

entertainment

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“All Aboard To Dixieland” brings barbershop quartets, jazz

Theater Works host the Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus and Stomperz Dixieland Jazz Band 7 p.m. Oct. 30 as they perform “All Aboard For Dixieland.” This concert features a history of American genre with the barbershop quartets/chorus and jazz band accompaniment. Prior to the start of the concert a wine and cheese reception will be in the lobby. Following the performance coffee and brownies will also be served.

The Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus is a championship chorus composed of 50-plus members ranging in age from 63-88, with many having 20-60 years of experience for a collective total of about 1,200 years. They share their love of four-part close-harmony a cappella singing with audiences around the Valley. Their fame extends to being the champions of “A” Plateau of Division Five of the Far West Districts of the international Barbershop Harmony Society.

The members of the Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus have some great history and stories with their years of barbershopping. Stuart Leck, who is legally blind, learns his music from a learning CD. From Minnesota, Mr. Leck tells about his early beginnings in barbershopping as a highschooler pulling

typical high school stunts including his quartet dressing as females for a school fundraising event. Chorus director, Jerry Roland started his singing career in church choirs, leading to his being a concert-choir soloist. Joe Salz has spent 62 years of his life barbershopping across the nation. In fact, he sang with the Desert Knights quartet at the grand opening of Sun City in 1960.

Master of ceremonies is Bud Hesterman, who has appeared in six theatrical productions are Theater Works and in other roles throughout the Valley. His rendition of “Ragged Old Flag” will provide the capstone to the evening.

Tickets are now on sale at www.theaterworks.org and at the Peoria Center for the Performing Arts, 8355 W. Peoria Ave. The box office is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily and may be reached at 623-815-7930. Tickets are \$15; prices include service and processing fees, and includes the wine and cheese reception before the concert and dessert and coffee following.

Editor's Note: Christie King, public relations for Theater Works, and Jack McGill, spokesperson for the Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus, contributed to this story.