

**INDEPENDENT**

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# SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

## Westernaires prepare for annual holiday concerts

By **Jeremy Pearlman**  
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Despite any inferences deduced from its name, the Westernaires Chorus is not a group of singers who croon cowboy and western tunes while dressed in clothes fit for the rodeo.

Although they have been singing popular-style music for over 20 years in Sun City West, it is not out of the realm of possibilities for a citizen new to the area to make incorrect assumptions on what kind of chorus the Westernaires is — especially since its current director made the mistake when he first moved into the community seven years ago.

"We went to a concert of the Westernaires, my wife Lois and I, and found out lo and behold that they didn't sing western music," said Carrol Stiles, chorus director since 1998.

Made up of over 80 individuals with a broad range of singing backgrounds, the Westernaires Chorus is a chartered club with the Recreation Centers of Sun City West.

The chorus will be performing four Christmas Concerts — Dec. 14-17 — at the Stardust Theatre in the Kuentz Recreation Center.



The Westernaires Chorus, directed by Carrol Stiles, left, will perform its annual holiday concerts Dec. 14-17 at Stardust Theatre in the Kuentz Recreation Center in Sun City West.

Photos by Jeremy Pearlman/  
Independent Newspapers

The concerts will mix Christmas, Hanukkah and other holiday songs in an 1 1/2 hour long program.

Ticket sales for the four performances at the 300-seat venue have been brisk, with sellouts expected well in advance of all four shows.

Mac McQuade, publicity chairman and a chorus member for the last 14 years, believes the popularity in the show reflects the quality of performance expected by audience members.

"We have a good reputation," Mr. McQuade said. "People

know we do a good job entertaining them for their money's worth."

The Westernaires perform two different programs annually, one for the winter holiday season and another during spring.

Practices have been ongoing for the Christmas shows since September.

Although male chorus members will be wearing tuxedos and female chorus members will be wearing equally fine apparel for the upcoming performances, Mr. Stiles believes the shows to be informal.

"We're shooting for something we think will give everybody an enjoyable evening," Mr. Stiles said. "It's not like a symphony orchestra program. We hope (the audience) feels a little bit of a relationship with the chorus."

This will be the 11th year in which the Westernaires perform a Christmas Show and the final one under the direction of Mr. Stiles who will retire from the chorus following the last performance.

The concerts will take place 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14, 15, 17 and 2 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Stardust Theatre located in the Kuentz Recreation Center at 14401 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

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34

1. UN-DER A BRIL-LIANT SKY OF BLUE.  
2. AS A TOWN WE STILL ARE SMALL BUT AS A HAVE

Chords: C, A7

FOUND MY REN-DEZ-VOUS IN THE DE-SEERT I  
PEO-PLE WE STAND TALL AND WERE GROW-ING, YES WE

Chords: D7, G7

SUN GROWING CI-TY EV-RY WEST SUN CI-TY WEST I NEATH AN A-RI-ZO-NA  
DAY AND I NE-VER-MORE WILL

Chords: C

MOON AND THE GIANT SA-QUA-RA'S BLOOM IN THE  
ROAM FROM MY A-RI-ZO-NA HOME AND THE

Chords: A7, D7

DE-SEERT IN SUN CI-TY WEST I  
PLACE I LIKE THE BEST SUN CI-TY WEST.

Chords: G7, C, D7, D.C.

NE-VER THOT I LIVE IN A-RI-ZO-NA WHERE THE

Chords: F, C

Handwritten musical notation for the first system. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics: "OL' JACK RAB-BIT AND ROAD RUN-NER PLAY, BUT I". The bass staff contains the accompaniment. Chords are labeled above the treble staff: C, A7, D7, and G7. The time signature is 3/4.

Handwritten musical notation for the second system. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics: "THINK I'VE FOUND A LIT-TLE PIECE OF HEA- VEN HERE ON". The bass staff contains the accompaniment. Chords are labeled above the treble staff: C, A7, and D7. A circled note in the treble staff is labeled "Linger". The time signature is 3/4.

Handwritten musical notation for the third system. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics: "EARTH NEAR THE DRY BED A - QUA FRIA HEAR ME SAY.". The bass staff contains the accompaniment. Chords are labeled above the treble staff: G7 and C. The time signature is 3/4.

Handwritten musical notation for the fourth system. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics: "SAY. IT'S THE PLACE I LIKE THE BEST SUN CI - TY". The bass staff contains the accompaniment. Chords are labeled above the treble staff: F and G7. There are first and second endings marked above the treble staff. The time signature is 3/4.

Handwritten musical notation for the fifth system. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics: "WEST. SU - N CI - TY WEST.". The bass staff contains the accompaniment. Chords are labeled above the treble staff: C, Dm, Fm, and C. The time signature is 3/4.

Sightation

**“SUN CITY WEST”**

*Words and Music By Bob Callaghan, 1985*

Under a brilliant sky of blue,  
I have found my rendezvous,  
In the desert in Sun City West,  
Neath the Arizona moon,  
And the giant saguaro bloom,  
in the desert in Sun City West.

*Chorus:*

I never thought I'd live in Arizona  
Where the jackrabbit and roadrunner play,  
But I think I've found  
A little piece of heaven here on earth,  
Near the dry bed Agua Fria.  
Hear me say,  
It's the place I like the best  
Sun City West, Sun City West.

As a town, we are still small,  
But as people we stand tall,  
And we're growing,  
Yes, we're growing every day,  
And I never more will roam,  
From my Arizona home,  
And the place I like the best,  
Sun City West, Sun City West.

*Chorus Repeat:*

I never thought I'd live in Arizona  
Where the jackrabbit and roadrunner play,  
But I think I've found  
A little piece of heaven here on earth,  
Near the dry bed Agua Fria.  
Hear me say,  
It's the place I like the best  
Sun City West, Sun City West.

**Description**

Sun City West Song written by Bob Callaghan in 1985.