independent

It's no secret kids today prefer Janet Jackson, Madonna and Whitney Houston to Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms.

Members of the local symphony guild and officials from nearby school districts, however, have joined forces to create a program that introduces classical music to students in the Peoria and Dysart school districts.

Organizers of the program feel it's important for students to have access to classical music. Today's students may be part of the MTV generation but, if given a chance, they may switch their allegiances from Bon Jovi to Bach.

The educational program, called "Bridging the Generation Gap Through Music," is sponsored by the Sun Cities Symphony Guild and Plaza del Rio Retirement Community in Peoria.

The guild, a fund-raising arm of the 95-piece Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra, has been in existence for 15 years but only recently instituted the educational project as part of a community outreach program, says guild member Ruth Cunningham, who is spearheading the project with Sharon Harper, general partner of Plaza del Rio.

"We have a music competition each spring for high school students, so it's always been my desire to reach out to a younger audience," Ms. Cunningham says.

"If you get kids in school interested in the symphony, they'll get their parents interested. We decided it was time we did reach out and help develop an interest in

classical music and make other communities aware we have a symphony."

Dorothy Hickok, another member of the guild, thinks it's important to introduce classical music to children while they are still young.

"The idea is you learn to read music when you learn to read out of a book. I think that children should have the chance to have the best of everything — the best literature, the best music, the best art."

The educational project, which targets both high school and

elementary school students, consists of several projects:

■ An intergenerational music outreach program called "Strings in Education" utilizes the teaching talents of symphony members.

See ■ MUSIC, Page B

## ■ MUSIC

The goal of "Strings in Education" is to establish a program whereby Sun Cities Symphony and guild members assist in the development of a strings program for the schools on a volunteer basis.

■ A music camp scholarship program enables youth to learn more about music by attending a special camp during the summer. Del Webb Corp. has agreed to provide \$500 to one child from the Dysart School District chosen to attend a music camp.

■ A musical instrument collection and redistribution program provides instruments to grade-school youngsters.

Many students in the Dysart and Peoria schools who are seriously interested in learning how to play a musical instrument are denied the opportunity because of financial constraints.

"We know there are a lot of wonderful instruments gathering dust in closets out there, so we have created a vehicle for people to pass their love of music on to our young people through this new program,"

says Ms. Harper.

Plaza del Rio receives used instruments and works with the schools to distribute the instruments to children who need them. To donate instruments, call 972-1184.

Another component of the program will feature the Sun Cities Symphony and students in an intergenerational orchestra performance. The project's organizers

hope to coordinate an orchestra performance for the public's enjoyment which will combine the talents of Sun Cities Symphony members and students.

Ms. Cunningham says although the program has already received a tremendous response, she would like to pursue yet another dream.

"My goal is this: A Northwest Youth Orchestra."

# Guild plans solo act

By **KIMBERLY HICKS**  
Daily News-Sun staff

Beginning next month, the Sun Cities Symphony Guild will be a solo act.

The guild's board of directors voted unanimously in April to incorporate. The action means the guild will separate from its parent organization, the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association and will have more say in the types of programs it will sponsor.

In August, the Sun Cities Symphony Guild will be recognized as an independent, non-profit corporation, said treasurer Lois Galpert.

Despite the separation, she said, the guild's goals of supporting and promoting the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra will not change.

The 400-member guild raises about \$40,000 a year for the orchestra through its fund-raising activities.

This is not the first time the guild has been an independent entity. It was formed in 1980 as the Sun City Symphony Guild, but amended its name in 1983 to the Sun Cities Symphony Guild.

In 1986, the guild began operating under the auspices of the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association, which agreed to pay its liability insurance.

"The guild feels it is now financially able to carry its own liability insurance," Galpert said. "It will be an added expense but, in return, we have a little more flexibility regarding the types of fund-raisers and programs we want."

Prior to incorporating, the guild donated all money it raised to the symphony association, to be used at the association members' discretion.

The symphony association will still decide how to use funds raised by the guild. However, as a separate entity, the guild is not required to donate all money it raises to the symphony association, Galpert explained.

Although the guild still plans to give the association "as much money as possible every year," it also is developing an educational program to promote the symphony throughout the Northwest Valley, said Ruth Cunningham, second vice president.

Specific details of the program will be disclosed later, Cunningham said.

"We want to put together an educational program involving the symphony and take it out to hundreds of school kids," Cunningham said. "That way, we hope to bring in their parents. Many people (in the Northwest Valley) don't even know we have a symphony."

See, Guild develops, A6

## Guild develops education program

—From A1

Carlos Wilson, executive director of the symphony association, said the guild's decision to incorporate will have little effect on the association.

"If you look at what has happened in the nation, most symphony guilds are separate from the parent association that hosts them," Wilson said. "We don't view this as anything but the continuation of a harmonious relationship."

Wilson said the association may still pay the guild's liability insurance.

"We're looking into it and, if we can do that and help them save money, we'd be happy to do that," he said.

Mary Ingram, president of the guild last season, said many members "just wanted to be independent again."

"We still plan to raise as much money as we can to support the symphony. This had nothing to do with the association. The trend is more and more for guilds to become independent," said Ingram, who belongs to both the symphony guild and the association.

The guild will continue to sponsor concert previews on the Tuesday before each symphony performance, Galpert said. The previews are designed to introduce the

### Group posts coming events

The following fund-raising events are planned by Sun Cities Symphony Guild during its 1993-94 season:

■ Sept. 29 — A preview shopping day at the new Robinson's-May department store in Arrowhead Towne Center, located at 83rd Avenue and Bell Road, Peoria.

■ Oct. 22 — "Picnic Without Ants," at Happy Trails in Surprise.

■ Nov. 18 — "Fashions of the Hour" at the Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix.

■ Dec. 3-5 — "Holiday Spree to San Diego."

■ January 1994 — A performance by the Lyric Opera at Arizona State University in Tempe; date to be announced.

■ Feb. 26 — "Touches of Elegance," the third-annual symphony guild ball.

■ March 18 — "Swing with the Maestro" golf tournament in Sun City West.

For information about fund-raising events, call Lois Galpert, 566-1286.

public to the type of music that will be performed at the symphony concert.

# Symphony guild gives scholarships to teen musicians

Daily News-Sun staff

Four Valley high school musicians who received recognition in a Sun Cities Symphony Guild competition performed Tuesday for guild members attending the group's annual meeting.

Twelve students competed Saturday in the guild's 11th annual Ann Walling Music Competition for High School Seniors. Four students received scholarships for their performances.

Ken Sidrs, a pianist from Shadow Mountain High School in Phoenix, won first place and a \$600 scholarship. Michael Chu, a pianist from Marcos de Niza

High School in Tempe, won second place and a \$400 scholarship. Iris Velasco, a pianist from Northwest Community Christian High School in Glendale, won third place and a \$300 scholarship. Kathrine Nowak, a vocalist from Shadow Mountain High School, won fourth place and a \$200 scholarship.

The symphony guild supports the annual music competition for high school seniors to encourage young musicians. The competition is named for guild member and Sun City resident Ann Walling who founded the competition.



Stephen Chernenk/Daily News-Sun

Members of the Sun Cities Symphony Guild listen to Iris Velasco of Glendale perform Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 2. Tuesday at the guild's annual meeting in the Congregational Church in Sun City.

## Antique auction to benefit Symphony Guild

Picture it: vintage chairs, lamps, tables, chests and radios — a marvelous melange of treasures — gathered for a benefit auction in November.

To make it happen, the Sun Cities Symphony Guild is seeking antique and collectible items to be sold at the auction, 2 p.m. Nov. 2, at the Casa del Rio Retirement Apartments.

The Charity Antique and Collectibles Auction is a new addition to the list of fund-raising activities for the Symphony Guild's 1991-92 season.

Sponsored by Casa del Rio and Larry Mesler Auctioneers, the Symphony Guild Benefit Auction is part of Plaza del Rio's second

annual "Antique Affair."

Carole Sleight, guild spokesperson, says sellers retain 75 percent of their auction item bid price and agree to donate the 25 percent remaining portion to the guild.

Sale proceeds from the 25 percent donation are tax-deductible, says Mrs. Sleight.

There is \$5 bid card fee to attend the auction. This cost includes hors d'oeuvres and entertainment by "Arioso String Quartet," members of the Sun Cities Symphony. All bid card proceeds will benefit the guild, Mrs. Sleight continues.

"Fund-raising events are held throughout the season to help

defray costs of the symphony and its noted guest performers.

The Sun Cities Symphony enjoys a worldwide reputation and provides outstanding entertainment to the largest symphony audience in the world," says Ms. Sleight.

In addition to the Charity Antique Auction at Casa del Rio, the Antique Affair will include free events such as an antique and collectibles show and sale, antique car display, model train exhibit, benefit antique doll, toy show and sale, ongoing entertainment and a benefit cake walk.

For information on the auction, call 972-4604. For information on the Antique Affair, call 972-9815.

10

## Exceptional workers inadvertently left out

EDITOR:

The 25th Anniversary edition of the News-Sun was especially noteworthy and I want to thank Jeanne Stuckwisch so much for her excellent article about the beginning of the Sun Cities Symphony Guild. Unfortunately, the names of two important persons associated with that beginning were inadvertently omitted.

Marian Ryan retired to Sun City following an outstanding career as executive assistant in a prestigious law firm in St. Paul. She was also legal auditor for the state of Minnesota. She is one of the elected officers of the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra board of trustees and acts as secretary for that group.

She is, (and has been since its organization in 1979), parliamentarian for the Symphony Guild. She spent many months of research and had innumerable interviews with respected attorneys in both Sun City and Phoenix before writing and formulating the Constitution and bylaws which have given the Guild stability.

The other member, Mary Ahearne, is quietly modest and unassuming, like Marian Ryan, and equally efficient and dependable. She came to Sun City after a successful career of many years

in the auditing and legal departments of AT&T in New York City.

She was the Guild's first treasurer and worked selflessly and loyally to ensure that organization's future, making many trips back and forth to Phoenix for appointments with members of the Corporation Commission and the IRS for our non-profit status, incorporation requirements with the state of Arizona, and postal privileges for bulk mailing, so essential to any non-profit group.

Such dedicated, volunteer contributions of time and talent should not be overlooked.

**Ann Walling**  
Sun City

A4 NEWS-SUN MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1985

# IC Guild is music to players' ears

By JEANNE STUCKWISH  
Staff Writer

Ann Walling was a hard-working early member of the Sun City Symphony Association.

About five years ago, the association decided to organize a guild as an accessory to the association. Then-president Marian Shideler appointed Mrs. Walling as chairman of an ad hoc committee to form the guild.

Ten people were recommended to her by the symphony board to serve as helpers. Among them were Lois Holler, Breitel Haire and the present president of the Symphony Guild, Ruth Bone.

**MRS. HOLLER** had been the original membership chairman of the association for four years. Mrs. Haire and Mrs. Bone had also been active members, having joined the Symphony Association in its early years.

The 10 women attending the first meeting all contributed the sum of \$10 just to get things rolling. "Seed money," they called it.

They decided at that first meeting that each would bring a friend to the next gathering—people who were interested in music and who could be relied on to help in fund-raising.

**THE NUCLEUS** of the first auxiliary board was made up of those 20 people.

"The women went to work right away and collected enough money to have membership letters printed," recalled Mrs. Walling.

In six weeks there were 300 members signed up. "We had a terrific response to those mem-

bership letters," she said proudly.

**THAT WAS** in January 1979. By April there was a lunch at the Sun City Country Club for people who were interested in the organization. "That's when we really kicked it off. That's when plans took shape and the money began to come in," Mrs. Walling remembered.

It was also then that the executive board of the symphony asked original members of the ad hoc committee to serve as directors for the new organization, with Mrs. Walling in charge.

Laying the foundation turned out to be rather involved, they found. During the initial period, they were under the auspices of the American Symphony Orchestra League, a national organization.

"**THEY HAD** a lot of information and furnished guidance about starting a symphony auxiliary organization," said Mrs. Walling.

In May 1980, the group incorporated with the state as a non-profit organization. Election of officers also took place, and again, Ann Walling was put in charge as the first president.

A constitution was approved by the National American Symphony Orchestra and the state of Arizona. The women also asked for and received a postal permit for a non-profit organization from the Internal Revenue Service.

"**WE DID** not want to be financially dependent on the limited financial resources of the Symphony board," Mrs. Walling

said. "We wanted to function as an independent organization and contribute to the orchestra."

Naturally, there had to be fund-raising events. The first fashion show, which has become a tradition for the guild, was presented in 1980. At that time Breitel Haire was the chairman—a job that has become uniquely hers ever since.

Other traditions were started. Lois Holler has done all the table decorations and Rachel Swanberg is always in charge of the artistic programs.

**THE SUN** Cities Symphony Guild Inc. now boasts some 500 members—all proud of the part they have played in supporting the symphony.



Mary Girard, left, Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association president, and Ann Walling, first president of the SC Symphony Guild. (News-Sun photo by P. Atwood Williams)

# Teacher, Pupil Will Be Reunited

"I still have that weak fourth finger," read a telegram to Jennings Butterfield in New Jersey some years back.

It was from an old pupil, Sam Levenson, who had given up music to become a teacher.

In Levenson's Sun City appearance on May 6, teacher and pupil will be reunited; Levenson as one of the country's top humorists and Butterfield as conductor of the Sun City Symphony.

In his book, "In One Era And Out the Other" Levenson explains why he became a teacher. "The depression set in and unemployed symphony men were underbidding me for jobs," he said.

Butterfield was in his early twenties when he instructed Levenson in the Brooklyn Music School Settlement. "He was an excellent student and wanted to become a violinist," Butterfield said.

"I'll never figure out, though, how he ever practiced at home, with

six brothers in that tiny apartment over his dad's tailor shop," he added.

Butterfield may have a good point. In his book, Levenson brings up his musical career at home. "My brothers found me somewhat less inspiring. 'Sammy has such a wonderful memory,' they would say. 'He makes the same mistakes over and over again.'"

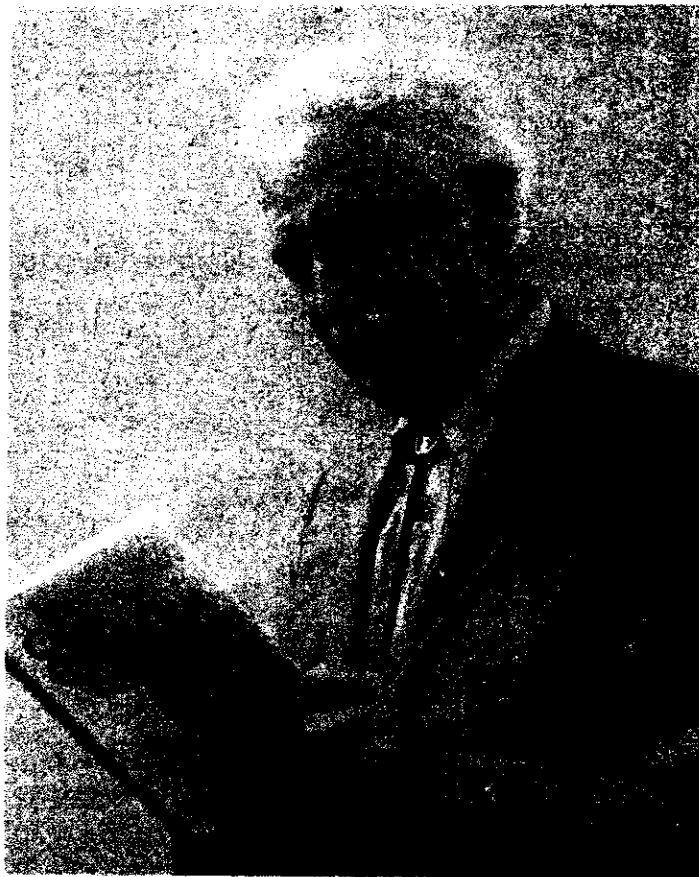
Levenson also mentions the dog next door that sang with him. "Do us a favor, Sammy, play something he doesn't know."

As funny as Levenson is about his childhood experiences growing up the youngest in a Jewish family living in Brooklyn, he was not a class clown, as one might expect. Instead, he took his music and schooling seriously.

"At that time," explains Butterfield, "music was a means of escape from poverty. Musicians were looked upon with the same regard as bankers."

Butterfield is hardly

disappointed in Levenson. Twain and Will Rogers," he says. "And you can next in line to Mark quote me on that."



**REMINISCING** — Jennings Butterfield, conductor of the Sun City Symphony, reads the latest book of a former violin pupil named Sam Levenson. Teacher and student reunite on May 6 when Levenson lectures at the Sundial. (Photo by Charlene Paraniuk)

U F  
Symphony II



# 'Salzburg' baton adopted after jest from instructor

Only once has Jennings Butterfield, founder and conductor of the Sun City Symphony Orchestra, been accused of "beating" his players — and that was in jest by his conducting teacher, Bernhard Paumgartner.

While Butterfield was studying at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, he recalled, his first day brought the confrontation between the then-young Butterfield and the much-respected Paumgartner, who was known as the top Mozart exponent in Europe.

"My first day was quite eventful. The baton I brought was the type used in the U.S. — huge in comparison with the Salzburg version, a small, thin, almost stiletto style.

"My assignment was to conduct the opera, 'Marriage of Figaro,' with no one among the singers or orchestra able to speak English. As I began the overture, the great, tall Paumgartner came to me, put his arm around my shoulders and asked, 'What do you expect to do with that stick — beat the players?'

"It was, to say the least, a little hazing for the new American. I had noticed a little baton on the rack of a piano in back of me, so I put my

'stick' down forever. And began with the stiletto."

Butterfield, soft-spoken with brilliant white hair that never ceases to make him memorable to people who see him on stage in Sundial auditorium during the regular concert season or directing the Sun Bowl orchestra for a special program, began his formal education in music at the age of 6.

Born in central New York State, he studied violin and theory at Cortland and Binghamton conservatories of music and, while still a teenager, was on the faculty at Binghamton Conservatory. Later in New York City, he studied violin with John King Roosa, Paul Stassevitch and Louis Persinger; theory and composition privately with Howard Murphy and Rubin Goldmark, and orchestral instruments and conducting at New York University, Columbia and Juilliard.

After a full career of symphony conducting on the East Coast the Butterfields decided to move to Arizona in 1968. Their initial choice was Scottsdale, but, after hearing Barry Goldwater on television talk about a place called Sun City, there was a

change in plans.

The Sun City orchestra was born shortly after the Butterfields moved into their new home. Edward Comins of the First National Bank directed Butterfield to a Devco executive would help in the formation of an orchestra. A board was formed, players from all over the Valley were contacted — including members of the Luke Air Force Base Band — and the first concert was presented in November 1968 with a 65-piece orchestra, seven of whom lived in Sun City.

"Best of all, it was a sell-out," Butterfield recollected, "because knowledgeable people on the board, such as Lois Holler who had extensive experience in the concert field after retiring from Community Concerts, made it work." The rest is history.



**JENNINGS BUTTERFIELD**

JC  
 Jennings  
 7/1

# DOUBLE takes



by Evelyn Barber

We thought it was great to receive a Christmas card from President and Mrs. Reagan—as undoubtedly other Sun Citians did. But Earl Hansen of Sun City West has even more reason to be proud. The president wrote an entire letter to him. Signed it, too.

He wanted us to know about it because the letter came in response to Hansen's letter to the editor that we used Nov. 4. The fact that it found its way to the president, says Hansen, shows our letters to the editor have some impact.

Hansen's letter suggested that continual quarreling and spiteful debate and acrimonious exchanges by politicians polarize the population and could "weaken our national resolve." He suggested that officials, once elected, "should be supported, not sabotaged, in their effort to govern."

The president told Hansen it was "encouraging to know that I can count on your support. If we are willing to work together to solve our problems, we will be able to bring about a renewal of faith in this great nation. Your expression of friendship tells me that I have your confidence and your trust in this undertaking."

I ADMIRED Jennings Butterfield, not only for his creativity, but for his gracious manner and his unflagging optimism. He never forgot to say "thank you" or to give praise for a job well done. His comments on the Sun City Symphony Orchestra's December concert express in his own words the great love he felt for the "child" of his creation. He wrote:

"I thought the Sun City Symphony sounded wonderful tonight. They played a very demanding program, made even more demanding by performing with the renowned cellist, Leonard Rose. It was a magnificent thing.

"The orchestra has indeed come a very long way since those early days in November 1968 when we gave our first concert. Of course, I haven't been hearing them at rehearsals this season, but it seemed to me that they sounded better than ever. We have a fine new conductor in Bernard Goodman—and the orchestra is obviously responding beautifully to his direction. I couldn't help being very proud of them all.

"I do, of course, miss seeing all those lovely people every week. But it makes me very happy to know that they are continuing to grow, and that they are in good, strong hands."

Our social events writer, Loraine Towne, allowed me to use this lovely "review" by Jennings, as well as a note he wrote to her which illustrates his philosophy of life:

"Yesterday's experiences are but a prelude to tomorrow's opportunities and challenges. I am about to embark on three new projects, two of which are in the field of music, and one very important one non-

music. Lillian and I never look back—we only look forward."

Where Jennings Butterfield's life touched others, there always was love and joy.

DI  
Jennings Butterfield  
FN

# Editorials

## His life, his legacy: music

During Sun City's existence, there have been special people who have strongly influenced its character and image. Jennings Butterfield was one of those special people.

He was a successful and honored symphony conductor and teacher before he came to Sun City. He could have considered his past accomplishments and found them sufficient, but he saw a cultural void in his new community and lent his exuberant energies to filling it.

He called a few musicians together in his home 13 years ago to form the nucleus of a symphony for Sun City. Its progress stands as a testimonial to his ability to create, to inspire others with his enthusiasm and to attract outstanding guest artists to this community.

When the concerts were moved to Sun City West's Sundome, Maestro Butterfield felt his job was finished; the symphony was successful, highly admired and enjoying solid community support. He stepped down, but not really to retire. He continued to work with and give encouragement to youthful musicians, to conduct Thursday

Musicales for the Sun City Art Museum and to teach.

His death Friday came as a shock to Sun Citians. He is mourned not only for his outstanding contributions to this community, but for his warm, caring and optimistic outlook and his great capacity for friendship.

Named conductor emeritus by the Sun City Symphony Orchestra Association in April when he retired, Jennings Butterfield also had received the News-Sun's first Apex Award for "continuing exceptional service to community" in March.

The plaque given him by the symphony association conveyed the deep affection of his colleagues and commended him for "his 13 years of boundless devotion as developer and conductor of the Sun City Symphony Orchestra, thereby winning for Sun City and Sun City West a place of esteem on the map of musical America."

That is a fitting tribute to this gracious and talented man. It will stand as his legacy to Sun City.

27  
Froyd  
41

Symphony Mar 10, 1982 News-Sun

# Emphasis ON PEOPLE

NEWS-SUN

## Young musicians feted at post-concert party

By LORAIN TOWNE  
Staff Writer

A reception after the recent Sun City Symphony concert honored winners of the Jennings Butterfield Competition for Young Musicians. It was sponsored by the Symphony Guild and held in the home of Dorine Fregeau in Sun City West.

Lawrence "Larry" Tilson, first-place winner, graciously accepted accolades from the guests for his fine performance on the bassoon. Bruce and Peggy Bade offered their congratulations. Bruce is flutist with the Sun City Symphony.

Larry told them, "I have been playing the bassoon for about 10 years. I am 19 now."

He is a senior at the University of Arizona at Tucson and the principal bassoonist and manager for the University Symphony and Chamber orchestras.

"THIS SUMMER I will attend the New College Music Festival in Sarasota, Fla., which is under the direction of Paul Wolfe. I also plan to study at Tanglewood near Boston," Larry explained.

"I will audition for the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. I would like to attend school in Boston in order to be near the Boston Symphony Orchestra," he concluded.

Dorine told Frank Spinosa how much she had

enjoyed his violin solo on the program that evening. Frank is assistant conductor and concert master of the Sun City Symphony. He is also professor of music at Arizona State University in Tempe.

FRANK introduced his wife, Barbara, and his friend, Floyd Immesoete of Tempe. "We're Christian brothers," said Frank.

Rutheda Pretzell and Wayne Perrill conversed with Ruth Solin, who received honorable mention in the competition for her oboe playing. Rutheda contributed the awards for the two runners up. Wayne is chairman of the committee for young musician artists.

Ruth told them, "I'm a typical struggling college student. I am a junior at Arizona State University and I am involved with everything under the sun that has to do with music there. I am in the University Lyric Opera Theater Orchestra, ASU Symphony Orchestra and chamber group and the woodwinds quartette.

"I have a recital coming up on April 2, at 7:30, in Room 510 of the ASU Music Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. I will share the concert with David Perry, a clarinetist.

"I WAS in the Messiah as principal oboist out here at the Sundome, and also with the ASU Symphony when they joined the Canadian Brass at the Sundome," Ruth said. "I

hope to study with Ray Still who is principal oboist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra."

Larry Tilson is the first artist to win first place in the competition, which is named in memory of Jennings Butterfield because of his great devotion to the musical education of young people.

Lillian Butterfield, Jennings' widow, related one example. "Several years ago Jennings learned that there were no string instruments in the public schools in this area. This bothered him, so he went to the Department of Education.

"He told them he would like to start it, and he did. He worked with the Department of Parks and Recreation and got things going. He taught all day Saturdays for many years in Phoenix."

ANOTHER example of his interest in young musicians is an excerpt from a letter Lillian recently received from Betsy Lusby.

"I often sit back and think about your husband who gave me my first violin lesson when I was 8 years old," Betsy wrote.

"I remember going to the Rotary and Rotary Anns lunches and being scared stiff of performing in front of all those people. Somehow I always made it through, and the people just loved us.

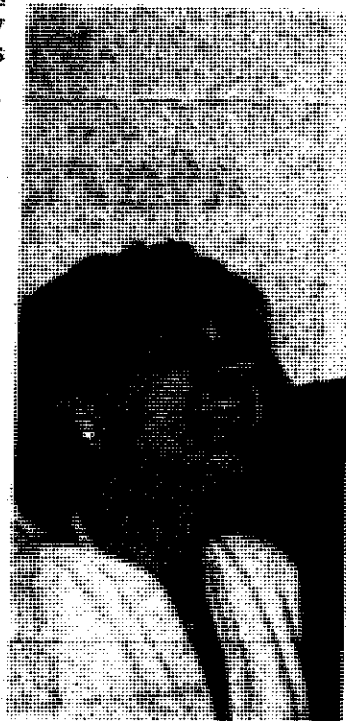
"I remember Mr. Butterfield's gentle patience and his wonderful way of

teaching. He was truly a gentleman with a genius for music. He has influenced me tremendously in my appreciation of fine orchestra and symphonic music."

MARY JANE Bowen, president of the Symphony Guild, and her husband, Bob, were greeters along with Ann Walling, immediate past president, and her husband, Ray.

Laura Yellowlees, hospitality chairman, poured punch at one end of the table and Helen Tabor poured at the other.

Veryl and Herbert Johnson and Elsie and Luther Gunberg were the chairmen for the season's after-the-concert parties. Lola Peterson joined the committee for this party.



Symphony IC

VF



ABOVE: Dorine Fregeau, hostess for the post-concert reception, laughs at a joke with Frank and Barbara Spinosa.

LEFT: Lawrence Tilson, who won the top award in musical competition, visits with Lillian Butterfield. The competition is named for her late husband, Jennings.

## C & L SHARPENING

10443 N. 83rd Ave.  
Peoria, Az.  
(1 block south of Grand)

**979-4229**

XX ALL TYPES XX

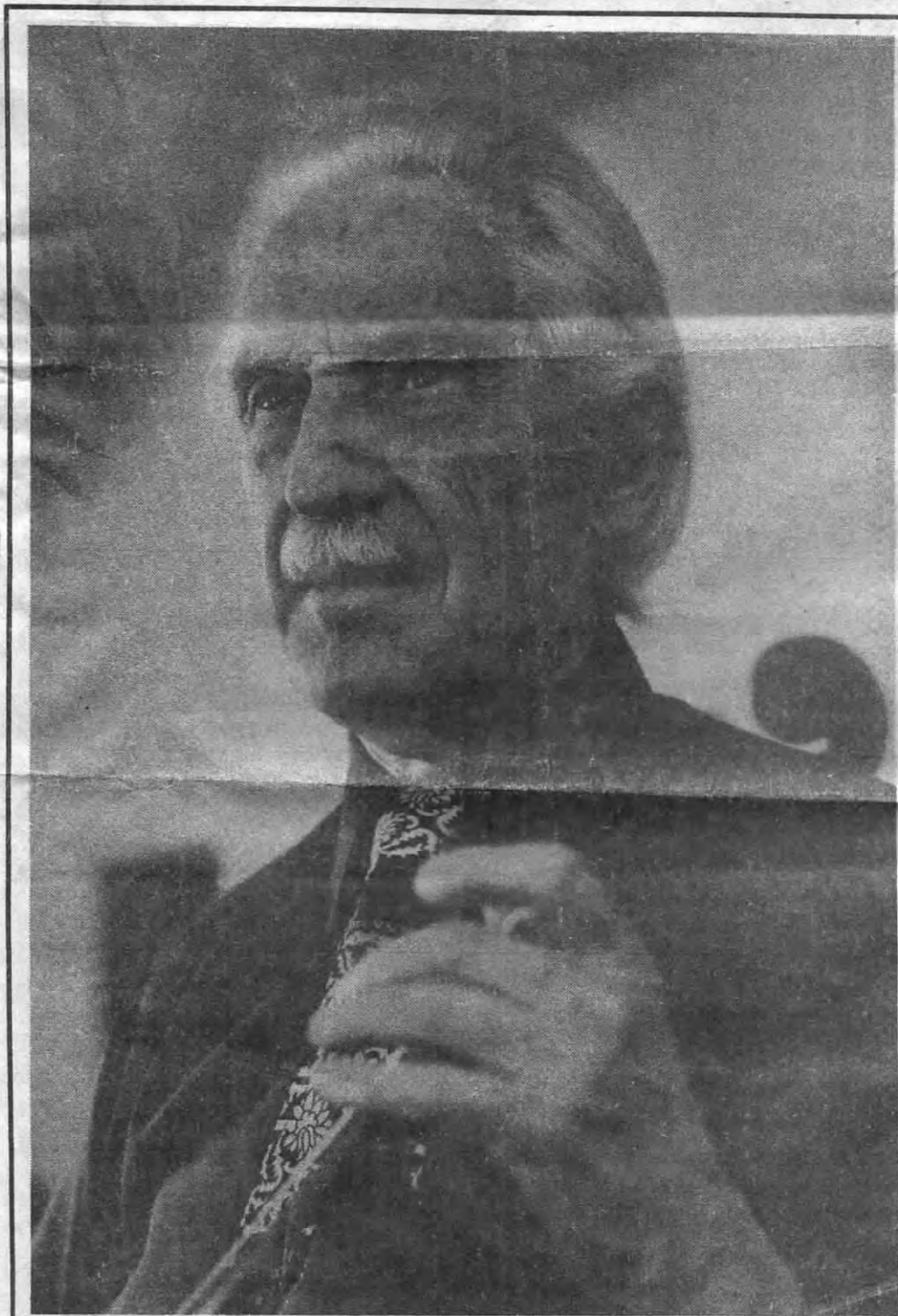
# SUN



MARCH 7, 1981

Sun City, Arizona

25¢



JENNINGS BUTTERFIELD

*vt* *Symphony* *Mar 7, 1981* *News-Sun FC*

# Butterfield wins first Apex Award

The News-Sun's first Apex Award "for continuing exceptional service to community" was presented today to Sun City Symphony director and conductor Jennings Butterfield.

News-Sun publisher Burt Freireich also presented recognition plaques to the Men and Women of the Year during the Empire State Club's annual luncheon in Duff's banquet room. They are:

Sam Higginbotham and Eleanor McNeil for Sun City; Eric Robinson and Mary Taylor for Youngtown; and Loise Copes for Sun City West.

**BUTTERFIELD** founded the symphony 13 years ago, with a few musicians meeting in his home to form the nucleus of the new organization. The orchestra grew steadily until its concerts filled the Sundial Auditorium, with outstanding musical artists appearing as guest performers.

In 1980, the symphony moved to the Sundome in Sun City West, with excellent response in season subscription sales and attendance. Butterfield announced earlier this year that he would be stepping down from the podium for good after the orchestra's final season concert April 5. He

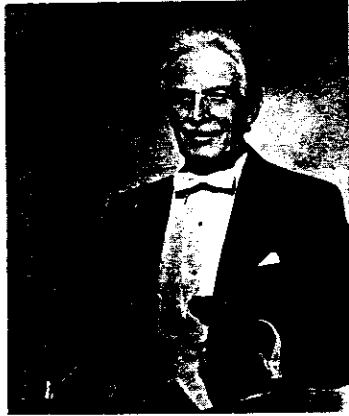
has missed only one performance during his years as conductor.

Men and Women of the Year awards have been sponsored annually by the News-Sun since 1975 to honor those who have given outstanding service to community and to fellow residents.

**RECIPIENTS** are nominated by local residents and their qualifications judged by the paper's newsroom staff and winners of awards the previous year.

Chosen for 1974 were Ed Prouty and Gertrude Flyte of Sun City; for 1975, Wil Stevener and Edna von Pischke, Sun City, and Ray Peacock, Youngtown; 1976, Dr. Jesse Lansner and Pearl Coulter, Sun City, Oliver Hartzell and Aggie Bower, Youngtown; 1977, Rose Schwartz and Charles Wider, Sun City, Norman Shrenk and Anna Novak, Youngtown;

1978, Sam Elliott and Eleanor Linstad, Sun City, Bob Cooke and Lois Hutton, Youngtown; and 1979, Dr. Abraham Tamis and Lorene Read, Sun City, Otto Paulsen, Charles Walker and Carolyn Vonier, Youngtown, William Stewart and Irma Halfter, Sun City West.



JENNINGS BUTTERFIELD  
1900-1982

## The Conductor's Corner

**BERNARD GOODMAN**

*Music Director and Conductor*

### A Dedication To Maestro Jennings Butterfield

It has been my privilege to succeed Jennings Butterfield as your Conductor. While I had no occasion to become acquainted with him prior to assuming this position, I found him to be a most gracious man, very helpful in advising me concerning the important facets of the orchestra and its

favorable image in this community, and most anxious that the progress to date might be continued far into the future.

Perhaps the most fitting tribute that we of the musical family could pay to our departed Conductor Emeritus would be to dedicate the selections I have indicated on the program to his memory. I hope that as they are played we all may feel rededicated to beautiful music, to the legacy of this wonderful orchestra which he developed, and to the Valley of the Sun—his homeland during his retirement years and also ours.

— Bernard Goodman



## The Guest Artist

**PETER NERO**

*Guest Conductor & Pianist*

Combining classical discipline with the spontaneity of jazz, Peter Nero has added a new dimension and respectability to Pop Music. One critic wrote: "He is the Vladimir Horowitz of Pop Music. His approach to the piano is in the true tradition of the great virtuosos."

As an arranger and composer, he continues to keep up with the times by extracting from the new fads what he considers meaningful and discarding the frivolous. He continues to destroy "sacred cows" with his excursions into musical humor, but always with deep respect for quality and excellence.

His numerous successful appearances with symphony orchestras as Conductor/Soloist led to his appointment as Musical Director and Principal Conductor of the newly formed Philly Pops Orchestra in November, 1979.

The inaugural pair of concerts at Philadelphia's Academy of Music were an overnight sensation. "The Pops is tops — and the hero is Nero!" proclaimed the Philadelphia Inquirer the next morning; "Nero and his forces brought cheering patrons to their feet in admiration" wrote the Bulletin, and Variety commented as follows, "The Philadelphia-grown rival to the Boston Pops shapes up — an instant smash."

Nothing succeeds like success, and within months, Nero and the Philly Pops were the first symphony orchestra to perform at Resorts International Hotel in Atlantic City and Belmont Park Racetrack in New York. A highlight of this initial season was the 4th of July telecast over the PBS network from Independence Mall before an audience of 40,000 cheering Philadelphians.

The future is even brighter for Peter Nero and his Philly Pops; a sold-out subscription season in Philadelphia, numerous "runout" concerts to eastern cities, recordings, and during 1981/82 the first national tour.

When Peter is not playing the piano or conducting, he is romping at home in Los Angeles with his beautiful wife, Peggy, who also often accompanies him while on tour. He is the father of two children, Beverly and Jedd, both by a previous marriage.



# Program

FOURTEENTH SEASON — SIXTY-SIXTH SUBSCRIPTION CONCERT  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 1982

8 P.M. — Sundome Center for the Performing Arts

SUN CITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

BERNARD GOODMAN, MUSIC DIRECTOR and CONDUCTOR

Frank Spinosa, Assistant Conductor

GUEST ARTIST — PETER NERO, Pianist and Conductor

RICHARD NANISTA, Electric Bass  
EDDIE CACCAVALE, Percussionist

---

*The Music Director and all members of the Sun City Symphony Orchestra respectfully dedicate the first half of tonight's program to the memory of Maestro Jennings Butterfield, Founder and First Music Director and Conductor of the Sun City Symphony Orchestra.*

---

Ave Verum Corpus . . . . . Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

performed in memory of Jennings Butterfield

The audience is requested to refrain from applause

Variations on a Theme by Girolamo Frescobaldi for String Orchestra . . . . Alexandre Tansman

Symphony No. 83 in G Minor (The Hen) . . . . . Joseph Haydn

Allegro spiritoso

Andante

Menuet, Allegretto

Finale, Vivace

## INTERMISSION

A Group of Popular Selections performed by the Peter Nero Trio

Rapsody in Blue for Piano and Orchestra . . . . . George Gershwin

Bidin' My Time for Piano and Orchestra . . . . . George Gershwin  
arranged by Peter Nero

Variations on I've Got Rhythm for Piano and Orchestra . . . . . George Gershwin  
arranged by Peter Nero

STEINWAY PIANO  
RCA VICTOR AND COLUMBIA RECORDS  
ALL ARRANGEMENTS AND ORCHESTRATIONS BY PETER NERO

JENNINGS BUTTERFIELD RETIRES AS CONDUCTOR OF THE SUN CITY SYMPHONY

Maestro JENNINGS BUTTERFIELD retired as Music Director and Conductor of the Sun City Symphony, with the final concert of the season on April 5th. He received an emotional standing ovation from his audience of 5700 people in the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts in Sun City West, and was presented a special plaque designating him as "Conductor Emeritus", and expressing the admiration, appreciation, and love of his multitude of friends, for his dedicated services and musical guidance these past thirteen years.

Jennings was born in Central New York State, studied violin, theory and composition at Cortland and Binghamton Conservatories; continued his studies in New York with the best known teachers of his time and at New York University and Columbia Teachers College; broadened his studies to include orchestral instruments and conducting at New York U, Columbia, and Juilliard; and at the Mozarteum in Salzburg under Bernhard Paumgartner and Nicolai Malko.

Jennings had founded and conducted two community symphony orchestras before coming to Sun City: the West Orange (N.J.) Symphony and the Cape Cod Symphony. He founded the Sun City Symphony in 1968, with a few musicians meeting in his home to form the nucleus. The orchestra grew steadily, and in recent years has featured such outstanding guest artists as Roberta Peters, Eugene Fodor, Malcolm Frager, Barry Tuckwell, Eric Friedman, Skitch Henderson, and Anna Maria Alberghetti.

Maestro Butterfield announced last spring, at a banquet celebrating his 80th birthday, that he would be relinquishing his baton upon completion of the 1980-81 season.

His successor as Music Director and Conductor will be Bernard Goodman, formerly professor of music at University of Illinois, first violin of the Cleveland Symphony, and conductor-musical director of the Univ of Illinois Symphony and the Champaign-Urbana Symphony.

SI  
Symphony

DI

# Symphony plans Boswell benefit

An evening of music America loves will be presented as a benefit for Boswell Memorial Hospital, Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 8 p.m. in the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts.

The concert is not part of the regular symphony season. The Sun City Symphony, under the direction of Jennings Butterfield, is offering their first concert

to help Boswell Hospital celebrate its 10th anniversary and to raise some money for hospital expansion.

There are still excellent seats available and at only \$4 for a ticket donation, this must be the bargain of the year. Tickets are on sale at the Kings Inn, the Sundome, all Diamond's box offices, the Boswell Hospital Gift Shop and at

the Residents' Galleries in Sun City.

Claudia Kennedy, lyric soprano, will sing arias from Puccini and Franz Lehar.; and James Rucolo, a piano virtuoso and artist-in-residence at ASU, will play Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue."

The orchestra will spice the evening with the old fiddlers' hoe-down, "The

Arkansas Traveler" by Guion; selections from "Gigi," Tchaikovsky's ever popular waltz from the "Sleeping Beauty Ballet Suite," and Strauss's Overture to "Die Fledermaus."

In keeping with the traditional Veterans' Day theme, the concert will end with the "Stars and Stripes Forever" by Sousa.

on  
ts  
y  
l  
y  
s  
e



Sun Citian artist, Bob Luscombe, left, accepts, "many thanks" of Symphony Director, Jennings Butterfield, for the portrait which will hang in the lobby of the Sundome.

DF  
Symphony  
FN

VF Symphony IC

Sun City News-Sun - Nov 8, 1980  
1980 Nov 8, 1980

# Sun City artist paints maestro

It is, as his daughter, who was visiting this week, affectionately put it, "a labor of love."

Sun Citian Robert Luscombe spent more than 100 hours painting an oil portrait of the community's maestro, Jennings Butterfield.

When he learned that the orchestra conductor was planning to retire after this symphony season Luscombe decided he wanted to do something so folks would remember the man who began the Sun City Symphony.

"This came to me as an idea last May," the 80-year-old artist explains. "Here this ol' fella says he's going to retire and I thought what the heck, I can paint a portrait of him; not for him, but for Sun City people to see this is the guy who got it started.

"I moved to Sun City a year after the symphony started and I heard about the struggle this chap had to go through to get this thing off the ground. And when he finally got it together, by golly, the ol' boy had a pretty good orchestra. And now it's an above-average, full-sized symphony orchestra."

Luscombe got in touch with Hollett Photography and learned Butterfield had a photo sitting a few years previous. Harry Hollett made an 8x10

black and white photo which Luscombe used as his model for the painting.

"The painting was finished before I showed it to anybody," he relates. The portrait was done in oil, as are most of his other commissioned portraits.

The Symphony Guild donated a frame which carries the inscription "Jennings Butterfield Founder Conductor Sun City Symphony Orchestra 1968-1981."

Luscombe, a self-taught artist who currently teaches classes at Fairway Art Club and exhibits his oils widely here, shys away from talking about the portrait. He says he hasn't done anything special; it's just something he wanted to do.

"It was my idea and my contribution to the people of Sun City."

The portrait was presented by the president of the symphony guild, Ann Walling, to the Sun City Orchestra Association at intermission during the symphony's first concert of the season Sunday in the Sundome. It will be displayed in the Sundome lobby during future concerts.

-By Kim Sue Lia Perkes



Artist Robert Luscombe completed his portrait of Jennings Butterfield out of respect and admiration for the symphony founder and conductor. (News-Sun Photo)

# Accelerando

VF IC

NEWS-SUN Friday, June 2, 1978

Symphony Orchestra

By VAL BEMBENEK  
View Editor

Ten years — an anniversary that marks a decade of cultural leadership in Sun City — also is an opportunity for Jennings Butterfield to examine the past and present and express hopes for the future.

Founder, conductor and musical director of the Sun City Symphony, the white-haired gracious man who "looks like a conductor ought to" arrived in Sun City from Massachusetts in April 1968.

It wasn't for retirement.

He knew he would do the same thing he had done for the previous eight years in Cape Cod and for years before that in West Orange, N.J. — put a community symphony orchestra together using a combination of local musicians and professionals from nearby areas. And directing them so that top-name guest performers could come in for a concert on a one-rehearsal-only basis.

"We had our first Sun

City concert in November 1968 and filled Mountain View auditorium to its 900 capacity," recalled Butterfield. He had worked during the summer and immediately after Labor Day to get musicians from the Phoenix Symphony, the Luke AFB Band, and area high schools.

"But without the behind-the-scenes work of getting the tickets sold and all the "audience arrangements" made, there would have been nothing," he said in praise of the knowledgeable community volunteers who began work even before he arrived.

"And without Lillian," he nodded to his wife of 13 years, "I'm afraid no one would have gotten on stage; she coordinates so many of the details that my concentration on the music doesn't leave time for."

Things have changed over the past 10 years.

The members of the Phoenix Symphony no longer perform with the Sun City orchestra because of increasing scheduling difficulties between the two groups; the Luke Air Force Band of the Southwest ended this year, eliminating them as a source of musicians. But Butterfield isn't

worried.

"Our orchestra has been getting better every year and I look for an impressive continuation of this trend," he said, noting that the 75-piece group currently is composed of about half Sun Citians. "Fine musicians from all over the country are attracted here because in these 10 years, we've proven it is possible and important to the community," said the Austria and Juilliard-educated violinist.

Young musicians from colleges and high schools eagerly work with the experienced members. And Butterfield is as eager to have them, for he also is a willing teacher who is favored with a gift of encouraging young talent. Felix Rakosi, his 10-year-old violin student whom Sun City audiences have raved about for his flawless solo performances, was "discovered" by Butterfield when Felix was only four and wanted to get into a Phoenix park-rec summer program the

conductor taught.

"The age minimum was six, but his family pleaded that we take the youngster." He has turned into a wonderful and promising talent under Butterfield's tutelage.

Back in 1968 when Sun City's population was 28,000, the 900 in Mountain View was a sell-out season. Today the population is nearly doubled and the sell-out at Sundial auditorium is 1900 — better than doubled.

Are there more?

More people who would come to concerts if the seats were available?

Butterfield has given the thought serious consideration. "In any community, there is a limited percentage of devotees to symphonies. Phoenix Symphony Hall is not filled at every performance.

"The people who attend concerts here are the same ones who attended back in Chicago or Minneapolis or New York or Kansas City. It is part of what they have always enjoyed in their lives.

"Yes, there are many who are just beginning to discover the excitement of live symphony music. It is something they didn't have time for before retirement. And, since we often

## decade scores future

have tickets available at the door as well as single performance tickets, there are those who come one time to 'see what it's all about.'

"The future will tell us just how many there are who would come for the music and sociable pleasures," he said, referring to the 6,800-seat sun dome auditorium planned for Sun City West.

"I don't know if we can fill it. Gammage (Center for the Performing Arts on the ASU campus) has a 'live' stage and isn't filled at every performance. It is one of the finest acoustical facilities in the nation. The Sun City stage will be — as it's called — 'dead,' meaning electronic amplification will be necessary.

"We are working to give the local facility the best acoustics within its design potential," he added hopefully.

Will the symphony's program concept change in the next few years to include a broader range of music?

"We have changed, or rather experimented, in the last years with the presentations. And we've found that it is consistency which our audiences wish.

"The classical music, the romantic music of Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven is not only

what the audience wants, it is what the orchestra wants to play and therefore perform with the greatest feeling.

"Our guest performers — such as Gary Karr who injected delightful humor into his outstanding string bass performance — offer audiences the diversity in the programs. So the audience has both.

"As for starting a 'pops' series in addition to the symphony concerts, I believe that Broadway show tunes are better played by a theater orchestra. The sound is different; the emphasis is different."

Butterfield recalls with a chuckle when Henry Mancini came for a guest performance. "I found him the musicians. They had to know 'Pink Panther'. And everyone was amazed at the way he directed; he walked around and in between the orchestra nodding his finger up and down!

"But don't get me wrong. He's a great composer and music master — it's just different."

Butterfield obviously does not close out other forms of music. "But a lifetime is too short to understand it all."

So jazz, country western pop and all the others enter his life only

incidentally; he devotes all his energies — and all his relaxation — to the music in which he leads the Sun City Symphony. He is a specialist, because only with specialists like Jennings Butterfield can the art perpetuate to new generations.

Jennings and Lillian are comfortable here in Sun City. They swim nearly every afternoon at Mountain View pool "and often a group sits around the deck and talks German." The two — as the pop song goes — "light up" each other's life.

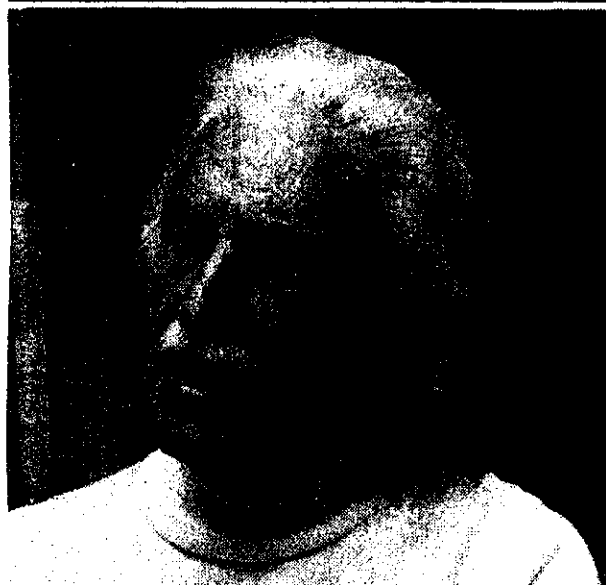
"I can't go wrong if I follow her advice," he says, recalling the time when he was asked by an art club to "pose" for portrait work. "I didn't want to do it; it seemed so..." He couldn't find the right word.

Lillian explained. "I told him it wasn't an exercise in vanity, but a recognition of the validity of their expression of art. It was an artist offering a professional gesture to another artist."

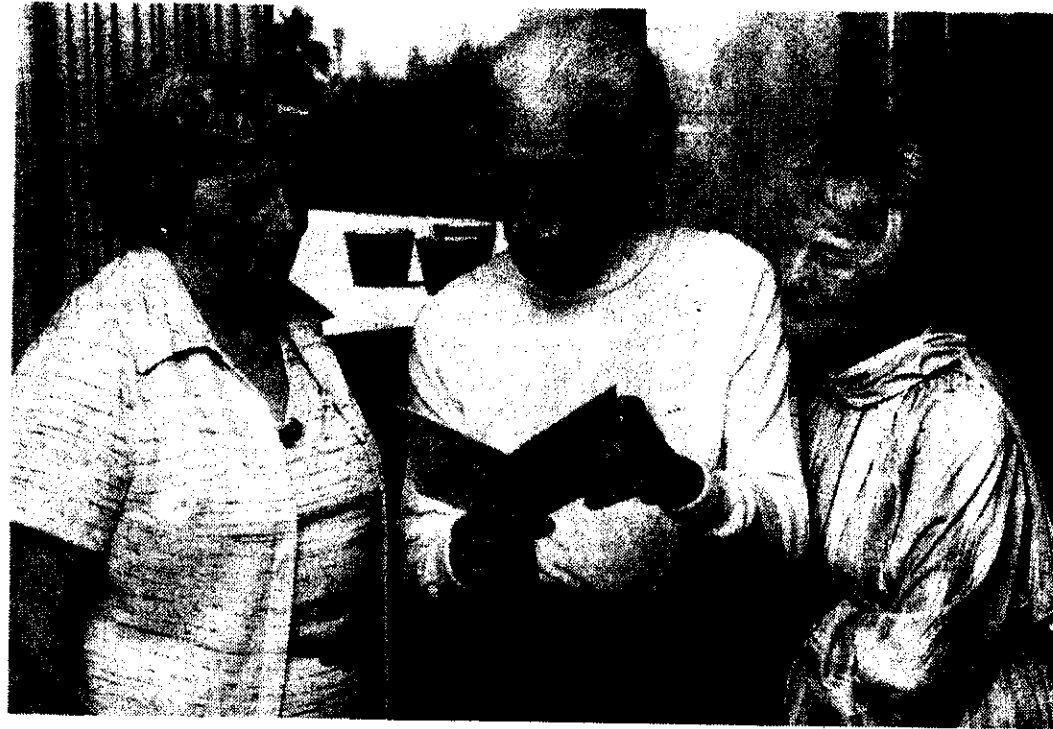
One of the results hangs on the wall of their stairway gallery leading up to the studio. "Felix says it makes me look like Einstein," he says, almost as shyly as the boy must have said it originally.

## **Jennings & Lillian**

FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS, Jennings Butterfield and his wife Lillian have worked in cooperation with the community to bring the Sun City Symphony to a prestigious level. To mark the decade, Jennings looks both backward and forward regarding symphony music in Sun City and notes things which have changed and other which will not, from a music director-conductor's point of view.  
MORE ON PAGE 4



**S Y M P H O N Y**  
FACES changing times as the sun dome auditorium facility in Sun City West becomes a reality in the near future, Butterfield notes, explaining that it will seat 6,800 compared to the 1,900 at Sundial Center where Symphony concerts are currently presented.  
(News-Sun Photo)



**SURPRISE TOKEN** of appreciation is presented to the Butterfields last week by Edna VanOosterhaut, who came to their home representing many Sun City friends who had collected more than \$500 as a gift to be used any way they wish. "To Jennings Butterfield, who has done so much to further the cultural activity of Sun City. . ." the card began. Surprised almost to the point of tears, Jennings and Lillian thank everyone for their support of the Symphony over the last decade.  
(News-Sun Photo)



# MEMORIES OF THE SUN CITIES



## CONDUCTOR FOUNDED SYMPHONY ON IMPULSE

One of a series on the history of  
Sun City and Sun City West, Arizona

Sun Cities Area Historical Society  
10801 Oakmont Dr. Sun City, Arizona  
602/974-2568

## CONDUCTOR FOUNDED SYMPHONY ON IMPULSE

In 1968 Sun City became the only retirement community in the nation with its own symphony orchestra.

The Sun City Symphony was organized by Jennings Butterfield in 1968. Early in that year, while living on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, the Butterfields listened to Barry Goldwater on television extolling the virtues of his Arizona, and he mentioned a place called Sun City.

The next morning, Butterfield called the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce and learned that Sun City did not have a symphony orchestra. The Butterfields decided to move to Sun City.

Ed Comins of First Interstate Bank of Arizona directed Butterfield to Jerry Svendsen, public relations director for the Del Webb Development Co. In May 1968, Svendsen arranged a meeting in the home of Major and Mrs. J.C. Fitzpatrick. Mrs. Fitzpatrick had worked with Louis Kerr of the Kerr Music Center in Scottsdale, and Louise Kerr was an old friend of the Butterfields. A symphony board was organized with Clyde Wells as the first chairman.

After countless hours and miles of travel, Jennings Butterfield managed to recruit an orchestra with players from all over the Valley as well as from the Flagstaff Festival. Musicians from Luke Air Force Base, music students from Arizona State University and members of the Phoenix symphony augmented local volunteers.

The first concert was given November 24, 1968, in Mountain View Recreation Center Auditorium with a 65-piece orchestra.

"Best of all, it was a sellout," Butterfield recalled, "because knowledgeable people on the board such as Lois Holler, who had extensive experience with Columbia Artists Community Concerts, made it work!"

The concerts were held in Mountain View Auditorium until Sundial Recreation Center Auditorium was completed. Later concerts were held in the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts, Sun City West, to accommodate the ever-growing audiences.

At the time of the early concerts, Clyde Wells recalled having to borrow a truck from Mehagian's TV Center to transport drums from Luke Air Force Base, and for one concert he brought a performer's entire family so the wife would let her husband play!

In 1970, the symphony decided to award scholarships to promising music students from Arizona schools, and in 1978 the scholarships were expanded into Butterfield Competition for Young Musical Artists. Thousands of dollars were awarded and the winner each year performed as guest artist of the symphony at one of their concerts.

Over the years, there have been renowned guest artists--Jan Peerce, Roberta Peters, Eugene Fodor, Earle Wilde, Leonard Rose, Anna Maria Alberghetti, Richard Stoltzman, Stephanie Chase, Micha Dichter and Dallas Brass, to name a few.

One evening, Don Tuffs, then manager of the 7,000-seat Sundome, announced to a near-capacity crowd that we had the largest symphony audience in the world!

Jennings Butterfield died in January, 1982. Dr. Bernard Goodman, who had recently moved to Sun City, became the new director. Goodman had been resident conductor of the University of Illinois Symphony as well as the Champaign-Urbana Symphony. He then resigned to accept an invitation from a nationally known musical group.

The Symphony then engaged Dr. Eugene P. Lombardi in 1983. He was professor of music and conductor of the Arizona State University Symphony Orchestra as well as the monthly "Pops" Concerts at the Phoenix Symphony Hall.

In 1988, James Yestadt became the conductor and continues to hold that position.

## HISTORY OF THE SUN CITIES SYMPHONY

The Sun Cities Symphony was founded in 1968 by its first Music Director, Jennings Butterfield. Maestro Butterfield served as Music Director through the 1980-81 season. He was succeeded by Dr. Bernard Goodman for one season, followed by Dr. Eugene P. Lombardi who conducted from 1983 to 1987. The Sun Cities Symphony's current Music Director, Maestro James Yestadt, began his association with the symphony in the Fall of 1988.

The orchestra is comprised of Sun Cities retired musicians and paid professional musicians from the Phoenix area. It is believed to be the world's largest retirement community symphony orchestra, and contributes substantially to the cultural life within the West Valley.

The first organizational meeting of the Sun City Symphony Orchestra was held on June 6, 1968. The first concert was given on December 15, 1968, in Town Hall South, a facility we now know as Mountain View Auditorium. It had a seating capacity of 1,000 and was completely sold out. The orchestra consisted of Sun City musicians plus imports from Luke Air Force Base, the Glendale Orchestra, the Flagstaff Symphony and the Phoenix Chamber Group. The imports were paid union scale and the volunteers received no pay, mileage or expenses.

In 1980, the Sun City Symphony moved to the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts in Sun City West. The year following, the symphony changed its name to the Sun Cities Symphony to reflect its service to both communities.

A partial sampling of the noted artists who have performed with the symphony include:

PIANISTS: Peter Nero, Alicia de Larrocha, Ferrante and Teicher, Juliana Markova, John Browning, Leonard Pennario, Skitch Henderson, Joseph Kalichstein, Panayis Lyras, Lee Luvisi and John Bayless.

VIOLINISTS: Viktoria Mullova, Jaime Laredo, Miriam Fried, Stephanie Chase, Dylana Jenson, Frank Spinosa, and Kurt Nikkanen.

CLASSICAL GUITARISTS: The Romeros, and Manuel Barrueco.

FLUTIST: Eugenia Zukerman

CLARINETIST: Richard Stoltzman

VOCALISTS: Jan Peerce, Roberta Peters, Robert Merrill, Jerome Hines, Jerry Hadley, Anna Maria Alberghetti, Shirley Jones, Kay Paschal, Jill Blalock, and Jon Garrison

SPECIAL ENSEMBLES: Dallas Brass

Concerts are held at 3:00 on Sunday afternoons in the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts in Sun City West. Audiences typically average 2,500 per concert.

### **JAMES YESTADT, MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR**

James Yestadt was named the SCSO's fourth Music Director in 1988. The orchestra's twenty-eighth anniversary season will be his eighth year as Music Director of the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra. During his directorship the orchestra has increased its subscription concert series from five to six concerts, added a "pops" concert and, for the first time in its history, the orchestra has performed in other communities including Phoenix, Mesa and Litchfield Park. The orchestra has appeared on television and has been heard frequently on radio.

Born in Harrisburg, Pa., James Yestadt completed a masters degree in Music at Columbia University where he twice received the first place prize for outstanding student conductor.

While a student of Rafael Kubelik in Switzerland, Mr. Yestadt was invited to conduct the Zurich Radio Orchestra and also to be the Resident Conductor of the New Orleans Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra. Shortly thereafter, he received his first music directorship with the Mobile Symphony Orchestra and a year later became Music Director/Conductor of the Mobile Opera Company, a post in which he served for fifteen years. There followed his appointment as Music Director of the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra and Director of Orchestral Studies at Louisiana State University. He has served as guest conductor at numerous festivals throughout the US and Europe.

### **MUSIC DIRECTORS OF THE SUN CITIES SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Jennings Butterfield	1968-1981
Bernard Goodman	1981-1983
Eugene Lombardi	1983-1987
Five Guest Conductors	1987-1988
James Yestadt	1988-Present

## **THE SYMPHONY GUILD**

The Symphony Guild is a valued support organization of the Sun Cities Symphony. The Guild sponsors a series of educational and fund raising activities each season. The Symphony Guild consists of approximately 500 volunteers with many skills that help to provide leadership and guidance for these projects. This enormous body of work is accomplished selflessly and often anonymously. This last season, the Guild contributed \$25,000 to the operating support of the symphony.

One of the major educational activities conducted by the Guild is the Ann Walling Competition for musically gifted high school seniors.

### **PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE SUN CITIES SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION**

Clyde P. Wells, Eugene Kenny, Clinton H. Poertner, Frank W. Wilson,  
Marion Shideler, Emmett R. Sarig, John H. Smith, George M. Blaesie,  
Mary S. Girard, Paul G. Roach, Frederick B. James, Iona Dale Wood,  
Leonard L. Gibb, Robert S. Reed, and Carl W. Strayer.

Our current President is Dee Hjermsstad.



# SYMPHONY of the WEST VALLEY

## Organizational Fact Sheet

10451 W. Palmeras Drive, Suite 210  
Sun City, AZ 85373  
TELEPHONE: (623) 972-4484  
FAX: (623) 972-4495  
E-mail: [symphonywestvalley@earthlink.net](mailto:symphonywestvalley@earthlink.net)

## Organization Mission and History

**The mission of the Symphony of the West Valley is to enrich the quality of life for residents of the West Valley by performing orchestral music at its best.**

The Symphony of the West Valley was founded in 1968 by Jennings Butterfield who served as Music Director through the 1980-81 season. Dr. Bernard Goodman succeeded Maestro Butterfield for one season and passed the baton to Dr. Eugene P. Lombardi, who led the orchestra from 1983 to 1987. The Symphony's current Music Director, Maestro James Yestadt, began his association with the symphony in the fall of 1988, and will celebrate his fourteenth season with the Symphony during the 2001-2002 season.

The first organizational meeting of the Sun City Symphony Orchestra was held on June 6, 1968. The first concert was given on December 15, 1968, in Town Hall South, a facility we now know as Mountain View Auditorium. It had a seating capacity of 1,000 and was completely sold out. The orchestra consisted of Sun City musicians plus professional musicians from the Air Force Band then stationed at Luke Air Force Base, the Glendale Orchestra, the Flagstaff Symphony and the Phoenix Chamber Orchestra. The professionals were paid union scale and the volunteers received no pay, mileage or expenses.

Over the years, the Symphony has grown in stature and prominence and today is considered one of Arizona's top professional orchestras. Reflecting that growth and regional prominence, the Symphony changed its name in 1996 to "The Symphony of the West Valley." Celebrating its 34th year in 2001, the Symphony has become a valuable and irreplaceable musical, educational, and cultural resource for the entire West Valley. From exciting traditional classical repertoire featuring the orchestra and major guest artists of national and international renown to the ever-popular pops presentations, The Symphony of the West Valley elevates our spirits and enhances our quality of life.

Today, the Symphony is composed of paid professional musicians from throughout the Phoenix area and includes a small number of retired professional musicians from renowned symphony orchestras across the country who now reside in the Sun Cities area. The Symphony of the West Valley maintains a quality of performance and standards of excellence that are a source pride for more than 24,000 West Valley music lovers who attend its performances each season. Residents of the West Valley no longer have to travel to downtown Phoenix to hear outstanding live classical orchestra music and world-renowned artists!

## Programs of Service

**An Outstanding Orchestra:** In October 2001, the 85-member Symphony of the West Valley will begin its thirty-fourth consecutive season of service to the West Valley. Each concert features nationally or internationally renowned guest artists. Among the noted artists who have performed with the Symphony are pianists Jean Philippe Collard, Peter Nero, Misha Dichter, Ferrante and Teicher, Juliana Markova, John Browning, Skitch Henderson and Joseph Kalichstein; violinists Eugene Fodor, Jaime Laredo, Miriam Fried, and Stephanie Chase; classical guitarists The Romeros and Manuel Barrueco; flutist Eugenia Zukerman; and entertainers Jan Peerce, Roberta Peters, Robert Merrill, Jerome Hines, Jerry Hadley, Anna Maria Alberghetti and Shirley Jones and Steve Allen.

**Encouraging the Development of Talented Young Musicians:** The Symphony supports two major Young Artist competitions. The Butterfield Competition, which is open to talented young artists within a six-state geographical area, provides a first prize award of \$2,000 and a solo opportunity with the orchestra; and, the Walling Competition for high school seniors residing within the state of Arizona sponsored by the Symphony Guild. Grants from the Cities of Glendale and Peoria have allowed small chamber groups from the Symphony to take classical music and the message that "Music Changes Lives" to over 2,000 fourth grade students in those two cities.

**Beautiful Music On Sunday Afternoons:** The Symphony offers nine concerts—six classical and three pops featuring classical and contemporary popular music—at the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts in Sun City West on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. With an average audience of 2,800 per concert at the Sundome, the Symphony of the West Valley boasts the largest indoor per-concert attendance of any symphony orchestra in the United States.

**Community Outreach:** The West Valley is growing at an unprecedented rate bringing thousands of new residents to the area. Anticipating this growth, the Symphony expanded its concert presentations in 1996 to include a new concert series to compliment its current series at the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts. That series, called "Symphony Saturday Nigh," was presented in the La Sala Ballroom on the campus of Arizona State University West and was supported by a grant from APS. In spite of every effort to promote this series, public support never rose to expectations and the series, after three seasons, was cancelled to preclude the continued loss of revenue. The Provost, Dr. Elaine Maimon, is interested in continuing a relationship with the Symphony and future special programs may be considered.

**A Non-profit Organization:** The Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association is a non-profit organization chartered by the State of Arizona. Ticket sales provide enough revenue to meet about 43 percent of the Symphony's operating expenses. For the balance, the Symphony is dependent upon concert and guest artist sponsorship grants, program advertising and individual, corporate and service club contributions. The orchestra is managed by a paid staff of four, including an Executive Director, Director of Development and two part-time Office Managers. Support services for Orchestra Personnel Manager, Librarian, public relations, accounting and graphics design are out-sourced under separate contracts. The trustees, officers, Symphony Guild members and other volunteers donate their time and talents without compensation.

**A Bright Future:** The arts are the lifeblood of our culture. They represent cultural treasures that illuminate our diversity and uniqueness, and expand our minds and horizons. Great orchestral music is alive and well in the West Valley because valued community and business cultural partners recognize that enthusiastic support for the arts strengthens community ties, encourages economic growth and enhances quality of life throughout the community. As the Symphony of the West Valley looks toward its future and the dawning of a new century, there is a sense of excitement in the air. The Symphony as an institution continues to grow in prominence and support throughout the West Valley. As word of the Symphony's outreach series spreads, we look forward to increasing our performance commitment outside the Sun Cities to include a full season of concerts in the Peoria/Glendale area. As funding



support increases and allows, the orchestra's commitment to youth will include in-school educational presentations, and support for the new community youth orchestra program.

### **Organization's relationship with other organizations**

The Symphony of the West Valley is the only professional orchestra serving the cultural needs of communities in the West Valley. The mayors of Glendale and Peoria have both stated publicly that a strong cultural fabric is critical to building their cities futures. In fact, community leaders universally agree that the arts are an integral part of the equation for economic growth, community development and quality of life. The Phoenix Symphony, while a strong force in the cultural life of the Phoenix area, cannot meet the needs of every community in the greater Phoenix area. The Symphony of the West Valley, with its 33-year history of service, is the only professional symphony orchestra in this part of the valley and is positioned to play a major role in the cultural development of these and other West Valley communities.

### **Music Directors of the Symphony of the West Valley**

Jennings Butterfield (1968-1981)  
Bernard Goodman (1981-1983)  
Eugene Lombardi (1983-1987)  
Five Guest Conductors (1987-1988)  
James Yestadt (1988 – Present)

#### **Staff**

James Yestadt, Musical Director and Conductor  
Richard Shelton, Executive Director  
Lesa Caldarella, Director of Development  
Gene Yanssens, Office Manager

### **Biography: James Yestadt, Musical Director and Conductor**

"He is an artist, a gentleman, businessman, and an inspiration to those who work with him." That appraisal is very typical of Maestro James Yestadt's many acquaintances and associates. It is consistent with reports and critical reviews of concerts directed by James Yestadt. The *Luzerner Neueste Nachrichten* in Lucerne, Switzerland, reported, "...he sculptured the three movements of Hindemith's *Nobilissima Visione* so that the fascinated listener could well imagine the three episodes from the life of Saint Francis." The *New Orleans Times Picayun* reported, "...the Philharmonic Symphony and its conductor (James Yestadt) provided a stimulating evening...stylishly virtuosic performance." The *Mobile Press Register* wrote, "a brilliant performance (Beethoven, Symphony No. 7)...an interpretation of stunning depth." The *Arizona Republic* reported, Yestadt coaxed inspired playing from his musicians who appeared devoted to the maestro's style and choice of communication. A new era in the orchestra's 20-year existence has begun."

Maestro Yestadt's musical preferences cover a broad gamut of audience appeal - requisite to a symphonic era that demands up-front satisfaction of many personal tastes. He is comfortable with the "Pops" idiom and both familiar and less familiar contemporaries as with classical "giants" of the past.

Born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, James Yestadt began studying the piano at age five, and five years later took up the 'cello.' Upon completing a Bachelor of Music degree at the Lebanon Valley Conservatory of Music in Pennsylvania, he traveled to New York where he received the Master of Arts degree in Music at Columbia University. He continued advanced studies at The New School of Music in Philadelphia, and in Switzerland, where he studied interpretation and conducting with the late Rafael Kubelic. While studying with Kubelic, Yestadt was invited to conduct the Zurich Radio Orchestra and also to be the Resident conductor of the New Orleans Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra. Shortly thereafter, he received his first music directorship with the Mobile Symphony Orchestra and, a year

later, became the Music Director and Conductor of Opera Mobile, a post in which he served for fifteen years. There followed his appointment as music Director of the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra and Director of Orchestral Studies at Louisiana State University. He has served as guest conductor at numerous festivals throughout the United States and Europe. During the 1998-1999 season, he will travel to Spain as a guest conductor for three concerts with the Symphony Orchestra of Castilla y Leon in Valladolid, Spain.

James Yestadt was named as the Symphony's fourth Music Director in 1988.

### **Biography: Richard A. Shelton, Executive Director**

Richard A. Shelton is Executive Director of the Symphony of the West Valley. He assumed this senior leadership position in August of 1997, following a year-and-a-half long assignment as Personnel Manager for the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra in Naples, Florida. As Executive Director, Shelton is responsible for the day to day operation and management of a 95-member professional orchestra including sales, marketing, development, administration, outreach, and guest artist booking. Additionally, he is a member of the American Symphony Orchestra League, College Band Directors National Association, National Band Association, and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Arizona Orchestra Association. Shelton retired from the United States Air Force in 1995 after 25 years of service as an Air Force Band Commander and Conductor. He retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and, at the time, was the senior ranking officer in the Air Force Band Program.

Colonel Shelton earned a bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Arizona in 1971, and a Master of Music Education degree from Auburn University in 1978. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Air Command and Staff College and Air War College.

During his Air Force career, he commanded six Air Force Bands in the Philippines, Alabama, New Jersey, Virginia, Georgia and Ohio. He directed ceremonial support for the 1983 World Economic Summit in Williamsburg, Virginia, and the US Bicentennial Celebration at Yorktown; led US Embassy hosted tours throughout Thailand, Taiwan, the Philippines and Portugal; has entertained and performed for Presidents Reagan and Bush, French President Francois Mitterand, Pope John Paul II, Imelda Marcos, former first lady of the Philippines, a host of US Ambassadors, Secretaries of Defense, US Air Force and foreign military Chiefs of Staff; and, just prior to his retirement, he had the honor of entertaining the U.S. Secretary of State and Presidential delegations during the State Department-hosted Bosnian Proximity Peace Talks in Dayton, Ohio.

Colonel Shelton is one of the most highly decorated band commanders in the history of the Air Force Band Program. His military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with seven oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters, and the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star. Under his progressive leadership and vision, his bands have earned four Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, The Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, citation for the 1991 Presidential Award for Quality and Productivity Improvement, the Air Force Materiel Command's Small Unit Quality Award for 1994, and the internationally acclaimed John Philip Sousa Foundation's Colonel George S. Howard Citation of Musical Excellence for Military Concert Bands and Conductors. He was also selected by the US Jaycees as one of the "Outstanding Young Men in America" for 1983.

## THE SYMPHONY GUILD

The Symphony Guild is a valued support organization of the Symphony of the West Valley. The Guild co-sponsors two major fund raisers with the Symphony Association each year, the Symphony Benefit Gala and Silent Auction and the "Swing With the Maestro" Benefit Golf Tournament. It also sponsors a series of educational activities and additional fund-raisers. The Symphony Guild consists of approximately 400 volunteers that work selflessly and often anonymously to support the Symphony's mission.

### PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE SUN CITIES SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

Clyde P. Wells  
Eugene Kenny  
Clinton H. Poertner  
Frank W. Wilson  
Marion Shideler  
Emmett R. Sarig  
John H. Smith  
George M. Blaesi  
Mary S. Girard  
Paul G. Roach  
Frederick B. James  
Dale Wood  
Leonard L. Gibb  
Robert S. Reed  
Carl W. Strayer  
Dee Hjermstad  
Joe Schoggen  
Maryanne Leyshon

**Current President: James Lapsley**

# Organization History

On December 15, 1968 in the Town Hall South auditorium, now called Mountain View Auditorium, in Sun City, residents gathered for the first performance of the brand new Sun City Symphony Orchestra. Nearly 1000 patrons, a capacity crowd, enjoyed the performance under its founder and conductor, Jennings Butterfield. The performance consisted of musicians from the Sun City Community, which was then just eight years old, along with professional musicians from the Luke Air Force Base band, the Flagstaff Symphony and the Phoenix Symphony. The 2008-09 Season marks the 40 year anniversary of this cultural treasure.

Founder Jennings Butterfield passed away in 1982 and his wife, Lillian, in 1990. But the legacy they helped to create lives on in the music we hear today. Maestro Butterfield was succeeded by Dr. Bernard Goodman for one season, followed by Dr. Eugene P. Lombardi, who conducted the orchestra from 1983 to 1987. Maestro James Yestadt took the baton in 1988 and directed the talents of the professional musicians from around the Valley and the retired professionals from the Sun Cities until 2006. Under the direction of Maestro Yestadt, in 2002 the West Valley Symphony received WESTMARC's "Best of the West" award.

Over the years, the orchestra changed its name and performance locations. First the name was changed to the Sun Cities Symphony, to include Sun City West. In 1997 the name was changed to the Symphony of the West Valley to reflect a increased commitment to serve the growing Northwest Valley and finally in 2004 to the West Valley Symphony. The symphony performances moved from the original location of Town Hall auditorium to the Sundial Auditorium when it opened in the 1970's and to the Sundome (Maricopa County Events Center) in Sun City West in 1980. In 2005 the Sundome was temporarily closed and the Symphony held its 2005-06 season classical performances at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Sun City West.

In February 2006, after several years of declining revenue from ticket sales and overall contributions, the symphony cancelled the two remaining Classical concerts of the 2005-06 Season. The announcement was met with great sadness on the part of the patrons, volunteers and musicians that had devoted their energy and talents to the organization. The Trustees set about trying to keep the organization's framework intact with the hope that future circumstances might make the orchestra's performances possible again.

In December 2007, the Symphony announced a generous bequest from Mr. J. E. Donald Hastie of Sun City. With this funding, the Symphony's trustees began plans to "re-invent" the orchestra and begin performing live music again. After a two year hiatus, two concerts were performed in February and April 2008. The concerts were conducted by Maestro Warren Cohen of Scottsdale and were greeted by an enthusiastic audience. With the support of individuals and businesses in the community, the Symphony hopes to continue performing well into the future.

A sampling of the internationally acclaimed artists who have appeared with the Symphony includes: pianists Fabio Bidini, Jeffrey Swann, Lilya Zilberstein and Jean-Phillipe Collard; violinists Elmar Oliveira, Corey Cerovsek, Stephanie Chase, Xiang Gao and Eugene Fodor; cellist Zuill Bailey; classical guitarists The Romeros and Manuel Barrueco; flutist Eugenia Zukerman; singers Isola Jones, Julie Newell and Andrea Matthews. Entertainers such as Steve Allen, The Smothers Brothers, Bobby Vinton, Frank Sinatra, Jr., Monica Mancini and Lou Rawls have also appeared with the Symphony.



The West Valley Symphony starts its season Nov. 1 at Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City with classical favorites.

# W. Valley Symphony opens season Nov. 1

*Cindy Cooper of the West Valley Symphony submitted this article.*

The West Valley Symphony will present a four-concert series in Sun City and Sun City West venues featuring the works of Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Mozart, Haydn and others.

One program will highlight show-business legends such as Rodgers and Hammerstein, Cole Porter and Leonard Bernstein.

The symphony's season begins Nov. 1 with classical favorites at Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City.

Maestro Cal Stewart Kellogg

will lead the professional orchestra in a performance of Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4, "The Italian," and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, "The Eroica."

The season continues Dec. 6 with serenades featuring works by Tchaikovsky, Mozart and Dvorak.

On Jan. 24 the orchestra will perform selections from musicals such as "The King and I," "West Side Story" and "The Music Man" in the Hollywood Meets Broadway program.

The season concludes March 14 with guest artist Tessa Gotman performing Brahms' Concerto for Violin during the Melodic Masterpieces program.

### NEWS BY YOU



Cal Stewart Kellogg conducts the West Valley Symphony. He'll lead the orchestra in performance at Sun City and Sun City West.

THE REPUBLIC

## Patrons welcome return of West Valley Symphony

The West Valley Symphony returned to the stage Feb. 17, performing after a two-year hiatus.

Familiar faces were mixed with new patrons at the performance, which featured pianist Ilia Ulianitsky. Approximately 300 people attended the performance at Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City.

"We are energized by the very positive response to the February concert," said Cathy Leas, president of the West Valley Symphony Association. "We were very pleased with the turnout and thrilled that our patrons chose our concert from among the many entertainment choices available to them. We hope the community will continue to welcome us back onto the scene."



**Nancy Gerdes & Linda Hasenauer**

**Your turn**

"It was a wonderful day. We have been craving the symphony experience, and here it was," said William Krebs of Sun City West. The Krebses, supporters of the symphony for many years, have already purchased tickets for the symphony's next concert April 13 in Surprise. Returning patron Monica Carter of Surprise said, "I'm glad you're back!" and Judith Buckle of Sun City said, "I enjoyed the concert very much. I thought the young pianist, Ilia Ulianitsky, was wonderful and Novak's 'Slovak Suite' was a beautiful piece."

New residents also were enthusiastic after attending their first West Valley Symphony performance.

"Very nice job," said Gayle Moeller of Sun City West. "I enjoyed the conductor's narrative and the music selection. We will be attending the April concert as well."

The April concert is

themed "Springtime in Vienna" and will feature performances of Strauss' "Blue Danube Waltz," overture to "Die Fledermaus" and selections from Lehar's "The Merry Widow." Maestro Warren Cohen will return to lead the 44-piece professional orchestra. For the second and final concert of the spring 2008 season, he will be joined on stage by tenor Darrell Rowader and soprano Carolyn Whitaker.

For ticket information, call 623-236-6781.

# Donor revives symphony

## Family of late Sun Citian bequests funds for fresh start

By Dave Casadel  
Independent Newspapers

In the performing arts and entertainment world, the show must always go on. And after a 23-month hiatus, that is exactly what the West Valley Symphony plans to do.

The West Valley Symphony closed its curtains Feb. 5, 2006, after failing to secure funding to cover the more than \$90,000 of debt it accrued from the loss of financial support, plummeting ticket sales and its longtime home — the Sundome.

But a recent \$240,000 bequest from late Sun Citian J.E. Donald has revived the popular West Valley group and allowed officials to schedule two concerts for early 2008.

"I know the entire Board supports me in saying we are delighted to have the opportunity to bring our beautiful music back to life," Cathy Leas, West Valley Symphony Board of Trustees co-president, stated in a press release submitted to Independent Newspapers by

# Music

Continued From Page 1

forward to seeing our patrons back in the audience and hope many others new to symphony music will find the concerts an entertaining and rewarding experience."

The first concert — "Celebration of Romance" — takes place 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17, 2008, at Faith Presbyterian Church, 16000 N. Del Webb Blvd.

The show, which honors Valentine's Day, features Bizet's "Carmen Suite No. 2" and Mozart's "Piano Concerto No. 21," among other romantic numbers.

The symphony's second show, featuring a "Springtime in Vienna" theme, takes place 3 p.m. Sunday, April 13, 2008, in the Performing Arts Auditorium at Willow Canyon High School, 17901 W. Lundberg St.

Featured vocalists will sing songs from Franz Lehar's "The Merry Widow," and Johann Strauss' "die Fledermaus" and "Blue Danube Waltz."

Maestro Warren Cohen, a Canadian musician, composer and conductor, will lead the 44 musician member orchestra.

Tickets are \$25 and go on sale Monday, Jan. 14, 2008.

Call 236-6781.

In addition to the two concerts, symphony officials hope the financial donation leads to a permanent curtain call.

"This should hold us through about three years minimum," symphony Trustee Fred Berkenkamp said. "Our intent is to start with a smaller size chamber orchestra opposed to the 77-person full orchestra to help keep costs down."

Mr. Berkenkamp, who admittedly noted experienced one his life's saddest days when the symphony closed, noted officials made the decision to close in 2006 with hopes of receiving some subscriber bequests.

Now that one has come in, he noted others may follow.

"There may be other bequests out there that we may not even know about yet," he said.

In addition to performing with a smaller orchestra, Mr. Berkenkamp noted symphony officials plan to rekindle the West Valley community's interest with advertising postcards and solid venues with solid acoustics.

West Valley residents are thrilled the symphony is back on its feet and cannot wait to begin frequenting shows.

"I think it's wonderful," said Sun City West residents Mary

Bunting, who is a member of the community's Stardust Theatre Council. "They are a very great orchestra and the Valley lost out on a great afternoon of entertainment when they stopped playing."

Sun Citian Richard Rosensteel, Recreation Centers of Sun City Music and Drama Club chairman, agrees.

"We really missed the orchestra and I think it is a wonderful thing to have for the Sun Cities," he said. "They have distinguished themselves as a very fine orchestra. A number of us put up money trying to rescue the symphony, but their debt was too much to overcome."

Although Mr. Rosensteel understands today's generation is not as attracted to classical music, he is hopeful the symphony revival helps perk interest in the ears of those who might not typically attend the symphony.

The symphony's latest news is music to the ears of other West Valley performing arts companies as well.

Jack Lytle, president of the Peoria-based Theatre Works production group, does not view the symphony coming back to life as a negative. Rather, he referred to it as the rising tide floating the boat.

"(The West Valley Symphony is) a complementary alternative and we are delighted to hear the news," Mr. Lytle said. "Anything we can do to increase artistic events will benefit the community."

Sun City Grand resident Carol Sailer, chairwoman for the Sun City Grand Classical Music Club, considered herself a "real, real happy subscriber" prior to the symphony shutting down in 2006. She noted she plans to jump back aboard the list now new breathe has been breathed into the symphony.

"We were all sad when it collapsed and hoped for it to come back," she said. "(Now that it is running again) I certainly will be a subscriber again."

Goodyear Councilman Frank Cavalier, a former symphony board president and director, claimed in 2006 the symphony closed partially because the board mismanaged funds to the tune of spending more than \$50,000 a month.

However, the symphony's executive director at the time, Richard Shelton, adamantly disputed Mr. Cavalier's claims noting he ran a "tight, lean operation."

Despite their difference at the time, Mr. Cavalier believes the symphony can be successful, but not without a permanent home.

### If you go

What: West Valley Symphony's "Celebration of Romance"

When: 3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 17, 2008

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

The West Valley Symphony's "Celebration of Romance" show is the first concert since the symphony shut down in 2006.

Tickets are \$25.

Call 236-6781

What: West Valley Symphony's "Springtime in Vienna"

When: 3 p.m., Sunday, April 13, 2008

Where: Willow Canyon High School, 17901 W. Lundberg St., Surprise

Tickets are \$25.

Call 236-6781.

West Valley Symphony official Robert Cooper. "Our terrific professional musicians are truly excited to be returning to our communities and performing this inspiring music. We look

See Music — Page 3

# Defunct orchestra files for Chapter 7

## West Valley Symphony unable to raise funds

The West Valley Symphony announced its intentions April 6 to file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection following an intensive two-month effort to raise additional funds to pay its creditors after shutting down operations on February 6.

On closing its doors after 38 years of continuous performances and facing serious financial problems that had accumulated over the past few years, the symphony board of trustees contacted past donors and charitable organizations in an effort to raise funds and not declare bankruptcy. However, insufficient moneys were raised.

The symphony still faced major financial obligations and additional cash revenues did not come through as expected. As a result, the symphony has outstanding obligations of \$78,000 with only enough cash to pay limited operating expenses prior to bankruptcy.

"We had hoped to reach an agreement with creditors to be able to pay at least 50 cents on the dollar for any outstanding payments due, but with the monetary shortfall, we are not able to do that," said Fred Berkenkamp, West Valley Symphony board president.

"Declaring bankruptcy after such a long and respected history is a very sad decision that the board of trustees has had to make for this organization," Mr. Berkenkamp said. "But, after carefully reviewing our financials, talking with our legal counsel and exploring every conceivable way to bring in additional revenue, we concluded that this was the only option available to us."

By entering Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection, the West Valley Symphony will be assigned an independent trustee to administer the bankruptcy estate.

The nonprofit symphony had struggled over the past few years to generate the financial support necessary to continue operations. A

number of factors, including a shortened concert season in 2001 when the Sundome announced its imminent closure, local and national economic hardships which affected local charitable giving, an overall downturn in the economy, a drop in both corporate and personal donations, a declining population with interest in classical music, and very low ticket sales prompted the symphony board to cancel its pops concert series in December 2005 and eventually shut down entire operations in February 2006. The West Valley Symphony's financial situation is not unique; many professional symphony orchestras across the country are facing similar serious financial issues.

"The West Valley Symphony will be eternally grateful to community members who supported

the symphony over its long performing history in the Sun Cities; they are truly angels in our eyes," Mr. Berkenkamp said. "We only wish the outcome could have been different."

The West Valley Symphony had been a cultural icon in the West Valley since 1968. It first performed as the Sun City Symphony Orchestra, a primarily volunteer orchestra of Sun Cities residents.

Through the years, the name changed to the Symphony of the West Valley, and later to West Valley Symphony, expanding into a professional symphony orchestra with 75 musicians from throughout the Valley.

The symphony traditionally performed a series of six classical and four pops concerts each season.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was submitted by the West Valley Symphony.*

V.F.

IN COMMON

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

April 12, 2006



# Symphony filing for Chapter 7

STAFF REPORT

The West Valley Symphony is filing for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection. The announcement came today following an intensive two-month effort to raise additional funds to pay its creditors after shutting down operations on Feb. 6.

After 38 years of continuous performances, the symphony closed its doors as it faced serious financial problems that had accumulated over the last few years.

The symphony board of trustees contacted past donors and charitable organizations in an effort to raise funds and not declare bankruptcy.

However, insufficient funds were raised. The symphony still faced major financial obligations and additional cash revenues did not come through as expected.

As a result, the symphony has outstanding obligations of \$78,000 with only enough cash to pay limited operating expenses prior to bankruptcy.

"We had hoped to reach an agreement with creditors to be able to pay at least 50 cents on the dollar for any outstanding payments due, but with the monetary shortfall, we are not

able to do that," said Fred Berkenkamp, West Valley Symphony board president.

"Declaring bankruptcy after such a long and respected history is a very sad decision that the board of trustees has had to make for this organization."

The nonprofit symphony had struggled over the last few years to generate the financial support necessary to continue operations. A number of factors, including a shortened concert season in 2001 when the Sundome (now the Maricopa County Events Center) announced its imminent closure, local and national economic hardships that affected charitable contributions, an overall downturn in the economy, a drop in both corporate and personal donations, a declining population with interest in classical music, and very low ticket sales prompted the symphony board to cancel its pops concert series in December 2005 and eventually shut down entire operations in February.

"The West Valley Symphony will be eternally grateful to community members who supported the symphony over its long performing history in the Sun Cities. They are truly angels in our eyes," Berkenkamp said. "We only wish the outcome could have been different."

# Symphony to file for bankruptcy

By Charles Kelly

CHARLES.KELLY@ARIZONAREPUBLIC.COM

The West Valley Symphony, which closed its doors Feb. 6, says it will file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection after falling short in a two-month struggle to raise enough money to pay off creditors.

"We had hoped to reach an agreement with creditors to be able to pay at least 50 cents on the dollar for any outstanding payments due, but with the monetary shortfall, we are not able to do that," said Fred Berkenkamp, West Valley Symphony board president.

The symphony has outstanding obligations of \$78,000 with only enough cash to pay limited operating expenses before bankruptcy, he said.

The symphony, which had suffered financial difficulties, shut down in February after 38 years of continuous performances.

After the shutdown, the symphony board tried to raise enough money to avoid bankruptcy by asking for money from past donors and charitable organizations.

"Declaring bankruptcy after such a long and respected history is a very sad decision that the board of trustees has had to make for this organization," Berkenkamp said. "But, after carefully reviewing our financials, talking with our legal counsel and exploring every conceivable way to bring in additional revenue, we concluded that this was the only option available to us."

By entering Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection, the symphony will be assigned an

independent trustee to administer the bankruptcy estate.

The non-profit symphony had struggled over the past few years to collect enough money to keep going.

The symphony raised \$350,000 early last year to avoid going into debt. But it failed to sell enough tickets to its pops concert series and had to cancel the series.

And some concertgoers were put off by the symphony's loss of the Sundome in Sun City West as a permanent home.

With the pending transfer of the Sundome from Arizona State University to Maricopa County, which occurred in November, the symphony came up with a plan to shift this season's concerts to Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Sun City West and Glendale Arena.

But its customers didn't adjust — or weren't interested in the performances offered — and symphony patrons couldn't be persuaded to give enough for it to survive.

Symphony officials said its operation was also hurt by local and national economic hardships that affected local charitable giving, an overall downturn in the economy and a population with less and less interest in classical music.

"The West Valley Symphony will be eternally grateful to community members who supported the symphony over its long performing history in the Sun Cities. They are truly angels in our eyes," Berkenkamp said. "We only wish the outcome could have been different."

VF

IN COMMON

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

ARIZONA REPUBLIC

APRIL 8, 2006

February 15, 2006

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

B1

# West Valley Symphony shuts down operations

The West Valley Symphony closed its doors Feb. 6 after 38 years of continuous performances. The non-profit, professional orchestra could not generate the widespread community and financial support it needed to continue operations, according to West Valley Symphony Board President Fred Berkenkamp. The symphony's last classical concert was Feb. 5 at Prince of Peace Church in Sun City West and featured the full 75-member orchestra with guest violinist Rachel Lee.

The reasons for the board's decision may not come as a sur-

prise to many of their friends and neighbors. The symphony has struggled to stay afloat amidst a changing community and cultural environment, and a recent appeal to the community for additional funds resulted in a very limited response. The board knew it was time to shut the doors, Berkenkamp said. "This has been such a difficult decision for the board of trustees and for me, both personally and professionally," he added.

Mr. Berkenkamp said the symphony still needs \$90,000 to meet financial obligations and clear its debt. Symphony board

members are appealing to West Valley residents to help them raise that amount to mark the final chapter in the symphony's long and respected history.

"We hope that our loyal and long-time supporters will help us by making a generous donation," Mr. Berkenkamp said. "We also hope that the community cares enough about this organization and what the symphony has meant to them for the past three decades to help us 'lay her to rest' with dignity and without debt or the pain of having to declare bankruptcy."

Like other non-profit organi-

zations, the symphony continually sought new revenue sources to sustain operations. However, Mr. Berkenkamp noted that its fate is not unlike that of other symphony orchestras across the country, including San Diego, San Jose and Oakland, Calif., that have struggled financially and closed in recent years.

The West Valley Symphony faced additional challenges and setbacks the past few years that included a shortened concert season in 2001 when the Sundome announced its imminent closure, local and national economic hardships which affected

local charitable giving, an overall downturn in the economy, a drop in both corporate and personal contributions, and lackluster ticket sales.

In December, the West Valley Symphony canceled its pops series so that it would not incur additional debt. By doing so, they hoped to continue the Classical season and use the summer months to regroup and strengthen their financial picture, Mr. Berkenkamp said.

The symphony also had two more Classical concerts on this season's schedule, but Berkenkamp noted the organiza-

tion is requesting individuals who have already purchased tickets to donate that amount, approximately \$50, to the symphony since it cannot offer refunds. The symphony will provide the necessary documentation to individuals for tax purposes indicating that they have made a contribution to a 501c-3, non-profit charity.

To make a donation, call 972-4484 or mail to: West Valley Symphony, P.O. Box 1417, Sun City, AZ 85372. All donations are tax-deductible.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was submitted by the West Valley Symphony.*

# Pops series took air out of W. Valley Symphony

By Kerry Lengel  
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Wynonna Judd didn't kill the West Valley Symphony, but she did play the role of coffin nail.

The Sun City-based orchestra, formed in 1968, canceled its pops series after the first of four concerts at Glendale Arena. The Judd concert Dec. 4 sold only half the expected 4,000 tickets, barely turning a profit, and sales were slow for planned performances with Bobby Vinton, the Gatlin Brothers and Neil Sedaka.

The symphony depended on the pops concerts to stay afloat, said former executive director Richard Shelton, who resigned in December after an internal disagreement over how to deal with the crisis. On Monday, the morning after a concert with teen violin virtuoso Rachel Lee, the orchestra announced it was pulling the plug for good.

Symphonies across the country suffered financial setbacks during the economic downturn that began in 2000 and worsened after 9/11. In Arizona, the Mesa Symphony Orchestra nearly went belly up last year after executive director Jacqueline Toney resigned in the midst of a budget shortfall. Member musicians Guillaume Grenier-Marmet and Gina Stevens took over the job as unpaid volunteers for more than three months to keep the orchestra going.

"It's extremely sad to see that happen," Grenier-Marmet said of the West Valley Symphony's demise. "It's just another little kick in the head to say 'You'd better manage your things well,' because every orchestra in the country is a few steps away from that."

However, although it's true that many non-profit symphonies live hand-to-mouth, the West Valley Symphony suffered its own problems. It faced repeated budget shortfalls after it cut short its 2000-01 season when its home venue, the Arizona State University-owned Sundome in Sun City West, was closed for renovations.

"You've got a bunch of people who are used to a certain thing, and they didn't want to attend" shows at other venues,

## Ticket exchange

The Phoenix Symphony has offered seats at selected performances to ticket holders of the West Valley Symphony's two canceled concerts. Details, including a list of eligible performances, are available at phoenixsymphony.org by calling the box office at (602) 495-1999 (9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays). Alternatively, the West Valley Symphony can provide documentation to claim the cost of tickets as a tax-deductible donation (it's not offering refunds). Those wishing to make further donations to help the orchestra pay \$90,000 in debt can call (623) 972-4484 or mail a check to: West Valley Symphony, P.O. Box 1417, Sun City, AZ 85372.

Shelton said.

Season subscriptions fell by nearly half, to about 750, and never recovered, even after ASU ditched its renovation plan and reopened the Sundome. For the 2005-06 season, with a Sundome sale imminent, the symphony moved out again, planning its six classics concerts at the Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Sun City West and the pops series at Glendale Arena.

"I was surprised about their pops strategy," said Maryellen Gleason, president and CEO of the Phoenix Symphony. "They went down the road of big stars in the Glendale Arena, which is the riskiest of all concert types that an orchestra can do."

Shelton agrees it was a risk but says the symphony had little choice because there were no other venues near the Sun Cities large enough for a profitable pops series. He also noted that when Symphony Hall in Phoenix was closed for renovations in 2004, the city gave money to its resident companies to help them through the transition.

"We didn't have anybody to step up like that," he said.

The Glendale pops series was an extension of a long-term strategy for the symphony — which began in 1968 as the Sun City Symphony Or-

chestra — to expand beyond its core audience of retirees. Even before 2000, the subscriber base had been slowly eroding, and with the West Valley growing so quickly, it was crucial to reach "outside the walled city," said Shelton, who was hired in 1997, shortly after the orchestra changed its name from the Sun Cities Symphony to the Symphony of the West Valley.

"Obviously (the strategy) wasn't very successful," Shelton said. "We really didn't see our audience base change much. We saw some younger people there, but it wasn't enough to make a difference."

In the end, "the community has taken the orchestra for granted," he said. "They think it just runs on air. And without proper support and attendance, you just can't run an organization like that. ... Out of a community as large as ours, we should have 1 percent supporting and attending, and we didn't have even close to that."

The symphony board is working to raise \$90,000 to pay off current debt, after finishing last year in the black (thanks to an end-of-season fund-raising drive) with revenues of nearly \$950,000.

Meanwhile, Shelton holds a glimmer of hope: "If the community values what they had and what they've lost," the symphony could make a comeback.

It may be a slim hope, but not one without precedent, says Julia Kirchhausen, spokeswoman for the American Symphony Orchestra League.

"In the past 10 years, there have been nine (professional) orchestras who have closed their doors — or 10 now, including this one," she said. "Three were in the New York and Washington metropolitan areas, where the audience is served by multiple orchestras. Three have reconstituted themselves in some way, including San Jose, which is now Symphony Silicon Valley. And three have not been reopened, but we're starting to hear buzz about those communities trying to bring them back."

Reach the reporter at [kerry.lengel@arizonarepublic.com](mailto:kerry.lengel@arizonarepublic.com) or (602) 444-4896.

FROM THE SOUTHWEST VALLEY REPUBLIC

# Let the music play again

**T**he handwriting was on the wall. But unlike a couple of years ago, there was no donor angel willing to lift the West Valley Symphony out of its precarious financial situation.

No corporate largess.

No coalition of wealthy citizens who love classical music.

No municipality in the West Valley to lend a helping hand.

The symphony's shuttering, after 38 years of continuous performances before admiring audiences, is a tragedy felt not just by the professional musicians and longtime maestro James Yestadt, but by the entire West Valley.

Its demise is also a sobering reminder that cultural and performing arts need active participation by a wide range of supporters if they are to be successful and endure.

Clearly, these were not the best of times financially. The symphony's last brush with death was in 2004. It had to raise \$200,000 in a month to meet the challenge made by an anonymous donor: a check for \$100,000.

The symphony met the challenge, but that was then. This time there had been a board reshuffling and resignations by the development director and the executive director. Pop concerts were canceled because of lagging ticket sales. Moreover, this time there was no challenge grant. There was no publicity about the dire circumstances. And there was no mass appeal to business or government such as the "Keep the Music Playing" campaign of 2004.



Maestro John Yestadt

Fred Berkenkamp, board president, reduced the symphony's problems to a "generational thing": Seniors like classical music but boomers do not. He says he spoke to many large symphony donors of the past, who told him that "they were tapped out."

There also were the years of uncertainty because the symphony's tra-

ditional venue, the Sundome in Sun City, was closed, an imposition on many seniors.

Nobody ever said keeping a symphony in the black was easy. The landscape is littered with defunct symphonies. But that shouldn't be a default position.

This region is growing by leaps and bounds. The performing and visual arts are in a renaissance. New performing arts theaters are planned in Peoria and Avondale, and the Sundome is back in business.

This isn't the time to throw in the towel. It is a time to step back, take stock of the situation and come up with a sound financial and marketing plan that can be implemented in one year, perhaps two.

Go for it, West Valley. Let us hope that, in time, we'll be able to say that word of the symphony's demise was premature.

— Saturday



The financially struggling West Valley Symphony has decided to dissolve in the wake of poor ticket sales and changing musical tastes.

# Symphony plays final note

## Changing tastes, lagging ticket sales force closure

By Charles Kelly

CHRYSLER NEWS SERVICE/ARIZONA PUBLIC.COM

The West Valley Symphony, doomed by changing musical tastes, the loss of a permanent home and lagging ticket sales, closed its doors Monday after 38 years, \$90,000 in debt.

"The (symphony) board just decided we didn't have the cash to make payrolls at this point and we'd better stop," said Fred Berkenkamp, board president.



Fred Berkenkamp

Julie Richard, executive director of the West Valley Arts Council, said the end of

the symphony was a blow to arts in the area.

"It's really a very sad thing for the West Valley," Richard said.

Dee Hjermstad, of Sun City West, who with her husband, Sig, has been a symphony patron for more than 20 years, said she was "devastated" by the loss.

"There's no more musical culture in the West Valley," she said.

"It's gone."

Concertgoers were put off by the symphony's loss of the Sundome in Sun City West as a permanent home, Hjermstad said.

When Arizona State University decided to transfer the Sundome to Maricopa County — which finally occurred in November — the symphony had to go elsewhere, she noted.

"When Arizona State University ... forced the symphony out, it totally disrupted the (symphony's) subscriber base," Hjermstad said. "They never were able to recover from that."

The symphony came up with a plan to shift this season's concerts to Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Sun City West and Glendale Arena.

But its customers didn't adjust — or weren't interested in the performances offered — and patrons of the symphony couldn't be persuaded to give enough for it to survive, Berkenkamp said.

The symphony raised \$350,000 last year to avoid going into debt, Berkenkamp said. But it failed to sell enough tickets to this season's pops-concert series to reach a firm financial footing and

### The West Valley Symphony

■ As the Sun City Symphony Orchestra, gave its first performance in 1968 to 1,000 music lovers gathered in what is now Mountain View Auditorium.

■ Later was called the Sun Cities Symphony (to include Sun City West), the Symphony of the West Valley and West Valley Symphony.

■ Provided cultural programs for west Phoenix, Glendale, Peoria, the Sun Cities and Surprise. Partnered with other arts organizations to seek to bring live symphonic music to the Southwest Valley.

■ Was led by maestro James Yestadt as its musical director and conductor for 18 years.

■ Offered six classical and four pops concerts each season.

had to cancel the series.

In early January, Berkenkamp sent a letter to the symphony's top 200 donors and other possible donors saying the symphony would need another \$350,000 to get

through the coming year.

"The response was very limited, and that was a clear message," Berkenkamp said. "Those top donors — and I called many of them — they just felt tapped out."

The symphony also suffered from declining interest in the classical music that was the symphony's specialty, Berkenkamp said.

He noted that other symphony orchestras across the country, including those in San Diego, San Jose and Oakland, Calif., also struggled financially and closed in recent years.

The West Valley Symphony — featuring all 75 orchestra members and guest violinist Rachel Lee — played its last classical concert Sunday at Prince of Peace Catholic Church. Members of the orchestra also got their final paycheck Sunday, Berkenkamp said.

The symphony still needs \$90,000 to meet its financial obligations and is asking for donations so it doesn't have to declare bankruptcy, Berkenkamp said.

The symphony had two more classical concerts on this season's schedule, but is asking people who have purchased tickets to donate that amount to the symphony since it doesn't have money to offer refunds.

Other people wishing to donate can call (623) 972-4484 or mail donations to West Valley Symphony, P.O. Box 1417, Sun City, AZ 85372.

## OUR VIEW

# Symphony needs 1 last public boost

**M**onday's announcement that the West Valley Symphony is closing is a sobering reminder that we cannot afford to take our cultural institutions for granted.

The non-profit professional orchestra has operated in the West Valley since 1968, but it has struggled in recent years to make ends meet.

The 2001 season was cut short when the Sundome announced it would soon be closing. Since then, the symphony had been without a permanent home.

Lackluster ticket sales and a decline in corporate and personal contributions forced the symphony to make

tough decisions to keep up with its mounting debts.

In December, the board canceled its pops concert series to shore up the finances and allow the symphony to continue the classical season.

West Valley Symphony Board President Fred Berkenkamp cites a number of reasons for the orchestra's financial problems, including a "changing community and cultural environment" and a "very limited response" to the board's recent appeals for support from the community.

But he's being diplomatic.

The hard truth is the West Valley Symphony needed us and we failed to

respond. Our inaction brought an untimely end to a decades-old, home-grown cultural institution.

That will be our shameful legacy.

Still, we have a chance to give the symphony a dignified farewell.

Although the rest of the classical concert series has been canceled, the symphony needs to raise an additional \$90,000 to meet its obligations.

Berkenkamp hopes the community will step up to help the symphony avoid bankruptcy.

He's asking concertgoers who have already purchased tickets to donate the price of the ticket to the symphony.

He also hopes that longtime contributors will make one last generous donation.

In announcing the closure, Berkenkamp expressed his gratitude to the symphony's core supporters for their contributions over the years.

Those supporters will no doubt do their part once again.

We encourage the rest of the community to follow suit.

---

*To make a donation to the West Valley Symphony, call (623) 972-4484 or mail to: West Valley Symphony, P.O. Box 1417, Sun City, Arizona, 85372. All donations are tax deductible.*

# West Valley Symphony bows out

## Financial woes speed orchestra's demise

CLAUDIA SHERRILL  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Citing continued financial difficulties and a weaker than expected response to a fund-raising appeal, West Valley Symphony Board of Trustees President Fred Berkenkamp announced the symphony association would close its doors today, after 38 years of

continuous performances.

The orchestra's final performance was Sunday in Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Sun City West, where guest violinist Rachel Lee appeared with the 75-member symphony.

Berkenkamp said the decision was difficult for the board of trustees and him, personally.

"The reasons for our decision won't come as

a surprise to many of our friends and neighbors," he said. "The symphony has struggled to stay afloat amidst a changing community and cultural environment. We knew it was time to shut our doors."

Berkenkamp added that the symphony still needs \$90,000 to meet financial obligations and clear its debt. Board members are appealing to West Valley residents to help raise that amount to mark the symphony's final chapter in a long and respected history.

"We hope the community cares enough about this organization and what the symphony has meant to them for the past three decades to help us 'lay her to rest' with dignity and without debt or the pain of having to declare bankruptcy," Berkenkamp said. "We hope our loyal and long-time supporters will help by making a generous donation."

The symphony canceled its pops series of

See SYMPHONY, A5

## SYMPHONY: Dismal ticket sales add to decline

From A1

concerts in December, in an attempt to avoid additional debt and salvage the classical concert series, then take the summer months to regroup and raise funds.

In announcing that cancellation, former board president Frank Cavalier said the hope was to avoid additional debt and continue the classical series.

Ticket sales for Wymonna Judd were only 50 percent of anticipated sales, which, when added to a drop in contributions of 26 percent, created a situation where it was best to cancel the remaining pops concerts.

There were two concerts remaining on the classical season schedule, and Berkenkamp is requesting that patrons who already have purchased tickets, donate that amount — approximately \$50 — to the symphony since it cannot afford to issue refunds. The symphony will provide tax documentation indicating the contribution was to a 501c-3, nonprofit charity.

"I can't begin to express the gratitude we have for those core supporters who have been there for the symphony for so many years; they were truly angels when we needed them," Berkenkamp said. "Unfortunately, there just weren't enough community members who felt that way. Those past donations simply delayed what we hoped was a day that would never come — a day like today where the West Valley Symphony must say 'good-bye' for good and take its final bow."

Like many other nonprofit organizations, the symphony constantly sought new revenue sources to sustain its operations, and Berkenkamp noted that its fate is not unlike other symphony orchestras across the country, including San Diego, San Jose and Oakland, Calif., that have struggled to stay open, but closed in recent years because of financial difficulties.

Additional challenges to the symphony came in recent years with a shortened season in 2001 when the Sundome announced its imminent closure, an economic downturn that affected overall charitable giving, a drop in both corporate and personal contributions and lackluster ticket sales.

A cultural icon in the West Valley since 1968, the symphony first performed at the Sun City Symphony Orchestra, comprising volunteer musicians from the Sun Cityles. Name changes resulted in the current moniker, and the West Valley Symphony evolved into a professional symphony orchestra with 75 musicians from across the Valley.

Maestro James Yestadt has led the orchestra as its music director and conductor in its annual series of six classical and four pops concerts for the last 18 years. He announced his retirement for the conclusion of the current concert season.

To make a donation to the West Valley Symphony, call 972-4484 or mail to West Valley Symphony, P.O. Box 1417, Sun City, AZ 85372. All donations are tax-deductible.



# Sour note to symphony season

## Lackluster sales cripple schedule

By Matt Loeschman  
Independent Newspapers

Even scheduled appearances by notable entertainers Wynonna, Bobby Vinton and the Gatlin Brothers cannot help slumping ticket sales for the West Valley Symphony.

"We figured these were some pretty big names," explained Frank Cavalier, symphony board president. "We were banking on these pops concerts bringing in some large crowds. We were mistaken and now we've had to make some

adjustments."

The West Valley Symphony Board of Directors recently voted to suspend the remainder of its 2005-06 pops concert season at Glendale Arena to avoid incurring debt that it could not repay.

"This was such a tough decision but we felt we had to do it," Mr. Cavalier said. "The ticket sales for the upcoming three shows were not good. We had to call the shows off."

The West Valley Symphony performed the first of its four scheduled pops concerts Dec. 4 featuring country music artist Wynonna Judd.

But with sales of fewer than 2,000 tickets, the board decided to

cancel the remaining pops concerts effective immediately.

"We're looking at having to sell 3,800 tickets to get to the break-even point," the board president explained. "None of the remaining pops concerts were anywhere close to that."

Mr. Cavalier could not pinpoint a reason for the slow ticket sales. He said the group's next board meeting, set for Jan. 6, will offer an opportunity to chart the course for the symphony's future.

The symphony had three remaining pops concerts on the schedule — Bobby Vinton on Jan. 15; Larry Gatlin and The Gatlin Brothers on March 12 and Neil Sedaka on April 23.

None of those shows will take place.

"It's disappointing, but we felt we had no choice," Mr. Cavalier said. "The Bobby Vinton show had fewer than 900 tickets sold by Christmas. The Gatlin Brothers show wasn't looking too good. We just can't do that from a financial standpoint."

The board president said he believed Wynonna's appearance would be a big draw.

"We didn't lose money on that, but we were banking on a great turnout for our first pops concert to carry us into the next one and the one after that," Mr. Cavalier explained. "It didn't happen."

The West Valley Symphony,

now in its 38th year, first performed as the Sun City Symphony Orchestra, a primarily volunteer orchestra comprised of residents of the Sun Cities area.

Through the years, it changed its name to the Symphony of the West Valley and later to West Valley Symphony, expanding into a professional symphony orchestra with 75 musicians from throughout the Valley.

The symphony traditionally performs a series of four pops and six classical concerts each season. Maestro James Yestadt has led the professional orchestra as its music director and conductor for 18

See Symphony — Page 3

## Symphony

Continued From Page 1  
years.

Despite the cancellation of the three remaining pops concerts, the symphony's classical concert series remains unchanged. The symphony lost the deposits it put down to book the Gatlins, Mr. Vinton and Mr. Sedaka.

"This has put us into a financial bind, but we are looking good to finish up the year," Mr. Cavalier said. "Our patrons have stepped up big to help us. We can't thank them enough for their support."

Last year, the symphony conducted a special, intensive fund-raising project that resulted in contributions of \$350,000 that cleared the organization's existing debt.

"The action we are taking now is fiscally responsible so that we

don't fall back into debt," Mr. Cavalier noted. "We plan to focus our attention on strengthening our financial foundation so we can continue moving forward after this season. Anyone wishing to contribute to the symphony fund can contact the symphony office or me directly."

Season subscribers and individual ticket holders will receive a refund for their symphony pops concert tickets. For questions about refunds, contact the symphony office at 972-4484.

Residents were disappointed with the announcement but understood why it was made.

"I'm sorry to hear that," resident Ray Duhan said. "It's a shame more people aren't showing up for those concerts because they are enjoyable. When you add a singer to the symphony, it makes it that much better."

Marsha Dunham agreed.

"It's too bad but I see why they have to do it," she said. "You just can't put on that kind of show and keep losing money time after time."

Mr. Cavalier said the future remains bright for the symphony despite the three cancellations.

"We will eventually bring the pops series back," he said.

One of the biggest hurdles to clear is finding a home for the group.

"We have to have a home. The arena has been good to us but it is no secret we would like to return to the Sundome," Mr. Cavalier said. "Our costs have been tremendous. We are going to talk to the new management company operating the Sundome and hopefully we can come to an agreement."

The board president believes the symphony must also be more fiscally responsible.

"We will need to work with a budget that is more balanced and more realistic than in the past," he explained. "This is not the San Antonio Symphony or the Minneapolis Symphony — this is the West Valley Symphony. We must plan our budget within our constraints."

"We need to establish a direction and see where we're going," Mr. Cavalier added. "Canceling those concerts was one of the most difficult decisions we have had to make, but we feel it's the right decision and the responsible thing to do. Hopefully, the steps we are taking now will insure the future of this symphony orchestra for generations to come."

Post your comments on this issue at [www.newszapforums.com/forum29](http://www.newszapforums.com/forum29). Reach News Editor Matt Loeschman at 972-6101 or [mloeschman@newszap.com](mailto:mloeschman@newszap.com).

# MAESTRO: Symphony leader to retire with legacy of growth

From A1

and now we're doubling that; we've grown tremendously," Yestadt said. "I hope that part of the orchestra's positive growth was a result of my influence. I believe I'm leaving a symphony orchestra that has become a truly professional, talented group of musicians capable of playing all the major classical literature such as Mahler's 4th Symphony or Shostakovich's 9th Symphony. That was definitely not the case when I arrived here."

Yestadt noted that in addition to its own growth

as a performing arts organization, the West Valley Symphony has sponsored a number of consummate guest musicians he has enjoyed working with throughout his years at the podium, including the late pianist John Browning and pianist Alicia Delarocha.

"Maestro Yestadt is highly revered in this community and will be greatly missed," said Richard Shelton, the symphony's executive director. "The orchestra has progressed to true professional status under his leadership and musical guidance — this will be his legacy."

Before taking the helm of

the West Valley Symphony in 1988, Yestadt served as resident conductor for the New Orleans Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (now the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra), and as music director and conductor of the Mobile Symphony Orchestra, Mobile Opera and the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra. During his lengthy career in the South, Yestadt also served as director of orchestral studies at Louisiana State University.

In addition to his positions with symphony orchestras, Yestadt was a guest conductor at several music festivals throughout the United States and Europe,

most notably in 1999, when he was invited to Spain to conduct three concerts with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y Leon.

A native of Harrisburg, Pa., Yestadt earned his bachelor's degree in music at the Lebanon Valley Conservatory of Music and his master's degree in music at Columbia University. He continued musical studies at the renowned New School of Music in Philadelphia, and abroad in Switzerland, where he studied interpretation and conducting with the late Rafael Kubelic. It was during this period that Yestadt was asked to conduct the Zurich Radio Orchestra.

In retirement, Yestadt plans to guest conduct, travel and spend time with family and friends.

"I will say this; I'm going to miss making the music," Yestadt said. "Other than my wife, Victoria, that has been the love of my life."

For information about the symphony and its 2005-06 concert season featuring four remaining classical concerts at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Sun City West and four pops concerts at Glendale Arena, call the symphony office at 972-4484 or visit the Web site at [www.westvalleysymphony.org](http://www.westvalleysymphony.org).

# Yestadt announces retirement

STAFF REPORT

Maestro James Yestadt, the West Valley Symphony's music director and conductor, will retire at the end of the 2006-07 season.

The symphony will form a Music Director Search Committee to begin a year-long national search for Yestadt's replacement. The committee

narrow its search to three or four qualified finalists and bring those individuals to Arizona to conduct a series of concerts and rehearsals to ensure the right fit and chemistry for the orchestra. A new music director and conductor should be named late next season.

Yestadt joined the symphony when it was known as the Sun City Symphony, a community orchestra composed of primarily volunteer musicians who were residents of, and performed for the Del Webb retirement communities of Sun City and Sun City West.

Under Yestadt's leadership and musical vision, the orchestra expanded both professionally and artistically to become the Symphony of the West Valley in 1997 and later the West Valley Symphony, boasting a full orchestra of 75 professional musicians.

When he started, he performed five concerts a year.

See MAESTRO 73

VF  
Symphony  
SC  
3  
1

James Yestadt

DAILY NEWS-SUN TUESDAY, NOV. 29, 2005

over

# West Valley Symphony opens 38th season

## 'All-Orchestra' concert to benefit hurricane survivors

The West Valley Symphony will open its 38th concert season 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30 at Prince of Peace Catholic Church, 14818 W. Deer Valley Road, Sun City West, with a concert showcasing the musicianship of the full orchestra, while paying tribute to fellow musicians and other New Orleans residents who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

The symphony's performance of "Fanfare for New Orleans" will benefit hurricane relief.

Henry Flurry, a New Orleans native and now a resident of Prescott, Ariz., composed the "Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra Fanfare" in response to the former music director's call for an official fanfare to open the orchestra's concert performances. It premiered at the LPO season-opening concert in 1999 and the orchestra played it periodically throughout its subsequent concert seasons. For each performance of the "LPO Fanfare" by orchestras throughout the country, Mr. Flurry has advised ASCAP to donate the music licensing fee of \$170 to the hurricane relief fund.

After hearing about the project, the West Valley Symphony immediately stepped up to become the first and only symphony orchestra in Arizona to date to confirm a performance of the piece. James Yestadt, the West Valley Symphony's music director and conductor, also has a personal interest in the decision to perform the "LPO Fanfare."

In addition to supporting the hurricane relief efforts by performing the "LPO Fanfare," Mr. Yestadt noted that the West Valley Symphony has invited displaced musicians from the New

Orleans area to come to Arizona to audition for the orchestra, which will hold auditions for the string section Oct. 18.

The all-orchestra concert Oct. 30 will also feature Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet Overture," Wagner's "Die Meistersinger: Prelude," Borodin's "Prince Igor: Polovtsian Dances," and Dvorak's "Symphony No. 8." The comprehensive program will provide an opportunity for the concert audi-

ence to hear and appreciate the musicianship and artistry of the orchestra's 75 professional musicians led by Mr. Yestadt, who is entering his 18th year with the ensemble.

The season-opening concert is sponsored by Sun City West residents Birt and Louisa Kellam. Tickets cost \$30 for adults and \$15 for students under the age of 18.

Call 972-4484 or visit [www.westvalleysymphony.org](http://www.westvalleysymphony.org).

# Symphony ventures to new venues

## Orchestra's imprint extends across West Valley

CULTURAL  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Following a season that seemed to focus more on politics than music, West Valley Symphony is poised for a 2005-2006 season that offers classical concerts and pop performances in brand new venues, and Richard Shelton, the symphony's executive director, couldn't be more pleased.

"We are very excited about the new season," Shelton said. "We've excited about the new venues, and based on the number of phone calls we're fielding, this could be a very good year (for the symphony)," he said.

After last season, which was fraught with uncertainty following Arizona State University's announcement of its intent to sell the Sundome, the symphony decided to investigate new performing venues, rather than wait to see if the board of regents would approve Maricopa County's plan to purchase the Sundome to maintain it as a performing venue.

"Naturally, we're disappointed that the Sundome was such a major issue last season," Shelton said. "But we moved on — we had to — in order to put a season together.

And, what a season is in store for classical and pop fans alike.

The season has been described as "blockbuster" by some. It includes six classical

and four pops performances. The classical symphony concerts will take place in Prince of Peace Catholic Church, 14818 W. Deer Valley Drive in Sun City West, at the intersection of 151st Avenue and Deer Valley Drive. The pops concerts will be performed in the Glendale Arena, at 91st and Glendale avenues, just off of Loop 101 in Glendale. All performances will be conducted by Maestro James Yestadt.

"The Glendale Arena gets a lot of traffic," Shelton said. "It's a major state venue, so when we looked for acts to book, we had to look at different types of artists, ones who would attract the size crowd the arena serves.

"We worked closely with the arena booking staff, and had input from the general manager," he said.

The symphony is offering bus service to the Glendale Arena for its pops concerts, Shelton said.

"We already have enough inquiries to book at least one bus, and we're willing to add as many as we need to serve the concertgoers," he added.

Season subscribers were sent their packets in June. Shelton said sales of season tickets for the classical concerts are down compared to previous years.

"Some subscribers have not renewed because of the change of venue," Shelton said. "They've told us that if we go back to the Sundome, they'll be back."

"It's too bad, because they

don't even want to give the new venue a chance."

Officers have failed to renew for personal or health- or age-related reasons.

"Who knows?" Shelton said. "Sometimes, they don't tell us why they're not renewing."

The season begins at 3:30 p.m. Oct. 30 with a classical concert showcasing the talent and musicianship of the symphony's full 75-member orchestra, performing the music of Wagner, Dvorak, Tchaikovsky and Borodin.

The first pops concert will be Dec. 4, when Wynonna Judd takes to the Glendale Arena stage at 3:30 p.m. After nearly a decade of performing with her mother, Naomi, as the hit country duo, The Judds, Wynonna struck out on her



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN SEABREEZE

of Peace Music Director Mike McGraw, center, points out some of the details of the West Valley Symphony Executive Director Richard Shelton, left, and Symphony Maenes Yestadt. The symphony will perform its series of six classical concerts at the Sunst church beginning in October.

own — and struck gold. Her first solo record deal in 1992 sold more than five million copies and became the highest-selling debut album by a female artist at the time.

Tickets for all West Valley Symphony concerts are on sale now. Classical concert tickets cost \$30 for adults and \$15 for students under the age of 18. To purchase classical concert tickets, call the symphony office at 972-4484 or visit [www.ticketforcee.com](http://www.ticketforcee.com).

Pops concert tickets cost \$35-\$55. To purchase pops concert tickets, call Ticketmaster at 480-784-4444 or visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

"We've received such overwhelming support from our community during the past year, so this season is our

opportunity to say 'thank you' by presenting what I believe is one of the best concert seasons and some of the most talented and renowned guest artists we've ever had," Shelton said. "We're also very excited about reaching out to new concertgoers this season through our two new performance venues."

"In addition to our talented guest artists, we're extremely proud to present our own masterful musicians as featured soloists in concert," said Yestadt, the symphony's music director and conductor.

"Principal flutist Barbara Davis Chao and principal harpist Paula Provo will showcase their talent in a classical concert in February," he said.

The concert featuring Chao



Wynonna Judd



Gatlin Brothers



Bobby Vinton

and Provo is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Feb. 19 in Prince of Peace.

For information about the West Valley Symphony and its 2005-06 concert season, call the symphony office at 972-4484, or visit the Web site at [www.westvalley-symphony.org](http://www.westvalley-symphony.org).

*Claudia Sherrill may be reached at 876-2511 or [csherrill@aztrib.com](mailto:csherrill@aztrib.com).*

# West Valley Symphony 2005-06 season



Angela Cheng



Barbara Davis



Paula Provo



Rachel Lee

## CLASSICAL CONCERTS

● 3:30 p.m. Oct. 30 —  
Classical symphony concert featuring the music of Wagner, Dvorak, Tchaikovsky and Borodin.

● 3:30 p.m. Nov. 20 —  
Canadian pianist **Angela Cheng**, hailed by critics for her remarkable technique, tonal beauty and musicianship. She has appeared with virtually every orchestra in Canada, as well as renowned symphonies throughout the United States. The concert will include music from Mozart, Schumann and Brahms.

● 3:30 p.m. Dec. 18 —  
The symphony celebrates the holiday season with a classical holiday concert featuring the **Arizona Masterworks Chorale** and a holiday performance of Handel's "Messiah."

● 3:30 p.m. Feb. 5 —  
Violinist **Rachel Lee** joins the symphony for a classical concert. At just 17 years old, Rachel has virtuosity and musical maturity that have led to performances at the United Nations and with the KBS Symphony Orchestra in Seoul, Korea. She also has performed as part of a Disney Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra in a production for the 2000 Grammy Awards, and most recently performed a recital at the Louvre in Paris. She studies with legendary violinist Itzhak Perlman at The Juilliard School. Her performance will include selections from Rossini, Mozart and Mendelssohn.

● 3:30 p.m. Feb. 19 —  
Symphony musicians **Barbara Davis Chao**, flute, and **Paula Provo**, harp, will perform classical selections including music of Rossini, Mozart and Beethoven.

● 3:30 p.m. April 9 —  
**"Celebrating Young Artists"** — the symphony hosts the winner in the piano category of its 27th-annual Young Artist Competition, a symphony-sponsored competition that brings the "best of the best"

student musicians together to vie for the coveted first prize of \$2,000 and the opportunity to perform on stage with the professional orchestra.

## POPS CONCERTS

● 3:30 p.m. Dec. 4 —  
Country superstar **Wynonna Judd**

● 3:30 p.m. Jan. 15 —  
**Bobby Vinton** performs with the symphony. Vinton's hits, including "Roses Are Red," "Mr. Lonely" and "Blue Velvet," have established him as one of the most successful and genuinely loved pop singers of all time.

● 3:30 p.m. March 12 —  
**Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers** bring their smooth harmonies and exceptional songwriting to Glendale. With their favorite hits, such as "Houston," "All the Gold in California," which earned them American Country Music's Single of the Year Award, and their Grammy-winning hit, "Broken Lady," the Gatlin Brothers prove that there's no better harmony than family harmony.

● 3:30 p.m. April 23 —  
**Neil Sedaka** caps off the pops season with a performance with the orchestra. Sedaka is a pioneer in American pop and rock, with contributions — both as a songwriter and as a singer — that are second to none. His string of hits includes "Stupid Cupid" and "Where the Boys Are," which he wrote for Connie Francis; "Working On a Groovy Thing" for The Fifth Dimension; Tom Jones' "Puppet Man," and "Love Will Keep Us Together," which he wrote for the Captain and Tennille, launching their career.

His own performance hit list includes all-time favorites "Calendar Girl," "Breaking Up Is Hard to Do," "Laughter In the Rain" and "Should've Never Let You Go," which he recorded with his daughter, Dara, and which remains one of the few father-daughter songs to have ever made the charts.

---

## Family Matters

---

June 2005

# West Valley Symphony Moving to New Concert Venues

The West Valley Symphony is moving its classical and pops concert series to two new venues in the West Valley.

"We have an exciting future as a performing arts organization that cannot continue to be tied to the fate of the Sundome, and our board of directors unanimously voted to move the symphony forward in what we believe will be a new beginning for our organization," said Richard Shelton, West Valley Symphony executive director.

The professional 85-member symphony orchestra will perform its upcoming 2005-06 series of six classical concerts at the Prince of Peace Catholic Church located at 14818 W. Deer Valley Dr. in Sun City West, approximately one mile north of the Sundome at Deer Valley Road and 151st Avenue.

The symphony's four pops concerts in 2005-06 will be performed at the new Glendale Arena at 9400 W. Maryland Ave. in Glendale, just east of the Loop 101 and the Glendale Avenue exit.

"We talked with many audience and community members and went through quite a bit of research before we came to this decision. It  
*SYMPHONY continued on page 4*

### *SYMPHONY continued from page 1*

is one we take very seriously because our past home has always been the Sundome," said Frank Cavalier, symphony board president. "But, we want to ensure that a cultural treasure like the West Valley Symphony continues to shine—residents here deserve nothing less than the best musical experience, and we felt that partnering with these new performance venues will do just that."

The elegant and spacious Prince of Peace Catholic Church seats nearly 1,500 so it can comfortably accommodate concertgoers who attend the classical performances. "This takes us back to our European heritage," said Maestro James Yestadt, the symphony's music director and conductor. "The great orchestras of the 18th and 19th centuries almost universally performed in magnificent cathedrals and churches and still do to this day. This will be a wonderful acoustical, artistic and intimate concert experience for everyone."

West Valley Symphony pops concerts traditionally draw 3,500 or more people. Shelton and the board are excited about the opportunity to perform in the Glendale Arena, a brand new venue. "The West Valley Symphony has been a valued member of our community's cultural quality of life for so many years," said Glendale Mayor Elaine Scruggs. "We proudly welcome them as our newest partner at the Glendale Arena and wish them even greater success in the coming years."

Glendale Arena received the prestigious Pollstar Concert Industry Award for "Best New Major Concert Venue" in 2004. It can be reconfigured for a more intimate concert setting to accommodate any size audience required for the symphony's concerts.

The West Valley Symphony's 2005-06 concert season runs from November 2005 through April 2006. Concert season details and guest artists who will be performing with the orchestra at Prince of Peace Catholic Church and the Glendale Arena will be announced this summer.



December 17, 2003

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

3

# Community donates \$60,000 to stave off symphony closure

## Orchestra may tap endowment funds to survive

More than \$60,000 in donations has come in from the community, symphony board members and musicians who have agreed to waive their salaries, to support the Symphony of the West Valley since it announced in November that it faced a financial crisis which threatens to close its doors for good by the end of the year.

The symphony faces an operational deficit of \$213,000 and a loan balance of \$136,000 and has less than \$100,000 in operating cash for the rest of the year.

Monthly expenses range from \$80,000 to \$90,000.

"We are on a precipice, and I would venture to say that the only way the symphony is going to make it to January is to reach into our endowment," said Symphony Executive Director Richard Shelton.

"That is something we are not happy about, but are prepared to do to survive. Although we are extremely grateful for the community's outpouring of support to date, we have not received sufficient funds to carry us through the entire season.

"In fact, contributions in the month of December have significantly tapered off."

Mr. Shelton said that the symphony's endowment

holds \$70,000 in unrestricted funds that can be used to help get through the month of January, but even that will not sustain the non-profit orchestra long-term. However, he feels confident that by using these funds and any additional donations that come in from the community through December will allow the symphony to present its Jan. 11, 2004 pops concert featuring the popular star of CBS' "Guiding Light," Ron Raines, and three other talented Broadway entertainers, in Bravo Broadway's "A Tribute to Fred and Ginger."

The symphony's pops concerts traditionally draw larger audiences and produce

vital revenue from ticket sales.

"We are still hoping for those much needed large corporate and private gifts that would fully relieve our cash flow crisis and secure the symphony's season and its future," Mr. Shelton said.

Despite the symphony's best efforts to address its financial situation, including freezing salaries, cutting operational and production costs, reducing the size of the orchestra, raising ticket prices, hiring a development director to raise funds and securing grant dollars, events of the past three years have taken a financial toll on the non-profit organi-

zation.

The symphony had operated in the black for 33 of the past 36 years.

Contributions to the Symphony of the West Valley may be mailed to: P.O. Box 1417, Sun City, Ariz.,

85372. Donations may also be made in person at the symphony office located at 10451 Palمرas Drive, Sun City, by calling 972-4484.

# Symphony of the West Valley remains a 'classic'

*Maestro looks back on own 15 years,  
orchestra's 35 years of accomplishments*

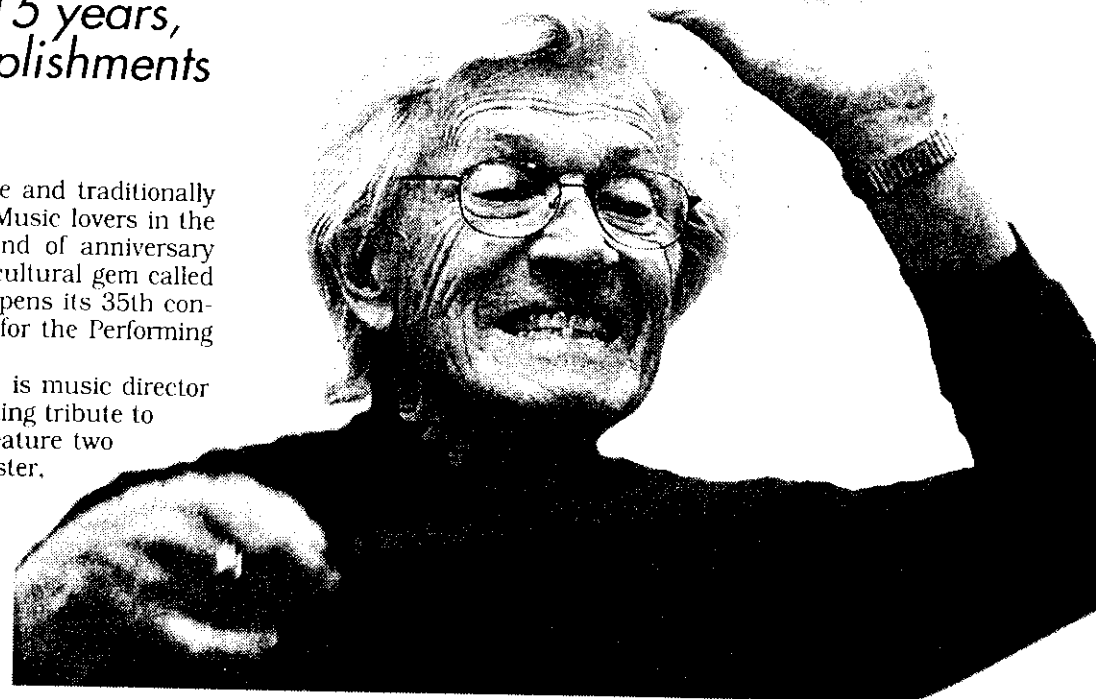
STAFF REPORT

**A** 35th wedding anniversary is quite a milestone and traditionally celebrated by giving a gift of precious gems. Music lovers in the West Valley will participate in a different kind of anniversary celebration this year and receive the gift of a cultural gem called the Symphony of the West Valley when the symphony opens its 35th concert season at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts.

At the podium, as he has been for the past 15 years, is music director and conductor James Yestadt. And, as an added and fitting tribute to the orchestra's 35th season, the premiere concert will feature two of its own exceptional musicians—violinists Cathy Worcester, concertmaster, and Cathie Lowmiller, associate concertmaster.

"When I arrived here in 1988, the orchestra was primarily a volunteer community orchestra, and its repertoire capabilities were somewhat limited," Yestadt said. "We have grown into a professional ensemble consisting of more than 90 of the best free-lance musicians in the Valley. We've established a reputation in music circles as an orchestra that settles for nothing less than the highest quality of performance."

Yestadt added that not only has the caliber of musicians improved through the years, likewise, the depth and breadth of music the orchestra performs for West Valley audiences has dramatically increased. Just last year, the orchestra commissioned a composition by American composer Ellen Taaffe Zwilich and performed the Arizona premiere of that musical piece. In its 25th anniversary year, the symphony commissioned an original piece by local Cambodian-American composer Chinary Ung, a regent professor of composition at Arizona State University, in a world premiere



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Maestro James Yestadt leads the symphony at a practice last week.



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Bob Allport of Chandler tunes his cello before a rehearsal of the Symphony of the West Valley. Allport said he doesn't mind driving from the East Valley because, "It's a really good orchestra."

performance. That would have been unheard of in the symphony's early days as a volunteer-based performing arts organization.

"As the music director, I try to select composers and classical pieces that are varied for each concert," Yestadt said. "Our audiences tend to enjoy the 19th century romantic literature, but they're willing to give the newer music a chance, too. As an orchestra, we try to provide the audience with a good balance and overview of the music that's out there throughout the course of the season."

The caliber of guest artists who have appeared with the Symphony of the West Valley also has grown in terms of their professional and international musical acclaim. The maestro lists a few of the notable classical performers he has conducted through the years, including two-time, Grammy Award-winning pianist John Browning, who will make his second appearance with the symphony this season; classical guitarist Manuel Barrueco; and violinist Stephanie Chase.

Yestadt also credits the symphony's administration and the collaboration of other symphony supporters for the longevity and success the orchestra has realized over the past three decades.

"We have been able to achieve the kind of growth and consistent quality we've experienced not only because of our musicians, but because of our administration, board of directors, symphony association, guild sponsors, staff and audience," Yestadt said. "Without these individuals supporting us in a collaborative effort, the orchestra would not be where it is today — celebrating 35 years."

Single tickets for Symphony of the West Valley classical concerts cost \$17, \$22 and \$27. Pops single tickets cost \$23, \$30 and \$37. Tickets are available at the Sundome box office 975-1900. Ticketmaster outlets 480-784-4444, or at the door. Season subscriptions are also available through the Sundome. For information, call the symphony office at 972-4484.

## 2002-2003 Symphony of the West Valley Season

3 p.m. Oct. 20 — Symphony Cathy  
Worchester & Cathie Lowmiller,  
violin duo

3 p.m. Nov. 17 — Dickran Atamian,  
piano

3 p.m. Dec. 15 — Phoenix Boys  
Choir, holiday favorites

7 p.m. Jan. 18 — POPS Concert:  
Lou Rawls

3 p.m. Feb. 9 — Xiang Gao, violin

3 p.m. March 2 — POPS Concert:  
The Smothers Brothers

3 p.m. March 23 — 24th-annual  
Jennings Butterfield Young Artist  
Competition Winner, vocalist  
category

3 p.m. April 13 — John Browning,  
piano

3 p.m. April 27 — POPS Concert:  
Bravo Big Band

All performances are at the  
Sundome, 19403 R.H. Johnson Blvd.,  
Sun City West

Daily News-Sun • Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2002

# Symphony gala raises \$35,000



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dorothy Bruggers of Sun City West, center, is congratulated by Liz Reeve Calley, vice president and manager of Northern Trust Bank of Sun City, and Symphony Maestro James Yestadt following her winning bid of \$6,000 for the chance to guest conduct the orchestra next season.

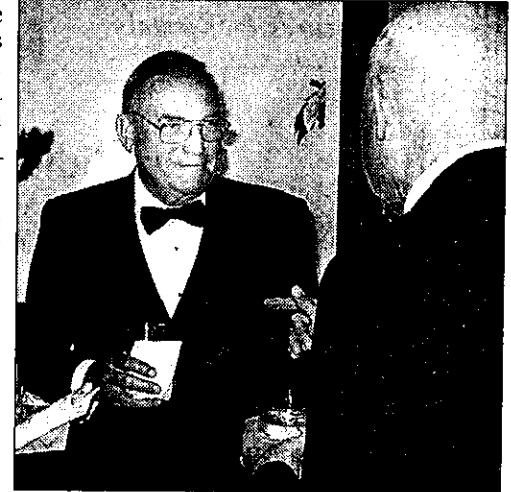
More than \$35,000 was raised for the Symphony of the West Valley's musical and educational outreach programs at the annual gala at Union Hills Country Club, Sun City. The annual black-tie fundraiser featured dinner, a silent and live auction and live music provided by Banu Gibson and The New Orleans Hot Jazz.

Sun City West resident Dorothy Bruggers placed a bid of \$6,000 to win the perennial favorite auction item called "Maestro Magic." Bruggers' high bid won her the opportunity to guest conduct the 85-piece symphony orchestra in a 2002/2003 season pops concert.

Other select auction items included a seven-day cruise to the Caribbean, a Thomas Kinkade limited edition print, jewelry from Mel's Fine Jewelry in Peoria, original sculpture by Richard Acott and Provenance Fine Art, golf outings at premier West Valley golf courses, tickets to Arizona Opera's performance of Madam Butterfly, tickets to Ballet Arizona's Swan Lake, and passes to Phoenix Art Museum and West Valley Art Museum.

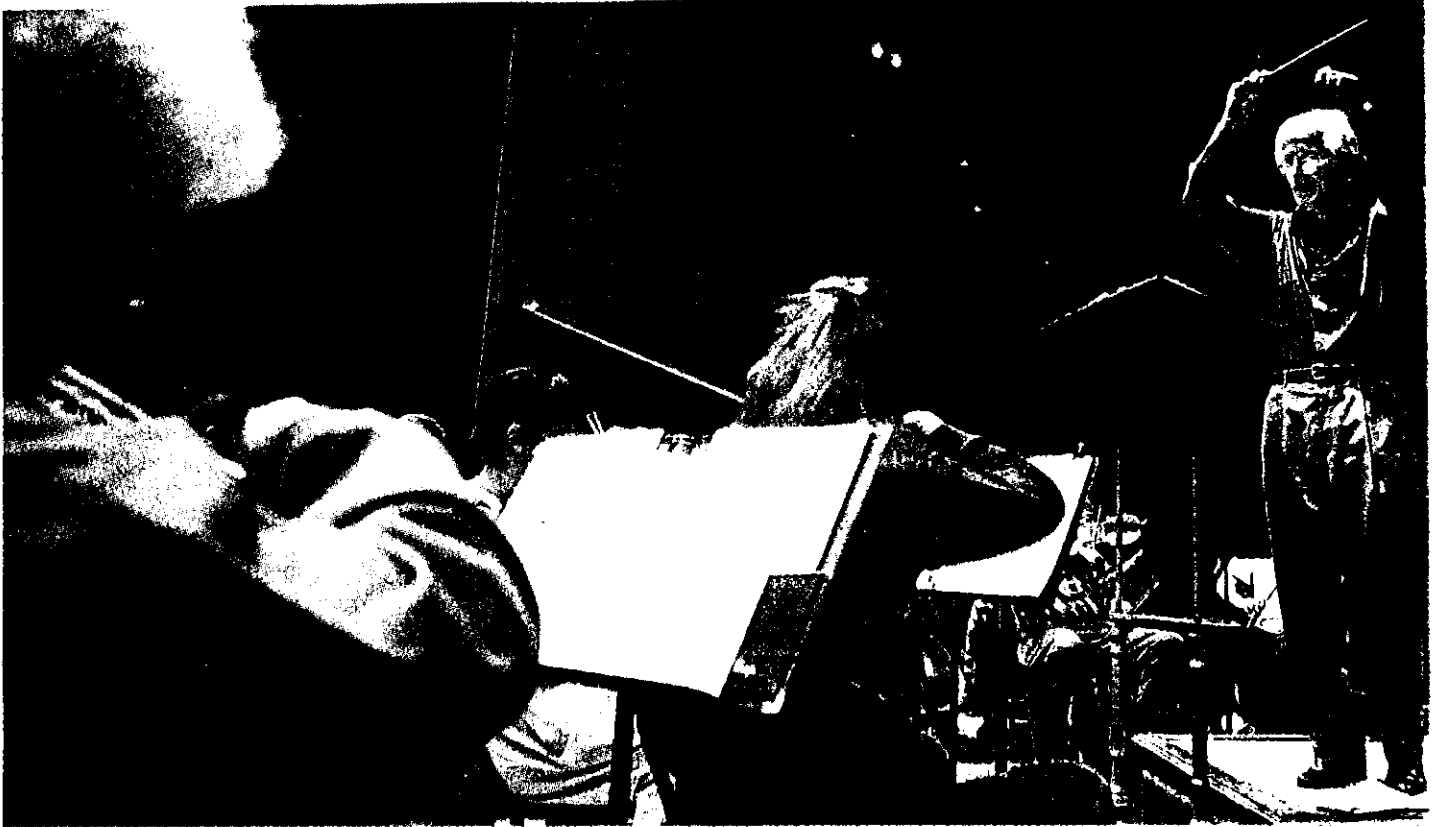
La Vada Snell-Bohler, a member of the symphony association board, and Barbara Lashmet, president of the Symphony Guild, co-chaired this year's gala.

The gala was sponsored by Holland America Cruise Lines. Helene Gumina of Sun City, a honorary member of the board of trustees, sponsored the gala's entertainment, and significant corporate sponsorship was provided by Cigna Healthcare of Arizona, PETSMART, Inc. and Northern Trust Bank of Sun City.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rep. Phil Hanson of Peoria, R-Dist. 17 (left) was one of 200 special guests who attended the Symphony of the West Valley's Benefit Gala on Jan. 21. The gala raised more than \$35,000 for the non-profit symphony orchestra.



Photos by Tonya Thuringer/The Arizona Republic

Conductor James Yestadt leads a Symphony of the West Valley rehearsal at the Sundome in Sun City West. The upcoming closure of the Sundome for a year of renovations has stirred concerns about the struggling symphony's future.

# WV Symphony faces hard times

## Venue closure, turnouts are worries

By Ashley Bach  
 The Arizona Republic

The Symphony of the West Valley used to have it easy. Its audience of Sun Cities residents was loyal and strong, and its finances were solidly in the black.

But the past few years haven't been kind. Supporters are dying, and efforts to branch out have met with mixed results. Add to that the fact that the Sundome, its home venue, is closing down for a year, forcing two abbreviated seasons and abbreviated profits.

But executive director Richard Shelton thinks he has quality on his side. His symphony orchestra is full of 85 musicians who he says play

great music with much less pay and much less time than, say, the Phoenix Symphony. Ticket prices are low, the repertoire is impressive, and yet the symphony is struggling to stay profitable.

"We do have some challenges this year," Shelton says. "And we're going to need some help from the community."

Help means money and attention and attendance. But it's more complicated than that. People still think of the orchestra as the Sun Cities Symphony, which, everyone will tell you, it now most surely is not.

It was more than a name change. Several years ago, Shelton and the symphony's board decided it was time to



Timpanist Jack Fuch practices during a Symphony of the West Valley rehearsal at the Sundome.

branch out from its core audience, the residents of the Sun Cities. So it began to play small concerts all over the West Valley, started an aggressive marketing campaign and began a much-anticipated series at Arizona State University West.

But good intentions aren't everything. After three years, the ASU West series can only half-fill a ballroom that can hold 600. Nobody really knows why, including Shelton, who calls the attendance disappointing. He's hopeful about the last concert there this year, Saturday's 100th anniversary celebration of composer Aaron Copland's birth. But the symphony

probably won't play on campus again until 2002, and then likely in one concert.

The Sun Cities crowd hasn't been consistent either. The symphony still enjoys a decent base for a midsize orchestra, about 1,800 a concert, but that's down from more than 2,400 a year ago. Part of the problem is loyalty but mortality, as audience and donor base. It's most entirely seniors, including as Sun Cities' original residents get older.

The biggest factor, however, is the closure of the Sundome in January for a year of renovations.

See SYMPHONY Page 11

From Page 1

forced Shelton to compress two seasons, this fall and in early 2002, and attendance and donations have suffered. The biggest challenge will come next year, when the symphony will be forced to play small concerts in churches just to stay active and visible in the community, Shelton says.

The more distant future remains complicated as well, with baby boomers arriving in the Sun Cities to take the place of the original residents. Boomers who would rather listen to *Rock Around the Clock* than Rachmaninoff. Attracting them to the sym-

phony will be integral to the symphony's future, Shelton says, but also a struggle.

"When I grew up, there were symphony orchestras performing all over TV," said Bob Roberts, assistant principal trumpeter, who lives in Sun City. "The feeling now is that music is one of those extra frills."

Despite its problems, there's no doubt the symphony has come far even in the past few years. No longer is it made up of a group of retirees wanting to play for fun, like it was in the '60s and '70s. Now it's made up mostly of freelance musicians across the Valley of all ages, even a few ASU students.

And led by conductor James Yestadt, the quality of the music has risen sharply. The symphony is generally considered the second-best in the Valley, behind the Phoenix Symphony, and is among the best in the state. This can often come as a surprise to listeners who've heard their share of marginal midsize orchestras.

"The bad ones usually stand out, but they're a fine orchestra," said Alton Accola of a Minneapolis-based vocal group, Five by Design, which performs with orchestras all over the country. "We have no complaints at all."

**May 17, 2000**

# West Valley symphony prepares for 'festival' year

## Variety is key for 2000-01 season

The Symphony of the West Valley has announced its 2000/2001 "Festival Concert Season" schedule, which includes a concert by an Italian pianist, an orchestral tribute to Aaron Copland, a holiday choral program, two original pops concerts and a first-ever New Year's Eve concert.

Unlike past seasons where all concerts were held at the Sundome Center for Performing Arts and ASU West, several of next season's programs will be held at different venues.

"In addition to our regular concert series at the Sundome and ASU West, the symphony plans to do something a bit different during the Festival Concert Season by taking the music out of the building and into the community beginning January 2001," says Richard Shelton, executive director.

The orchestra will perform a series of family concerts and chamber programs at venues throughout the Valley. Exact dates, times and locations have yet to be announced.

The symphony kicks off the season Sept. 10 with a pops concert featuring the St. Paul, Minn.-based vocal quintet Five by Design. "Club Swing" takes audience members back to the 1930s and Club Swing, the legendary New York night club.

Other performers include:

- Violinist Benny Kim is the symphony's guest artist on Sept. 24. Mr. Kim has performed on five continents and in 20 countries.

- Susan Greer, horn, and Paula Marie Provo-Martinez, harp, performs a classical program on Oct.

## Symphony orchestra receives endowments totalling \$100,000

The Symphony of the West Valley has received four endowments totaling \$100,000, the largest endowment gift at any one time in the symphony's history.

The principal endowments will become accessible beginning with the symphony's upcoming 2000-2001 concert season and will provide a strong financial foundation on which the symphony can build future programs.

The four endowments came from four individuals:

- Lois Michael of Sun City West, who made two endowments of \$25,000 each, one for the symphony's principal trumpet chair and the other for principal bass.

- Noel and Jayne Willis of Sun City West, \$25,000 for the principal flute chair.

- An anonymous Sun City West donor endowed the principal horn chair for \$25,000.

"In the symphony's 32-year history, we've had only five principal chairs endowed and this year along, thanks to the generosity of these individuals, we're able to endow four chairs," says Richard Shelton, executive director of the Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley.

Ms. Michael says her love for music was the reason for her gift.

"I thought about making a substantial donation to the symphony for a long time because I've always loved music; it's been such a big part of my life and that of my family.

"I hope my donation will inspire others to do the same," adds Ms. Michael.

8.

- Pianist Fabio Bidini performs Oct. 22.

- Cellist Mark Kosower performs with the symphony on Nov. 5.

- The symphony presents and original orchestral program Nov. 19 that pays tribute to American composer Aaron Copland.

- The annual holiday concert

will be Dec. 10 and features soprano Julie Newell and the Glendale Union High School District Festival Choir.

- The symphony presents its first New Year's Eve concert Dec. 31. Guest artist includes Banu Gibson and the New Orleans Hot Jazz.

All Sundome concerts begin at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25. Call 975-1900.

# Sun Citians boost symphony endowments

## NOTABLE DONATION: Gifts make history

May 10, 2000

STAFF REPORT

The Symphony of the West Valley has received four endowment gifts totaling \$100,000, the largest gifts in the history of the organization founded 32 years ago by residents of Sun City.

Each endows the chair of an orchestra principal — the main player in a section.

The four principal chair endowments came from individual donors, including Lois Michael of Sun City, who made two endowments of \$25,000 each, one for the principal trumpet chair and one for the principal bass chair.

Sun City West residents Jayne and Noel Willis endowed the principal flute chair for \$25,000 and an anonymous Sun

City West donor endowed the principal horn chair for \$25,000.

"In the symphony's 32-year history, we've had only five principal chairs endowed and this year alone, thanks to the generosity of these individuals, we're able to endow four chairs," said Richard Shelton, executive director of the Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley.

"Once a principal chair has been endowed, it's endowed in perpetuity and the donor is listed permanently on the program page with the musicians. The funds are permanently deposited into the symphony's endowment fund which provides for a more secure future for the orchestra," Shelton said.

Nine other principal positions are available for endowment at a minimum of \$25,000 per chair.

"I thought about making a substantial donation to the symphony for a long time because I've always loved music; it's been such a big part of my life and that of my family," Lois Michael said.

"My son played the trumpet and my grandson plays the bass, so I suppose that's why I endowed those two chairs — for sentimental reasons.

"Instead of waiting another year to endow the second chair, I just made both donations together. I think the orchestra is an asset to this community and I hope my donation will inspire others to do the same."

Noel and Jayne Willis are also long-time symphony fans and through their acquaintance with principal flutist Lee Subke, they decided to endow his chair.

"We know Lee through our church; he's a respected friend and we admire him personally as well as professionally for his musicianship," said Noel Willis. "We made the endowment in part because of our friendship, but we know that he won't always be sitting in that chair, and we won't always be here. That's why the endowment is really for the symphony and the music itself. It's a way to ensure a future for the symphony long after we are gone."

# New name reflects symphony's growth

## 'West Valley' label replaces 'Sun Cities'

By Kenneth LaFave  
The Arizona Republic

Is it the Symphony of the West Valley or the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra? Is the concert it plans for Sunday a classics concert or a holiday event?

The answer to both questions is: Yes. The orchestra formerly known as the Sun Cities Symphony still answers to that name, which remains its legal monicker. Yet "Symphony of the West Valley" is what you'll see in print and on posters.

The new name, which sneaked in about three years ago, reflects the orchestra's changing identity in the growing West Valley.

"The West Valley is growing at an un-

### IF YOU GO

#### Operatic and Holiday Favorites

**WHAT:** The Symphony of the West Valley, with soprano Andrea Matthews and the Arizona Masterworks Chorale.

**WHEN:** 3 p.m. Sunday.

**WHERE:** The Sundome, 19403 R.H. Johnson Blvd., Sun City West.

**ADMISSION:** \$15 to \$25. Call (623) 975-1900.

precedented rate, and since we are the only symphony in the West Valley, our idea was to reflect the simultaneous growth of both," says Richard Shelton, the orchestra's executive director.

As for this weekend's concert, it's a hybrid of classical voice concert and holiday celebration, a unique program fit for a unique organization.

Call it classical, because soprano Andrea Matthews is singing selections from Puccini and Verdi. Call it holiday music, because Matthews and the Arizona

Masterworks Chorale and the Sun Cities Symphonic Choir will sing *Away in a Manger*, *Silent Night*, *Festive Songs of Hanukkah* and other seasonal fare.

The Symphony of the West Valley began 32 years ago as the Sun City Symphony. There was only one Sun City then — Sun City West was added later — and the concept behind the orchestra was that of a retirement band. Letters went out to orchestras around the country urging its senior players to consider retirement in Sun City, where they could continue to play in an orchestra.

That tradition continues today, with 10 out of 90 members of the orchestra hailing from such great organizations as the St. Louis Symphony and the San Francisco Opera. In addition, however, the orchestra has lately grown in its number of local, active professionals.

A commitment to professional-level playing by music director James Yestadt has lately lifted the orchestra, in many people's minds, from community level to something approaching big-city.

"Artistically, we're much better than three years ago," Shelton says. "In the last couple of days, a gentleman called who

said he had attended the symphony five years ago and came back recently for the first time. He said he was amazed at the difference."

Shelton points to the increase in budget from 1992 to 1999 — up 135 percent, to \$737,000 from \$314,000 — as a major factor in the orchestra's growth and improvement.

"Increased financial support translates into our ability to attract and retain a higher caliber of musician. Another important factor is the professionalism and musical consistency of Maestro Yestadt."

About 90 percent of the orchestra's audience still comes from the Sun Cities and nearby Surprise, Shelton says. But inroads are being made into Glendale and Peoria. And that's not all.

"We've just completed our first five-year strategic planning session," Shelton says, "and we're looking to expand into Sedona, Wickenburg and other outlying areas."

Can the name "Arizona Symphony Orchestra" be far behind?

Kenneth LaFave can be reached at [ken.lafave@arizonarepublic.com](mailto:ken.lafave@arizonarepublic.com) or at (602) 444-8927.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

VF

IC



# Sun Cities Symphony sets campaign goal

98-99  
10-29-99

By BRUCE ELLISON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Officials of the Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley have set a \$200,000 fund-raising campaign goal for this year, just \$6,000 more than the orchestra raised last year.

"That shouldn't be a problem at all," said Ken Meade, honorary chairman of the campaign and a Sun City West resident. "Just dig a little bit deeper."

Meade kicked off the effort at a fund-raising reception Tuesday night at Palmbrook Country Club, handing his personal check for \$5,000 to symphony president Maryanne Leyshon.

Unlike many of the nation's orchestras, the Sun Cities Symphony, now in its 32nd season, has never operated at a deficit.

The 1998-99 campaign goal was \$180,000, but contributions, which included a \$50,000 matching grant, reached \$194,000, said Rich Shelton, symphony executive director.

In 1988, after the first season under music director and conductor James Yestadt, the symphony operated on a budget of \$219,000. "Today, that's \$670,000, or about a 200 percent increase," Shelton said.

In that time, the symphony's total contributions rose by just about the same percentage, he said, with the total at \$282,000, of which last year \$147,000 came from individuals.

Shelton noted that the only negative in the financial picture is that

season ticket sales in that 12-year period dropped by 100 tickets.

"We have to replace those who support us regularly," he said in urging about 60 friends of the orchestra to acquaint their friends and relatives with the symphony.

Meade called the orchestra "a recognized cultural asset" to the West Valley and to the entire Phoenix area.

"What we offer to residents in the Sun Cities, including Sun City Grand, isn't just retirement, recreation centers and golf courses. There is time for music, too," he said, adding, as he handed his check to Leyshon. "I'd like to start this off right now."

Don Pritchett, a former board member at the Recreation Centers of Sun City who heads the formal fund-raising effort, said that in his previous work with Emerson Electric Co. in St. Louis, "they made sure we never had a negative attitude. They made us recognize that 'there is no mountain you can't go up.'"

"Without the symphony, this area would not be as pleasant or as well off (culturally) as it is," Pritchett said, as he urged continued support in the fund-raising effort.

Among upcoming events is the symphony's Sounds of Autumn benefit gala, planned for Nov. 15 at Union Hills Country Club. The event features entertainment by Banjomania, dinner and a silent auction. For reservations, call the symphony office at 972-4484.

10

VF  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Friday, Aug. 27, 1999

# Local Realtor aids symphony

By JEFF OWENS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley scored an administrative victory this month by enlisting the considerable fund-raising abilities of prominent local Realtor Ken Meade.

"Ken is our honorary chairman for the Symphony's annual fund campaign," said Rich Shelton, the Symphony's executive director. "That position is very important to the life of the Symphony, and we know Ken will do a great job for us.

"Ken has been an institution in the Sun City area for many years and we're very pleased to have him as a friend of the Symphony," Shelton continued. "Ken Meade Realty has supported the Symphony for a number of years and has been a visible and generous contributor and supporter."

Meade was invited to take the honorary post by Daily News-Sun Editor Maryanne Leyshon, who heads the Symphony's Board of Trustees.

Don Pritchett heads the Symphony's development committee, which oversees fund raising. He is vice president of the Symphony board.

Meade will back the organization through June 2000.

"This community has been very, very good to Ken Meade and Ken Meade Realty," Meade said, adding



Steve Cherek/Daily News-Sun

Ken Meade, a real estate agent with several offices in the Northwest Valley, will assist the Symphony of the West Valley with its fund-raising efforts.

that his philosophy is to "put something back" into the community.

"That's a feeling that comes from inside," he said.

Meade said he is happy to help the

Symphony even if he can't quite tell his Bach from Beethoven or his Mahler from his Mendelssohn.

"I'm more Louis Armstrong or Woody Herman," he said, chuckling.

**INDEPENDENT**

**March 10, 1999**

## Symphony on target to reach 1999 goals

The Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley moved another step closer this week to reaching its annual fund campaign goal of \$180,000 thanks to an early \$50,000 matching grant and a recent \$10,000 matching grant from two anonymous donors.

The initial \$50,000 matching grant has been matched in its entirety. With a little over \$4,000 of the latest grant matched as of last week, the symphony hit the \$127,180 mark.

Symphony officials are optimistic that the momentum is building and friends of the symphony from throughout the west Valley are rallying behind its "Support Our Symphony" campaign.

Contributions to the campaign fund nearly 50 percent of the symphony's annual expenses, including musicians and conductor salaries, guest artist fees, production costs

such as rental of the Sundome, advertising and administrative costs.

The other 50 percent of revenue is derived from ticket sales.

While the symphony still needs nearly \$53,000 more to reach its goal, the organization's executive director stresses that the long-term solution to dependency entirely on the annual fund drive is to build the symphony's Endowment Fund.

"We hope that more and more of our friends will name the symphony in their wills and trusts, and consider making substantial gifts to the Endowment Fund as gifts that perpetuate this cultural treasure they have so enjoyed over the years here in the Sun Cities," says Richard Shelton, executive director.

Call 972-4484 for additional information or to donate to the symphony.



Elizabeth Reeve-Calley, vice president of Northern Trust Bank in Sun City and co-chair of the symphony's annual fund campaign, gladly joins Richard Shelton, symphony executive director, as the two change the sign that denotes the amount of contributions to this year's symphony fund drive.

## Symphony contributor is named 'Honorary Trustee'

By Marie Scotti

Helene Gumina, a Sun City resident since 1976, was named an honorary trustee of the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association at its Dec. 20 concert, held at the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts. She received a framed certificate and a pendant from Symphony Association Pres. Joe Schoggen. "I'm overwhelmed," Gumina said as she accepted the award.

Gumina and her husband Theodore, who was in the stock brokerage business and is now deceased, have been regular contributors of large sums to support the orchestra.

"Since the orchestra was founded 31 years ago, the bylaws have said, that only the original directors would become honorary trustees," Schoggen told the audience of more than 3,000. "No one has since been so designated, but once in a great while the contributions of an individual are so significant that something extra is needed to recognize them."

The bylaws have been changed noted Schoggen, to allow the Board to honor Gumina whom he called "a very exceptional person and a true friend of the Symphony."

In 1988, Helene and her husband endowed the Associate Concertmaster Chair of the Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley in honor of their friend Ted Dziubek, by contributing \$25,000 to the Symphony's Endowment Fund.



Helene Gumina has been a very special friend to the Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley since 1976. She was recently proclaimed an "Honorary Trustee" of the Association.

In 1996 Helen endowed the Conductor's podium of the Symphony by establishing a Charitable Remainder Trust in the amount of \$100,000. She sponsored concerts for three years.

In 1998, Helen contributed a \$10,000 matching grant to the Symphony's Annual Fund Campaign and \$5,000 to underwrite, in part, the entertainment for the Symphony's fund-raising gala.

Helene is a member of the Stradivarius Society and Golden Baton Circle for her generous support of the Symphony.

Helen says, "I learned all about this classical music after Ted and I moved here and I guess I just keep going at it." The Symphony of the West Valley Proclamation read: "Helene's indomitable zest for life and quintessential spirit have forever endeared her to the Symphony, its Board of Directors and management." She did serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Symphony from 1994 to 1997.

# Conductor founded symphony on impulse

Sun City is the only retirement community in the nation with its own symphony orchestra.

The Sun City Symphony was organized by Jennings Butterfield in 1968.

Early in that year, while living on Cape Cod, Mass., the Butterfields listened to Barry Goldwater on television extolling the virtues of his Arizona, and he mentioned a place called Sun City.

The next morning, Butterfield called the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce and learned that Sun City did not have a symphony orchestra. The Butterfields decided to move to Sun City.

Ed Comins of First Interstate Bank of Arizona directed Butterfield to



Jerry Svendsen, public relations director for the Del Webb Development Co. In May 1968, Svendsen arranged a meeting in the home of Major and Mrs. J.C. Fitzpatrick. Mrs. Fitzpatrick had worked with Louis Kerr of the Kerr Music Center in Scottsdale, and Louise Kerr was an old friend of the Butterfields. A symphony board was organized with Clyde Wells as the first chairman.

After countless hours and miles of travel, Jennings Butterfield managed to recruit an orchestra with players from all over the Valley as well as from the Flagstaff Festival. Musicians from Luke Air Force Base, music students from Arizona State University and members of the Phoenix Symphony augmented local volunteers.

The first concert was given Nov. 24, 1968, in Mountain View Recreation Center Auditorium with a 65-

piece orchestra.

"Best of all, it was a sellout," Butterfield recalled, "because knowledgeable people on the board such as Lois Holler, who had extensive experience with Columbia Artists community Concerts, made it work!"

The concerts were held in Mountain View Auditorium until the Sundial Recreation Center Auditorium was completed. Later concerts were held in the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts, Sun City West, to accommodate the ever-growing audiences.

At the time of the early concert, Clyde Wells recalled having to borrow a truck from Mehagian's TV Center to transport drums from Luke Air Force Base, and for one concert he brought a performer's entire family so the wife would let her husband play!

In 1970, the symphony decided to award scholarships to promising music students from Arizona schools, and in 1978 the scholarships were expanded into the Butterfield Competition for Young Musical Artists. Thousands of dollars were awarded and the winner each year performed as guest artist of the symphony at one of their concerts.

Over the years, there have been renowned guest artists — Jan Peerce, Roberta Peters, Eugene Fodor, Earle Wilde, Leonard Rose, Anna Maria Alberghetti, Richard Stoltzman, Stephanie Chase, Micha Dichter and Dallas Brass, to name a few.

One evening, Don Tuffs, then manager of the 7,000-seat Sundome, announced to a near-capacity crowd that we had the largest symphony audience in the world!

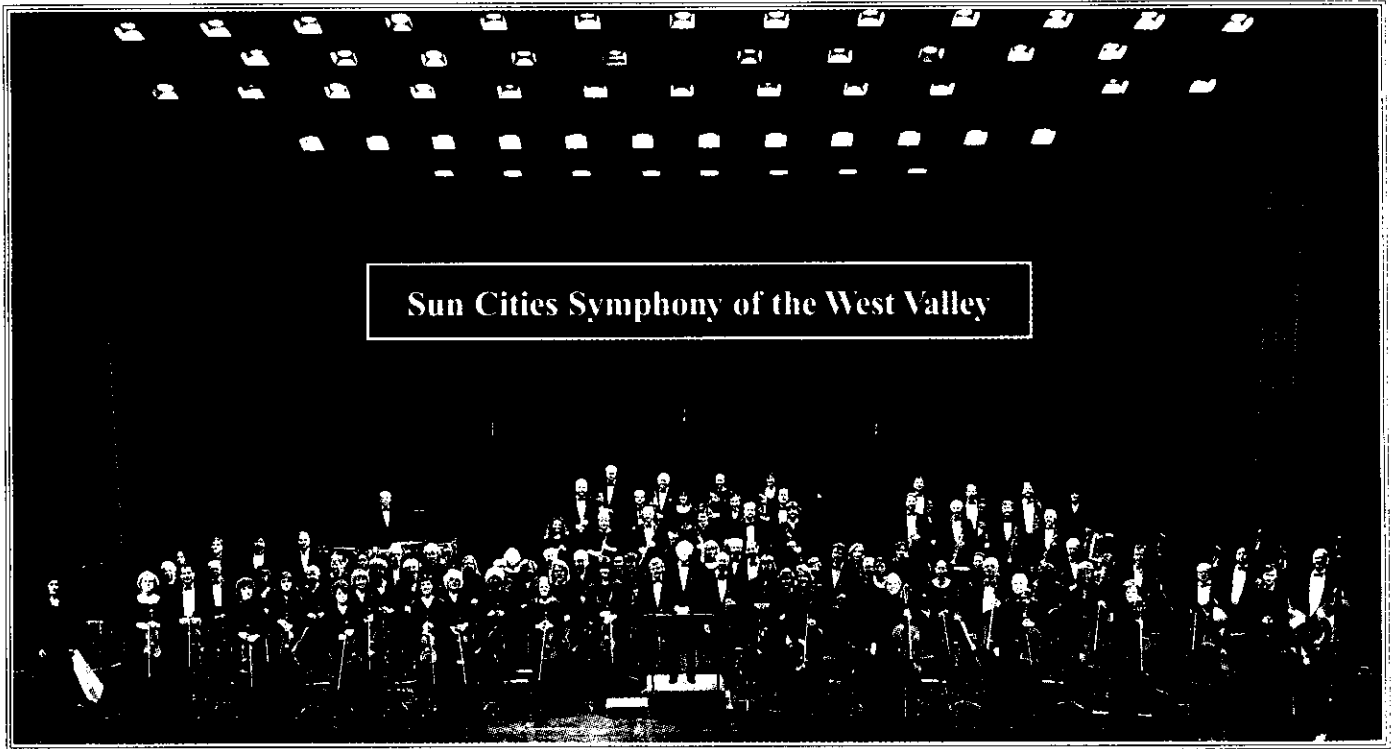
Jennings Butterfield died in January 1982. Dr. Bernard Goodman, who had recently moved to Sun City, became the new director. Goodman had been resident conductor of the University of Illinois Symphony as well as the Champaign-Urbana Symphony. He then resigned to accept an invitation from a nationally known musical group.

The Symphony then engaged Dr. Eugene P. Lombardi in 1983. He was professor of music and conductor of the Arizona State University Symphony Orchestra as well as the monthly "Pops" Concerts at the Phoenix Symphony Hall.

In 1988, James Yestadt became the conductor and continues to hold that position.

*This Down Memory Lane column is drawn from the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.*

SUN LIFE January 1998



Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley

# Symphony Now 30 Years Old, But Not Resting On Its Laurels

by Dick Kemp

*Music has charms to soothe a savage beast, to soften rocks, or bend a knotted oak.*

William Congreve, who penned those words in 1697, would have been aghast at what often passes for music today.

He would be delighted with the Symphony of the West Valley, however. It produces music that is pleasing and affordable – music that begs to be sampled by anyone who has considered, but never attended, a symphony production.

Not that the group plays to empty seats. The average Sundome audience of 3,500 is the largest average indoor atten-

dance of any symphony orchestra in the United States.

On its 30th anniversary, the group and its backers – guided by a 27-member association – intend to increase that average with a variety of fund-raising endeavors.

### A rich history

The Sun City Symphony was founded and directed by Jennings Butterfield, invited to the Valley of the Sun by a friend who hoped to align him with the Phoenix Symphony. Instead, the Butterfields moved to Sun City.

The first concert, December 15, 1968, was attended in (now) Mountain View Auditorium by nearly 1,000 residents.

Performers included Sun City volunteers and paid “imports” from Luke Air Force Base, the Glendale Orchestra, the Flagstaff Symphony and the Phoenix Chamber Group.

The late Jennings Butterfield led the symphony through 1981. He was followed by Bernard Goodman, for one season, and Eugene Lombardi, from 1983-87. James Yestadt assumed direction in 1988.

The group became the Sun Cities Symphony, and in 1996 renamed itself the Symphony of the West Valley to indicate its outreach – including, this season, three concerts in Glendale’s Cactus High School.

OVER

### Annual fund-raising

Ticket sales produce 57 percent of the income needed to sustain the symphony.

An annual fund-raising program, now in progress, produces by far the next largest income block – 28 percent.

These include such events as car raffles, direct mail, an annual ball, business partnerships involving five levels of gifts and benefits, and individual gifts encompassing seven levels.

The non-profit symphony also suggests consideration of endowments and charitable trusts. Funds are currently mounting to meet an anonymous \$50,000 matching grant – largest to date.

### The Symphony Guild

The 335-member Symphony Guild is integral to the group's success, donating at least 1,000 hours of volunteer work last season. Various fund-raisers netted \$14,100.

Current president Elsie Sterrenberg says the guild is planning three important spring events:

- March 26: A mixed-four-some scramble golf contest – “Swing With The Maestro” – at Desert Springs in Sun City Grand.

- April 8: A tea at Palmbrook Country Club in Sun City, with Stacy Momeyer – Miss Arizona and third runner-up Miss America – as guest speaker.

- May 1-8: Disney Magic, land/sea adventure based in Florida.

### Maestro James Yestadt

For 10 of its 30 years, the symphony has been led by James Yestadt (pronounced “yes dot”).

The international talent that

performs with the symphony is a source of pride to the maestro (and a tribute to the group's stature among its peers). In addition to reaching out to the West Valley – a program which includes rewarded competition among area youth, and free concert tickets for needy children – the director has been adding 20th-century music to his selections.

Off-season, he works on symphony administrative programs, walks and golfs, and accepts about a dozen speaking engagements.

A standing joke among the director and colleagues is that his regular push-ups routine is to sustain the arm strength



**PLAYING LEADERSHIP ROLES** with the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association are, from left, Executive Director Rich Shelton, Orchestra Maestro James Yestadt and President Joe Schoggen.

required to wave his baton so vigorously.

*For information on tickets, the Symphony Association or Symphony Guild, call 972-4484. Single ticket sales are \$12, \$16 and \$20, plus a \$1 Sundome surcharge. (Purchased as a series, cost is about 30% less.)*



# Symphony fundraisers set \$200,000 as 1998 goal

## Chrysler convertible raffle, couple's challenge grant to help meet mark

By Marie Scotti

The Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley sponsored a Fund Raiser Kickoff Reception recently at the Metropolitan Club in Sun City. The Symphony Board of Trustees, members of the 1997 Annual Fund Raiser committee and guests were in attendance. Music was provided by Symphony Orchestra principal harpist Paula Provo.

Joe Schoggen, president Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association welcomed the guests. Each season the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association conducts an Annual Fund Campaign to bridge the "gap" of op-

erating deficit between the costs associated with operating the orchestra and revenue generated by season and single ticket sales.

Elizabeth Reeve-Calley, 1997-98 Annual Fund Campaign Chair, reported the campaign goal of \$165,000 has been in-

creased to \$200,000. Donors to the symphony's campaign can help meet a \$50,000 challenge grant provided by a Sun City couple who prefer to remain anonymous. The couple will match \$50,000 in donations.

Calley said, "More than \$90,000 has been raised to date, assuming the anonymous grant is matched. The campaign ends April 15, 1998."

Among other fund-raising options is the raffle of a 1998 Chrysler Sebring Convertible with just 500 tickets offered at

See SYMPHONY, Page B3



Shown at the Sun Cities Symphony Fund-Raiser Campaign are (from l.) Richard Shelton, executive director, Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Assoc.; Elizabeth Reeve-Calley, 1997 Annual Fund Campaign Chair, and Joe Davisson, Annual Fund Campaign Co-Chair. Photo, Marie Scotti

### SYMPHONY: Set \$200,000 goal, from Page B1

\$100 each, reported Joe Davisson, Annual Fund Campaign Co-Chair. Call 972-4484 for tickets.

The Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley is one of Arizona's top professional orchestras. It consists of over 90 professional musicians from throughout the Valley of the Sun, approximately 10 percent of which are professional musicians from major orchestras around the country who are now retired and living in the Sun Cities.

Each season, the Symphony

presents a series of concerts for the residents of the West Valley that includes both classical and popular repertoire. Concerts are offered at The Sundome Center for the Performing Arts in Sun City West on Sunday afternoons throughout the season. As part of the Symphony's community outreach mission, a second series of three repeat concerts is offered in Glendale on Monday evenings.

For more information contact The Sun Cities Symphony office at 972-4484. Donations are tax deductible.



# Conductor reaches out to younger audience

By CHRIS RASMUSSEN  
Independent Newspapers

Once thought of as Sun Cities' orchestra, one west Valley musical group is hoping to stay in tune with the rest of the community.

The Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley is moving into new territory later this month with a series of three concerts in Glendale.

The symphony is celebrating its 30th anniversary in the Sun Cities. Its conductor, James Yestadt, said he hopes these concerts will bring children as well as adults into the classical music spectrum.

”

*After our concerts, the kids will come up and ask about our instruments, like a French horn. Many had never heard a French horn before, but they were very interested in it.*

— James Yestadt  
Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley

“Most people perceive us as a group of tired, old men and women, which is not the case,” he said.

“This is a professional orchestra with members from all over the Valley. Our ages range from graduate students in their 20s to retired people in their mid-60s,” he said.

The concerts, which will take place at the Cactus High School auditorium, begin on Oct. 20 with “Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 2.” French pianist Jean-Philippe Collard will be the guest musician.

The second concert will feature Mozart’s “Concerto for Flute and Harp” on Nov. 24. Internationally

## SUN CITIES SYMPHONY OF THE WEST VALLEY



### Preparing for a new audience

Conductor James Yestadt will lead the Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley in three Glendale concerts aimed at children and adults. Mr. Yestadt has been conductor of the symphony for the past decade.

acclaimed flutist Eugenia Zuckerman and harpist Yolanda Kondonassis will be the guest artists.

The final concert will showcase the talents of cellist Sharon Robinson during the “Saint-Saens’ Cello Concerto No. 1” on Feb. 2.

All concerts begin at 8 p.m.

“We feel this is a great opportunity for some people out there who haven’t been exposed to classical music. It is an experiment (going to other areas), we don’t know if it is going to work or not,” said Mr.

Yestadt, who has led the symphony for 10 years.

“There’s no other classical music outlet in the west Valley,” he said.

The symphony has played for local schools in the past. Mr. Yestadt now hopes to draw a new, younger crowd during the Glendale concerts.

“We want to let the students and younger kids know there is something out there other than the electric guitar,” he said.

“After our concerts, the kids will come up and ask about our instru-

ments, like a French horn. Many had never heard a French horn before, but they were very interested in it.

“It is a real, up-close educational experience for these kids,” he added.

“At first, young people don’t like classical music, but after they hear a performance they love it.”

The orchestra’s concerts typically draw crowds of around 3,500 during regular season performances at the Sundome in Sun City West.

“We are attempting to get 700 to 800 people to support us in the Glendale area. If we can draw an audience this will become an ongoing thing for the community.”

Mr. Yestadt said today’s classical music audience is less rigid than it used to be.

“People think you have to dress up, wear a tie, but that just isn’t the case nowadays,” he said.

Mr. Yestadt said in addition to the orchestra members, concertgoers in Glendale will be treated to the featured world-famous musicians.

“If you went to New York City to see the same artists you would pay three or four times as much,” he said.

Tickets for the Glendale concert series start at \$25. For more information on the series call 972-4484.

The opening concert for the Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley will begin at 3 p.m. Oct. 19 in the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts. Renowned pianist Collard will be featured playing “Rachmaninoff Piano concerto No. 2.”

# Former conductor joins Sun Cities Symphony

By BRUCE ELLISON  
Staff writer

Richard A. Shelton, 47, a retired conductor of several Air Force bands, and current personnel manager at the Naples (Fla.) Philharmonic, has been named executive director of the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra.

Shelton succeeds Carlos Wilson of Sun City West in that post. Wilson had agreed to serve only a few years when hired six years ago.

Shelton will take over his new post Aug. 1. He said in a telephone interview that he has started house-hunting in the Valley, looking initially at the Arrowhead Ranch area of Glendale.

He is no stranger to Arizona, having graduated from the University of Arizona with a bachelor's degree in music. He also played with the Air Force Band in Phoenix and Sun City in 1995, just before he retired from a 24-year Air Force career.

"My last tour with the Air Force band was in 1995 when we played in

downtown Phoenix for a convention of Women in the Air Force," and in Sun City at the Sun Bowl that October, he said.

While in the Air Force, he served as conductor of a number of Air Force bands. He has performed for such dignitaries as President Reagan and Pope John Paul II, and for audiences in Bosnia.

He said "the opportunity to administratively lead a professional musical organization such as the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra is a rare one, one that offers both opportunity and challenge."

"I have always been one to go after the challenge," he said.

Shelton said his former conducting duties may give him a chance for greater rapport with the symphony's current conductor and music director, James Yestadt, "because I have been a conductor and can more easily relate to some of the things he may bring to me as the symphony's executive director."

Among the things Yestadt and Wilson often did together is develop



Submitted photo

Shelton

the program for the following season, which involves both artistic and logistical details and contracts.

The executive director also handles such details as public relations, volunteer coordination, financial

management, personnel and such details as the printing of programs for symphony performances. He runs the office.

Shelton said among the things he will have to tackle is the problem of maintaining an audience base. "How do you get the next generation interested in fine classical music?" is a problem common to many orchestras, he said.

"In the case of the Sun Cities Symphony, the board and officials already have recognized the need for more broad support," both in the age of the audience, and in terms of financial and other means, Shelton said.

"The move to three performances in Glendale in the upcoming season is one way to address those concerns," he said. It brings a younger audience, and somewhat broadens the orchestra, which wishes to be known as "The Symphony of the West Valley," and not just a cultural resource for the retirement community of the Sun Cities area.

"I'm not a senior citizen," Shelton

said, "so maybe I will be a younger voice that plays a role in seeking that more broad support and the move to a more regional — and not local — orchestra."

Shelton joined the Naples Philharmonic in December 1995 after he left the Air Force with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was, at retirement, the senior ranking officer in the Air Force's band program.

He also holds an unprecedented seven Air Force Meritorious Service medals.

Born in Alamogordo, N.M., in 1949, he took an undergraduate music degree from the University of Arizona, and a master of music education from Auburn University.

While in the Air Force, Shelton commanded and conducted several Air Force bands, primarily in the East, but also at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. He has produced and conducted for nationally televised musical programs in the Philippines and Taiwan, and pre-game and half-time shows for the Garden State Bowl Games.

10

**INDEPENDENT**

**June 18, 1997**

## Symphony appoints executive director

### Former Air Force music commander named to fill post

The Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley has appointed a former Air Force music commander as its new executive director.

Richard Shelton of Naples, Fla. has been selected to replace Carlos Wilson, the symphony's first executive director who is now retiring after six years at the post.

Mr. Shelton presently is with the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra. Born in Alamogordo, N.M., he holds a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Arizona and a master's degree in education from Auburn University.

He served for 25 years in the United States Air Force as commander and director of various music commands throughout the United States and in the Far East. Mr. Shelton is the recipient of seven Air Force Meritorious Service Medals, the Air Force Commendation Medal, three Air Force Outstanding Unit Citations and the National Defense Medal with bronze star.

In 1992 he received the John Philip Sousa Foundation's Citation for Musical Excellence for Military Concert Bands and Conductors.

Mr. Shelton has produced and conducted four nationally televised musical productions in Manila, Philippines and Taiwan, as well as televised pre-game and half-time shows for the Garden State Bowl Games at the Meadowlands Stadium.

In 1987, Mr. Shelton was selected to command the Air Force Band of Flight at Wright-Patterson Air



Richard Shelton of Naples, Fla. will be taking over as executive director of the Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley.

Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. In the nearly eight years he held the position, he commanded over 4,300 live performances before audiences totaling more than 13 million in over 600 cities, 13 states and Canada.

Mr. Shelton has also produced 10 compact discs and commissioned over 14 major works for various ensembles. He was selected by the United States Jaycees as one of the "Outstanding Young Men in America" in 1983.

## Symphony, Webb unite for concerts

The Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association is teaming up with the Del Webb Corp. to present a series of concerts and lectures for local elementary school children.

The "Concert For Kids" series is designed to present an ensemble music piece along with an education lecture for fifth- and sixth-grade students in the Dysart Elementary School District.

John Waldron, manager of public and community relations for Del Webb in Sun City West, says the program is designed to get children more interested in playing instruments and having a greater appreciation for music in general.

To that end, Luke, Surprise, El Mirage and Kingswood elementary schools will receive three programs relating to a different instrumental groups.

Those musical families represented from the orchestra include a string quartet, a woodwind quintet and a brass quintet.

Carlos Wilson, executive director of the association, says it is good to be teaming up with Webb to present something both fun and educational.

Each performance will feature solo demonstrations of instruments and performances.

# Summer planning tunes symphony

By BRUCE ELLISON  
Staff writer

SUN CITY — Although the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra schedules no performances during the summer, there's still plenty of work.

Carlos Wilson, executive director of the Sun Cities Symphony Association, and James Yestadt, conductor and artistic director, work as far as two years in advance to plan programs, contract with soloists and handle the other myriad of behind-the-scenes details that ensure a successful, memorable performance season for the 95-member orchestra.

A computer with a musical composition program helps Wilson.

"The music director (Yestadt) has power over artistic matters," Wilson said, "but on many things we work in tandem." Among the joint efforts is securing guest artists and soloists, he said. "We plan the mix, the variety, combining violinists, vocalists and pianists, which seem to be among the favorites in the Sun Cities."

After the two decide what kind of program they would like — and fix performance dates, which need to be OK'd by the Sundome, where the orchestra performs — Yestadt gives Wilson a list of soloists he'd like to lure here and Wilson calls the soloists' managers.

"We get their schedules, their availability, and then I work on something like a giant jigsaw puzzle," Wilson said. "Some artists are available any day we have open, others aren't. Sometimes we have to compromise, switch a program to get an artist."

"We also have to consider what the artists will cost, and arrange things so that overall we stay within our budget."

The symphony tries for a mix of established, respected artists and the up-and-coming newcomers who are making a name for themselves, Wilson said.

It's not easy work, for by the time some artists have been signed on, the schedules of others may have changed.

And artists sometimes cancel after signing to perform. That can happen, Wilson said, "should someone get the chance to perform a 12-city U.S. tour with, say, the Israel Philharmonic."

"You're not happy, but you can understand why they might prefer that to a one-day stand in Sun City."

By the same token, changes by other symphonies may make a truly well-known performer available unexpectedly. That's one reason why the subscription program brochure, like all the previous ones, notes that "all artists and programming (are) subject to change."

Among the soloists signed on for this year's concert series, which begins Oct. 15, are violinist Kurt Nikkanen, guitarist Manuel Barrueco and pianists John Bayless and Lee Luvisi.

The orchestra, Wilson said, "has evolved in its 28 years from a place where talented musicians could find a place to play for their own enjoyment to a level of professionalism where orchestra members have an obligation to a high standard of performance" to paying audiences.

Originally, it was to enjoy one's self in performing, Wilson said, while today it's for the benefit of the public.

About 40 percent of the orchestra's members are residents. The rest come from elsewhere in the Valley.

Some are retired professionals



File photo  
James Yestadt, conductor of the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra, directs the 95-member orchestra. Yestadt works as much as two years in advance to plan the symphony's schedule.

who spent careers in cities supporting major symphony orchestras, while others are "talented amateurs who bring a lot to their performance but have not been employed in music."

Both are welcome, said Wilson, who himself was a professional orchestra manager in such cities as Houston, Denver, San Antonio and Portland, where he worked with the Oregon Symphony. Those groups, he said, have annual budgets in excess of \$10 million.

By contrast, the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra operates on about \$450,000 a year, most of it from ticket sales.

1C

# Orchestra widens base of support

## Aims to include West Valley

By Julia Jones  
Special to Community

SUN CITY WEST — When pianist Joseph Kalichstein plays a return engagement with the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra at 3 p.m. Feb. 26 at the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts, there'll be something new on the program.



■ KALICHSTEIN

Just below the line that reads "Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra," there'll be a new notation, "The Symphony of the West Valley."

It's the same symphony, but one that wants you to know it's there for all the West Valley, said Carlson Wilson, executive director of the orchestra.

"When the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra was organized 27 years ago, it was primarily a volunteer orchestra. The intent was to provide a performance platform for retired musicians," Wilson said.

But over the years, he continued, the orchestra's standards have improved. Sixty percent of the musicians now are recruited from across the Valley. The other 40 percent remain volunteers, but they all must pass stringent auditions.

The addition of that single line of print is a subtle way of letting people know that the organization is broadening its subscriber base.

"We're really a West Valley musical resource. We're here for residents of Peoria, Litchfield Park and Westbrook Village, too," he said.

There's a popular but misguided notion among some potential patrons that facilities in the Sun Cities are open only to residents.

"That's not the case," he said.

Eventually, the symphony hopes to become more mobile. The governing board is discussing the possibility of performing at various school sites.

At the same time, he said, some school leaders have endorsed the idea of special Sundome performances for students.

There's also the newly formed Sun Cities Symphony Woodwind

**"When the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra was organized 27 years ago, it was primarily a volunteer orchestra. The intent was to provide a performance platform for retired musicians."**

**Carlson Wilson**  
Executive director  
Sun Cities Orchestra

Quintet, which has performed in Litchfield Park and Peoria. Wilson thinks that schedule will expand, too, as funds become available.

In the meantime, support for the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra continues packing the massive Sundome for its regular series of six classical concerts.

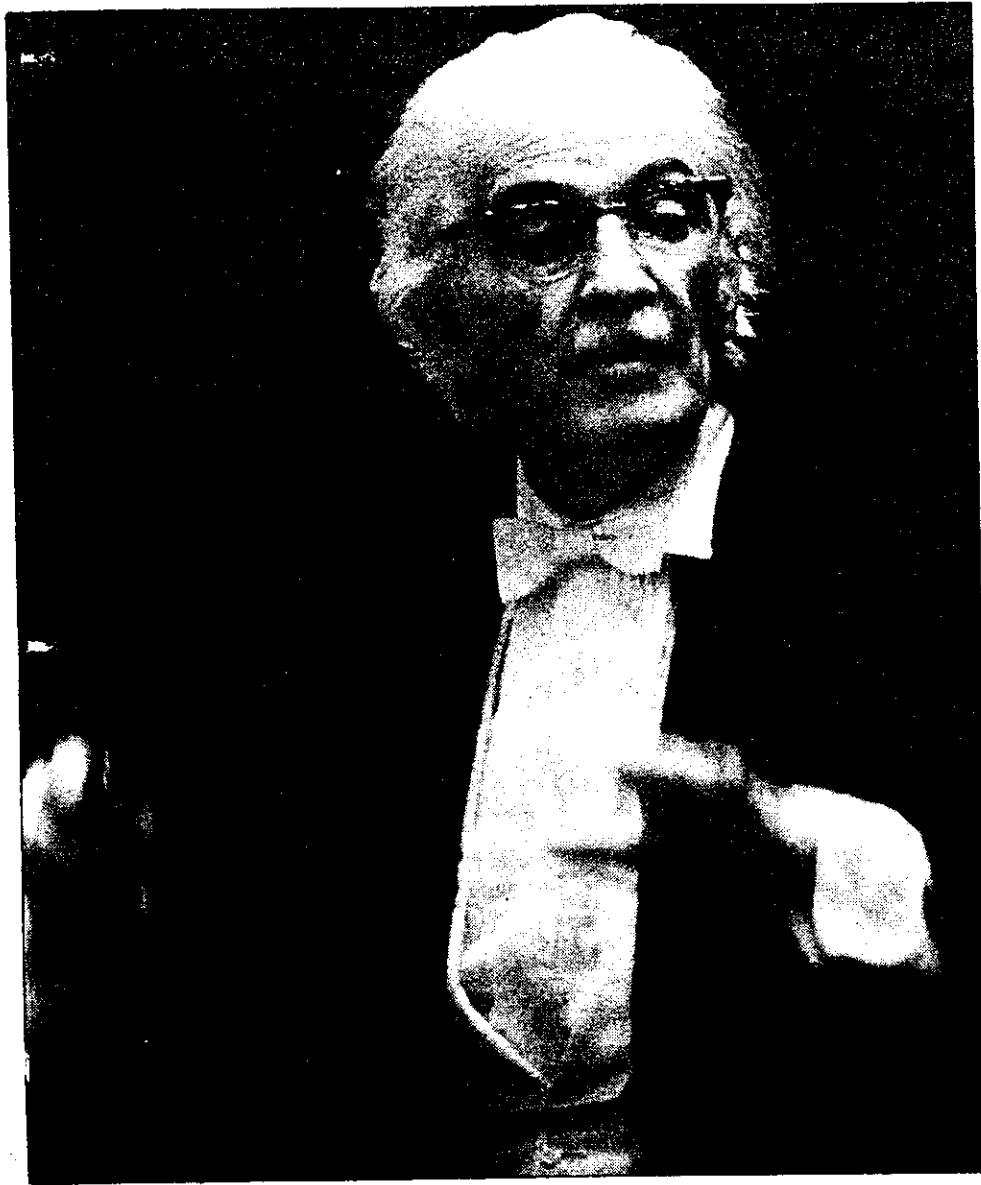
For the Feb. 26 concert, music director and conductor James Yes-tadt and the orchestra will open with Schubert's Symphony No. 8 in B minor (the "Unfinished"), followed by the Suite No. 2 from the ballet "Daphnis and Chloe" by Ravel.

After intermission, Kalichstein and the orchestra will perform Brahms' Piano Concerto in D minor, Op. 15.

Born in Tel Aviv, Israel, Kalichstein attended New York's Juilliard School of Music, and was launched into an international career by winning first prize in the Leventritt International Piano Competition.

He has performed with the Chicago, London, Boston and Vienna Symphony Orchestras, the Cleveland Orchestra and the Berlin, New York, Los Angeles and Israel Philharmonic Orchestras. He has recorded for Nimbus, RCA Red Seal, Vanguard and Erato Records.

Tickets, at \$12 to \$20, are available from the Sundome Box Office at 19403 R.H. Johnson Blvd., or by phone at 975-1900 or from any Dillard's ticket outlet. For more information, call the symphony office at 972-4484.



Jennings Butterfield organized the Sun Cities Symphony in 1968 and served as its first conductor.

# Proud tradition

## Conductor's dream came true

The Sun Cities Symphony's roots can be traced back 25 years to Jennings Butterfield's dream of a retirement-community symphony orchestra.

Butterfield, who died in 1982, was a retired music teacher and orchestra conductor brought to Sun City by Del Webb Corp. for the purpose of assembling such a group.

The conductor advertised in local newspapers and combed Valley college music departments in his search for musicians, turning to Luke Air Force Base for brass and percussion instrumentalists. The symphony's first concert, featuring 65 musicians was Nov. 24, 1968 in Mountain View Auditorium.

Later, the group moved to Sundial Auditorium and in the fall of 1980, to the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts in Sun City West. Yearly season subscription sales now stand at 3,000.

Lois Holler was ticket chairman for the first-year concerts, selling 600 subscriptions. She is "thrilled to have been a part of helping organize that first year," she said.

"We've come so far," she said. "I was watching a special on the New York Philharmonic's history the other day, and it mentioned they're celebrating their 150th anniversary. At their first concert, they had 600 people in the audience.

"It was kind of amusing that we had

---

'We've come so far. I was watching a special on the New York Philharmonic's history the other day, and it mentioned they're celebrating their 150th anniversary ... think how far we can go in 125 years.'

Lois Holler  
ticket chairman

---

that same number our first year and now we're having our silver anniversary — think how far we can go in 125 years."

Other Sun Cities Symphony facts:

■ Following Butterfield's death, conductors were, in order, Bernard Goodman, Dr. Eugene Lombardi and James Yestadt, who is in his fifth year at the helm.

■ Guest artists over the years have included diverse musical talents, from Shirley Jones and Gordon MacRae to Ferrante and Teicher, clarinetist Richard Stoltzman and opera legend Jerome Hines.

■ The symphony association opened permanent offices in 1980 in the Bell Plaza Professional Building.

# Sun Cities Symphony lines up entertainment

**SUN CITY** — The Sun Cities Symphony is tuning up for its 25th anniversary season.

Founded in 1968 by Jennings Butterfield, this retirement community orchestra has grown from a small group of volunteer musicians to a 95-piece symphony orchestra. James Yestadt begins his fifth year as music director and conductor in 1992.

The Sun Cities Symphony presents six concerts a season in the Sundome Center for Performing Arts in Sun City West.

The Silver Anniversary Season begins with violinist Stephanie Chase on Oct. 18. She will play the Tchaikovsky Concerto for Violin, Opus 35. Chase, a medal winner in the 1982 Tchaikovsky International

Competition, has appeared with countless orchestras since she was a child. She started playing violin at 18 months, and was playing for her mother's music workshop before she was 3. An Avery Fisher Grant was awarded to Chase in 1987, and in 1991, she received outstanding praise for her performance with the Phoenix Symphony.

Bulgarian-born pianist Juliana Markova will appear on Nov. 22, playing Grieg's Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, Opus 16. Markova, who began piano lessons as an aid for her classical ballet study, soon chose to concentrate on piano and won competitions in Bucharest, Hungary, and in Paris. She has appeared with most of the major European and North American symphony orchestras, and in 1991, made her first trip to Japan, appearing in Osaka and Tokyo.

## Lettermen concert

The Holiday Pops Concert on Dec. 13 will feature The Lettermen.

Twenty million records and 7,000 concerts ago, three young men in letter sweaters hit the music scene with a soft melodic sound. "The Way You Look Tonight" propelled The Lettermen to "Best Vocal Group" in almost every poll.

The Lettermen theme remains the love song, but the program will



■ LETTERMEN

include many old favorites and holiday specials.

On Jan. 24, the winner of the Butterfield Competition for Young Artists will appear as guest soloist. The competition category for 1992 is piano.

Also on the January program is the Sun Cities Symphonic Chorus. Directed by Gene Hersrud, the chorus will perform "Gloria" by Francis Poulenc with Kay Paschal as soprano soloist. The orchestra also will play the Suite from Haryjanos by Kodaly.

Frank Spinosa, violin, and Ralph Lockwood, French horn, will share guest soloist honors Feb. 28. Spinosa, a professor of music at Arizona State University, is concertmaster of the Sun Cities Symphony, and has appeared as soloist and conductor with numerous chamber music groups and symphony orchestras in the United States and Europe.

Lockwood is studying for a doctorate in musical arts at ASU, where he is professor of music. He is principal French horn for the Sun Cities Symphony, and has performed on piano and organ. Spinosa will play the Concerto No. 1 for Violin by Bruch; Lockwood will play Concerto No. 1 for Horn, Opus 11, by Richard Strauss.

In addition, the orchestra will play Schubert's Rosamunde Overture, Valse Triste from Koulema by Sibelius and the Sorcerer's Apprentice by Dukas.

Jerry Hadley, tenor, returns to the Sun Cities Symphony on April

4, 1993. Hadley has performed with major opera companies including the Metropolitan, Chicago, Covent Garden and Berlin. He is well known for his recording of opera, Broadway musicals and American popular song. He appears often on television shows, such as "Live from Lincoln Center," and was seen in Paul McCartney's "Liverpool Oratorio" when that work premiered in 1991.

The world premiere of a composition commissioned by the Sun Cities Symphony and composed by Chinary Ung, a regents professor at ASU, will be a featured highlight of the April program. Ung has a national reputation; his works have received performances by the Philadelphia; Pittsburgh; Phoenix; Louisville, Ky.; and Tokyo Symphony orchestras. In 1991, he received a commission to compose a piece for the Phoenix, New Hampshire and Honolulu Symphony Orchestras.

Four Dances from the Ballet "Rodeo" by Aaron Copland, and the Russian Easter Overture, Opus 36, by Rimsky-Korsakov, will complete the program.

A special pre-season anniversary gala concert featuring Lorin Hollander, internationally acclaimed pianist, will be held in the Sundome at 3 p.m. Sept. 27. Hollander and the orchestra will play Rhapsodie on a Theme of Paganini by Rachmaninoff and "Rhapsody in Blue" by George Gershwin. Other selections on this special program are Tchaikovsky's Overture Fantasia from "Romeo and Juliet" and "Fanfare for the Common Man" by Copland.

Renewal order forms for season tickets are being mailed to subscribers, who have until May 1 to retain their present seats. Orders for new season tickets are being accepted; seats will be assigned after renewal orders have been processed.

Season tickets for all six concerts are \$30, \$46 and \$61. Season subscribers may order tickets for the Sept. 27 concert with their renewal order; they will receive the same seat assignment as for their season seats. Ticket prices for the anniversary gala concert are \$10-\$15; information is available from the symphony office, 972-4484.



■ CHASE



■ SPINOSA



## Sun Cities Symphony announces 1991-92 season

The Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association has announced its lineup for the 1991-92 concert season and will be selling season tickets until Sept. 20.

The association will sponsor six concerts during the upcoming season. Among those scheduled to perform with the local symphony are a jazz clarinetist, a duo piano team, a brass quintet from Dallas, the 1991 Butterfield Competition winner, a lyric soprano and a violinist.

All concerts are held on Sundays, at 3 p.m. at the Sundome Center for Performing Arts in Sun City West.

Season tickets are \$61, \$46 and \$30 for all six concerts and are available until Sept. 20. Single concert tickets will be sold beginning Sept. 23.

For ticket information, call 972-4484 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

A brief look at the scheduled performers:

■ The opening concert Oct. 20,

1991, will feature duo pianists Wilfred Delphin and Edwin Romain, described by some as "one of the finest piano teams in the world."

■ Richard Stoltzman, acclaimed classical and jazz clarinetist, will be the featured guest artist Nov. 24.

■ A gala Christmas concert with the Dallas Brass will be presented Dec. 8.

■ The 1991 Butterfield Competition winner will perform with the symphony Jan. 19, 1992. The competition, sponsored by the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra, is open to all university and college students in Arizona.

■ Young Mi Kim, lyric soprano, will perform in concert March 1, 1992. Miss Kim recently performed with the Arizona Opera in the role of Cio Cio San in Puccini's "Madame Butterfly."

■ For the final concert of the season, April 5, 1992, violinist Fredell Lack will perform.



### Opening act

The duo piano team of Wilfred Delphin and Edwin Romain, described as "one of the best piano teams in the world" will open the 1991-92 season of the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association. The two will perform Oct. 20 at the Sundome Center for Performing Arts. Call 972-4484 for ticket information.

IC

## Symphony Association names executive director

Carlos Wilson, a resident of Sun City and a former managing director of the Oregon Symphony, has been appointed executive director of the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association.

Mr. Wilson has more than 25 years experience in orchestra management and has worked with major symphony orchestras, including Detroit, Houston, Denver, San Antonio and the Oregon Symphony.

Dale Wood, president of the Symphony Association, says Mr. Wilson's experience will help the 24-year-old organization "forge ahead in areas of development important to the symphony."

"The Sun Cities Symphony is unique in that volunteer musicians make up a large portion of the orchestra and volunteers perform most of the other functions involved in the day-to-day operations of the symphony," says Ms. Wood.

"It's time for us to develop long-range plans and goals that will ensure our symphony's growth in the years ahead," she adds.

Growth will be a top priority for Mr. Wilson. The association intends to increase season tickets and single-ticket sales in addition to stepping up its efforts to secure financial grants from businesses and foundations.



Sun Citian Carlos Wilson has been named the new executive director of the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association.

# Symphony Orchestra Association lists new directors

According to figures published by the American Symphony Orchestra League, the Sun Cities Symphony is the best-attended symphony, concert by concert, in the United States.

"There is no other symphony orchestra that consistently has so many in attendance -- 4,500," says Dale Wood, chairperson for the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association. "We have the capacity to play to over 7,000 at the Sundome.

"We have a large subscriber following, and we are the only symphony, that I know of, that does not receive any government funding. We are supported by corporate and membership contributions."

Community support has been the building block of quality and growth for the symphony.

Sun Cities residents serving on the Sun Cities Symphony board of directors add to the broad gamut of backgrounds and skills represented within the orchestra association.

These include the following new board members:

- Carlos Wilson, who has served as a former executive director of the Denver Symphony Association and managing director of the symphonies of San Antonio, Portland, Fresno and the acting general manager of the Houston Symphony Society.

In 1965 and 1966, Mr. Wilson was acting assistant manager of the Phoenix Symphony; and is past president of the Michigan Orchestra Association.

- William J. Crockett was a career officer in the U.S. Foreign Service for many years.

In his last position with that agency, he was Deputy Under Secretary of State under Dean Rusk.

Mr. Crockett has been a consultant to the U.S. Government and to business in the field of

human relations, publishing *The Human Relations Newsletter*.

- Also serving on the symphony board is John E. Knight. In his career he has been an officer at major banks in Omaha and Lincoln.

He has also served as director of the State Welfare Department of Nebraska and assistant to the governor, as well as chairman of the board of trustees of Nebraska Wesleyan University.

In the Sun Cities he has been active with club and church responsibilities.

- Robert S. Reed, before coming to the Sun Cities in 1986, was president of the Washington Manufacturing Company in Iowa, a metal products fabricator.

He was involved with YMCA development work and on the board of the Iowa Methodist Homes Association.

- Sally Siekmann has long been identified with community-wide music activities in the Sun Cities. She was founder of the Sun Cities Symphonic Chorus and served as assistant director alongside the late Ward Bedford.



DALE WOOD, chairwoman of the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association.

She has been director of the Sun Cities Woman's Chorus, and a member of the Sun City Players and Musicians Club.

- Carl W. Strayer was an executive with United Technologies Corporation, holding such posts as director of pension investments and investor relations.

He was president of Harvard Business School Club of Northern Connecticut, and is currently a member of an investment subsidiary of the Swiss Bank Corporation.

- Wilson H. Yost has been a Presbyterian minister for 41 years, serving congregations in six states, prior to retiring to Sun City in 1986.

He is president of the Sun Cities United Nations Association and a member of the advisory board and teacher for the ASU retirement program.

These new board members join a roster that includes men and women of widely varying business and professional backgrounds.

The Sun Cities Symphony will open its 32nd season on Oct. 21.

Nearly all of the orchestra musicians have played with symphonies in their cities of origin.

Conductor/musical director, James Yestadt, came to the Sun Cities two years ago after a career in New Orleans.

Season tickets are now on sale. Call the symphony office mornings at 972-4484.

# Singers give stunning performance with Sun Cities Symphony concert

SUN CITY WEST — The second concert of the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra on Sunday in the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts offered a popular program somewhat similar to the "Boston Pops" format.

The concert was dominated by two internationally renowned singers, Mimi Lerner and Jerry Hadley.

The Orchestra opened with the "Overture to Phedre" by Jules Massenet.

Later in the program, Mimi Lerner and Jerry Hadley sang excerpts from the third act of Massenet's "Werther," the ninth of his 25 operas and one of his most popular.

In this dramatic scene, both singers unfolded their powerful voices and brought the tragic atmosphere of the original story of Goethe vividly to life.

The deeply felt emotions reflected in their singing was a stunning high point in their performance.

Hadley sang the well-known aria, "La Donna E. Mobile" from the third act of Giuseppe Verdi's "Rigoletto."

This frivolous song of the "Duke" is one of the many arias of "Rigoletto," which established Verdi's fame.

Hadley is one of the leading tenors of our time. He combines a stunning lyric voice of color and nuance, personality, intelligence and style.

He has achieved international acclaim and performs in the world's most prestigious opera houses.



**Frank Oppenheimer**  
Critic's corner

Hadley is a most fascinating interpreter of Italian Bel Canto repertoire — quite unusual for an American born singer, who also was trained in the United States. His warm, vibrant voice gave this aria a brilliant ring.

*"By the ramparts of Seville  
At my friend Lillas Pastia's  
place  
I'm going to dance the Seguidilla  
And drink manzanilla."*

Lerner caught the seductive atmosphere of this famous aria.

Her opulent mezzo soprano is darkly rich and powerful. She has a wide range of pitch and dynamics.

Lerner's voice is a flexible instrument, solid in the middle, with strength in her lower range and a bright brilliant top.

She has technique and her musicianship in generous degree, but what separates her from many other singers of her generation is her ability to

move the listener.

The Orchestra then played the "Polka" from Berich Smetana's opera, "The Bartered Bride."

A true Czech spirit emerges from the whole score as the orchestra relived the cheerful melodious and rhythmic patterns of Czech folk songs and Smetana's love of bold contrasts of color and mood.

After the intermission, the Orchestra played the overture to Leonard Bernstein's comic opera "Candide," which had its world premiere on Oct. 29, 1956. It contains many songs that became famous.

Hadley then sang "Lonely House" from Kurt Weill's folk opera, "Street Scene," which had its premiere in New York on Jan. 9, 1947.

He is equally at home with this form of contemporary opera, as well as with the classics, which has occupied the stage for more than 300 years.

The Orchestra's last number, "Intermezzo" from Enrique Granado's opera "Goyescas," premiered in New York on Jan. 28, 1916.

It is amazing how Maestro James Yestadt succeeded in making the Orchestra a homogeneous body.

He is not only an elegant conductor but a vivacious orchestra educator.

The orchestral pieces were played with verve and musical understanding and the accompaniment of the singers was accomplished with fine feeling for nuance and rhythm.

Now the scene was set for lighter fare, namely songs from "Showboat" by Jerome Kern.

This play is recognized as a landmark in the history of the theater, one that broke ground in steering a course away from lightweight musical comedy and overweight European operetta.

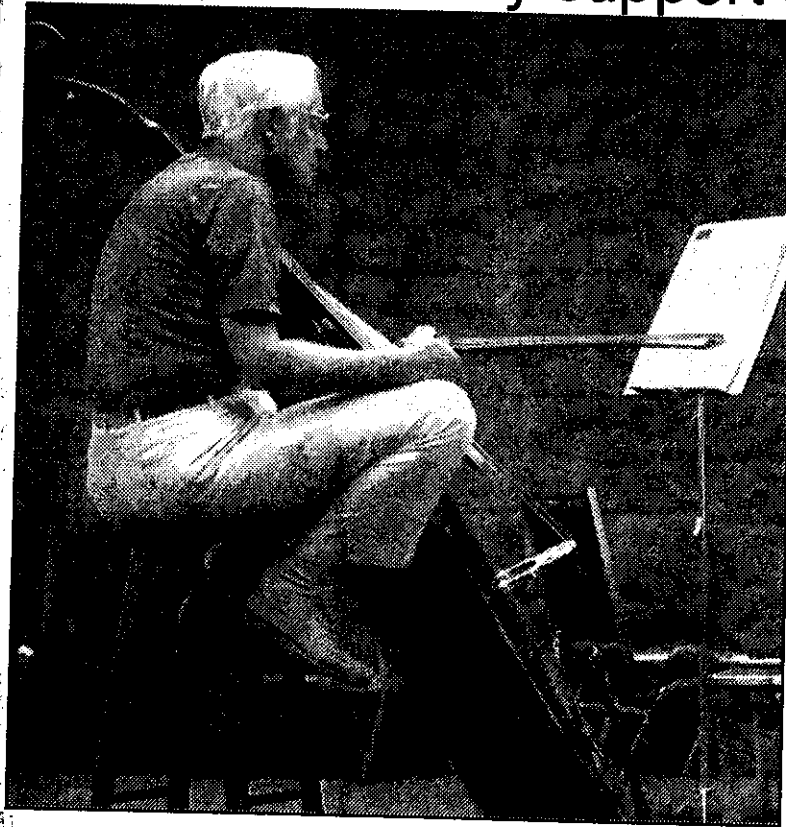
It is acknowledged to be the first successful American "musical play."

Lerner began with the haunting "Bill." With her versatile mezzo voice, she touches the heart. Her expressive projection is a joy.

She and Hadley then offered a magnificent rendering of "Make Believe."

# Sweet melody

## Talent, community support add up to success for Sun Cities Symphony



Walter J. Fandrich plays the string bass during a break in rehearsal.

Peter Schwepker/Staff photographer

By Julia Jones  
Staff writer

### Sun City

In an era when nearly every other performing-arts group in the state is struggling just to stay afloat, the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra basks in almost perfect harmony halfway through its 22nd season.

Two weeks ago, the 91-piece orchestra directed by James Yestadt played to critical acclaim to a crowd of 4,488 at the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts.

"There isn't another symphony in the world that plays to 4,488 seated, paid patrons," says Frederic James, president of the Sun Cities Orchestra Society, the group's volunteer support system.

"I've been in the business all my life," Yestadt says. "I've had three other orchestras. And when you talk about 4,500 at a subscription concert, it is unbelievable. When I write to my colleagues and mention this, they simply don't believe it. So I've been not only surprised but overwhelmed at the response."

Not to mention the performance of the orchestra itself, he says.

"This orchestra now is really a very viable group, with varied and very good backgrounds," he says. "We are able to do concerts with some of the best guest artists available in this country and worldwide, and that alone says something for the orchestra, because these people otherwise wouldn't appear with us. The members give 110 percent all

the time."

And they'll almost certainly draw the same enthusiastic crowd for their next concert Feb. 25, Yestadt says, when the guest artists will be the New York-based Kalichstein-Larado-Robinson Trio, which also has performed with the London Symphony Orchestra and the Berlin Philharmonic, among others. That's Joseph Kalichstein, piano; Jaime Larado, violin; and Sharon Robinson, cello, presenting the Beethoven Triple Concerto.

Handing out credit in the orchestra's success story is sort of like finding the beginning of a rondo. But three themes keep cropping up: talented musicians, a gifted conductor and lots of community support.

About half of the Sun Cities Symphony's members are retired from major or metropolitan orchestras or teaching positions, James says; the percentage places it in the community orchestra category, according to American Symphony Orchestra League stipulations. Other positions are filled by professionals, mainly instructors at various Valley colleges.

"But amateur doesn't mean a bad player," James says, "just as professional doesn't necessarily mean a good player."

"And it's an absolutely excellent orchestra, certainly among the top two or three in the state and probably one of the finest orchestras in the country."

Residents of the Sun Cities are very supportive of the orchestra, he says, so the group "has never gone in the red, has paid every bill on time and doesn't

OVER

See ORCHESTRA, Page 5

# ORCHESTRA

From Page 1

accept one penny of tax money."

"We're completely independent, because we feel that there's no reason some widow in Yuma, with her taxes, for instance, has to pay for our people in the Sun Cities to hear an orchestra," James says. "We run a third of a million dollars a year business with just one half-time employee, a secretary."

Tickets to the five-concert season run from \$44 to \$22, definitely in the modest range, he says.

But the real credit, James says, has to go to conductor Yestadt, who is in his second season.

"Attendance has improved remarkably, and the quality of the orchestra has improved dramatically," says James, a retired minister who describes his own musical prowess as having the "glory of being the 15th clarinet out of a 14-chair section back in Scarsdale, N.Y."

"Our conductor here is that happy combination of a superb conductor and a fine teacher."

W. Bob Roberts of Sun City,

principal trumpet, concurs. Of 15 principal chairs in the orchestra, five are Sun Cities residents.

"I've played under a lot of famous conductors, of whom many were excellent and many were simply famous," Roberts says, "but I've played under only a handful that I've really treasured, and this Sun Cities man is one of them. He's a master musician."

Roberts, who is in his late 60s, is a free-lance orchestral musician, one of a vanishing breed. He played in New York's Radio City Music Hall for 22 years, he says, and with the CBS television studio orchestra for 12 years. He recorded with Andre Kostelanos, Morton Gould, David Rose and the Boston Symphony, and when he first retired to Sun City, he played for the big-name acts in the Sundome, names such as Andy Williams, Juliet Prowse and Tony Bennett.

Now, he says, he teaches at Rio Salado Community College, books his one-man acts, one of which is "Music and Memories of the Radio City Music Hall," plays at dozens

of churches and maintains a discipline of twice-daily practices to stay at the top of his form.

"The main thing is, if you still enjoy playing," Roberts says.

For some, playing with the Sun Cities Symphony is a chance, finally, to play as much as you want.

"Music is really almost a job with me now, except that it's so much fun, I don't really think of it that way," says 65-year-old violinist Ernest Liden, who retired to Sun City from the Chicago area, where he had taught history at the college level.

All during his teaching career, and also as an undergraduate, he says, he'd meet with faculty members for a little plain-and-fancy music making.

"Yes, I guess I might have preferred music as a career, but competition in classical music is very intense," he says, recalling a recent notice that 50 had tried out for one spot as second-position violin with an orchestra that was not top-ranked.

"And the pay is not all that wonderful," he says, "not that teaching history is all that high-paying, either."

Now, in addition to a regular Monday morning practice for the Sun Cities orchestra's strings, Liden slips in solo practices while his wife, Bette, is at dancing class.

But the orchestra couldn't do what it does, Liden says, without the support of the orchestra guild and society.

"Musicians are, by and large, just musicians, not business people," Roberts says.

"And if it weren't for people like Fred James, people behind the scenes who do all this work for nothing, we wouldn't have an orchestra. They're the ones who get the audience and provide money to pay the bills."

Part of the payoff in being a volunteer is getting to attend rehearsals, James says, happily: "It's just like taking a lesson. We all need that; we're not the Chicago Symphony, you know."

# Gratitude helped mold Butterfield Musicales

By CAROL ANN GAINER  
News-Sun Staff

SUN CITY — The Jennings Butterfield Musicales began as a thank you gesture.

The 10-year annual series of chamber music programs, named after the late founder of the Sun Cities Symphony, was Butterfield and wife Lillian's way of showing their appreciation to the Sun Cities Art Museum.

"They — various sections of the orchestra, not the entire group — first practiced upstairs in the studio," said Mrs. Butterfield, pointing to the second floor of her Sun City home. "We then asked the museum if we could practice in their building after hours."

At that time, the Sun Cities Art Museum was a satellite of the Phoenix Art Museum. It was at 97th Avenue and Bell Road, where Merrill Lynch Realty now has offices.

"So we thought, 'What could we do for the museum in return?'" said Mrs. Butterfield. "We decided on chamber concerts."

Although the idea, she said, "came from the man upstairs," she and her husband were the driving forces behind the program.

Butterfield directed and organized the concerts, which were initially comprised of symphony members. Because of his musical connections around the Valley, Butterfield eventually obtained other groups from outside Sun City.

Together, the Butterfields helped finance the concerts. "To not charge, you can ask musical unions (the Phoenix Federation of

Musicians) to help. They pay half the expenses," said Mrs. Butterfield. "We — Jennings and I — paid the other half."

The first concert drew 25 people. Now, said Mrs. Butterfield, between 125 and 150 people attend.

Its growth isn't because the one-hour, informal programs are free to the public, said the Rev. Sidney G. Menk, chairman of the Jennings Butterfield Musicales Endowment Fund Committee. "People have to like that kind of music. The fact that it was free was a bonus."

And, Mrs. Butterfield says, "the museum benefited from it, too. People who never attended the art museum came to the concert, and while they were

**The musicians, they're crazy. They want to come back. They think we're the best.'**

there they'd look around at the art on display. And the fact that we're associated with the museum has helped us."

Bill Austin, Sun Cities Art Museum curator, agreed that the concert was advantageous. "It's always been a very strong asset to the museum because it's kept us in the eyes of the public. And it's very professional, a very esthetic experience."

"Ideally speaking, it made a nice combination: art and music. It was a practical marriage because they had to have a place to rehearse and the museum had the

space. And we're proud to sponsor them."

But when the Sun Cities Art Museum withdrew from the Phoenix Art Museum, there was no place for the musicians to practice. "And when the new museum was built, it was small and didn't have room for us," said Mrs. Butterfield. "So in 1979, my husband asked the Rev. James Reaves at All Saints of the Desert Episcopal Church in Sun City to hold the concerts at the church."

They have remained there since and continue to be sponsored by the museum.

It was also during that time that they began engaging out-of-state musical groups to perform.

"They used already-existing groups that didn't need to rehearse," said Menk. "They rehearsed on their own."

Two things didn't change: the schedule and the purpose.

The series of five concerts continue to be held at 3 p.m. the third Thursday of the month from October through March, except December. By holding them in the afternoon, they do not prevent or interfere with evening functions.

They remain an hour in length, so the audience won't get "squirmy," said Mrs. Butterfield, who has attended all but one program.

In that hour, their purpose is accomplished. They present quality programs that are both entertaining and educational.

"All these performers tell the audience about their instruments and have them ask questions," Mrs. Butterfield said. "There were people who didn't know

about instruments, and over the years they've learned."

So have many Valley school-children. "The welcome mat is out to children in public schools interested in music," said Mrs. Butterfield. "The ones that responded mostly were from the Peoria schools."

But Menk said, "As far as the children are concerned, it's not the goal, but a by-product. The object is to perpetuate the medium itself."

When Jennings Butterfield died in 1982, the onus of raising funds fell on Mrs. Butterfield.

"Frankly, I was proud of the work that Jennings had done. And when he passed on, people called me and wanted me to carry on," she said.

She succeeded in raising funds annually, which she said came mostly from individuals.

"By now," said Menk, "it (the musicales) was established and appreciated by the community to be a permanent memorial to Jennings Butterfield and his wife. But Lillian wouldn't be able to continue to raise the funds forever by herself, so in January 1985 a committee was formed to raise an endowment fund to assume these programs in the future."

The idea was conceived in 1984 by Mrs. Butterfield and former museum president Spencer Earnshaw and tagged the Jennings Butterfield Musicales Endowment Fund. Both of them are on the committee: she is the Girl Friday and he is in charge of publicity.

"The fund gives the musicales continuity," said Mrs. Butter-

field. "Persons that contribute to the endowment are not for the present, but for the future."

And as Menk said, "It has certain cultural and spiritual values for people."

Even with the fund, people are still sending checks in, said Butterfield, "which are added to the fund."

While the fund — which totaled \$29,000 in early 1987 — means financial insurance for the musicales, she and Menk said that doesn't mean they can rest easy. Their main objective of sustaining quality programs is as important as the endowment. They have a reputation to uphold, they agreed.

That is why "we critique every show," said Menk, "and since we have no contractual arrangement with the church, we have to get our schedule in ahead of time, so it won't conflict with their agenda."

So when the last program of the 1986-87 season ended in March, "we started working on the 1987-88 series," said Mrs. Butterfield. "We should have it in shape this month."

Some programs, as others in the past, will feature groups who

have previously performed at the musicales.

"All the groups we've had — like Quintessence and Southwest Brass — come back," said Mrs. Butterfield. "The musicians, they're crazy. They want to come back. They think we're the best."

And the best, she said, is what she believes the musicales present and represent. As for the future, she would like to see the series eventually return to the Sun Cities Art Museum.

That goal is shared by Austin, who said, "We'd love to have them here, but it wouldn't be fair to the people because of the space limitations now. Right now, the program has 'outgrown' the present space we have — because of the large audience they draw."

"Before we broke ground, the overall view of the museum was that it be built in four phases, which includes an auditorium for musicales, lectures. And it makes sense since the museum sponsors the musicales."

Wherever they wind up, Mrs. Butterfield said she'll continue to promote them because "it's harmonious, a joy. It's the most smooth sailing I've ever had."

OVER

Below left, Lillian Butterfield admires a portrait of her late husband, Jennings. The Butterfields helped bring chamber music programs to Sun City by forming the Jennings Butterfield Musicales. Below right, Mrs. Butterfield and the Rev. Sidney Menk leaf through a book of musical history. Menk is the chairman of the Jennings Butterfield Musicales Endowment Fund Committee.  
(News-Sun photos by Stephen Cherne)





PHOTO BY JIMMY GREEN

# Bon appetit

## Sun Cities Symphony pleases with favorite musical dishes

By MARY JO PITZL  
Arizona Republic Staff

Musically speaking, there's no spinach forced on the audience at the Sun Cities Symphony.

Which means no avant-garde musical entrees.

The symphony's chief menu planner, conductor Eugene Lombardi, says the orchestra's audience is past the days of being told, "This is the spinach, and you all ought to have it."

"In no way am I trying to educate the audience," said Lombardi, who has been the symphony's conductor and musical director since 1983. "That audience has heard all that it wants to hear. So now what they want to do is enjoy."

With that in mind, Lombardi draws his musical selections from the baroque, classical and romantic periods.

"After a while, you feel you're moving down a very narrow path," he said. "It's not that narrow, except you can't veer off. You can't stick a foot out."

The symphony, finishing its 18th season on April 6, consists of 85 to 95 members, depending on the type of composition being played. Two-thirds of the musicians are retirees from the area; the remainder are paid professionals.

The mix of retirees and working professionals depends on

which openings are available.

For example, Lombardi said, in past years the combination has been closer to half and half.

"We want anybody that performs to inquire about becoming a member of the orchestra. This organization exists for them."

The Sun Cities Symphony is the the only retirement-community orchestra that he knows of in the nation, Lombardi said. That distinction — being based in a retirement community and drawing musicians from it — has attracted international attention.

The symphony has been invited to play in Innsbruck, Austria, in July at the annual convention of the International Society of Music Educators. The symphony's unique composition and history dovetail with the convention's theme of "Music for a Lifetime," Lombardi said.

Because of the cost of sending the full orchestra, a 32-member ensemble will represent the symphony. The chamber group will present its convention program in a June 29 performance at the Sundial Auditorium in Sun City, just before leaving for Austria, Lombardi said.

Lombardi is a professor of music at Arizona State University and conducts the university's symphony. A Valley resident for

30 years, Lombardi said he is surprised and impressed at the growth of the Sun Cities Symphony.

The group was founded in 1968 by the late Jennings Butterfield.

"I never dreamed it would grow to the extent it has and to have the demands it has," he said.

"It's an outlet for people who do play, and it provides work for the professional musician. It also takes care of the needs of concertgoers."

In addition, Lombardi said that the existence of the symphony is a major factor in some retirees' decisions to move to the Sun City-Sun City West area.

The symphony rehearses twice a week — Tuesday afternoons and Thursday evenings — during concert season, which runs from September to April.

The "imports," as Lombardi calls the non-retiree musicians, join the symphony for the final two rehearsals before a concert.

The Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association has launched ticket sales for the 1986-87 season, which will feature five concerts.

Season ticket prices are \$20, \$30 and \$40. More information is available at 972-4484.

OUER



Pete Peters/Republic

Eugene Lombardi, the conductor of the Sun Cities Symphony, displays some of his form during rehearsal at All Saints of the Desert Episcopal Church, 9502 Hutton Drive, Sun City. A professor of music at Arizona State University, Lombardi says, "I never dreamed it would grow to the extent it has and to have the demands it has."

# Curtain Calls

By CAROL ANNE GAINER



It wasn't until conductor Ted Dziubek came to see me one day with a press release in hand regarding the Sun City Pops Orchestra that I remarked, "Whatever happened to the Pops Orchestra? It seemed to have disappeared into thin air."

There was more than a ring of truth to my words. After what looked to be a successful public debut for the 32-member group in January 1984, which introduced a three-concert series, plus a performance at last year's Mother's Day concert at the Sun Bowl, the orchestra was not to be heard from again.

But the group hadn't disappeared; just gone into a sort of musical hibernation.

Why?

It seemed to have such promise. There appeared to be a lot of interest in the community. The music was an invited change from—though not meant as a replacement for—the heavy classical music provided by the Sun Cities Symphony.

And, to top it off, proceeds from the Pops concerts benefitted the Symphony.

Why, then, did the Pops, which gave us lighthearted classical melodies, diminish before the public eye?

It was, perhaps, for the simplest of reasons: lack of support. Not support in the sense of poor attendance. Rather it was the support that buoys many of the organizations in the retirement communities and keeps them thriving—a community backbone.

As Dziubek, whose frustration equaled mine, explained it, "There has to be an organization of people dedicated to this cause and who have a strong belief in it. There's an obligation to promote it."

In 1983, when Dziubek first approached me with the information that a Pops orchestra was being formed, I jumped at the chance to write the story, and promote it to the public. Dziubek and I saw eye-to-eye on the exciting possibilities of such a musical group, as well as the need and want for it.

But one writer and one conductor could not do it all.

"Actually I was the whole thing except for the Early Birds Lioness Club, who took on promotion, selling and handling of tickets and also were usherettes," Dziubek stated. "They took on the entire financial end, a very important asset of any organization."

This year, the orchestra's Mother's Day appearance is being financially and promotionally backed by the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

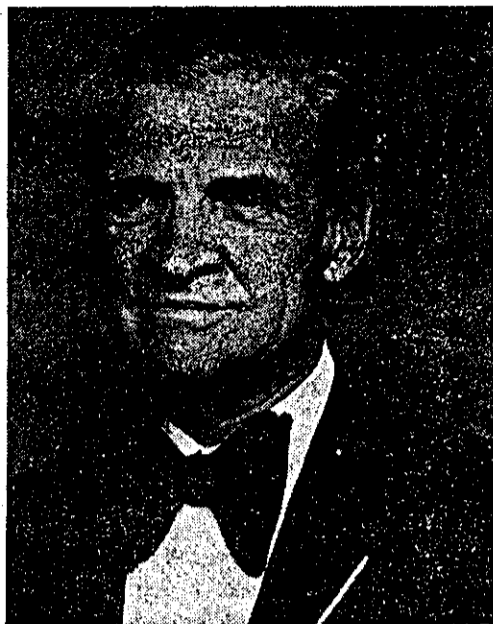
Dziubek appreciates such sponsorship but still feels the community should get more personally involved. "It's an idea that needs the help of the community because it's cultural and we need the culture."

Culture, though, doesn't always have to be strictly highbrow in nature. Musically, we all have our preferences: Some people go for the intellectual, intense classical strains while others tend toward the lighter, more playful classics.

True is the saying "Variety is the spice of life," for I enjoy a little of both. And there is room for both.

A community shouldn't have to choose between one or the other. Why, just look at Boston! They have the best of both worlds.

"The reason it's been a success is its conductor," said Dziubek. "(The late) Arthur Fiedler was a professional musician—I played under



TED DZIUBEK

him—who knew his music and was never given proper credit.

"He proved to the whole country that pops was very important through its popularity and exposed another type of classical music to a lot of people who would never hear this music otherwise."

So why not the same thing in this community?

"The real problem comes in understanding symphonic music," stated Dziubek. "Most of us don't have the musical education to understand it. So in order to balance, we've got to offer something the people will enjoy and understand."

That, in turn, creates a domino effect. As Dziubek best explained it, "By attending Pops concerts people can discern the difference in the performances and the compositions, such as a waltz, march or light operetta, and also to elevate their understanding of music and become more knowledgeable. They will be then seeking more meaningful music, in the symphonic line."

Past attendance at the Sun City Pops concerts indicates that the audience is out there and willing to listen. Ah, but they need to do more than just listen or complain when the music is no longer available to them!

"People are asking for the Pops but they're not willing to do their part. They can't sit back and expect it to happen by itself," Dziubek stressed. Yet he thinks the people are out there who can give of their time, experience and desire, without being ego-seekers.

If further incentive is needed, consider this: You'll get something back in return—the pride and satisfaction that comes from participating in a project of this caliber in which you can demonstrate your abilities.

It's a lot like the new Sun Cities Art Museum. A lot of blood, sweat and tears went into that effort but today it is a reality and a source of much pride and joy.

The Pops once breathed life; it can do so again—and give surrounding communities a perpetual "pop" in the musical arm. But it can only do so with interested patrons—not just residents of the Sun Cities but anyone in the Valley—rallying to the cause.

It would be a shame to let something beautiful die. Consider what the world would be like without music. A very quiet place.

# Early volunteers helped make SC Symphony successful group

By JEANNE STUCKWISH  
Staff Writer

"Just go to the Sundome on a symphony night," says Lois Holler, "and it becomes immediately apparent how popular the Sun City Symphony has become."

Some of that popularity is due to Mrs. Holler's early efforts.

Her reputation preceded her arrival in Sun City in 1968.

For 20 years Mrs. Holler was with Columbia Artists Management, working for the Organized Audience Division. She explained: "Organized Audiences

## Related story, C12

are community concerts, a wonderful plan for bringing the biggest and brightest artists to smaller cities throughout the United States."

**THERE WAS** no doubt she knew how to organize a concert and get subscribers. She was ready for an important role in the first success of the Sun City orchestra, organized in 1968 by its first conductor, Jennings Butterfield.

Butterfield recruited a 65-piece orchestra of players from all over the Valley, at the same time asking a few people to help with the myriad details of getting started.

There were around 15 members who made up the initial Symphony Concert Association, with Clyde Wells serving as the first chairman of the board.

**ON NOV. 24, 1968,** Butterfield led his pulled-together orchestra in a premier concert before a full house in Mountain View Auditorium.

A lot of the credit for that full house goes to Lois Holler.

Boxes were still unpacked at her new Sun City home in 1968, when the Symphony Concert Association board invited her to be a member—and chairman of subscriptions.

"I AM SO glad I did it, because it was a wonderful way to get acquainted. It was just plain fun for me," she recalled.

"I just began to telephone. And I was fearless. I went down the telephone book. I can't remember that I called Del Webb, but if he was in the D's, I called them all.

"My plan was to organize just the way I did the community concerts. They work in a very special and successful way.

"I ORGANIZED committees and made captains. I managed to gather together a committee of about 100 people to work on the subscriptions," she said.

She made each captain responsible for nine other people. "The number of workers should be related to the number of subscribers we need," she explained. "For instance, if we wanted 2,000 subscribers, we needed 200 workers. We averaged about 10 subscriptions per worker. Some would bring in a lot, some would bring in a few. We had a goal, and we met it."

She stayed as chairman of the committee for four years.

**IN THE EARLY** days, she also used her extensive background to assist the association in signing artists for the concerts.

The detailed records Mrs. Holler kept for each worker and the mounting paperwork involved in contracts and other business went into permanent offices in the Sun City Professional Building in 1980.

"The treasurer works up at the office almost all the time," she said.)

**THE DETAILED** records were full of information: captains' names; their workers; number of subscribers each one brought in; as much information as possible on subscribers; who was on the committees being formed so that the following year, things would be ready to go. It was easier then to fill in for those who had dropped by the wayside.

Mrs. Holler stressed the fact that the symphony has never asked for nor received any government grants. The organization depends on season ticket holders, memberships and corporate grants.

The first few years of the Symphony Concert Association were almost exclusively devoted to Mrs. Holler's plan to get subscribers. The more successful she and her committee were, the more successful the orchestra became. The money raised went into coffers for celebrities.

The programming goes through the board's artists committee, on which Mrs. Holler has also served for many years.

**THIS YEAR** the symphony's concerts are varied in the type of music presented.

"The association is deferring to people who enjoy lighter music as well as the heavy classics," Mrs. Holler said, "so classical and easy-listening music are on the programs of the five concerts."

Beethoven to Bach has been heard and in April, popular artist Florence Henderson will make a guest appearance. "Her

reputation is favorable to the lighter music. But she can do both and I think she will," said Mrs. Holler. "We have some wonderful ideas ahead for the light music, as well as for the classics."

**BUT SHE** remarked that it is interesting the artists themselves prefer playing classical music—and that it is not a unique situation here.

"In every concert situation I visited for 20 years I have had that confrontation between the purists, and shall I call them the impurists—the relaxed people who wanted the lighter music. So that will never get settled. But each one of us has to defer a little bit to the other fellow," she reasoned.

"We can't have only heavy classics if we want everybody to come to the concerts, and we need everybody to come. So now that we recognize this, we are making a serious effort to bring a variety of music to the audience."

**THE PEOPLE** who work on the performers' contracts sometimes have their work cut out for them. There are artists whose contracts are so difficult it is almost an impossibility to work with them. That is another area where Mrs. Holler's previous ex-

perience comes in handy.

There are committees that work on the history of the symphony, membership and nominations, corporate contributions, ticket sales, orchestra relations, equipment, transportation and hospitality for visiting artists, insurance, programs, publicity, special events and innumerable things that must be done by volunteers to insure a successful season.

Mrs. Holler is the only one of the original board members of the Symphony Association who is still an actively participating member and she rarely misses a meeting.

**WHEN THE** Symphony Guild was formed about five years ago, she was right in there pitching as a charter member. She still works hard at anything that needs doing.

The symphony board is the business end of the Sun City Symphony Orchestra.

"The first year, we were \$600 in the red, and a sugar-daddy came forth and saved us," she remembered. "The next year we made it up and we've been in the black ever since. I think that's a wonderful record for a symphony. Now it is a big business and there are about 30 members on the board."

# New conductor recounts ideas

Although the first performance of the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra isn't until November 6, new conductor, Eugene Lombardi is already making plans.

"I'm interested in continually improving and upgrading the music," Lombardi said.

He said he would like to perform some of the better-known symphonies and overtures of all periods "because in the past they haven't had much and he thought it would be nice."

He mentioned such pieces as Bordin's Second Symphony and the Mendelssohn Reformation Symphony.

"I want the people playing to enjoy it to the fullest and to be exposed to music they've heard all

their life," he said. "And I also want to give the people in Sun City the music they want to hear."

He added that there won't be any major changes in the style the music is played. "I don't believe there are different interpretations of the same music," Lombardi said. "The notes are the same, and I'm not going to make any drastic changes." One change that will occur, however, will come with the addition of a symphony chorus. "Now we'll be able to do literature that utilizes a need for choral works," he said.

"It isn't something you can do for pick-up work," he added. "It will be an organized chorus with its own identity (Sun City

Symphony Chorus), and I hope to utilize them each year."

Lombardi, who is a professor of music and violin at Arizona State University and conductor of the University Symphony Orchestra, was chosen as the Symphony Orchestra's conductor earlier this year.

He performed with the Phoenix Symphony for 19 years—eight of those years as concertmaster. He also conducted for the Peoples Pop Concert every month for 12 years.

Auditions for the Sun City Symphony Orchestra will be in September. Interested musicians should contact the symphony office at 972-4484 and ask for an audition sheet.

News - Sun Times. 4/28/83  
View - 3

# Players to perform thank-you

The Sun Bowl will observe May Day with music—a Sun Cities Symphony Pops Concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, with a 30-piece orchestra directed by Ted Dziubek.

Concertmaster will be Frank Spinosa, concertmaster of the regular symphony orchestra.

Vocal soloists will be Quillian Ditto and Byron Healy, who also will sing one duet.

The concert is a "thank you" from the orchestra and the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association board of directors for community support. The event also is sponsored by the rec centers board.

George Blaesi, SC Symphony Orchestra Association president, will open the program.

Mrs. Ditto will sing *Vienna, My City of Dreams* by Siczynski and Healy will sing *If I Loved You* by Kaufman.

The two will sing *Sweetheart* from the operetta, *Maytime*.

The orchestral part of the program will include Anderson's *A Trumpeter's Lullaby*, Offenbach's *Ballet Parisienne*; Anderson's *Plink, Plank, Plunk*; *Sound of Music*; excerpts from Bizet's *Carmen*; and another Anderson selection, *The Waltzing Cat*.

Members of the Symphony Guild will be on hand to take orders for season tickets for next year, when the orchestra will be led by its new conductor, Eugene Lombardi of Arizona State University.

If the weather is bad, the concert will be moved to Sundial Auditorium.



Rehearsal: Byron Healy, at left, practices vocal solo he will sing in the Sun Bowl, while Ted Dziubek, right, conducts the Sun Cities Symphony Pops Orchestra for its thank-you appearance.



Soloist: Quillian Ditto, soprano, also will appear at the concert in the Sun Bowl and rehearses with the rest of the musicians.

IG

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1982

## DOUBLE takes

by Evelyn Barber



I ADMIRED Jennings Butterfield, not only for his creativity, but for his gracious manner and his unflagging optimism. He never forgot to say "thank you" or to give praise for a job well done. His comments on the Sun City Symphony Orchestra's December concert express in his own words the great love he felt for the "child" of his creation. He wrote:

"I thought the Sun City Symphony sounded wonderful tonight. They played a very demanding program, made even more demanding by performing with the renowned cellist, Leonard Rose. It was a magnificent thing.

"The orchestra has indeed come a very long way since those early days in November 1968 when we gave our first concert. Of course, I haven't been hearing them at rehearsals this season, but it seemed to me that they sounded better than ever. We have a fine new conductor in Bernard Goodman—and the orchestra is obviously responding beautifully to his direction. I couldn't help being very proud of them all.

"I do, of course, miss seeing all those lovely people every week. But it makes me very happy to know that they are continuing to grow, and that they are in good, strong hands."

Our social events writer, Loraine Towne, allowed me to use this lovely "review" by Jennings, as well as a note he wrote to her which illustrates his philosophy of life:

"Yesterday's experiences are but a prelude to tomorrow's opportunities and challenges. I am about to embark on three new projects, two of which are in the field of music, and one very important one non-music. Lillian and I never look back—we only look forward."

Where Jennings Butterfield's life touched others, there always was love and joy.

# Sun City Symphony founder dies

By Thomas Goldthwaite  
Leisure and Arts Editor

Jennings Butterfield, 81, died on New Year's Day at his home in Sun City. The cause was not known.

He had been the conductor of the Sun City Symphony from its founding until his retirement from the podium last spring.

His passing closes a chapter in the musical life of the 50,000 residents of Sun City and in the general musical climate in the Valley.

Butterfield founded the Sun City Symphony shortly after he moved here from Massachusetts in 1968, where he founded and conducted the Cape Cod Symphony.

His accomplishments won the respect of Valley musicians, and his authority as musical arbiter for the Valley's west side became a formidable challenge to several competing organizations that looked longingly at the large audiences he attracted.

Lois Holler, an honorary member of the symphony's board of directors, said of Butterfield and the founding of the symphony, "Those were hard-working years, and he was our guiding spirit. I feel that his passing is the end of an era. It was a time of creativity, courage and faith. Jennings Butterfield epitomized that spirit."

He would never allow a strictly professional membership in his orchestra. For years his players performed without fees, except for the imported talent he needed.

Under Butterfield's direction, the orchestra grew to 80 members, including 20 active and more than 40 retired professional musicians.

He drew on local professional and amateur players to supplement the sections in the orchestra, providing many musicians with additional income.

It was his special concern to secure young artists as soloists. Many were gifted young Valley musicians.

The development of the orchestra took it from the modest Mountain View Auditorium to the Sun Dial Auditorium and then, finally, in triumph, to the newly completed 7,000-seat Sundome in Sun City West for his final season.

His tastes were solid and if, as critics said, his enthusiasm exceeded polish in performances, he nonetheless attracted a large and faithful audience for his many seasons, which were invariably sold out.

Technique and perfection were not a part of Butterfield's goals for the orchestra. A Beethoven symphony or a Wagner overture didn't faze him or his players, and over the years the repertoire of the orchestra included almost every major classical orchestral work and certainly every major concerto.

Butterfield's capacity to generate enthusiasm was well-known. In a 1972 article in *The Arizona Republic*, he was characterized as an amiable conductor intent on getting his musicians through a score as fast as possible with limited rehearsal, often no more than a single reading.

"Jennings," a bassoonist called out during a pause in rehearsal, "can we go back to the Letter D for a moment?"

"John, don't worry about it" Jennings answered. "Just follow me. There's no time to go back."

He was driven throughout his retirement to promote fine music, not only for his orchestra but for other projects as well.

He and his wife, Lillian, founded the Thursday musicals at the Phoenix Art Museum. He also taught violin for the Phoenix Parks, Recreation and Library

Department beginning in 1970, and added the popular summer sessions in 1973.

He was a regular subscriber to the Phoenix Symphony concerts and the Phoenix Chamber Music Society and was a familiar figure at Valley musical events.

A dapper man with a clipped white mustache and flowing white hair, Butterfield struck everyone as a handsome, elegant conductor perfect for his role. His musicians seldom heard him speak crossly to anyone. Most were amazed by the vitality and the endurance exhibited on the podium by a man in his 70s.

Even guest artists who had performed with him marveled at his ability to pull off a concert and especially a concerto under circumstances most conductors would find terrifying. When he attended concerts, he would be among the first in the audience to rush backstage to congratulate a performer, and he knew many artists from his years of experience as conductor for the New Jersey concert symphony and as head of the music department of the West Orange, N.J., school system.

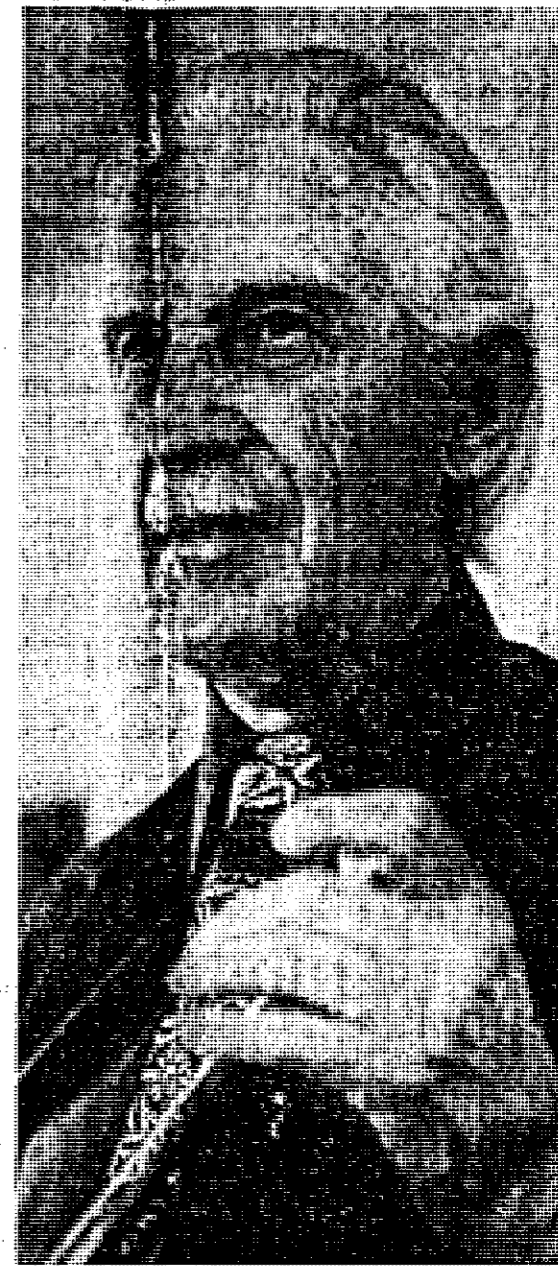
He had supervised many musical careers from among those students.

He was born in Courtland County, N.Y., on Feb. 28, 1900.

He was a member of the Sun City First Church of Christ, Scientist, the Sun City Rotary Club and the Masonic Lodge No. 72.

Masonic and Christian Science services will be today at 11 a.m. in Lundberg's Golden Door Chapel, Youngtown.

Survivors include his wife, Lillian, of Sun City; daughters Jean Bolm of Woodland Hills, Calif., and Gerri Martin of Mesa; a brother, Charles, of Warren, Ohio; and a sister, Ina Kettelson, of Baltimore.



Jennings Butterfield looked upon the Sun City Symphony as a community orchestra rather than a professional symphony.



A4 NEWS-SUN Tuesday, January 5, 1982

# Editorials

## His life, his legacy: music

During Sun City's existence, there have been special people who have strongly influenced its character and image. Jennings Butterfield was one of those special people.

He was a successful and honored symphony conductor and teacher before he came to Sun City. He could have considered his past accomplishments and found them sufficient, but he saw a cultural void in his new community and lent his exuberant energies to filling it.

He called a few musicians together in his home 13 years ago to form the nucleus of a symphony for Sun City. Its progress stands as a testimonial to his ability to create, to inspire others with his enthusiasm and to attract outstanding guest artists to this community.

When the concerts were moved to Sun City West's Sundome, Maestro Butterfield felt his job was finished; the symphony was successful, highly admired and enjoying solid community support. He stepped down, but not really to retire. He continued to work with and give encouragement to youthful musicians, to conduct Thursday

Musicales for the Sun City Art Museum and to teach.

His death Friday came as a shock to Sun Citians. He is mourned not only for his outstanding contributions to this community, but for his warm, caring and optimistic outlook and his great capacity for friendship.

Named conductor emeritus by the Sun City Symphony Orchestra Association in April when he retired, Jennings Butterfield also had received the News-Sun's first Apex Award for "continuing exceptional service to community" in March.

The plaque given him by the symphony association conveyed the deep affection of his colleagues and commended him for "his 13 years of boundless devotion as developer and conductor of the Sun City Symphony Orchestra, thereby winning for Sun City and Sun City West a place of esteem on the map of musical America."

That is a fitting tribute to this gracious and talented man. It will stand as his legacy to Sun City.

**DAILY NEWS-SUN** 25¢

PAGES

VOL. XXV NO. 140

Sun City, Arizona

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 1982

# Maestro Butterfield, 81, dies

memorial service for Jennings Butterfield, founder and 12-year maestro of the Sun City Symphony orchestra, will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday in the church's Golden Door Chapel. Mr. Butterfield died in his home New Day.

During his first months in Sun City, Butterfield recruited and trained musicians from Luke Air Force Base, universities and colleges, as well as the community. Within a year he led the original 45-member Sun City Symphony orchestra that performed in Mountain View Auditorium

in 1969.

Under Mr. Butterfield's direction, the orchestra grew to 80 members, including 20 professionals and more than 40 retired musicians from the Sun City area.

"THOSE WERE hard-working years and he was our guiding spirit," said Lois Holler, honorary member of the symphony's board of directors. "I feel that his passing is the end of an era. It was a time of creativity, courage and faith. Jennings Butterfield epitomized that spirit."

Fred Comins, also a founding member

of the symphony board, remembers Mr. Butterfield as "exuberant and energetic."

"He was the sort of person that once you met you could never forget," said Fred Comins, assistant vice president of the First Interstate Bank in LaRonde Centre. "It was never if a symphony could be organized, it was when."

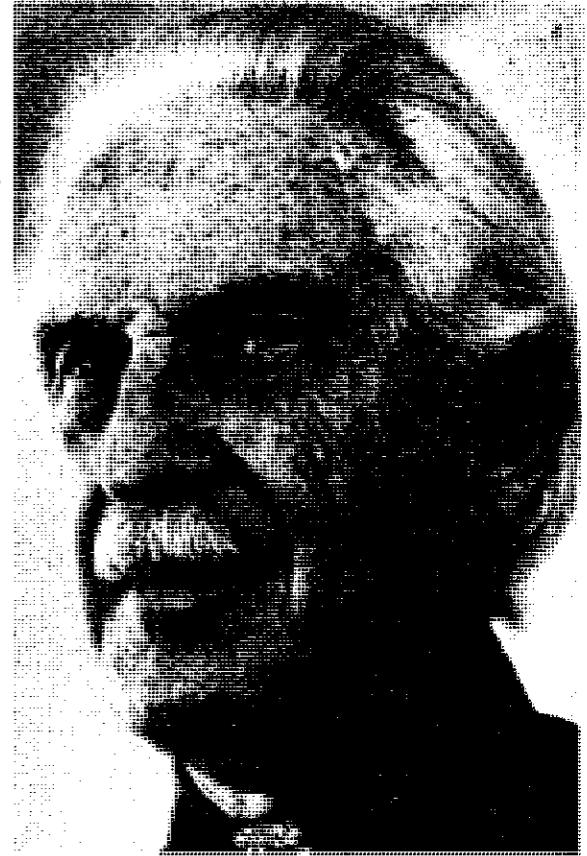
**MR. BUTTERFIELD** and his wife, Lillian, also organized the Thursday Musical Society still presented for the benefit of the Sun City Art Museum.

The maestro moved to Sun City in

1968 from Massachusetts where he founded and conducted the Cape Cod Symphony. He also conducted the New Jersey Concert Symphony and headed the music department of the West Orange, N.J., school system.

Mr. Butterfield was a member of the Sun City Rotary Club, Masonic Lodge 72 in Sun City and the First Church of Christ, Scientist.

He is survived by his wife; two daughters, Gerri Martin of Mesa and Jean Bolm of Woodlawn Hills, Ohio; a brother, Charles of Warren, Ohio; and a sister, Ina Kettelson of Baltimore.



JENNINGS BUTTERFIELD

10

# SC Symphony founder readies for retirement

By **CHERYL SWEET**  
Staff Writer

He began playing the violin at the age of six. While most kids were out playing baseball, he chose to practice his music.

In his thirties, he founded the first of three symphony orchestras he would conduct in his career.

Characterized by a wry smile and a matching sense of humor, the musician plans to retire shortly as conductor and founder of the Sun City Symphony Orchestra.

Having begun the orchestra in 1968, Jennings Butterfield admits his stay lasted a bit longer than the normally accepted conducting period with the same symphony.

**BUT HE DOESN'T** feel he has overstayed his welcome. Quite the contrary. At 80 years old, he frankly tells you he will be completing his 50-year conducting career with a grand finale.

"I'm leaving it right on the top. I'm doing the finest conducting I've ever done in my life."

Butterfield was apparently musically inclined early in life.

**HE REFERS TO** his early indoctrination into the world of music as a natural phenomenon. The acquisition of his first instrument is passed off as incidental.

"How I got the violin is still a mystery to me." All he remembers was that it felt right, adding, "the violin was for me immediately."

Butterfield studied violin and theory in New York at Cortland and Binghamton Conservatories of Music. Then, moving to the New York City area, he studied with the "finest teachers in New York."

**HE WAS DIRECTOR** of instrumental music in West Orange, N.J., public schools for 30 years and went on to start a symphony orchestra there.

Before moving to Sun City, he also founded and conducted a symphony orchestra in Cape Cod, Mass.

The conductor attributes his success to natural ability and training with top musicians.

"**I HAVE HAD** the most glorious experience. I have had the pleasure of studying with the finest conductors."

He studied violin with John King Roosa, Paul Stassevitch and Louis Persinger. He later conducted under Bernhard Paumgartner, a well-known Mozart exponent.

Possessing musical talent, Butterfield says, is something one instinctively knows he has. His success and confidence attests to his unique talent. "Where the talent comes from, God knows," he said.

For those who are uncertain about becoming a professional musician, Butterfield suggests giving the field a trial period.

"**MOST PEOPLE** play instruments for a few years and then wisely give it up."

If things don't look promising, Butterfield suggests going into banking, law or some other field "where you can make some money."

The conductor warns against expectations of getting rich in the business. "Most symphonies in the country are always in trouble financially," he said.

Unlike European orchestras, which are fully subsidized by the cities or states, symphonies here depend on ticket sales and private contributions to meet expenses, he explained.

**TICKET SALES** account for only 45 percent of an orchestra's operating expenses, which still leaves salaries, costs of shipping instruments and various staff expenses.

Nevertheless, Butterfield has no regrets on his chosen work.

He says he has enjoyed playing for Sun Citians—possibly more than other audiences. They have "more appreciation, have gone to symphony concerts and are knowledgeable."

Butterfield's last concert will be at 8 p.m. April 5 in the Sundome.



Jennings Butterfield, under the watchful eyes of Ludwig van Beethoven, looks over arrangements for his farewell concert April 5 in the Sundome. Butterfield founded the Sun City Symphony in 1968. (News-Sun Photo by Jim Painter)

January 23, 1977

WF

Symphony IC



## Singer feted

Mr. and Mrs. James Steele, 10146 Sutters Gold Lane, his Sun City visit. From left are Peerce, Mrs. Steele, recently were host and hostess at cocktail party honoring concert singer-opera star Jan Peerce during Mrs. Jennings Butterfield, Butterfield, and Steele. (News-Sun Photo)



THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARTS AND LETTERS  
ARIZONA CHAPTER

May 23, 1972

Mr. Jennings Butterfield  
10237 North 106th Avenue  
Sun City, Arizona 85351

Dear Mr. Butterfield:

On behalf of the members of the Arizona Valley of the Sun Chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters, I am pleased to invite you to serve as a member of the Advisory Council. Though this is largely an honorary post and there is no financial obligation involved, it will be a source of great pride to us to be able to list you with the other distinguished members of the Council. We know you share our goals and hope you will join us in future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Grady Gammage  
Membership Chairman

ps

Handwritten notes on the right margin: "ff", "Tuoyduke", and "DI".

1980-81

# SUN CITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A Community Orchestra of the Sun Cities

JENNINGS BUTTERFIELD, Conductor

SUNDOME CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Thirteenth Season

1980-1981

Guest Artists

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Nov. 2  | Eugene Fodor, violinist   |
| Dec. 7  | Anna Maria Alberghetti, soprano<br>Gordon MacRae, baritone<br>Gordon Munford, guest conductor |
| Jan. 25 | Jeffrey & Ronald Marlowe, pianists  |
| Mar. 1  | Skitch Henderson, guest conductor   |
| April 5 | Roberta Peters, soprano   |

VF - SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

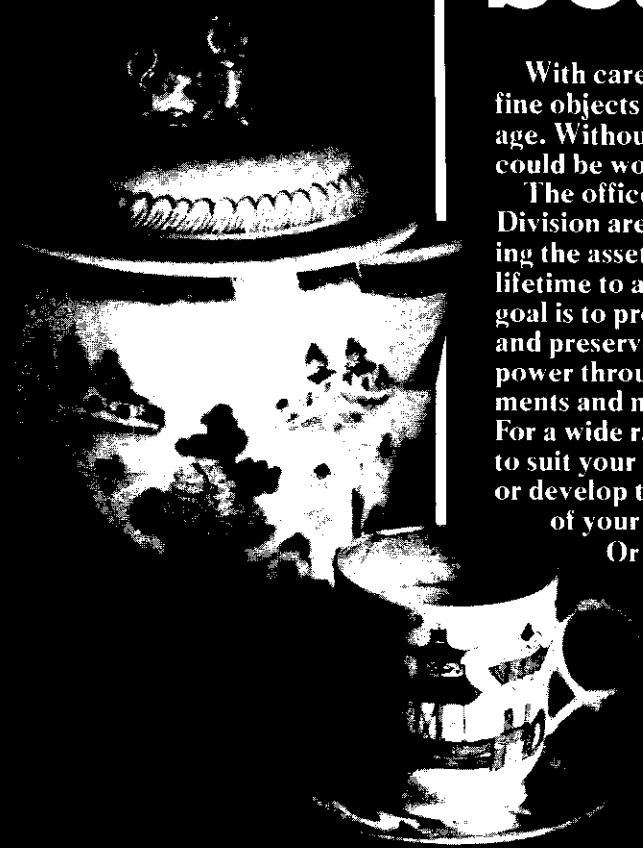
CONCERT 8 P.M.



# The best gets better.

With care and attention, fine objects appreciate with age. Without that care, they could be worthless.

The officers of our Trust Division are experts at protecting the assets you've taken a lifetime to accumulate. Their goal is to protect your money and preserve its purchasing power through sound investments and minimizing taxes. For a wide range of services to suit your immediate needs or develop the full potential of your estate, see us soon. Or call 271-1328.



## Chinese Chocolate Pot

Around 1800, porcelain such as this was of so little value that it was used as ballast in clipper ships to keep tea from being ruined by water in the hold. Today, this Chinese chocolate pot is worth between \$450 and \$475.

The   
**First**  
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ARIZONA

**More than a name,  
it's a promise.**



**A Message From  
Emmett R. Sarig, President  
Sun City Symphony Orchestra Association**



With today's concert, we reach the finale of our first year in the wonderful Sundome Auditorium. How fitting to have the lovely and talented opera star, Roberta Peters, as our guest soloist.

With today's concert also, Jennings Butterfield retires as our Conductor. How fortunate we are to have had his dedicated services and musical guidance these past thirteen years.

With the end of this concert season, my two years as President of your Association terminates—years which have seen many opportunities, challenges and growth, little anticipated by this office two years ago.

In the March 1st program, we enumerated the progress and structure of the Board of Directors and Symphony Association to date. Now let's talk about the future. In May, your new officers will be elected. They have been a part of the programs of the past years of growth and will continue to build upon the experiences of the last thirteen years. They will strive to bring the orchestra to higher professional stature than it has ever been. They will consistently have the choice of a wide range of top-notch guest artists from which to make these selections. They will move from a 5,000 average attendance to a concert of an every increasing audience. They will have the loyal Sun City Community support to back them up and will win acclaim as one of the outstanding art forms offered in the Sundome. They will remain a community orchestra with a preponderance of superb volunteer musicians and programs so wide in their range of offerings that every audience will leave this hall with great satisfaction.

The Symphony Orchestra Guild will continue to develop community spirit and offer financial backing and enthusiasm for a greater orchestra for tomorrow.

This orchestra will be the pride and joy of the Sun Cities and Community as in the past, and will be loved and supported by Symphony goers as no other Community Symphony Orchestra in the nation.

Enjoy the concert.


LADIES: The Guild Previews of each concert give greater insight into the music to be performed. We invite you to join now.

Ms. — Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_


Membership—\$5.00 • Sun City Symphony Guild • P. O. Box 1537 • Sun City, AZ 85372




**SOUTHWEST  
SAVINGS**  
and Loan Association

**Five offices in Sun City  
to Serve you.**

19436 R.H. Johnson Boulevard  
Sun City West 584-3600  
14802 North Del Webb  
Sun City North 977-4231  
9850 West Thunderbird  
Sun City 977-8339  
10700 West Bell Road  
Sun City 933-8216  
10731 West Peoria  
Sun City South 933-8238



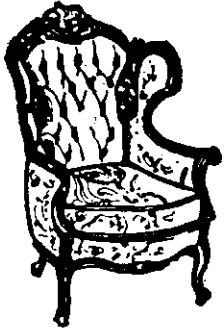




UPHOLSTERING  
CUSTOM MADE  
FURNITURE

# Perfection

DECORATING  
WALLPAPER



JACQUE HIRKO, A.S.I.D., Interior Designer

— THE NAME SAYS IT ALL —

**SUPERIOR CUSTOM CRAFTSMANSHIP**

**FOR THE DISCRIMINATING HOMEMAKER WHO  
DEMANDS THE ULTIMATE IN FINE CRAFTSMANSHIP  
& DISTINCTIVE DECORATOR FABRICS—**

*SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO ANTIQUES & HEIRLOOMS*

**PHOENIX**

2337 E. INDIAN SCHOOL RD.

**955-4770**

**YOUNGTOWN**

12230 N. 112th AVE.

**933-0441**

—Mention to our Advertisers that You Saw Their Ad in the Program—

**TAPPAN**

**KITCHEN AID**

**MAYTAG**

## **WAGON WHEEL APPLIANCE, INC.** **QUALITY SALES AND SERVICE**

*Serving the Public Since 1959*

**4322 East Thomas Road, Phoenix**  
**11124 Youngtown Avenue, Youngtown**

**FRIGIDAIRE**

**AMANA**

**GENERAL ELECTRIC**

### **BUD MELCHER & ASSOCIATES, REALTORS**

Walter C. Leck, Manager



**113th AVENUE PROFESSIONAL PLAZA**  
12600 N. 113th Avenue • Youngtown, Arizona 85363

**24 HOUR PHONE SERVICE — 7 DAYS A WEEK**

**(602) 972-6161**

*OUR SPECIALTY IS MATCHING OUR HOMES WITH YOUR NEEDS*  
— CALL US — WE WILL SERVE YOU WELL

# SUN CITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

— Thirteenth Season —

P. O. Box 1417 • S.C. Professional Building • 12630 - 103rd Ave., Apt. 2B  
Phone 972-4484 • Office hours 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. • Sun City, AZ 85351

## OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

President . . . . . Emmett R. Sarig*	Treasurer . . . . . Sterling Atkinson*
Vice President . . . . . James H. Handley*	Assistant Treasurer . . . Christian D. Meislahn
Vice President . . . . . Irene A. Lawder*	Secretary . . . . . Russell S. Warren*
	Assistant Secretary . . . . . Lois Knutson

Mary E. Bender  
Mabel R. Bigelow  
George M. Blaesi\*  
Ruth Bone  
Ernest A. Brittain  
Norman A. Christensen  
George N. Copes

Charles G. Eubank  
Robert H. Felix  
Mary Sabel Girard\*  
Breitel Haire  
Richard J. Hammon\*  
Leonard C. Hobert\*

Kathryn (Kay) Kissinger  
Millard R. Kreinheder  
Wayne Perrill  
John H. Smith\*  
Ann V. Walling  
Donald G. Williams

## HONORARY CHARTER TRUSTEES

J. George Bender  
Edward I. Comins, Jr.

Lois V. Holler  
Marion H. Michel

Paul W. Waltz  
Clyde P. Wells

\* Member Executive Committee

# We're proud to help support the arts in Sun City.



## Cash Sullivan & Cross

19424 R.H. Johnson Blvd.  
Sun City West, Arizona 85375  
584-4200

10451 Palermas Drive  
Sun City, Arizona 85373  
974-6021

Serving the  
insurance needs of Sun City  
for over three decades.

# People.



**Dave Willetts, Vice President, Valley Bank Trust Division.  
One very good reason why we've reached over  
\$3 billion in trust assets.**

You can't always be where we are. So to serve your trust needs we go where you are. That's the commitment the people of Valley National Bank have in serving your personal and financial concerns in every way we can. Professionals like Sun City's Dave Willetts giving every bit of personal attention to your

specific needs. Personalized because they live and work right here in Arizona.

We're proud that our people can offer you more financial resources and unique services than any other trust operation in Arizona. The kind that have put us over the \$3 billion mark in trust assets. And into the top 5% of trust divisions in the country.

Valley National Bank

is also one of the nation's largest banks. With over 195 branch offices that make it a lot easier to do your business with us.

Give us a call soon at 977-4265 in Sun City and talk to the people who take more pride in their business and in your business. People who go out of their way for you.

**We go out of our way for you.  
The Trust Division. Valley National Bank**



MEMBER FDIC

# The Orchestra Members

## FIRST VIOLINS

Frank Spinosa,  
*Concertmeister*  
Ted S. Dziubek,  
*Ass't. Concertmeister*  
Charles Staubach  
Joseph Bock  
Edith Perrill  
Emil Barberich  
W. Bruce Fye  
Lynden A. Howarth  
Albert Michels  
Ellen Lockwood  
Homer Martin  
Frank Gray  
Edward Shindler  
Wilma Lane  
Jeane Windau  
Dorothy Memmer  
William Ambrazevich

## SECOND VIOLINS

Harold Mealy,  
*Principal*  
Janet Herrold  
Henry Krug  
Clare Newill  
Addelle Staubach  
Sandra Henriquez  
Herbert Rigoni  
William Ransom  
Leslie Worth  
Ruth Kugler  
Jewel Heffelman  
Esther Gaintner  
Margaret Roebke  
Wilhelmina J. Satina  
Abraham Meth

## VIOLAS

Nathan Rosenbluth,  
*Principal*  
Fred J. Huber  
Mary O. Schwarz  
William Magers  
Jamie Johnson  
Albert Satina  
Lydia Thalheimer  
Denice Haney  
Judy Davis  
Paul Anderson

## CELLOS

Paul deBourg,  
*Principal*  
Elaine M. Nickel  
Helen Michels  
Eugene Groden  
Mary Wilkening  
Charlotte Emmons  
Isabelle Halley  
Bess Wigutoff  
Helen Healy

## STRING BASSES

James Halderman,  
*Principal*  
Henry Incardona  
Susan Clover  
Claire Marsteen  
Harold Anoe  
Walter Fandrich

## FLUTES

Carl Moore,  
*Principal*  
Bruce Bade

## OBOES

Leonard Portney,  
*Principal*  
Ruby Vineyard

## CLARINETS

Robert Hoffman,  
*Principal*  
Allen Kissinger

## BASSOONS

Beryl Dulsky,  
*Principal*  
Ann Harty

## FRENCH HORNS

Ethan Dulsky,  
*Principal*  
Douglas Akey  
Wilbur Lockwood  
Michael Orlikoff

## TRUMPETS

Leslie Watson Lindner,  
*Principal*  
Steve Razo  
Ron Phillips

## TROMBONES

Jay Bulen  
*Principal*  
Samuel Cohen  
Kenneth Lindner

## TUBA

Fred Buehman

## PERCUSSION

Barry Larkin  
Scott Evans

## TIMPANI

Samuel Nock

## HARP

Ester McLaughlin

## ORCHESTRA MEMBERS EMERITUS

Harriet Lattin  
A. A. Papermaster

## PERSONNEL MANAGER

Fred J. Huber

## LIBRARIAN

Nathan Rosenbluth

## STAGE MANAGERS

Charles Eubank  
Norman Wigutoff

## Sun City Travel Service

*"Just pack — We'll do the rest"*

10777 Grand Ave. — Grand Center — 974-6061

10748 W. Bell Rd. — Bell Camino — 974-3607

*Sun City's Oldest Travel Agency*



SUN BOWL PLAZA

LA RONDE CENTRE EAST

*Paul Johnson*  
JEWELERS

- Precious Stones • Fine Watches • Appraising
  - Diamond Settings • Watch & Jewelry Repairing
- Also Stores in Metro Center, Phoenix & Scottsdale

MEMBER AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY

**SUN BOWL PLAZA**  
107th AVE. & PEORIA  
Telephone 933-3023 or 933-1243.



**LA RONDE CENTRE EAST**  
14629 N. DEL WEBB BLVD.  
Telephone 974-5860 or 974-5869

—Mention to our Advertisers that You Saw Their Ad in the Program—

*Sundown Shades And Blinds*

Licensed with the State of Arizona Registrar of Contractors

**Saving Energy Isn't a Fad—It's Your Future!**

Youngtown and Sun City's only custom shade and blind shop can show you how to solve your sun problems—Save on your next utility bill and enjoy your privacy.

Your Local **ROLLADEN™** Dealer

*The Exterior Shield Controlled from the Inside Security, Light and Heat Control . . . Proven for Decades in Europe.*

- Outside Wood Roll Ups — Joanna Custom Window Shades —
- Woven Woods — Shutters — Louver Blind Verticals —
- Repairs and Service — Dealers for "Valco" Energizer Windows.

20% OFF All Flexalum 1" Blinds

Exclusive Dealer for "Desert Craft" Outdoor Furniture

*Sundown Shades | And Blinds*

11122 Alabama Ave.  
in Youngtown Plaza

**974-8701**

# Corporate Contributors

*to whom we are grateful*

## GRANTOR

Sun City Symphony Guild  
The Rotary Clubs of Sun City

## DONORS

Sun City Bell Lions Club  
Valley National Bank  
Del E. Webb Corporation  
Western Savings & Loan

## BENEFACTORS

Arizona Public Service Company  
Arizona Republic & Phoenix Gazette  
Blake Publishing Company  
First Federal Savings & Loan Association  
First National Bank of Arizona  
Honeywell, Inc.  
Mountain Bell  
Safeway Stores, Inc.  
Trantina Insurance Agency - Youngtown

*(Continued on Page 9)*



**FORD'S  
WORLD  
TRAVEL**

— NOW —

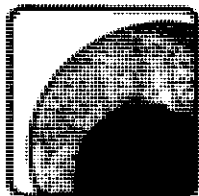
**TWO CONVENIENT LOCATIONS**

**SUN CITY WEST  
CAMINO DEL SOL  
SHOPPING CENTER  
Tel. 584-4422**

**SUN CITY  
LA RONDE  
SHOPPING CENTRE  
Tel. 933-8258**

*For Courteous, Efficient  
Travel Counselling,  
Visit*

**FORD'S WORLD TRAVEL**



(Member F.D.I.C.)

**City  
Bank**

Deposits insured to  
\$40,000.00 by the Federal  
Deposit Insurance Corporation.

105th Ave. & Grand  
Sun City, Az.  
85351  
Phone 933-1384

**HOURS:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday thru Thursday  
9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday



"Just Like a Symphony with Many Variations"

# Glencora

**GIFTS & BATH**

**BELL CAMINO CENTER**  
933-2221

**10738 W. BELL ROAD**  
SUN CITY, AZ 85351

## SCHUBACH



"Famous for Diamonds"

**JEWELERS**

*Diamonds*  
*Jewelry*  
*Precious Stones*  
*Gold Mountings*

BELL CAMINO CENTER • PHONE 933-7277  
10740 E. BELL RD. • SUN CITY, ARIZ. 85351

*Expert Watch & Jewelry Repair*

*Goldsmith in Residence*

*Thank you "Sun City Symphony" for a  
Great Contribution to the Community.*

## Osburn's — OF SUN CITY

*The Complete Store for Women*

**SUN BOWL PLAZA**  
933-8231

**BELL CAMINO**  
933-1363



# Hickory Farms

OF OHIO®

LOCATED CONVENIENTLY AT...

**BELL CAMINO CENTER**  
Bell Rd. & Del Webb Blvd.  
Sun City, Arizona

**VALLEY WEST MALL**  
59th Ave. & Northern  
Glendale, Arizona

**AMERICA'S LEADING CHEESE STORES®**



## Corporate Contributors *(Continued from Page 7)*

**S** Al Mart Cards & Gifts - Greenway Terrace, Sun City  
**P** Bakatari Imports - Gifts & Bath Accessories, Arrowhead Mall, Peoria  
**O** Chiropractic Information Bureau - Emergencies, Referrals, Information, 277-7514  
**N** Home Federal Savings & Loan Association  
**S** Seeley, Mullins, Donaldson Co. Ltd., Bell Plaza, Sun City  
**O** Sil-Vana's Fashions, Women's Apparel, Greenway Terrace, Sun City  
**R** Sun City Nursery, Peoria Avenue, Peoria  
**S** Yucca Warehouse Liquors, 12006 N. 111th Ave., Youngtown

**P** Musicians' Club of Sun City  
**A** A. J. J. Crystal Charm Lamp Shop, Youngtown  
**T** Abbotts Men's Shop, Bell Camino Center, Sun City  
**R** AmRic Book Store, Arrowhead Center, East Mall, Peoria  
**O** Arizona Carriage Company - Yamaha Golf Carts, Youngtown  
**N** Baker Bros. - Floor Coverings, Sun Bowl Plaza, Sun City  
**S** A. J. Bayless Markets, Inc.  
 Bill's Pharmacy, 10228 Coggins Drive, Sun City  
 Brice Hardware & Equipment Co., Grand Ave., Peoria  
 Cheese House of Sun City, Greenway Terrace, Sun City  
 Denny's Complete Decorating Services, Youngtown  
 A. G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. - Investments, Bell Plaza, Sun City  
 Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc., 9744 W. Bell Road, Sun City  
 Pete Nelson Automotive Specialists - 103rd & Olive, Sun City  
 The O'Malley Companies  
 Peoria Cleaners & Laundry, Peoria  
 Rural Metro Fire Dept.  
 Smithfield Meats, 12234 N. 112th Ave., Youngtown  
 Sun City-Youngtown Printers, 11127 Nevada Ave., Youngtown  
 W. Wachter Co. - Handwriting Expert, 10224 N 109th Ave., Sun City

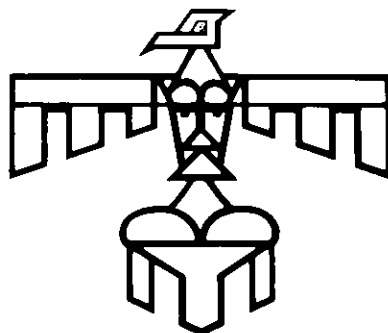


**"We mean business ...  
 and we'd like yours!"**

## **THUNDERBIRD BANK**

**Sun City Office**  
 13250 North Del Webb Boulevard  
 (602) 242-1111

**Other Offices**  
 Phoenix • Glendale • Mesa • Tempe



**Opening soon at Scottsdale Road and Thunderbird Road**  
**Arizona Owned & Operated Since 1965**  
**Member FDIC**

# La Ronde Centre

SUN CITY'S FAMOUS CIRCLE OF FINE SHOPS and SERVICES

## BANKS

ARIZONA BANK ..... 262-2641  
FIRST NATIONAL BANK ..... 271-6951

## BARBERS

LAKES WEST BARBER SHOP

## BEAUTY SALONS

FASHIONS CONTINENTAL BEAUTY SALON 977-2762  
FINESSE BEAUTY SALON ..... 974-3673

## CLEANERS & LAUNDRIES

BE CRAFT'S CLEANERS ..... 977-5361

## DRAPERIES & CURTAINS CUSTOM MADE

LAURA'S DRAPERY BOUTIQUE ..... 933-8261

## FABRICS

WORLD OF FABRICS ..... 977-4892

## FLORISTS

SUN CITY FLORISTS & GIFTS ..... 974-5831

## FURNITURE

MAYO'S HOME FURNISHINGS ..... 977-4221

## GLASS — STAINED & LEADED

GLASSART STUDIO ..... 977-8924

## GREETING CARDS & GIFTS

BROWN'S CARD & PARTY CENTER ..... 977-3722  
R. J.'s LUGGAGE & GIFTS ..... 974-1822  
SUN CITY FLORIST & GIFTS ..... 974-5831

## HEALTH FOOD STORES

HI-HEALTH ..... 977-8337

## INDIAN JEWELRY

THE TURQUOISE CENTER ..... 972-4114

## JEWELERS

PAUL JOHNSON JEWELERS ..... 974-5869

## LUGGAGE DEALERS & REPAIRS

R. J.'s LUGGAGE & GIFTS ..... 974-1822

## MARKETS

LOW COST MARKET ..... 977-4293

## MEN'S WEAR

QUINN & LOE MEN'S CLOTHIERS ..... 977-4965

## OPTICAL GOODS

ARIZONA OPTICAL DISPENSERS ..... 977-2562

## ORGANS

HASSLER'S HOME ENTERTAINMENT CTR. 977-4243

## PATIO FURNITURE

MAYO'S PATIO & DINETTES ..... 977-5421

## PHARMACIES

REVCO DRUG ..... 933-0101

## PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

LA RONDE CAMERA & COLOR LAB ..... 977-2062

## REAL ESTATE

OEL WEBB RESALE ..... 974-7606

## RESTAURANTS

SABATINO'S ITALIAN KITCHEN ..... 977-7471

## SAVINGS & LOAN

CANYON SAVINGS & LOAN ..... 972-1195  
FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS ..... 248-4254  
SOUTHWEST SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOC. .... 977-4231

## SERVICE STATIONS — GAS & OIL

EXXON STATION ..... 977-7351

## SHOES (MEN, WOMEN)

LA RU SHOE SALON ..... 977-4718

## TELEVISION & RADIO

### SALES & SERVICE

HASSLER'S HOME ENTERTAINMENT CTR. 977-4243

## THEATRES

ALCO THEATRE ..... 977-3511

## TITLE COMPANIES

ARIZONA TITLE & TRUST CO. .... 972-2194

## TRAVEL AGENCIES

FORD'S WORLD TRAVEL ..... 933-8256

## WOMEN'S APPAREL

DAISY PATCH DRESS SHOP ..... 977-7811  
FASHIONS CONTINENTAL DRESS SHOP ..... 977-3333  
NORBY'S FASHIONS ..... 977-9030

LA RONDE CENTRE is located on Del Webb Blvd.,  
a mile north of Grand and a mile south of Bell.

## To Bus or Not to Bus??

This season we have been able to offer bus transportation from Sun City to the Sundome for our Symphony Concerts. Surprisingly 235 persons took advantage of this service—far in excess of what we had anticipated. In fact we were unable to accommodate all the late requests. Now we are offering the same service for next season's concerts and such notice was included with applications for the 1981-82 series. The advantages are many:

A. For persons with sight or health problems and cannot drive, this enables them to be picked up near their homes, brought to near the Sundome entrance and after the concert to be returned to their location in Sun City.

B. Driving in crowds is somewhat hazardous and aggravating. Traffic is heavy with several thousand automobiles all destined for one location, with stop and go situations both arriving and leaving the Sundome.

C. Parking space is ample, but many locations are quite distant from the entrance and walking to and from your car has physical limitations as well as weather (heat or rain) problems.

D. Peace of mind. You reach the Sundome in mental and physical relaxation, and return home with the enjoyment of the concert uppermost in your mind. As Greyhound says, "Leave the driving to us."

E. The cost is \$4.50 per round trip. It is calculated to cover the busing expense only but there may be a shortfall because next season's rates are to be increased by the P.S.C. However, the Trustees are willing to underwrite any shortage because of the service and convenience it offers our subscribers.

At intermission and after this concert a representative of the Board of Trustees will be at the center of the auditorium with application cards if you need one. You can identify him because of his *red coat*. This may be your last opportunity to avail yourself of this service for next season.

THE NEW ENCORE MODELS IN SUN CITY WEST  
CARRY THIS EXCLUSIVE LABEL . . .

*Mary Jane's  
Interiors*

INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICE  
FURNITURE • CARPET • ACCESSORIES

**974-3643**

GREENWAY TERRACE CENTER

# A Prelude to Progress

**O**ne note cannot stand alone. It takes a myriad to weave a melody and form the perfect chords of harmony to make a song that stirs the heart and leaves one better for the listening.

During the past 50 years your savings have been the notes that gave strength to a melody of Western Savings. Together, your savings dollars with others' formed the chords that laid the foundation for our great state's progress over the past half century.

At Western, we like to think we played the role of a good conductor who helped lead this growth to a full and glorious conclusion. Yet, we hope the finale is not an end — but only a prelude to an even sweeter song.



**WESTERN SAVINGS.**

The foresight people.



**VENI . . . VIDI . . . VICI**  
**a tribute to Jennings Butterfield**  
Founding Music Director . . . and for thirteen seasons  
CONDUCTOR of the SUN CITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

In 1967 Jennings and his charming wife, Lillian, came to Sun City to enjoy the fruits of their careers . . . he as violinist, educator and conductor in prestigious Essex County, New Jersey . . . she as women's fashion coordinator for a huge Manhattan department store.

**VENI** . . . Jennings CAME to Del Webb's Sun City.

**VIDI** . . . He SAW a community that offered its residents nearly every recreational and cultural opportunity *except* the making and enjoyment of full-scale symphonic music.

**VICI** . . . He CONQUERED this need by devoting nearly every waking hour of the next fourteen years to the establishment, development and conducting of the Sun City Symphony orchestra . . . thereby winning for Sun City and its new neighbor, Sun City West, a place of esteem on the Map of Musical America.

On Saturday, March 7, 1981, the Sun City-Youngtown NEWS-SUN awarded its first APEX AWARD to our beloved Maestro Jennings Butterfield "for continuing exceptional service to community". In a subsequent news release, Sun City Symphony Orchestra Association President, Emmett R. Sarig, expanded on this, saying: "Our Maestro has brought together a solid nucleus of talented musicians, and has developed our orchestra into the splendid Sun City Symphony of which we are so proud today . . . a tremendous contribution to this community".

Following this evening's concert, Jennings wishes to give his dear Lillian and himself "a chance to discover first-hand whether *Resort-Retirement Living* is all that Sun City friends and neighbors claim it to be". I wouldn't be surprised, however, to pick up the phone some day, and hear Jennings say: "Lillian and I had another of our *two to four A.M. cocoa-by-stereo* conferences last night. Now, don't you agree that it's about time that Sun City and Sun City West had their own **opera company** . . ."

You know, it was just this sort of Butterfield optimism and teamwork that gave us our fine symphony orchestra.

**Bromm**

**Chevrolet**

**Oldsmobile**

**Buick**

**GET OUR DEAL —**

**WE TRADE FOR LESS**

**Toll free phone from Sun City: 258-4120**

**WICKENBURG, ARIZONA**

**Highway 60**

**685-5436**

# The Conductor's Corner

JENNINGS BUTTERFIELD

*Music Director and Conductor*

What a glorious experience it has been to work these thirteen years with this fine orchestra and to have had the support of such a loyal and knowledgeable audience! I feel that, like these marvelous Sun Cities, it has been a period of unusual progress and achievement.

What better way for my finale could there be than to have as soloist one of the great internationally known sopranos! Looking back over these thirteen seasons, I realize that we have had a parade of great artists as soloists. For this we should be grateful to the Sun City Symphony Board for having had the courage and fore-sight to make all this possible.

My sincere thanks to all these fine and dedicated orchestra members who have been so loyal, and I dare say affectionate, during all these years.

The entrance on the scene of our Symphony Guild, through its many activities, has been a joy to the conductor and orchestra members alike. What nice things they have done for us!

And last but not least, my Lillian, who in the beginning was secretary, attendance taker, chair setter-upper, etc., and who has been my behind-the-scenes constant inspiration all these years.



## Our Guest Artist

ROBERTA PETERS

*Soprano*



The gala concluding concert of our 1980-81 Subscription Season features ROBERTA PETERS, soprano of the Metropolitan Opera. She is one of the foremost singers on the operatic scene today, having celebrated her 30th consecutive season with the Met last fall, a record unequaled in the Met's history.

Miss Peters grew up in the Bronx, where her amazing voice attracted the attention of tenor Jan Peerce. At age 13, she began voice lessons and extensive studies in language, ballet, drama, and music. Six years later Sol Hurok was so impressed by her prodigious talent that he signed her as client, despite her young age and total lack of professional experience. Soon afterwards she auditioned for Rudolf Bing, general manager of the Met, who was so impressed that he offered her a contract, calling for the 19-year old soprano to make her debut in a difficult role in Mozart's "Magic Flute". However, prior to her scheduled debut, she was called with only a few hours notice to replace an ailing soprano in Mozart's "Don Giovanni". Her surprise debut created a sensation—and she has since starred in 37 roles at the Met alone.

She appears regularly throughout the world with orchestras, on television and radio, in solo recitals, and in major opera houses. She portrays major heroines of standard repertoire, especially those requiring virtuosic coloratura ability, such as those of Donizetti and Rossini, and other styles as well, such as heroines of Puccini, Verdi, and Menotti. She has had works dedicated to her by Khachaturian, Creston, and Roy Harris; and sang the premiere of a new work by Darius Milhaud in Carnegie Hall.

She became the first American to be awarded the coveted Bolshoi Medal, an honor usually reserved for outstanding Soviet artists.

She has expanded her field of performance to become one of the top-drawing artists in summer theater productions, such as "The King and I", "Bittersweet", and "The Merry Widow", playing to sold-out houses. She is the author of DEBUT AT THE MET, and has earned critical acclaim for her recordings for RCA, DGG, Columbia, and Decca. She also devotes much of her time to fund-raising for the Cystic Fibrosis Fund.

Miss Peters appears with the Sun City Symphony Orchestra this evening under arrangement with I.C.M. Artists Ltd., New York, Sheldon Gold, President.

# Program

THIRTEENTH SEASON — SIXTY-THIRD SUBSCRIPTION CONCERT  
SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 1981

8 P.M. — SUNDOME AUDITORIUM  
SUN CITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
JENNINGS BUTTERFIELD, CONDUCTOR  
ROBERTA PETERS, SOPRANO, SOLOIST

- I  
Star Spangled Banner . . . . . Francis Scott Key
- II  
Symphony No. 35 (The Haffner) . . . . . W. A. Mozart  
I Allegro con spirito  
II Andante  
III Menuetto  
IV Presto
- III  
Voi che sapete from "The Marriage of Figaro" . . . . . W. A. Mozart  
Voi avete un cor fidele . . . . . W. A. Mozart  
Quel guardo il cavaliere from "Don Pasquale" . . . . . G. Donizetti  
ROBERTA PETERS, SOLOIST

## INTERMISSION

- IV  
Selections from The Student Prince (In Heidelberg) . . . . . Sigmund Romberg  
Orch. by Walter Paul
- V  
Meine Lippen from "Giuditta" . . . . . Lehar  
Vienna, My City Of Dreams . . . . . Rudolf Sieczynski  
Arr. by William C. Schoenfeld  
Vilia . . . . . Lehar  
ROBERTA PETERS, SOLOIST
- VI  
Selections from "My Fair Lady" . . . . . Frederick Loewe  
Arr. by Robert Russell Bennett

-----

### We Proudly Present OUTSTANDING GUEST ARTISTS for the 1981-82 Concert Season

- Nov. 1, 1981 **ROBERT MERRILL, Baritone**  
He has performed as guest soloist with every major orchestra in the United States. "One of the great natural baritones of the century".
- Dec. 6, 1981 **LEONARD ROSE, Cellist**  
Rose has been described as a musician of such magnitude that it is inappropriate to compare him to any other Cellist—past or present.
- Jan. 24, 1982 **PETER NERO, Pianist-conductor**  
Music director and principal conductor of the "Philly Pops". His universal appeal has resulted in record breaking album sales and sell-out performances all over the world.
- Feb. 28, 1982 **WINNER of the Sun City Symphony young artist competition** to be held in December.
- April 4, 1982 **CARMEN BALTHROP, Lyric soprano**  
Widely acclaimed wherever she appears, this young Metropolitan Opera star has been guest artist with many noted Symphonies and Opera Companies.

-----

*Ushers have been instructed not to seat anyone while a musical selection is in progress.*

**Y**ou're reading this program  
because the sound of  
**music**

is important in your life!



That's why Hassler's  
brings you the finest  
in the sounds of music!

FAMOUS **Thomas** ORGANS

*and the greatest names in television*

**ZENITH**

**MGA**

**SYLVANIA**

**SONY TV**

*And we back up all these superb products with our expert  
personal service and the most modern repair equipment !*



**La Ronde Centre West • 977-4243  
14646 N. Del Webb Blvd.**



## Program Notes

April 5, 1981

by James Handley

### THE "HAFFNER SYMPHONY" (1782)

Symphony in D major, No. 35, (K. 385)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(1756-1791)

The most popular of Mozart's earlier symphonies was written at the request of Sigmund Haffner, Burgomaster of Salzburg. It was completed the year of Mozart's marriage to Constanze Weber, sister of Aloysia whom he had earlier loved and lost. During his two "honeymoon years" Mozart also wrote five piano concertos, an opera (*The Abduction From the Seraglio*), *The Linz Symphony*, five of the "Haydn" quartets, two sonatas, and the *Great Mass in C minor*.

The "Haffner Symphony" departed from the classical norm by presenting only one principal theme in the first movement and by projecting that theme immediately in the full orchestra. At the point where a second subject was customarily introduced, Mozart repeated the initial theme in a different key. After a brilliant contrapuntal development of the principal subject, he introduced a subsidiary idea by way of a brief interlude in the violins . . . a lyrical preparation for the gentle remanza-like slow movement with its solemn interlude for the woodwinds.

The minuet movement is characteristically graceful. In the trio section, however, Mozart interjected a pastoral beauty not often found in courtly symphonic minuets.

With his typical verve, Mozart specified in a letter that the concluding movement should be played as fast as possible. It opens with soft, fleet, almost cat-like agility. The second subject, continuing in the strings, is a bit more relaxed, though still requiring nimble bowing.

### "Voi che sapete" from THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO" Premiere, Vienna, 1776 W. A. Mozart

Figaro and Susanna, servants to Count and Countess Almaviva, have set the date for their wedding, but the Count continues making improper advances to Susanna thus distressing the Countess. Dr. Bartolo (Figaro's enemy) has an elderly housekeeper, Marcellina, who wants to marry Figaro, herself. A young page, Cherubino, just wants to continue playing the field. Thus, the stage is set for the grandest of comedies, rife with tangles stemming from half-heard conversations and mistaken identities. Susanna, the one sensible character, sorts out the ensuing melee by rejecting the Count, marrying Bartolo off to Marcellina, matching Cherubino to a peasant girl, and wedding Figaro. "Voi che sapete" is sung by Cherubino disguised as Susanna in an attempt to make the Count appear ridiculous.

(Continued on Page 19)

**A special kind of bank**

**For people with special kinds of needs**



**UNITED BANK  
OF ARIZONA**

*3 convenient locations to serve you*

**Sun City North**  
18810 99th Ave.

Just north of Union Hills Drive

**248-2490**

**Sun City**  
Corner of 99th Ave. and  
Thunderbird Blvd.

**248-2350**

MEMBER FDIC

**Sun City West**  
(24-Hour Ugly Teller Location)  
19440 R. H. Johnson Blvd.

**584-4303**

# Your everyday world needs news every day.

The great composers of the past lived in a time when news traveled very slowly. The happenings that make news — decisions of national leaders, scientific discoveries, even disasters — happened daily then, just as they do today.

But the impact of events on everyday people was determined then by the knots of a sailing ship or the pace of a horse or word of mouth, rather than the afternoon home delivery of a newspaper.

Your world of intellectualism — music, art, philosophy, literature — can be filled with the timeless classics that you keep in your home or your heart to take out and enjoy at leisure. But your everyday world needs news every day.

## In focus on your world.

# DAILY NEWS-SUN

with offices at 10020 and 10102 Santa Fe Drive in Sun City (602) 977-8351



### Sun City Water Company

15626 North Del Webb Boulevard  
Sun City, Arizona 85351

### Sun City West Utilities Company

13569 Camino Del Sol  
Sun City West, Arizona 85375

Our sincere congratulations to the Sun City  
Symphony Orchestra on your premier season  
in the magnificent Sundome.

**WE WISH YOU SUCCESS!**

**"Voi avete un cor fidele" (K. 217) Introduced, Salzburg, 1775**

**W. A. Mozart**

It was not uncommon for composers of Mozart's day to add arias to operas of other composers (vocal "cadenzas", if you will) to exhibit the virtuosity of particular singers. The glorious example Miss Peters presents this evening was so composed as an embellishment upon the opera *Le NOZZE* by Baldassare Galuppi (1706-1785).

Galuppi was a Venetian organist-turned-opera composer whose comic works so influenced his contemporaries (all the way from London to St. Petersburg) that he is often called "the father of OPERA BUFFA".

Mozart composed "Voi avete . . ." in *rondo form* with variations upon an *andante grazioso* and an *allegro* in complex alternation. The text is after Carlo Goldoni (1707-1793) the immensely popular Italian dramatist who was librettist for *Le NOZZE* and many other of Galuppi's one-hundred "hit" operas.

**"Quel guardo il cavaliere" from DON PASQUALE  
Premieres, Paris—1843, New York—1846**

**Gaetano Donizetti  
(1797-1848)**

The premiere of this three-act opera buffa at the Theatre des Italiens in Paris enjoyed one of the most notable casts ever assembled. Pasquale was played by Lablache, about whom Ernest Newman has written, "opera has perhaps never seen or heard his like before or since". Norina was played by Giulia Grisi, the celebrated soprano for whom Bellini had created the lead in *I Puritani* (Paris, 1835). At the time of the premiere Donizetti was the most celebrated composer in Europe. He had just been granted an honorary title by the Emperor of Austria. "Don Pasquale" was his sixty-third opera, and many historians consider it to be his finest. It adheres to the best traditions of Italian opera buffa. The characters are everyday people, and their problems are the little complications of everyday life. As usual there are several amatory misunderstandings, but unlike the principals in Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor" everyone ultimately comes to live happily ever after.

In Act I, Don Pasquale is opposed to the love affair of his nephew Ernesto and the beautiful young widow Norina. Dr. Malatesta, intent on aiding the young lovers, launches a plot whereby the old bachelor, Pasquale, is led to believe that an imaginary sister of Malatesta has a crush on him. Unaware of the plot that will require her to masquerade as Malatesta's sister in a mock marriage to her lover's uncle, Norina reflects about love and her confidence that she is well schooled in the subtle art of winning a man's heart, singing, "Quel guardo il cavaliere."



**HOME FURNISHINGS**  
14672 N. DEL WEBB BLVD.  
Furniture 977-4221      Patio & Dinettes 977-5421

**Mayo's has the Largest  
Selection of Upholstered  
Furniture, Dinettes and Patio  
Furniture in Sun City.**

**Selection . . . Value . . . Quality . . .  
Service, from the Oldest  
Furniture Store in Sun City.**



**JARRETTS**  
*Travel Service, INC.*

15414 N. 99TH AVENUE      MEMBER      SUN CITY, ARIZONA 85351



Greenway Terrace Center

Ph. 933-8296

**We Care Enough  
and Do Our  
Very Best  
for You!**

**BRAVO!**

**SUN CITY  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**Sun Bowl Plaza**  
MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION



## **SHEARSON LOEB RHOADES, INC.**

Member New York and All Principal Exchanges  
Accounts Insured up to \$500,000

*Contact any one of our friendly Investment Executives  
for all your investment needs.*

ROY HARKINS  
CHARLES TINKHAM  
ED TOMP  
LEW CARNS

ED BRANCH  
PETE HARTSUFF  
ROGER WOOD  
SID ANDERS

**WHEN THE QUESTION IS MONEY, THE ANSWER IS SHEARSON**

*Located in the Greenway Shopping Center, 99th Ave. and Greenway*  
15456 N. 99th Avenue • Sun City • 933-0191

## **ACRO TV & APPLIANCE CENTER**

*Authorized Factory Service — Zenith & RCA  
Serving Sun City-Youngtown Area 10 years  
Antenna Installations — Second Outlets  
Fast — Courteous — Dependable*

— MEMBER —  
Arizona State  
Electronics Association

Sun Bowl Plaza  
107th & Peoria Ave.

933-0181

THE

# **ALMOND TREE**

**NUTRITION  
CENTER**

*Great for that Holiday Gift!*

JUMBO MEDJOL DATES—AUSTRALIAN GLACED APRICOTS

ASSORTED GIFT PACKS TO CHOOSE FROM — "WE SHIP"

ARROWHEAD MALL EAST • 9794 W. PEORIA AVE. • PEORIA, AZ. 85345 • (602) 933-9595

## **Hard-working savings for hard-working Arizonans.**

 **First Federal**  
**We're with you.**



# Members of the Association (Continued from Page 21)

## FRIENDS (continued)

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Arzroun  
 Mrs. Paul L. Ashby  
 Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Baldwin  
 Eileen Barrett  
 Mrs. Charles Bauer  
 Dr. and Mrs. Herman D. Behrens  
 Mr. and Mrs. William J. Bieberle  
 H. P. Binder  
 Mrs. Phyllis Black  
 The Rev. and Mrs. Howard W. Blackbu  
 Oscar Bock  
 Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Bower  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Bowman  
 Mr. and Mrs. Don P. Breyer  
 Betty and Ed Brooks  
 Vivian Bruce  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Buehrig  
 Charlotte Byrne  
 Emerson E. Cain  
 Mrs. E. J. Carter  
 Mr. and Mrs. Hugh K. Clifton  
 Edward J. Comins  
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Lowell Craig  
 Mrs. Robt. J. Darrah  
 Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Emmons  
 Marty and Vi Erb  
 Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Estrem  
 Harold S. Fine  
 Mr. and Mrs. Allyn Fitschen  
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Frank  
 Mr. and Mrs. Norman Forsberg  
 Mr. and Mrs. W. Frei  
 Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Gibbs  
 Mary S. Gowdy  
 Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Gunckel  
 Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Hargrave  
 Mr. and Mrs. A. Earle Harrington  
 Mrs. Helen E. Healy  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Hill  
 Mrs. L. V. Holler

Gertrude L. Hoyt  
 Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Jamieson  
 Mrs. and Mrs. Leo A. Jensen  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ford Johnson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Johnson  
 Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Joy  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lief Kielland  
 Mr. and Mrs. Edwin F. Kirbert  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kirk  
 Mr. and Mrs. Harvey O. Kneser  
 Mrs. Grace Krueger  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles N. Lane  
 Judge Charles and Patricia Larson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Leddy  
 Mr. and Mrs. H. Willard Lende  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Lieber  
 Jack Lipton  
 Evelyn and George L. Long  
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Lucas  
 Donald C. Lunt  
 Mr. and Mrs. Alfred L. Madfis  
 Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Mahal  
 William and Adele Makler  
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Masters  
 Rosaline W. McLane  
 Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery Merryman  
 Rabbi and Mrs. Albert Michels  
 Mr. and Mrs. Alex R. Miller  
 Mrs. Esther M. Moffatt  
 Mr. and Mrs. Spencer A. Moore  
 In Memory of Mildred K. Moorn  
 Doug Morris  
 Mr. and Mrs. George A. Morgan  
 Mrs. Brownie Myers  
 Mr. and Mrs. Harry New  
 Mrs. John H. Norton  
 Mrs. Jean B. Olsen  
 Mr. and Mrs. Hyman B. Parks  
 Dr. and Mrs. Lester S. Perril  
 Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Perrusi

Dr. and Mrs. Gustavus Peters  
 Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Petersen  
 Dr. and Mrs. Myron R. Pexton  
 Mr. and Mrs. Eldert Pool  
 Dr. and Mrs. G. Maxwell Powell  
 Mr. and Mrs. Herb Preppernau  
 Rutheda L. Pretzell  
 Mrs. D. L. Roberts  
 Mr. and Mrs. H. Robinette  
 Mrs. Frederick E. Roehman  
 Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Roeth Jr.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Julian Rosenthal  
 Col. and Mrs. L. B. Row  
 Mrs. Vera C. Russell  
 Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rylander  
 Mr. and Mrs. Bryon Salem  
 Mr. and Mrs. Vern G. Schmidt  
 Mr. and Mrs. Milford Schueler  
 Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Shanks  
 Rev. John J. Sheehan  
 Margo M. Smith  
 Mr. and Mrs. William L. Sorensen  
 Dr. and Mrs. Adolph M. Stebler  
 Mr. and Mrs. Larry Stout  
 Dr. and Mrs. P. S. Stutsman  
 Mr. and Ms. Clyde L. Swayze  
 Dr. and Mrs. Abraham B. Tamsis  
 Isabel E. Teller  
 Mr. and Mrs. Philip B. Thomas  
 Mrs. E. H. Trowbridge  
 Mrs. Vyrlie H. Troxell  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Vallee  
 Mrs. Marjorie van den Bosch  
 Mr. and Mrs. A. Van Wagenen  
 Mr. and Mrs. Harold M. West  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Westover  
 Lucy White  
 Helen W. Whit  
 Margaret (Peggy) Wickham  
 Betty Ruth Williams

## Three ways to enjoy your 1981 Cadillac.



### New V8-6-4 Fuel Injection.

Automatically goes from 8 to 6 to 4 cylinders—a Cadillac exclusive!



### Available V6 power.

With overdrive for DeVilles and Fleetwood Broughams.



### Diesel V8, too!

The same engine that's standard for Seville is also available for Eldorado, the Fleetwood Broughams and DeVilles.

Cadillacs are equipped with GM-built engines produced by various divisions. See us for details.

*Coulter Cadillac*  
 The Cadillac of Automobile Dealerships.

12th Street and East Camelback

Open Monday thru Friday 8 to 9 — Saturday until 6 264-1188



Next Time  
 You Plan to Dine in Town

Remember  
**NAVARRE'S**

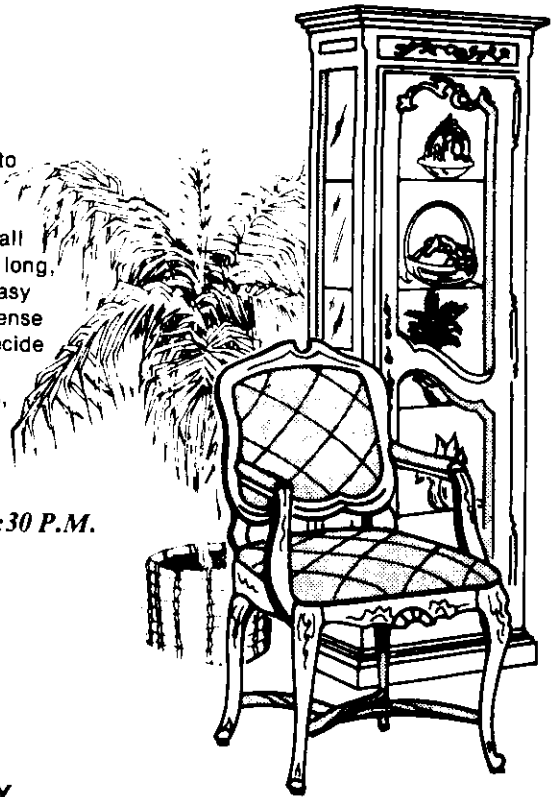
Excellent Food • Good Service  
 Fair Prices

Uptown Plaza • Central & Camelback

Reservations 264-5355

# the professionals

Furnishing your home is easy. Or so it seems until you stop to think about the hundreds of furniture styles . . . the different colors and how to use them . . . about woods and fabrics and construction . . . about carpet textures, window treatments and accents. When you think about all the things Freed's designers think about all day long, you'll probably decide home furnishing isn't as easy as you thought. That's why it makes so much sense to let a professional Freed's designer help you decide from our huge selection of fine domestic and imported furniture, lamps, carpets, rugs, fabrics, and accessories.



**COME LOOK US OVER —**  
**MONDAY through SATURDAY 9 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.**



**933-0105**

**10785 GRAND AVE. SUN CITY**

**GEORGE MENKE**

**DAN SMATANA**

Register your wishes with us now . . .  
 In time of crisis we can then  
 Serve you with competence and  
 Understanding

## Menke Funeral Home

12420 N. 103rd Avenue, Sun City

979-6451

### MAKE "McCLELLAN'S FLORIST" YOUR FLORIST



Flowers by Wire  
 Valley Wide Delivery  
 Hospital Gifts and Flowers  
 Distinctive Funeral Remembrances  
 Complete Nursery Stock  
 Expert Plant Advisors



**Party Planner Available to Help on All Occasions**  
**Banquets — Luncheons — Parties**

Your Phone is Your Charge Account

8-5 Mon.-Sat.

**12040 North 111th Ave., SUN CITY**

**974-5803**



## **For The 1980-81 Concert Season - A GRAND FINALE**

Today is a very important date in the life of the Sun City Symphony Orchestra. For this concert season has not been just another series of musical events. By any standard of measurement it has been outstanding, for we have blossomed forth into an organization in the cultural world which was beyond our fondest hopes one year ago. Accolades are deserving to so many. Let us consider a few:

1. The Sundome made it all possible. It offered us facilities larger and more acoustically perfect than any concert hall in the country. Its staff of high quality professionals rendered assistance and advice far beyond their call of duty. And everyone connected with it has performed magnificently. To mention a few: the sheriff deputies and posse members in their efficient handling of monumental traffic; the ushers who performed many services far beyond their call of duty; the lovely ladies who graciously welcomed us all at the entrances; the stage personnel who did so much beyond the scenes to keep every performance running smoothly; and the acoustical staff who quickly learned the intricacies and techniques of voice and sound control with the most modern equipment.
2. The members of the orchestra who have responded to the challenges with cooperation, enthusiasm and professional artistry.
3. The Board of Trustees and especially the officers of the Sun City Symphony must be complimented for their foresight and ingenuity in moving the whole orchestra family—its management, its programming, its musicians—ahead so splendidly in the short span of five concerts.
4. The audiences, subscribers and Members of the Association who have enthusiastically supported this forward thrust and helped make it financially viable and achievable.
5. The Press—Arizona Republic, Daily News Sun, Sun City Citizen—who have been generous with their coverage of our concerts, our guest artists and our aim to make this orchestra a focus for music lovers throughout the valley.
6. This season has had special significance for Maestro Jennings Butterfield, our conductor and director and inspiration for the past thirteen years. This concert tonight is in truth a grand finale for him and for all of us. When his baton falls tonight after the last selection he will have fulfilled a tremendous service to all of us. In his retirement this orchestra will continue to be a source of great pride to him as its founder, for he has made this all possible. What finer "Grand Finale" could anyone wish for?

**"The Quality of Being Special"**

**SAKOWITZ**

AMARILLO

HOUSTON

SCOTTSDALE

**DENNIS "DENNY" EGGERT**

Bell Plaza Professional Bldg.  
105th & Bell • Sun City, Az.  
933-8235

**"See me for a State Farm Homeowners  
Policy with Inflation Coverage"**

*Like a good neighbor,  
State Farm is there.*



State Farm Fire  
and Casualty Company  
Home Office: Bloomington, Illinois



*Quality Food and  
Reasonable Prices in a  
Comfortable Atmosphere*

*Come in and enjoy our warm  
Hospitality and a leisurely Sunday  
Dinner before each Concert.*

**DRU PEARSON**  
*Owner/Manager*

10243 Grand Ave. • Sun City • 933-6941

Open 6 a.m.-12 a.m. — 7 Days a Week

**Your home can be  
a SHOWPLACE...**

...with trees, shrubs and ornamentals from the nursery that landscaped **ENCORE**, the dramatic new Sun City West Model Home Exposition.



Free delivery to Sun City, Youngtown and Sun City West on any size order.  
Winter-Spring store hours: 8-4:30, Monday-Saturday. Located on Grand Ave,  
7 miles west of 107th Ave.

**975-2180**

## *At the end of the season . . .*

Tonight marks the finale of the thirteenth season of the Sun City Symphony Orchestra. Memorable in its individual five concerts and significant in that it was the first season in the Sundome, the season ignored the unlucky connotation of the number thirteen.

Like the first twelve, it had its share of special moments, both in terms of music and in terms of personalities.

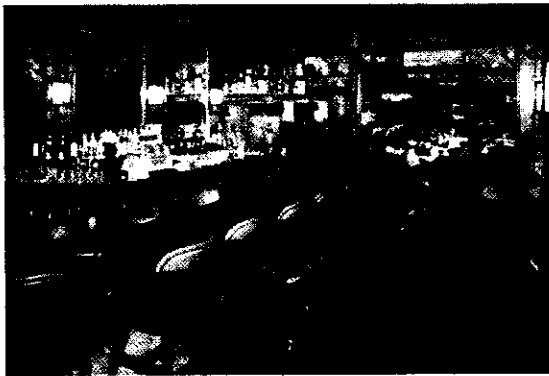
The most outstanding aspect of the season, however, was that it was

shared with thousands more people. Thousands!

People of these retirement communities and music-lovers from the entire Valley of the Sun as well. People from more walks of life, of more varied ages and economic levels, people of diverse musical tastes—all joined us in a united applause this season.

We welcome them all. And urge their continued support of this outstanding community orchestra. Come back for another season—number fourteen—and, tell a friend.

**DEL E. WEBB DEVELOPMENT CO.**



**WILLI RITTER**  
Restaurateur

## **Ritter's Chalet**

*Finest in German-American Cuisine  
Cocktails — Dancing Nightly*

13232 N. 111th Ave.  
Youngtown, Az. 85363

For Reservations  
Call: 933-6023

## ***Sundome Shines Into Summer!***

- April 7 8 PM Travel Film "The Philippines" with Eric Pavel  
April 9 8 PM Jim Nabors in Concert  
April 18 2 PM "Easter Inspirational Show" starring Norma Zimmer, Gail Farrell, Ron Anderson and Michael Redman from the Lawrence Welk musical family  
April 22 8 PM Bluegrass Festival featuring the Doug Dillard Band  
April 26 2 PM Victor Borge in Concert  
April 28 8 PM Travel Film: "Yosemite and the High Sierra" with Bob Roney  
May 3 2 PM Nelson Riddle and his Orchestra with special guests The Ink Spots  
May 10 2 PM Robert Goulet in Concert  
May 17 2 PM Lawrence Welk Stars Part II featuring Myron Floren, Guy & Raina, Bob Ralston, Bobby & Elaine, and Arthur Duncan  
May 30 2 PM Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme in a concert spectacular!  
May 30 8 PM Steve Lawrence and Edyie Gorme in a concert spectacular!  
June 6 8 PM Hawaiian Spectacular — a super Polynesian review direct from the Islands  
June 13 8 PM Bobby Vinton in Concert  
June 21 2 PM Steve Allen with special guest Jayne Meadows  
June 28 8 PM Concert Dance: starring The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra with Lee Castle conducting  
July 6 8 PM Oakland Ballet—"Billy the Kid" plus a mixed repertory

*For detailed event and ticket information, please call 975-1900*

# **Quinn & Loe**

**ONE OF THE FINEST MEN'S STORES IN THE VALLEY OF THE SUN**

Your Dealer For



**AND ALL THE OTHER NAMES YOU KNOW & TRUST**

*Alteration Service*

***LaRonde Centre* WEST • 977-4965**

Right in the heart of Sun City on Del Webb Blvd.

A mile north of Grand • A mile south of Bell

Heritage House

*'The Little Shop  
of*

*Beautiful Things'*

Sun Bowl Plaza

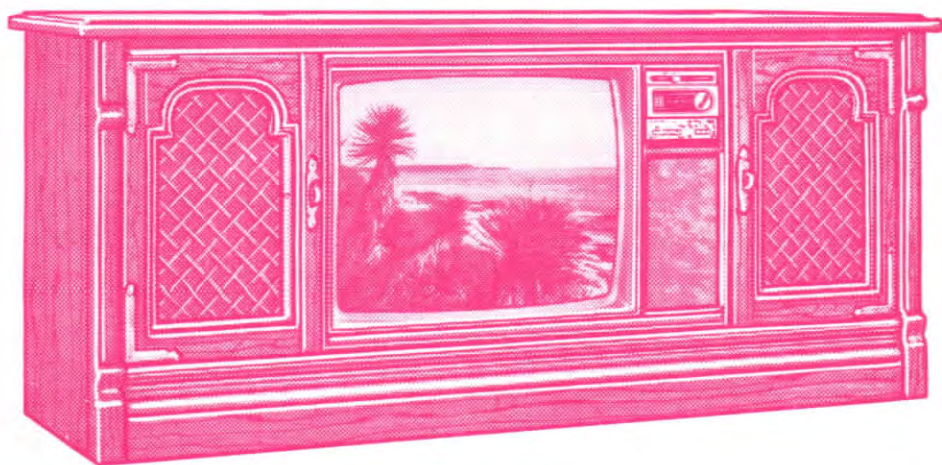
10737 W. Peoria Ave.

933 - 3811

Sun City, Arizona

# Magnavox

*Brings the world to your home*



**COLOR STEREO THEATRE with 25" diag. SCREEN**  
**100% SOLID STATE, STEREO FM/AM TUNER**  
**Cassette Player/Recorder & Automatic Record Changer**

**See Our Complete Selection**

**LOWEST TERMS AVAILABLE • SATISFACTION GUARANTEED**

*Arizona's First and Largest Magnavox Dealer*

**51st YEAR**

## **Mehagian's**

### **TV-STEREO**

*Inside The Mall at Arrowhead Center*

**99th & PEORIA AVENUES • PHONE 933-8233**

**ALSO TWO STORES IN PHOENIX AND DOWNTOWN MESA**