

PRESS RELEASE

Backstage at the Opera

Arizona Opera Chorus members of the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) sponsored two benefit concerts to show their support for Arizona Opera. The concerts were held on April 22nd at the Phoenix Boys Choir rehearsal facility in Phoenix and on April 29th at the Arizona Opera Ashby Lohse rehearsal studio in Tucson. Over 160 members of the community attended the two concerts.

This is the second year that the Arizona Opera Chorus has staged benefits for the company; expanding the concert venues to add a second concert in Phoenix.

This year, choristers performed an evening of operatic favorites and hosted a buffet Italian dinner. The concerts, called "Backstage at the Opera" were held in two rehearsal facilities used by the Arizona Opera Chorus for music rehearsals, auditions and staging rehearsals for each operatic production. Those attending the benefit concert were able to have dinner and hear their operatic favorites in the surroundings "backstage" where all the pieces of an operatic production come together.

On July 25th, the AGMA Arizona Opera Chorus leadership presented Joel Revzen, General Director of Arizona Opera, with a check for \$3,200 representing the proceeds from the benefit concerts. In his remarks, John Cleveland, the AGMA Steward, emphasized that the donation represented the dedication, love and commitment that the chorus has for Arizona Opera, an invaluable resource to the community.