

ANTHEM

ProMusica Orchestra Chosen for Voice of America Feature



THANKS TO AN INVITATION from Voice of America, an international multimedia broadcasting service funded by the U.S. government, the harmonious sounds of Anthem’s ProMusica Arizona Chorale & Orchestra has reached an estimated worldwide audience of more than 115 million people.

The all-volunteer nonprofit organization was featured last month in Ted Landphair’s “Only in America” segment, which is available at http://www.voanews.com/english/AmericanLife/only_in_america.cfm

“In a lot of ways, not only is ProMusica an ambassador for the North Valley, we’re an ambassador for Phoenix to the world now,” said President Connie Campbell Henry.

With many schools and churches cutting back on music programming, ProMusica Arizona offers vocalists and musicians an outlet for sharing their talents. Since starting in 2003 with 17 singers from the Anthem area, the group has grown to include more than 110 performers of all ages from throughout the North Valley and

even as far away as Flagstaff.

“We’re trying to bridge through music people from urban, suburban and rural cultures,” Campbell Henry added.

This focus on diversity resulted in ProMusica Arizona recently being recognized by Chorus America for bringing people together through music.

Led by artistic director Kevin Kozacek, the chorale and orchestra are supported by the Arizona Commission on the Arts with funding from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts. ProMusica Arizona volunteers log up to 16,000 hours each year to keep the operation running.

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ProMusica Arizona Chorale & Orchestra

www.promusicaaz.org

SOUTH MOUNTAIN/LAVEEN SMLCC Rallying Support for Education

As another Phoenix bond election draws closer (it’s only four months away), the South Mountain/Laveen Chamber of Commerce is helping bridge the business and education communities, drawing attention to a proposal that would add \$60 million into the Roosevelt Elementary School District budget.

Well-known for decades for underperformance at its 21 schools, the rapidly growing district has displayed signs of improvement. However, to continue this progress, financial support is needed for funding new facilities and remodeling outdated school sites, especially now that enrollment has topped 13,000 students and shows no signs of slowing.

“A strong education system is key to continuing the positive development and rapid business growth we’ve seen here in the South Mountain area,” said SMLCC Chairman Steve Glueck. “The district needs and deserves the support of our community, especially from parents with children in the district.”

To expand academic and extracurricular offerings, the district is currently considering changing the configuration of the schools from K-8 to K-5 with middle schools consisting of sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

Since bond money only covers construction-related expenses, an additional seven-year \$1.3 million capitol override is also being sought to pay for new furniture, equipment and technology in the schools.

Community groups are currently being formed to assess specific needs at each school. Interested parties should contact Lori Rieger, community relations specialist for the Roosevelt School District, at (602) 243-4816.

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South Mountain/Laveen Chamber

www.southmountainlaveenchamber.com