



## COT News ~ January 2012

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**Mark Your Calendars for remaining concerts in our 2011-2012 Season**

### Spring Classical Concerts *Free*

#### Sat., March 10

7:00  
Vail Theatre of the Arts  
10701 E. Mary Ann  
Cleveland Way  
Tucson, AZ

#### Sunday, March 11

3:00  
Crowder Hall  
UA School of Music  
1020 E. University Blvd.  
Tucson, AZ

#### Pops at Old Pueblo Grille Sunday, April 22

7:00  
\$10 suggested donation  
60 North Alvernon Way  
Tucson, AZ

#### Pops at Quail Creek Sunday, April 29

3:00  
Tickets: \$15 (available nearer the concert date)  
Crystal Ballroom at  
Madera Clubhouse at  
Quail Creek  
Green Valley, AZ

### Dear Friend of the COT,

We hope your holidays were full of fun, peace and harmony. We had a great holiday concert in Marana with 20 middle school students performing with us. Our third annual performance of The Nutcracker with Dancing in the Streets Arizona was a treat to play as well!

Our next event is our **Young Artists' Competition**, which will likely produce a talented soloist for at least one of our Pops concerts this spring. Read on to see how you can attend the auditions!

We are starting rehearsals for our March concerts, featuring piano soloist **Jose Solórzano**. For the first time we will perform at the Vail Theatre of the Arts. The next day we will repeat the concert at Crowder Hall on the UA campus. Also on the program is **Beethoven's Symphony No. 8**. [Read more](#) about these concerts on our website.

### Meet Jose Solórzano, Piano Soloist

*Jose Solórzano will be the featured soloist when the COT performs **Nights in the Gardens of Spain** by Manuel de Falla in March. [Click to read his full bio.](#)*



Jose Solórzano was born in Agua Prieta, Sonora. At the age of ten, he began taking piano lessons at the Viola Academy of Music with his first teacher, Eduardo Corella. Jose participated in group recitals early on and later performed more ambitious piano solo programs. At the age of 17, he moved to Hermosillo, Sonora, to continue his piano studies at the University of Sonora. At age 21, he moved to Tucson to study with Nicholas Zumbro at UA. Here he obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in piano performance.

Jose has participated in and won several piano competitions, both locally and nationally, has received several scholarships, and has performed with several Arizona orchestras, including the COT, both in Tucson and in Agua Prieta. He has also performed many times as soloist and as part of chamber groups. One recital performed at the Arizona Health Sciences Library was in conjunction with the exhibit "Diseases of Famous Composers...Or Why They Are Now Decomposing."

Since 1992, Jose has worked both at the UA College of Medicine, currently as a systems administrator, and at the Oro Valley United Church of Christ, currently as the music ministry director. He is currently participating in the effort to build a fine arts center, Casa de la Cultura, in Agua Prieta, Sonora. His work on this project earned him the Emiliana Zubeldia Medal in 2008.

## Pops in the Park

**Free**

**Sunday, May 6**

7:00

DeMeester Outdoor  
Performance Center  
Reid Park, Tucson, AZ

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For several years, Jose has been the principal pianist with the COT, where he also serves on the orchestra's executive board.

## Coming Soon: Our Young Artists' Competition!

Do you know a talented young musician? Perhaps that school-aged (K-12) musician would like to audition for an opportunity to perform a solo with the COT.

On Saturday, February 4, we will hold our 28th Annual Young Artists' Competition. The competition is divided into two age groups so that younger students can compete separately from older musicians. The Junior Division is open to students in Grade 8 and below. The Senior Division is for students in Grade 9 and above. In each division, First and Second Place winners are selected by judges in three categories: Strings, Piano, and Winds/Percussion.

The competition offers students a good introduction to the audition process. Winners gain public exposure and are awarded cash prizes. The event provides each entrant a unique learning experience, and music teachers from both studios and schools applaud the orchestra for this contribution to the young musicians' development. To date, COT has hosted over 70 performances by students ranging from elementary to high-school age.

Registration forms must be postmarked by January 14, so entrants need to act quickly. They must be prepared to perform a movement from a concerto for their instrument from the standard repertoire by memory. Two or more winners may be invited to perform their solos with the COT in future concerts.

For more information about the YAC, visit our [website](#) or contact Lee Oler, YAC Coordinator, by [e-mail](#) or telephone: 520-791-9246.

### ***Do you want to attend the auditions?***

Those who make a donation to the COT at the Patron level (\$250 or more) will soon be receiving an invitation to attend the auditions. It's not too late to increase your [donation](#) so you can attend, too!

## "Advice to Young Musicians" by Robert Schumann

In 1860, composer Robert Schumann wrote a short book entitled "Advice to Young Musicians." Among his many points of wisdom are:

"Take care always to have your instrument well-tuned."

"Endeavour to play easy pieces well and with elegance; that is better than to play difficult pieces badly."

"If all would play first violin, we could not obtain an orchestra. Therefore esteem every musician in his place."

"From vocalists you may learn much, but do not believe all that they say."

"Play always as if in the presence of a master."

And, the last sentence of the book is:

"There is no end of learning."

Our Young Artists' Competition auditioners--in fact our entire orchestra--would be well-advised to keep these words in mind! Visit our website to [read this entire short book](#), now in the public domain, in English or the original German.

## Beethoven Symphony No. 8 Painting on Display at DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun

Ted DeGrazia, Tucsonan for many years and noted artist of the Southwest, is remembered with permanent and temporary exhibits of his works at the DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun, run by the DeGrazia Foundation he established.

DeGrazia received his Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of Arizona. For his Masters thesis in 1945, he researched the relationship between abstract art and music in music education. As part of this research he painted 10 oils that were inspired by classical music compositions, one of them Beethoven's Symphony No. 8. We will perform that work at our March concerts!

These ten paintings, along with many other DeGrazia works inspired by different styles of music, are on display in an exhibit titled "Musical Compositions by Ted DeGrazia" at the DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun. The exhibit ends on January 18. The Gallery, located at 6300 N. Swan Rd., just north of Swan & Sunrise, is open daily from 10-4 and admission is free. [Read more about the exhibit.](#)

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We are excited about our concert season and hope that you can come to our free concerts in March or our Pops concerts in April and May.

With your help, we can perform free classical music concerts throughout the Tucson area for another 36 years. We couldn't do it without you.

Sincerely,

**Dorothy Fitch**  
President, Board of Directors  
Civic Orchestra of Tucson  
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