



An all-volunteer, non-profit organization bringing great music experiences to our community since 1992.

PRESS RELEASE

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ARIZONA MUSICFEST INTRODUCES BANKING EXECUTIVE AS MANAGING DIRECTOR

August 21, 2009 – Carefree, Arizona – “At the conclusion of an extensive search, Arizona Musicfest has hired Lynn Bowers as Managing Director,” announced Jim Morrissey, Chairman of the Board, Arizona Musicfest. “Lynn’s educational and professional backgrounds, her nonprofit involvements, her management style, and her fun personality are perfect matches for all of us at Arizona Musicfest.”

Based in Carefree since 1992, Arizona Musicfest is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization of volunteers that produces the annual winter music festival - *Arizona Musicfest* - featuring the Arizona Musicfest Orchestra and Arizona Musicfest Chorus under the baton of Artistic Director Robert Moody. The Orchestra’s 2009 opening night was hailed by *The Arizona Republic* critic Richard Nilsen as “one of the most exciting concerts of the year.”

In addition to the Festival, Arizona Musicfest provides a daily music education program, *Musicfest Minutes!*, to a growing list of elementary schools in four school districts (Cave Creek Unified School District, Scottsdale Unified School District, Paradise Valley Unified School District, and Deer Valley Unified School District); makes live classical concerts available for school children; presents free family concerts; and maintains an instrument scholarship program which makes instruments available to students who otherwise might not be able to afford them.

Arizona Musicfest also provides performance opportunities to talented young musicians via its annual *Young Musicians Competition* and *Young Artists Concert*; and through community partnerships in the *Young Musicians Showcase* concert series, and *The Young Performers Recital Series at Steinway Hall*.

“*Arizona Musicfest 2010*, with concerts spanning the best of Broadway, jazz, chamber, and classical music is a unique opportunity to hear Carnegie Hall quality music in strikingly beautiful desert foothills locations, each acoustically well suited to the style of music performed. It’s a total musical experience that draws attention and visitors from around the world,” commented Lynn Bowers. “I am delighted to be associated with the dedicated volunteers that make it all happen.”

After attending the Jordan School of Music at Butler University in Indianapolis, Bowers spent her corporate career in the banking industry. During the last ten years of her twenty year tenure with Wells Fargo, she managed the Nonprofit Banking Division, working with 250 nonprofit customers. She joins Arizona Musicfest after consulting nonprofit organizations.

Bowers has served on numerous nonprofit boards over the years, including United Blood Services Community Leadership Council, Alliance for Audience, The Bead Museum, and New Arizona Family, Inc. She has served on grant committees for the Arizona Commission on the Arts, and is currently a Commissioner of the Phoenix Arts Commission, and Chair of that organization’s Arts Education Committee.

"I was an immediate fan of Lynn Bowers from the moment we met! Lynn's business savvy and experience with nonprofit arts organizations will expand the foundation for our artistic goals," said Robert Moody, Artistic Director, Arizona Musicfest. "I'm looking forward to working with her as my 'team-mate' in helping all of us at Arizona Musicfest continue to build an internationally respected music festival and expand our programs for young musicians and students throughout the state."

"Thanks to steady donations through our Impresario program and wonderful corporate sponsors, Arizona Musicfest has been able to maintain the quality and size of our All-Star Orchestra, 70-voice Chorus, and the Festival's dynamic concert programming," Bowers pointed out. "And, we are continually improving our youth performance opportunities and annually expanding our music education commitments. In fact, we are in the process of placing *Musicfest Minutes!* into more classrooms throughout the Valley. Arizona Musicfest rocks!"

Arizona Musicfest gives the community:

Arizona Musicfest 2010

- Carnegie Hall quality in your own backyard with 12 thrilling concerts, February 1 – 28
- The 55-member All-Star Arizona Musicfest Orchestra drawn from the country's top orchestras under the baton of Robert Moody
- The 70-voice Arizona Musicfest Chorus, under the baton of Maestro Moody
- Internationally renowned guest artists
- Broadway and jazz concerts featuring North and South America's top performers
- Chamber music at its finest

Arizona Musicfest gives children the gift of great music:

- Every school day, 5,000 children listen to *Musicfest Minutes!*, a classical music education program
- Each year, 1,500 elementary school children experience symphonic music at a live concert
- During *Arizona Musicfest 2010*, 300 music students will have an "up close and personal" interaction with musicians at an Arizona Musicfest Orchestra rehearsal
- Students in need are provided instruments to take music lessons
- Each year, over 100 young musicians are given quality performance opportunities, including a chance to compete in our highly-regarded competition
- Engaging live musical events for families to share

Every achievement of Arizona Musicfest is accomplished by volunteers. "Arizona Musicfest volunteers rave about their sense of satisfaction and the new life-long friends they have made" said Chris Warsaw, former Managing Director who has returned to her volunteer position after a year as Interim Managing Director. "I know that our volunteers will enjoy working with Lynn as we enter our third decade of bringing the joys of great music into the lives of everyone in the community."

For additional information, please contact Arizona Musicfest at (480) 488-0806 or azmusicfestoffice@azmusicfest.org. Visit www.azmusicfest.org for updates throughout the year.