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Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free holiday celebration features unique gifts, live entertainment & delicious food

Southern Arizona Arts & Cultural Alliance presents the winter Festival of the Arts – winner of Best Annual Event – set near the beautiful mountain views at Oro Valley Marketplace, Dec. 3 & 4

Nov. 21, 2011 — Shop handmade gifts while supporting local artists, find delicious holiday snacks, listen to music performed by high schools groups and professional ensembles and take in the beautiful weather during Festival of the Arts – voted Best Annual Event last year.

All ages will enjoy this extraordinary community event – Saturday Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The festival, at Oro Valley Marketplace, opens with a tree lighting ceremony on Friday, Dec. 2 from 6 to 8 p.m., and attendees can find arts and entertainment all weekend.

J. Buglewicz

Photography has been an important part of Joe Buglewicz's life. Traveling with his wife, he has captured the historic ruins in Greece; architectural wonders in Istanbul; magnificent polar bears in Canada; incredible lions, elephants and cheetahs in Kenya; the great migration and adorable Massai children in Tanzania; giant sting rays in Tahiti; exquisite orchids in Hawaii; and moon-lit ocean waves on Mexico's beaches.

They enjoy traveling the backroads, visiting most of the national parks and American treasures like fields of wheat, new-born calves and colts, steep cliffs, bubbling brooks and snow-capped peaks. Through his photographs, he displays the grandeur of the mountains, the vibrancy of the flowers and the brilliance of sunrises and sunsets from Tucson to Mexico to Africa.

Butterfly Boutique

Heather and Scott Reid enjoy sharing beautiful, museum-quality butterfly displays with viewers. After these beautiful creatures have passed, they are preserved and artfully framed so that butterfly lovers can appreciate the beauty of the Amazon Rainforest. Most butterflies live only about one week, and the Reid's collect the beautiful insects from the South American rainforest floors.

Charmed Vintage

Marge Estruth makes handmade, soldered charm necklaces and bracelets with vintage objects. Evolving as she puts them together, each one is unique and made from vintage found objects and handmade soldered charms that reflect her love for all things old. Her pieces reflect French chic, spiritual mindfulness, European influences and the Southwest. Estruth takes delight in the fact that each charm is one-of-a-kind and imperfect, adding to the overall vintage look and time-worn feel.

Woolies

Home of heirloom quality knitted and sewn stuffed animals and dolls, Sara Sacks uses all natural materials. Knitting is her passion. With ten animals on her ranch, animals are Sacks' favorite things to knit. Her Woolies are all over the world, and she works in a smoke-free and perfume-free studio.

"Boutique quality and absolutely adorable. I love the all organic yarn and stuffing. Also I loved being able to custom design such an adorable snuggly for my daughter. Thanks!" – *comment from recent Woolies customer*

Festival of the Arts attendees can find a variety of unique gifts, like jewelry, sculptures, textiles, paintings, candles, glass art, custom wood creations, pottery and ceramics, metal work, clothing and much more.

Satisfy your holiday hunger with kettle corn, roasted nuts, Italian sausage, Philly cheesesteaks, curly fries, hot veggie sandwiches, fruit smoothies, soft pretzels, gelato and hot dogs.

Santa Claus will take requests from children, while photographers capture those special moments between the jolly old legend and youngsters. Kids can also jump around on play areas and partake in arts and crafts activities.

With live music from youth mariachi groups, steel drum high school bands and all-girl singing ensembles, the show offers a unique experience for all ages.

Old Arizona Brass Band

Tucson's Historic Brass Band, The Old Arizona Brass Band, was founded more than a decade ago. The group provides a living representation of the military and civilian bands that performed throughout Arizona during the period 1872 to 1912. Their music, uniforms and instruments reflect a transitional point between the all-brass, "over the shoulder" instrumentation of the Civil War years and the shift to primarily bell-front brass and expanded mix of reed and brass instruments of the modern day concert band. They carry a frontier sound, emphasizing Eb voices in cornet, alto horn, tuba and even clarinet. Listeners of the Old Arizona Brass Band experience the real music of the military and town bands of the western frontier.

Canal Street Band

Playing with passion, excitement and a love of the music, the Canal Street Band focuses on favorite danceable tunes of the glory years of rhythm and blues – as created by legendary artists from Motown, Stax, Atlantic and other famous record labels. This talented group is a mix of seasoned professionals with significant experience in performance and recording. With an emphasis on strong vocals, the band draws upon a

rich history of influences, including artists such as the Temptations, Otis Redding, Aretha Franklin, Wilson Pickett and many others.

Mariachi Corazon De Tucson/Mariachi Tesoro de Tucson

Mariachi Tesoro de Tucson musicians are multi-talented. Some musicians play multiple instruments and nearly all of them are featured signers. Mariachi Tesoro enjoys tight camaraderie and leadership. This mariachi group consists of children, ages 10 through 15 years, operating under the non-profit organization Mariachi Nueva Generación, Inc. Through individual and group practice and performance participation in the annual Tucson International Mariachi Conference, the musicians benefit through music education and immersion in the cultural heritage of mariachi music. Mariachi Tesoro de Tucson started performing as a group in August 2006. In 2007, Mariachi Tesoro won first place in the San Antonio Competition.

Weekend Entertainment Line-up

Saturday, Dec. 3

- 10 a.m.** Centerstage - *girl youth singing group*
- 11:15 a.m.** Havin' A Blast - *women's a cappella quartet*
- 12:30 p.m.** Mariachi Corazon De Tucson - *mariachi youth group*
- 1:45 p.m.** The Canal Street Band - *rhythm & blues*
- 3 p.m.** Mariachi El Quinto Sol - *mariachi*

Sunday, Dec. 4

- 11 a.m.** Old Arizona Brass Band - *brass*
- 12:15 p.m.** Mariachi Sensacional - *mariachi*
- 1:30 p.m.** Desert Melodies - *vocal*
- 2:45 p.m.** Catalina Foothills High School Falcon Steel Drum Band - *steel drum*

2011 Winter Festival of the Arts

Tree Lighting Ceremony: Friday, Dec. 2 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Festival: Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Oro Valley Marketplace, southwest corner of Oracle and Tangerine Roads

Cost: Free admission

Details: Shoppers can find unique holiday gifts, including jewelry, sculptures, textiles, photography, framed paintings, hand-made candles, glass art, custom wood creations, pottery and ceramics, metal work, clothing and much more, while enjoying live performances, a Santa Claus appearance, an array of food and tree lighting ceremony.

Online: www.orovalleyfestival.org

Phone: (520) 797-3959

NOTE TO MEDIA: *Photos Available*

Oro Valley Marketplace

The Oro Valley Marketplace is built on a 115-acre site at Oracle and Tangerine roads in Oro Valley. It is the first Arizona retail destination integrated with a restored riparian habitat and boasts a trail system feeding into the revered Catalina Mountains. Opened in 2008, the Marketplace features 800,000 square feet of retail, entertainment and dining destinations. *Find out more online www.orovalleymarketplace.com.*

About the Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance

The Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance (SAACA) is a not-for-profit organization that exists to ensure that, through engagement in arts and culture, our communities produce strong, inspired citizens. SAACA enlists artists, businesses, governments, and individuals to expand artistic and cultural opportunities in their respective communities. To enhance access to the arts and to promote cultural awareness in the communities it serves, SAACA presents large-scale festivals, events and other programs. The Alliance also promotes educational opportunities in the arts and culture for both the young and the old.

Organization History

The Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance (SAACA) grew out of the Greater Oro Valley Arts Council (GOVAC), an organization established in 1997 to provide artistic and cultural opportunities for residents of northwest Tucson. GOVAC eventually became one of the largest arts organizations in the region. In 2009, owing to its success, the group expanded its mission to include creation of partnerships with business, governments, and communities throughout Southern Arizona that would encourage innovative, creative cultural expression in the arts for years to come.

For more information about programs and events produced by the Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance, go to www.saaca.org.
