**John Snavely, Musician-Educator Bio**

John Snavely, a Tucson Native, developed his passion for music at an early age. At home he listened to his mother’s 78 rpm record collection as a young child and sang in choirs at Trinity Presbyterian Church through High School. His parents bought a spinet piano and he took lessons beginning at age seven.

As a student at Blenman elementary he took up the clarinet in 5th grade band because he had braces and wasn’t allowed to play the trumpet, his first instrument choice. His band director, James Glasgow at that time, was principal clarinetist of the Tucson Symphony and later of the Tucson Pops. John studied clarinet with Glasgow at Music Land on Speedway all the way through Catalina High, now Catalina Magnet High. In his junior year John auditioned for the Tucson Youth Symphony and won 1st chair and performed a solo with that orchestra in the following year.

As a senior John auditioned for the American Youth Performs Orchestra and was accepted to play in Carnegie Hall in a concert directed by Carmen Dragon. John attended the U. of A. and earned a degree in music education. As a freshman he auditioned for the Tucson Symphony and performed in their clarinet section as bass clarinetist for fifty one years. He joined the Tucson Pops Orchestra in 1975 and later became their principal clarinetist taking over from his teacher James Glasgow and also Tom O’Kelley. He served as bass and later principal clarinetist with the Arizona Opera in the mid 1970’s. In 1980 John instructed woodwind instruments, directed ensembles and taught classes in music appreciation and music history at Pima Community College until 2000.

John wanted to provide a wind ensemble experience for his Pima students as well as other Tucson music educators and founded the **Evening Wind Symphony** at Pima which evolved into **Sonora Winds**, an ensemble John directed for fifteen years. In the mid 1980’s after completing his doctorate in clarinet performance at the University of Arizona he performed for fifteen years with the Carefree Music Fest Orchestra. John was recruited to conduct a year for the **Green Valley Concert Band** in 2006.

That year turned into two, and in the third year he became their permanent conductor. John became an authority on works for clarinet and orchestra commissioned by jazz clarinetist Benny Goodman who appeared with the Tucson Symphony in 1960, playing two concertos and then jazz after intermission at a concert which John attended in his first year of clarinet playing. He worked as Children’s and Youth Choir and Orchestra director at St. Mark’s Presbyterian church for thirty years.

In the year 2000 John was recruited to assist in the formation of Tucson Unified School District’s **Opening Minds Through The Arts** project and pioneered lessons in Arts Integration with elementary Students at Peter Howell until 2017. Peter Howell was selected as one of ten elementary schools in the U.S. with exemplary arts education for children from economically challenged families by the **Art’s Education Partnership** of Washington, D.C. and a book was written about the programs of these schools.

John was program director and instructor for the **Tucson Symphony’s Young Composer’s Project** for seven years. He performed with the **Sonora Saxophone Quartet** and his own ensemble **Concertissimo** in musical tours of Mexico, Puerto Rico and Arizona through the Arizona Commission On The Arts. Because of his many ventures in performance and music education John has been referred to as “Tucson’s Musician.”

John has retired from all of his Tucson teaching and performing positions, and currently is music director and conductor of the Green Valley Concert Band and resides in Rio Rico during the fall, winter and spring and in summer enjoys living in Eagar, AZ and exploring the White Mountains of Arizona.