

# Music On The Move

By Kristy Kneiding

*To the Coachella Valley Symphony “Music on the Move” is more than just a theme for this season’s series of concerts — it represents an expansion throughout the Valley.*

For more than a decade the Symphony called Del Webb’s Sun City Palm Desert home, but this year has expanded to include the Helen Galen Theatre for the Performing Arts at the new Rancho Mirage High School, plus a gala concert at the McCallum Theatre in May.

“Holding all our concerts at one location limited our audience. By offering a mid-valley location, we are reaching out to the community in which our patrons live and are looking forward to expanding our audience base,” said Coachella Valley Symphony President Dr. David Wolfe.

The Symphony was first founded in 1964 as a joint project with the College of the Desert and named the Desert Symphony. Since then it has changed names, boards of directors, and conductors. In 1992 the orchestra was renamed the Coachella Valley Symphony to reflect a broader representation of the area.

Now celebrating its 21st year as the Coachella Valley Symphony, it is the area’s only community, volunteer orchestra, comprised of professional and nonprofessional musicians. Members range in age from 18 to 92 and cover a variety of professions from lawyers and nurses to teachers and homemakers. This group rehearses weekly to make music and share it with others throughout the season under the direction of conductor Maestro Wayne Abravanel.

The Symphony strives to make the public aware of the importance of being engaged in music, whether as listeners or as active performers. “Our programs involve people in activities that promote well-being and contribute to the development of our youth,” said Dr. Wolfe.

At the core of this nonprofit, community organization is education. The Coachella Valley Symphony is comprised of an adult orchestra (CVS) and two educational outreach programs: The Buddy Rogers Youth Symphony and the Beginning Strings Conservatory. These programs are sequenced to allow musicians to graduate from one ensemble and move on to another, providing the opportunity for participants to continue their music interests as they mature in age.

The Beginning Strings Conservatory gets children involved in music education at the elementary school level and keeps them engaged until they are ready for the Buddy Rogers Youth Symphony conducted by Todd Montemayor. Since being founded in 1995, more than 850 students ages 8 – 18 have played in the Youth Symphony. Many of the youth participants stay the course and play in the adult symphony, while others leave the area to further their education, advance their careers, and seek opportunities to play in music ensembles or orchestras within academic or community settings.

“The Symphony’s past and present mission has been to perpetuate live symphonic music, and at the same time, give accomplished and young emerging musicians opportunities to share their talents through public performances,” commented Dr. Wolfe.



Another goal of the Symphony is making concerts affordable and accessible for everyone, allowing all citizens the opportunity to enjoy the arts. Because orchestra members are volunteers and not paid performers, the Symphony is able to offer concerts at prices as low as \$25 per performance.

As with any nonprofit, the Symphony relies on sponsorships and donations to maintain the educational youth programs and to keep concert tickets affordable. The organization’s main fundraiser this season is a concert and VIP reception to be held in May at the McCallum Theatre featuring local physician, Dr. Lisa Lindley as a soprano soloist.

“Establishing a medical practice made it difficult for me to continue my music interests,” said Dr. Lindley. “The Coachella Valley Symphony offers me the opportunity to be a professional doctor and still continue my love for performing and for the arts.”



This year the Symphony was awarded a \$30,000 grant from the James Irvine Foundation which was earmarked to bring music to new audiences in non-traditional settings. With that grant the Symphony is producing a free Latino/Hispanic symphonic concert to be held at the Empire Polo Club in Indio on October 20th, with plans for a similar concert in 2014.

For tickets and more information about the Coachella Valley Symphony, visit [www.cvsymphony.com](http://www.cvsymphony.com) or call 760-360-2222. ■

## 2013-2014 Coachella Valley Symphony Concert Season

**Fiesta de Musica Latina:** Sunday, October 20, 2013

**A Season of Joy:** Tuesday, December 3, 2013

**My One and Only:** Sunday, January 26, 2014

**Feste Romana:** Sunday, February 23, 2014

**Those Gershwin Boys:** Tuesday, April 1, 2014

**Best of CV Symphony Season Finale:** Friday, May 9, 2014

**McCallum Theatre**

**Tickets & Information: [CVSymphony.com](http://CVSymphony.com)**

**760-360-2222**