

From the ABQ Journal, ca. September, 1987:

Placitas Arts Series Debuts on Tuesday Music Performances To Be Highlighted

Placitas – The northern foothills of the Sandia Mountains will come alive with the sounds of stringed instruments Tuesday when the Placitas Artists Series begins.

The series will be held at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, which is seven miles east of I-25 on NM 44 in Placitas. The nine-concert series will feature not only music but paintings, sculptures, clothing designs and a variety of works from area artists.

Five groups of musicians are scheduled to perform, and one event a month is planned.

Advisory Council Chairwoman Sally Curro said the series got its start following an informal concert at the church by the Helios Quartet, formerly known as the Columbia quartet.

“This grew out of a single concert”, Curro said of the series that will end on May 22.

“We spoke to the Session (the governing body of the church) and they were enthusiastic about it. It’s an extraordinary thing for Placitas to get behind.”

Curro said a well-known resident of Placitas had provided the town with musical entertainment, but that since her death nothing like this has been presented. She hopes the project will provide support for area musicians, artists, craftsmen and the community.

The Helios Quartet is the ensemble-in-residence for the series. Members of the group are Virginia Lawrence, viola; Krzysztof Zimkowski, violin; Jonathan Amerding, violin; and Adam Gonzalez, cello.

Gonzalez is also a member of the council and one of the people responsible for organizing the series.

“It looked like a perfect place for chamber music,” he said. “We got the idea after we played here. I called some friends and everyone said they’d love to do it, including the people here.

“It’s a project that is designed for the community and artists of this area. Someday, if we get funding, we would want to bring in someone from out of town, but right now we are thinking small.”

Gonzalez said the church will receive 20 percent of all the income, musicians will receive \$100 per concert and the rest will go to pay for expenses.

The desert-colored church where the artists will congregate was founded in 1894. The first services held in the adobe sanctuary were led by Jose Ynes Perea and Presbyterian missionaries John and James Menaul.

The Rev. Jim Anderson, council member, said the church has received a positive response to the project and he feels the series is an expression of what exists in the town.

The Helios Quartet will perform at 7:30 p.m. General admission is \$6 and \$4 for students and senior citizens. Season tickets are \$48 and \$32. The doors will open at 7 p.m.

Eight artists also will have several paintings on display at the concert.

The concert schedule continues with:

- Musica Antigua de Albuquerque, “Cathedrals and Courts”, a program of Medieval and Renaissance music played on period instruments on Sunday, Oct. 4th at 3 p.m.
- The Helios Quartet/Michael Chapdelaine on guitar. Music for guitar and string quartet on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at 7:30 p.m.
- The Rio Grande Brass Quintet. Music for two trumpets, French horn and two trombones on Tuesday, Dec. 22 at 7:30 p.m.
- The Helios Quartet/Neil Stulberg on piano. Music for string quartet and piano on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 3 p.m.
- The Arioso Chamber Players. Music for flute, viola, harp and cello on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m.
- The Helios Quartet/Mark Tatum on double bass. Music for string quartet on Tuesday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m.
- The New Mexico Woodwind Quintet. Music for flute, clarinet, oboe, French horn and bassoon on Sunday, April 24, at 3 p.m.
- The Helios Quartet/Joan Zucker on cello. Music for string quartet on Sunday, May 22, at 3 p.m.
-

###