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PRESS RELEASE

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January 23, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Arizona Musicfest Day at Barnes & Noble Desert Ridge

Share the music at *Arizona Musicfest Day* on Saturday, January 23, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Desert Ridge! Join the fun with a musical-themed story time and Instrument Petting Zoo, thrill to performances from exceptional young musicians, and meet the experts, then express your love of music through creative face painting. Browse among the large selection of books, and if you bring in the Arizona Musicfest Bookfair flyer from the azmusicfest.org website, a percentage of the proceeds from your purchase will be donated to Arizona Musicfest to help keep music in local schools.

"The Cave Creek Unified School District has been the benefactor of many Arizona Musicfest programs, including *Musicfest Minutes*," said Dr. Debbi Burdick, Superintendent of the Cave Creek Unified School District. All of our elementary schools participate in *Musicfest Minutes*, a daily music education program made possible through the generosity of Arizona Musicfest, where our students have inspiring exposure to quality music, increasing their curiosity and knowledge of the arts. Additionally, Arizona Musicfest continues to provide free concerts for our students to expand their musical appreciation."

Arizona Musicfest Day schedule:

11 a.m. Musical-themed Story Time
11:30 a.m. Special Guest Performance by Violinist Usha Kapoor
12 p.m. Musical Instrument Petting Zoo with Cave Creek Unified School District Musicians
1:30 p.m. Special Guest Performance by Flutist Chaz Salazar
2 p.m. Musical Instrument Petting Zoo with Cave Creek Unified School District Musicians
3:30 p.m. Face Painting

Musicians from Cactus Shadows High School, Sonoran Trails Middle School and Desert Arroyo Middle School will share an up-close and personal perspective of their instruments and what music means to them as hosts of the Musical Instrument Petting Zoo.

Award winning young musicians, violinist Usha Kapoor and flutist Chaz Salazar, will play and talk about their music, instrument and experiences. It will be an inspiring afternoon for students, aspiring young musicians and anyone who enjoys music.

Usha Kapoor was a semifinalist in the 2009 International Schmidbauer Competition, a MTNA Arizona state representative for the past three years and the national representative for the Southwest Division in 2008, when she was also the winner of the 2008 ASTA Senior Division. Usha has performed in the Arizona Musicfest Young Musicians Competition, the Young Artists Concert and the Young Musicians Showcase. She attended Interlochen Arts Camp and Meadowmount School of Music. Most recently, Usha performed to a packed Steinway Hall in the Arizona Musicfest Young Performers Recital Series. Usha, age fifteen, attends Mesquite High School in Gilbert.

Chaz Salazar has earned many Musicianship and Finals honors with the Phoenix Youth Symphony and Arizona Musicfest and placed First Overall in the Arizona Flute Society Young Musicians Competition. He earned scholarships to Idyllwild, Interlochen and the Eastern Music Festival. Last summer, he studied at Oxford Arts Centre in Canada. Most recently, Chaz won the \$10,000 Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award after being featured on National Public Radio's *From the Top*. He performed in October's Arizona Musicfest Young Artists Concert. Chaz is a senior at Phoenix's Cesar Chavez High School.

Barnes & Noble Desert Ridge is located at 21001 North Tatum Blvd., just north of the Loop 101. For more information about *Arizona Musicfest Day*, the Bookfair or Arizona Musicfest, please call Arizona Musicfest at (480) 488.0806.