



**CHANDLER
CENTER**
FOR THE ARTS



PROGRAM

PJ MORTON: CAPE
TOWN TO CAIRO TOUR

LESLIE JONES: LIVE!

MEN AT WORK

AVERAGE WHITE BAND
FAREWELL TOUR

VOL. XXXV
ISSUE 3

CELEBRATE
35
YEARS



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The arts celebrate culture and enrich our lives. A vibrant arts community is a key indicator of a thriving economy. That's why SRP is proud to support organizations like Chandler Center for the Arts that are committed to unifying our region through creativity, innovation and shared experiences that connect us all.

srp.net/arts



CHANDLER CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Dynamic leaders, loyal supporters and visionaries describe the Board members of Chandler Cultural Foundation. The Chandler Cultural Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation established in 1989 to program and raise funds for the Center's artistic and outreach programs. Ticket sales and other earned income cover only part of the Center's programming expenses, which means that the Chandler Cultural Foundation's fundraising efforts play a vital role in delivering quality arts programs at an affordable cost to the public.

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WELCOME TO CHANDLER CENTER FOR THE ARTS!



On behalf of the staff and volunteers of the CCA, welcome to Chandler Center for the Arts. We are delighted to have you join us for our 35th Season! It is an honor to serve you in Downtown Chandler's premier arts and entertainment destination. We are committed to creating a welcoming experience

for all. Should you have any feedback regarding your visit to the CCA, please feel free to share it with one of our staff members or volunteers.

This season features a diverse array of artists and musical talents: GRAMMY® award winning artists PJ Morton, Men at Work and Bobby Rush as well as many GRAMMY® nominees. I am particularly enthusiastic about the theatrical performances. Literature to Life's new production offers a fresh perspective on F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic, *The Great Gatsby*. A musical biography about Aretha Franklin, appropriately titled "R.E.S.P.E.C.T" will captivate even the most devoted fans of her music. These, along with other dynamic performances such as *STOMP*, *Syncopated Ladies*, and *The Wizard of OZ* will all take to the Steena Murray Mainstage this season.

This exceptional season is made possible by your generous support through ticket purchases, memberships, and donations. Your contribution enables us to provide free arts experiences to over 15,000 families, seniors, and veterans each year. We invite you to consider making a deeper investment to your local arts center by visiting chandlercenter.org/donate. Now, as we dim the house lights, please sit back and enjoy the show. It is showtime!

With gratitude,

Michelle MacLennan

General Manager, Chandler Center for the Arts

OUR IMPACT

In the **2023-2024 SEASON**, the Chandler Center for the Arts had the following impact on our community.

8,666 young people were reached with performing and visual arts programs through Connecting Kids.

160,000 patrons experienced the arts through diverse programming

3,000 individuals and families attended with free admission to ticketed performances

3,000 creative workers engaged on a creative basis

9,300 community members attended free concerts

1,300 tickets were provided to veterans, active duty members & their families

138 volunteers donated **7,063** hours of their time to CCA



WELCOME

On behalf of the City of Chandler, thank you for choosing Chandler Center for the Arts. Chandler Center for the Arts is a cornerstone in our community, offering a myriad of distinct entertainment options and conveniently located in Chandler's vibrant Downtown. I am confident you will have an unforgettable experience. The diversity that makes our community unique is showcased and celebrated through the programs the CCA presents.

The 35th Anniversary Season promises an eclectic mix of performances, featuring renowned artists like Men At Work, Boney James and Syncopated Ladies. The season also includes performances by The Texas Tenors, the highest-ranking vocal group in the history of *America's Got Talent*, and DRUMLine Live, showcasing the electrifying marching bands from Historically Black Colleges and Universities, among others.

Chandler Center for the Arts is dedicated to providing outstanding customer service and delivering some of the best entertainment in the Valley. Enjoy the performance; we look forward to welcoming you back soon.

Mayor Kevin Hartke
City of Chandler



CHANDLER CITY COUNCIL

Front row, from left: Councilmember Jane Poston, Councilmember Angel Encinas, Councilmember Matt Orlando, Councilmember Christine Ellis. **Back row, from left:** Vice Mayor OD Harris, Mayor Kevin Hartke, Councilmember Mark Stewart.



CHANDLER CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Back row, from left: David Woodruff, Christopher McMullan, Michelle Mac Lennan
Front row, from left: Jennifer Sanchez, Julia Marreel, Mari Jo Woolf-Whitaker, LaTricia Woods, Susan Baker, Terri Rettig, Erika Castro, Peppur Chambers, Sherida McMullan
Not pictured: Mike Halle, Candy Yu, Jeanne Forbis, Ellie Watland and Jyoti Pathak



CHANDLER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (CUSD) GOVERNING BOARD

Front row, from left: Barb Mozdzen, President, Patti Serrano, Vice President **Back row, from left:** Joel Wirth, Kurt Rohrs, and Jason Olive



A Distinct Performing Arts Center

Chandler Center for the Arts serves as a leader and one of the most collaborative multi-theatre performing and visual arts facilities in the country. Through a partnership between the City of Chandler, the nonprofit Chandler Cultural Foundation and Chandler Unified School District, Chandler Center for the Arts is the central space for Chandler's cultural activities. Serving a diverse community comprised of many ages, backgrounds and interests, the Center presents outstanding performances, exhibitions and events for the public each weekend, while providing a state-of-the-art facility for Chandler's students to use for their arts curriculum and school performances during the week.

The Chandler Cultural Foundation, which was formed upon the Center's opening in 1989, oversees all artistic programming and operations, and provides fiscal oversight for the Chandler Center for the Arts on behalf of the city.

The Chandler Cultural Foundation is comprised of 15 board members; all of whom are appointed by the Mayor. The members review and approve proposed management policies of the CCA, as well as review the budgets of the CCA's operating and endowment funds.

THANK YOU

TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

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\$50,000 - \$99,999

Ruth McCormick Tankersley Charitable Trust
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Jerry Brooks Legacy Society

Mayor of Chandler from 1984-1988, Jerry Brooks was a visionary leader, dedicated to the cultural life of Chandler. In his honor, the Chandler Cultural Foundation established the Jerry Brooks Legacy Society. Those who give to the Legacy Society are dedicated to ensuring a lasting foundation of support for Chandler Center for the Arts, in keeping with Jerry's vision for a strong cultural center for Chandler and its residents.

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Mariann & Craig Shields

List of supporters as of September 30, 2024

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Members are an important
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provide performances and
visual arts to more than
210,000 people, in addition to
vital education programs for
Chandler's youth.

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with increasing levels of
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MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE:

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HONORARY APPLAUSE AWARD

Craig Shields and his late wife **Mariann** accept the **Honorary Applause Award for the 2024-2025 Season**. Their outstanding contributions have helped Chandler Center for the Arts create lasting experiences through art events, concerts and free performances that engage the entire community.

Craig came to Arizona in 1975 from Rochester, New York, when he was stationed at Luke Air Force base in Maricopa County. He served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force and retired. Craig then worked with Motorola for another 20 years and started his volunteer duties at the Arizona Railroad Museum. He is currently Treasurer on the Board and has held the title since 2003.

Craig and Mariann met in 1977 and were married in 1978. Mariann began volunteering as an usher at the CCA in 2004, and the two of them saw their first performance the following year. Inspired by their first experience at the CCA, Craig and Mariann eagerly purchased seats J-2 and J-4 in the Steena Murray Mainstage theatre, where they continued to enjoy every performance together. Mariann volunteered until 2017 when she was diagnosed with dementia and sadly passed in 2020. Craig continues to attend performances at the CCA and sits in his and Mariann's seats, accompanied by friends and family.

"It's enjoyable to come here and watch shows." - Craig

Craig and Mariann's dedication to the arts lives in their legacy of generosity to the Chandler Center for the Arts. In the 13 years that Mariann volunteered at CCA, she served a commendable 885 hours. Craig has chosen to leave a quarter of his estate to the Chandler Cultural Foundation, a testament to the impact that the performing arts have had on his family. It is with great pleasure we respectfully regard them with the Honorary Applause Award.



BRIAN MCKNIGHT
SEASON'S GREETINGS

DEC 20

TICKETS AT
 CHANDLERCENTER.ORG

PJ MORTON: CAPE TOWN TO CAIRO TOUR



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024 | 8:00 P.M.

PJ Morton is a soul singer, songwriter, performer and producer based in New Orleans. He is a 5x GRAMMY®-winner and 20x GRAMMY® nominee who has earned numerous nominations for BET, Soul Train and NAACP Image Awards, in addition to selling out countless shows at historic venues like the Apollo Theater, Kennedy Center and others around the world. On top of running his own record label (Morton Records) and serving as Maroon 5's full-time keyboardist for the past 12+ years, he has collaborated with Stevie Wonder, Erykah Badu, Jon Batiste, Nas, Lil Wayne, JoJo, Yebba, Jill Scott and many others.

In 2024, PJ Morton will become the first Black composer to ever write an original song for a Disney attraction - *Tiana's Bayou Adventure*, coming soon to Disneyland and Disney World. He will also release an album entirely written, recorded and produced during a 30-day trip across Africa, and publish a new book titled *Saturday Night, Sunday Morning*. Arriving November 12th via Worthy Publishing, an imprint of Hachette Book Group, the memoir sees him recounting and reflecting upon a trailblazing path that continues to defy expectations and straddle the tensions of music and faith, race and culture, expression and identity.



Featuring Special Guest Kenyon Dixon

Twice GRAMMY®-nominated singer, songwriter, producer and Los Angeles native **Kenyon Dixon** is an up-and-coming artist. Kenyon has been composing and producing for artists like Faith Evans, Justin Timberlake and John Legend. Kenyon has collaborated with PJ Morton on multiple projects and is appearing as a special guest at certain shows on this tour.

ARTIST



From NOLA to Cape Town to Cairo with PJ Morton

Known for being the full-time keyboardist with pop band Maroon 5 for more than 12 years, PJ Morton also owns a record label (Morton Records) and has collaborated with Stevie Wonder, Erykah Badu, Jon Batiste, Nas, Lil Wayne, Yebba, Jill Scott and many others. While his music remains rooted in gospel, he has explored music that goes across genres with influences spanning R&B and rock.

Morton is touring with his new album Cape Town to Cairo, which was released on June 14. The music was created while he spent 30 days in four African countries - South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana and Egypt.

Talk about your journey to becoming a musician.

I came from a musical family so music was always around. Also was born in New Orleans where you couldn't escape music. So, I had it from all ends. Music always spoke to me.

What should people expect when they come to your show? What do you want them to walk away with?

A lot of energy. We like to have a good time. I want people to leave with the feeling that they were able to transcend to another place for a little while.

You have done a lot to support NOLA artists, can you share a bit about what you are doing and where this passion came from?

Well, I've just tried to be an open door as far as helping where I can whether it be advice or otherwise. When I first moved back home I started an open mic

that gave a platform for new artists to perform. The passion really just comes from remembering when I was coming up and how I just wanted someone to believe in me.

What inspires you when you are creating music?

I try to remain as open as possible. I'm really just inspired by life.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to be in the music business?

I'd tell them to learn the actual business and really try to define what they want out of it.

If you weren't a musician, what profession do you think you would have?

Hmm, maybe a lawyer or a therapist, ha.

Who are you listening to right now?

My new music! Cape Town To Cairo.

the DC | DOWNTOWN CHANDLER

Celebrate the Holidays with Us!



NOV 30 Small Business Saturday + Prancer's Pajama Party

NOV 30 – Jan 5 Downtown Chandler Holiday Magic Featuring Sugarland

DEC 7 Tumbleweed Tree Lighting and Parade of Lights

DEC 14 Sippin' Santas Pub Crawl



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Late Night Eats



DOWNTOWN CHANDLER AFTER THE SHOW!

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Dean Hannula

Production Supervisor

How long have you been working at CCA?

Full-time for 27 years.

What is your role at CCA?

I oversee the Production area operations, gather technical information for each event and plan equipment, crew needs and the event day work schedules.

What is the best part of your job?

Seeing and hearing great performers and artists.

What is something people might be surprised to learn about your job?

People may be surprised to learn just how many skilled technicians are needed to work on most concerts or events. It requires from 8 to 12 technicians (more for larger productions) working from early morning until hours after the show ends for the audience.

These positions are all scheduled several weeks to even months in advance of concert or show dates. It takes the coordination and expertise from all for each performance to run seamlessly and visually look and sound great.

Best performance you've seen at CCA and why?

I'm old, so I get two:

Buddy Guy. He's a legend and his band was phenomenal! His stories and banter with audience were amazing! It was a bucket list experience for me.

He sang & played so well, as if he was still half his age!

Pat Metheny Group- 2005 The Way Up Tour.

I'm a fan. When you hear him play it's clear that he's a mad genius and the level of musicians in his band is also incredible. Pat often performs live with a trio or a five-piece.

Getting to experience Pat with the 'group' is pretty rare. There were a total of 12 in the 'group-band' that tour! It was a truly fantastic concert.

Where do you recommend patrons go before or after a show at CCA?

San Tan Brewery

If you could see any artist perform at CCA, who would it be?

Joe Bonamassa

THE NUTCRACKER



"A royally entertaining show!"

- *The Arizona Republic*

**"An East Valley tradition...
and a heartfelt artistic experience!"**

- *The East Valley Tribune*

Chandler Center for the Arts

November 29 - December 8

Tickets*: \$31, \$35

480.782.2680, chandlercenter.org

Mesa Arts Center

December 14 - December 22

Tickets*: \$31, \$35

480.644.6500, mesaartscenter.com

*Base price. Venue fees apply.

BE

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Sharon Seder Meko - Founding Artistic Director

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Ballet Etudes is supported in part by the Arizona Commission on the Arts, which receives support from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts.



**CHANDLER
CENTER**
FOR THE ARTS

2024 2025



Cirque Mechanics:
Pedal Punk

CELEBRATE **35**
YEARS

**Brian
McKnight:**
Season's
Greetings
12/20/24

**Hooray for
Hollywood: A
New Years Eve
Celebration**
12/31/24

Boney James
1/24/25
**The Texas
Tenors**
1/25/25

Muddy & Wolf
Revisited with
Bobby Rush
and the North
Mississippi Allstars
1/31/25

**Literature
To Life: *The
Great Gatsby***
2/1/25

STOMP
2/7/25-2/8/25

R.E.S.P.E.C.T.
A Celebration
of the Music of
Aretha Franklin
2/15/25

**Syncopated
Ladies**
2/21/25



DRUmline
Live



Muddy & Wolf Revisited with
Bobby Rush and the North
Mississippi Allstars

480-782-2680

CHANDLERCENTER.ORG



STOMP



Celtic
Spells

**International
Guitar Night**
2/23/25

**DRUmline
Live**
3/8/25

**The Wizard
of OZ**
3/14/25 -
3/15/25

Celtic Spells
Featuring Máiréad
Nesbitt
3/16/25

**Shakespeare
in Jazz: Daniel
Kelly Trio with
Raina Sokolov-
Gonzales**
4/4/25

**Cirque
Mechanics:
Pedal Punk**
4/11/25

**Piano Battle:
Andreas vs
Paul**
4/13/25

Shows and dates subject to change.

LESLIE JONES: LIVE!



Leslie Jones is a three-time Primetime Emmy Award nominee as well as a Writer's Guild Award and NAACP Award nominee for her work on *Saturday Night Live*. She has also been honored as one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People. Jones recently wrapped production on season two of the HBO Max series *Our Flag Means Death*. The week of January 17th, 2023, Jones kicked off a new era of *The Daily Show* as the program's first guest host. In 2021, she starred opposite Eddie Murphy in *Coming 2 America* for which she won an MTV Movie Award and was nominated for a People's Choice Award. Jones will next produce an untitled Christmas comedy for Lionsgate which she is currently developing as a potential future starring role. Additionally, Jones co-hosts the podcast *THE FCKRY* with comedian Lenny Marcus. Each week, Jones and Marcus interview guests and answer listener questions, while exposing "the fckry" of any given topic.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024 | 7:30 P.M.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024 | 7:30 P.M.

Men At Work was born in Melbourne, Australia in the middle of 1979.

The band went on to become a globally successful GRAMMY®-winning, multi-platinum selling act during the early 80's. The original band, however, disintegrated by 1985.

Colin Hay and Greg Ham responded to demand and toured many parts of the world as Men At Work from 1996 into the 2000's. Sadly, Greg Ham passed away in 2012.

Founding member Colin Hay has developed a solo career over the last 35 years, writing, recording, and touring extensively throughout the world as a solo artist. He is presently part of Ringo Starr's All Starr Band.

Since 2019, he has also toured and played under the Men At Work banner with his LA based group of musicians, where he plays an exclusively Men At Work set, including all the hits and dearly loved songs which clearly have stood the test of time.

FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST



Lazlo Bane is an alt-rock band from Los Angeles, founded by former School of Fish drummer turned singer and Film/TV composer, Chad Fischer. Best known for the *Scrubs* TV show theme song "I'm No Superman," the band has released 6 albums over their 20-plus-year career. They've also provided the songs and scores to countless film and tv shows including, *Garden State*, *Scandal*, *Private Practice*, *The Rocker*, *Chasing Mavericks* and many more.

PICK 5

Pick your 5 favorite performances this season and save \$6 on each show! It's a subscription you curate!

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Saturday, January 25, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.



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Friday, February 21, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.



DRUMLINE LIVE

Saturday, March 8, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.



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Sunday, March 16, 2025 | 3:00 p.m.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025 | 3 PM

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ALOHA FROM VEGAS

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025 | 3 PM

Victor Trevino, Jr., crowned 2022 winner of Graceland's Ultimate Elvis Competition, is hailed as the #1 Elvis Presley Tribute artist globally. With six years on the Ultimate Elvis Tour and CNN features, he's shared stages with icons like "Boyz II Men" and "Foreigner" and headlined at Las Vegas's Flamingo Hotel.

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DANCING QUEEN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025 | 3 PM

Dance and sing to the timeless hits of ABBA with "The Songs of ABBA" tribute band. Groove to classics like "Dancing Queen," "Mamma Mia," and "Waterloo" performed with passion and energy, capturing the magic of the iconic Swedish pop group.

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NOVEMBER 22

AVERAGE WHITE BAND FAREWELL TOUR



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024 | 7:30 P.M.

Regarded as one of the top soul, R&B, and jazz-funk groups, and first known for the timeless instrumental hit “Pick Up the Pieces,” the band’s future would lie in its diverse songwriting and unique approach to rhythm & blues. With multiple gold & platinum albums and three GRAMMY® nominations on the legendary Atlantic label, they were the first Brits to simultaneously top the US Top 100 Singles, Albums and R&B charts, before going on to similar UK and international honors.

Ironically, given their Scottish roots, the six-piece took the instrumental cues of US Jazz giants Adderley, Hancock, Sample, Shorter & co., and the soulful influences of Marvin Gaye, James Brown, Al Green, and Stevie Wonder, et al., to create their own authentic R&B blend, which, with the tongue-in-cheek name, happily surprised both black and white audiences alike. This uncanny paradox led to AWB’s early Inclusion on *Soul Train* where their two famed appearances are still much viewed; doubtless it was partly why the music was featured in so many big movies: *Swingers*, *Private Parts*, *Superman 2*, *Starsky & Hutch* etc., to name but a few standouts.

While ensuing singles, “Cut The Cake,” “Queen Of My Soul,” “Walk On By,” “Atlantic Avenue” and “Let’s Go Round Again” had major chart action around the

world, album cuts such as “Schoolboy Crush,” “Person To Person” and “I’m The One” are still hailed as ‘essential’ grooves. Fast-forward two decades, and AWB’s unlikely contribution to hip-hop, rap, and modern R&B was sealed by the massive use of their samples, from Erik B & Rakim, through TLC, Ice-Cube, Tribe Called Quest, Leena Conquest, P-Diddy, Mark Ronson et al - right up to Rick Ross (Rich is Gangsta’) today. Throughout, ballads such as “A Love Of Your Own,” “Cloudy” and “If I Ever Lose This Heaven” would stand out as some of the finest soul tracks ever recorded.

AWB’s most recent release is 2018’s *Inside Out*, a collection of all new studio tracks and versions of AWB favorites recorded live with a five-piece horn section.

The Average White Band - with Scots originals Alan Gorrie (vocals, bass, gtr.) and Onnie McIntyre (guitar) - alongside US heavies Freddy V. (tenor sax), Cliff Lyons (alto sax), Rob Aries (keys, bass), Rocky Bryant (drums), and Brent Carter (vocals), continues its deserved place at the pinnacle of live soul & funk music to the delight of widely eclectic and multi-generational audiences everywhere.

A full list of US, UK and other dates is at: www.averagewhiteband.com

BAND & A



Funk Finale: Celebrating 50 Years of Average White Band

Average White Band, one of the best soul and funk bands of all-time, is bringing their farewell tour to venues in 2024. We caught up with the legendary band who brought us “Pick Up the Pieces,” “Cut The Cake,” “Queen of My Soul,” “Walk On By,” “Schoolboy Crush,” and more to learn what it takes to reach 50 years of musical success.

What was your inspiration to become musicians?

The great work and music of our vocal and instrumental heroes, and the will to try and master their incredible talents, such as (and still is) their subsequent influence on all of us.

Describe the band’s first performance.

A festival in Lincoln, England in 1972 and as big a stage as you could get back then in the UK. We learned a lot from that!

Describe the band’s favorite performances.

Our favourite gigs rather defy description, but generally it’s a combination of having played our very best, and had a like reaction from the audience in each case.

What was your creative process when writing new music?

Mainly collaborative, with initial ideas, riffs or lyrics from individuals to start the ball rolling, then everyone joins in with grooves and arrangements.

How does each member of the Average White Band prepare for a performance?

Much as a sports team, we all have our own warm-up or other quirks and processes that we approach a show with in the dressing room or backstage.

Will there be any solo performances by any members of Average White Band?

Who knows? We’re so wrapped up in making this farewell tour the very best it can be that our future projects & designs are on hold right now. I’m certain there will be though.

What is each member of Average White Band currently listening to?

A complete panoply of genres of music – some listen to jazz, others to classic soul, gospel, some classical and some to Celtic or traditional music styles. Marvin Gaye would be a universal playlist staple for everyone!

What is a hobby each member can share that is outside of making music?

Art, cooking, outdoor pursuits, trying to master the digital world, and trying to give back to family the time they have lost to us traveling fools.

What kind of advice can each member give aspiring musicians?

If your drive to conquer the vagaries of music is 110%, then take every opportunity to play with all kinds of musicians and try all kinds of music that inspires. Otherwise, choose another world that might guarantee you some money right off the bat, and let music be your hobby.



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chandlermuseum.org



CHANDLER Symphony Orchestra

Vanja Gjumar Nikolovski, Conductor

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Sunday, December 1, 2024 | 3 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Join CSO for this annual fundraising concert to kick off your holiday season. Chuck Stewart will guest conduct.

Risen Savior Lutheran Church Worship Center | Tickets: chandlersymphony.com

CSO Pops! Caesar Sings Nat King Cole
Sunday, January 26, 2025 | 3 p.m.

Singer/arranger Caesar will take the stage along with the full Chandler Symphony to bring your favorite Nat King Cole hits to Chandler. You’ll be wowed by Caesar’s amazing voice.

Chandler Center for the Arts
 Tickets: ticketmaster.com

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