

Special Thanks to:

Mark Ramsey

First Presbyterian Church

Klara Kukumi

Kimberly T. Smith

Amy Tratnack

Stefanie Reifler

and

YOU for being here tonight

NICOLE LARSEN

HEAVENLY

A concert inspired by the sun, moon, and stars

with Mark Ramsey
piano

and special guests
Klara Kukumi, piano
Elizabeth Tratnack, mezzo
Joelle Reifler, Soprano

October 13th, 4:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church, Mesa

Current Collaborators Include:

**Ms. Nicole's
Music Studio**



Kimberly T. Smith
heavensadventures.com



Jeremy Lee Koehn
coyotestory.org
themishkan.com



Thank you for your support!



We partner with local musicians, artists, outreach groups - anyone and EVERYONE - to create connections and opportunities where creativity can infuse hope and life into the hearts of many. We are committed to strengthening and inspiring the community with love and singing!

Whether it's teaching, performing, or collaborating, our goals include providing artists the means to make art at the highest caliber possible. We ensure every artist we collaborate with is paid - often resulting in substantial profit losses. This may be backwards, but artists deserve to be paid - even if it's at our expense!

Eventually, founder Nicole Larsen would like to establish a fine arts community center with low cost housing for artists, education enrichment for underprivileged families, and create a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Please consider giving the gift of song today!

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Good Evening, and Welcome!

I'm so pleased to share this night with you all! I wanted to create a beautiful, intimate setting where everyone could break out of the daily grind of cell phones and social media, and look up.

The Scriptures say, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon, and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visits him?" (Psalm 8:3-4). Too often, this world floods our senses with busyness and extra noise. It can be easy to forget that there is something greater - SOMEONE greater - than this life and it's worries. And although many of us know in our brains that this is true, we still can act as though our cares and needs in this life are too big, and that we are too small, to be cared for by the creator of it all. This could not be further from the truth. God loves us with a love bigger than the heavens, more glorious than the stars. He sent Jesus to die for a hurting, hurried, and dying people. You. Me.

The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament sheweth his handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). It is because of God's glory we can rest in His promises of hope and a future.

I hope you enjoy the concert, and find strength and peace in tonight's performance. Remember to look up - to the God who loves and forgives and wonderfully created all things. Thank you all so much for coming!



Mark Ramsey



Dr. Mark Ramsey studied choral music, organ, composition, and music theory while at Arizona State University, earning the Doctor of Musical Arts degree. He has participated as an organist, recitalist, and co-conductor at the Salzburg Church Music Festival in Salzburg, Austria, the Italian Polychoral Arts Festival in Venice, Italy, and Disney Magic Music Days. He

has performed with the Flagstaff Master Chorale and the Phoenix Symphony, has been an instructor of music at Northern Arizona University, and was Director of a National POE+ in Scottsdale, Arizona. He was inducted into the Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society and was a Co-Recipient of the 2004 National Religious Music Week Alliance Award of Distinction. Dr. Ramsey is currently the Director of Music Ministries at First Presbyterian Church, Mesa, Arizona and is a past Dean of the Central Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.



Elizabeth Tralnack

Elizabeth is extremely excited to be performing in her first recital. She has always been interested in music and recently has gotten back into theater with her high school plays. Elizabeth is so grateful to Ms. Larsen for this opportunity to perform, and for giving her the confidence to do so. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Joelle Reifler

Joelle is thrilled and honored to be performing with Nicole tonight! As Joelle's vocal coach and mentor, Nicole has provided so much inspiration and confidence to Joelle as a performer. Joelle has performed in countless musical theater productions since the age of five. She dreams of pursuing voice and musical theater in college and one day hopes to perform on Broadway!

GUEST ARTISTS

Klara Kukumi



With over 35 years of performance experience, Dr. Klara Kukumi is one of the premier collaborative pianists in the Arizona music scene, having worked with Arizona State University, Mesa Community College, Ballet Arizona, East Valley Chorale, and many independent musicians and musical groups throughout the Valley. Born and raised in Albania, Klara graduated with her bachelor's degree from the

Institute of Fine Arts in Tirana, and furthered her musical education by earning a master's degree from Brigham Young University, a diploma of pianist studies from the University of Southern California, and a doctorate from Arizona State University. Although Klara is an expert in piano accompaniment, she prides herself on her teaching ability, not merely providing technical instruction but fostering genuine appreciation of classical music within her students.

ABOUT THE FPC ARTIST SERIES

The First Presbyterian Church Artist Series is an outreach and community building ministry featuring outstanding artists, and made possible by the generous contributions of our Patrons. Past Artists have included The Blackwood Brothers Quartet, the American Guild of Organists' National Young Artist Competition Winner Scott Montgomery, Pianist Mary Beth Carlson, and vocalists & instrumentalists from within the church and across the valley. In addition, the First Players have presented Annual Dinner-Theater Productions of Broadway and Off-Broadway shows over the past 25 years.

Your donation will ensure the continued support of artists and their work for years to come.

PROGRAM

Chorale Prelude on “Ride On, Ride On”

Mark Ramsey, organ

Richard Syner

Light in the Piazza

Adam Guettel

Song to the Moon

Dvorak

When You Wish Upon a Star

Joelle Reifler

Harlin/Washington

Belle nuit

Joelle Reifler and Nicole Larsen

Offenbach

Beauty and the Beast

Elizabeth Tratnack

Alan Menken

Der hölle rache

Mozart

Op. 32 No. 5

Klara Kukumi, piano

Rachmaninov

Op. 11 No. 11 Prelude

Scriabin

Prelude Op. 28 No. 19

Klara Kukumi, piano

Chopin

Stars and the Moon

Jason Robert Brown

Vocalise

Rachmaninoff

breit über mein Haupt

Brahms

Aint it a Pretty Night?

Carlisle Floyd

I Got the Sun in the Morning

Elizabeth Tratnack and Nicole Larsen

Irving Berlin

Intermission

Fini