

## The First Twenty Four

In 1986 a group of Placitas residents presented a benefit concert for a local family in the new sanctuary of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. Expressing their pleasure at hearing chamber music in a local venue and recognizing the special acoustical gifts of the church sanctuary, members of the audience asked for more. The following year the Placitas Artists Series (PAS) was founded with a mission to promote and encourage public interest in and support of the performing and visual arts by providing high-quality performances and exhibits in a stimulating environment; to contribute to the development of artistic talent and ability through musical performances, art exhibits and outreach to the schools. Now entering its twenty-fifth year, PAS has established a solid reputation for providing music of consistently high quality at modest cost. An Albuquerque Journal reviewer described PAS as, "one of the best bargains for quality music in the area".

For the first ten years the Helios Quartet anchored the series with five concerts of chamber music. For the last fifteen years its violist, NMSO's Willy Sucre, has continued to organize those five concerts under the banner of "Willy Sucre and Friends" with a changing combination of musician 'friends', known both locally and nationally. Four additional concerts include genres such as choral, folk, jazz, ethnic or other chamber music ensembles.

A juried art show accompanies each concert providing attendees the opportunity to view fine art in a wonderful setting. Through a grant from Sandoval County, PAS is also proud to make available tickets for the exhibits and concert series to senior citizens in Sandoval County at no cost. PAS offers free child care services for families at each concert.

Musical performers take their programs to many of the schools in Sandoval County as a project of the Placitas Artists Series School Outreach program. The goal is to teach children about various musical forms and the intricacies of the instruments.

The all-volunteer Board of Directors believes that PAS serves a vital function in Sandoval County by building a sense of community through commonly held interests in musical and visual arts, by supporting the work of musicians and artists, and by educating youth in these areas. The organization has been constant in supporting these goals for 24 years. The audience response has continued to demonstrate its appreciation for music and art in the foothills. The series sponsors, donors and advertisers complement the support of those buying tickets in ongoing support of the performers. This allows ticket prices to remain affordable for everyone. We hope you are happy with our efforts.