

Dear Chatter Lovers and Supporters

Welcome to our **4th digital Annual Report** and news of Chatter!

I THE CHALLENGE & Fund Raising & Innovation

A We asked you to match a \$15,000 Challenge which was put to us by a consortium of Chatter fans. You responded with breathtaking speed and generosity, providing more than \$24,000 in new dollars—earning Chatter that additional \$15,000 from our dedicated Challengers. You knock our socks off! Thank you.

B We met our ambitious total goals because of your understanding Chatter's determination to keep our ticket prices low and accessible. Your contributions and Day Sponsorships make that possible. Double Thank You!

C We are proud to acknowledge 2015 grants and financial support from: the City of Albuquerque, National Endowment for the Arts, New Mexico Arts, Urban Enhancement Trust Fund; The Cates Team/RBC, Firestone Family Foundation, FRENCH Family of Companies, Music Guild of New Mexico, New Mexico Legal Group PC, PianoWerkes, Positive Energy Solar, Rocking JT Foundation, Strell Design, US Bank, Wells Fargo, Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry.

D A Music Student Scholarship Fund was begun by a compassionate Chatter regular who has a keen desire to help interested young music students come to Chatter. For many young people, even \$9 is beyond their reach. This fund has created wonderful opportunities for them.

E We established an Innovation Fund which helps David and James produce unique programs. The Fund confirms to them that Chatter wants and applauds their courageous and exhilarating programming.

II THE MUSIC & POETRY OF 2015 A (very) few highlights of the year past:

June – A massive group of 19 musicians performed Samuel Barber's Knoxville, Summer 1915. Twice! It was a Pay-What-You-Wish day of two sold-out performances at 10:30am and again at 3pm.

August – Metronomes – 100 of them! (*And here I'll insert a note about Chatter's international notoriety! We received an email from a traveling Chatter regular who, in Belgium, was speaking to directors of the Musical Instrument Museum in Brussels. She mentioned the recent Chatter concert that included Ligeti's piece for metronomes. One of the Belgians then said "and a Bach piece played by James Shields?"*) Wow, worldwide awareness!

September 5 – Chatter at the Acropolis. A great feat atop a downtown parking ramp featuring a rainstorm, a double rainbow, the sunset and falling darkness – and brilliant performances.

September 20 – Chatter's first performance in our beautiful new home at **Las Puertas**. Artistic Directors David Felberg and James Shields pulled out all the stops. 11 Chatter musicians plus visiting fab violinist, Tricia Park. Prokofiev *Duo for Two Violins* during which David and Tricia brought us to our knees. Amy Beach *Sonata for Violin & Piano*. Ending with a stunning performance of Debussy's *L'après midi d'un faune* . . . go Jesse!



The following Sunday, our beloved Conor Hanick came from NYC and gave the first solo piano concert in our new home on the 100 year-old Mason & Hamlin – an unforgettable 60+ minutes of Hans Otte's *The Book of Sounds*.

December 31 We ended the year with a sensational concert of Mahler's *Symphony No 9* in the snowstorm of the century – you stalwart folks came and the show went on!

Chatter at the Museum offered, to record crowds, four wild and wonderful concerts relating to the Albuquerque Museum's summer exhibition *Killer Heels*.

This year's Museum series: August 4, 11, 18, 25, 2016 – Thursdays at 6pm. Free!

Chatter Varsity spotlighted the exceptional talents of Alan Martinez, flute; Walker Durell, baritone; Abby Herrick, violin; Ishan Loomba, piano.

Chatter Cabaret celebrated its 5th year of intimate music in a club atmosphere at Hotel Andaluz. 2016 will find us flirting with new venues! Coming up at Cabaret: March 13 and May 8 at Salón Ortega at the NHCC; June 12 and August 28 at the Albuquerque Museum.

Poets & Writers from the ABQ championship Slam Team to veteran poets, scholars, and storytellers invigorated and perfumed the Chatter Sunday atmosphere every week.

Thank you, Don McIver, Poet Wrangler!

III VOLUNTEERS A uniquely powerful group of people.

You'll see many of them every Sunday & here's what they do: ticket sales, greeters, barista assistants, stage crew, house crew, bakers, audio/video, photography, website/eNewsletter, PR, marketing, fund raising, grant writing, concert production, booking poets. Volunteers devoted about 5000 hours to Chatter in 2015. Huge thanks to that devoted, hardworking army!

IV 2016 Already a big year and it's just begun! Watch for:

Chatter at the Petroglyphs, May 20. Chatter has been asked to help celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the National Park System with a concert at the Petroglyphs Amphitheater. Free.

Chatter on the 8th Floor/ Chatter Late Night

or whatever names we come up with: **July 29 & 30** in the downtown Banque Lofts, a voluminous, empty cavern on the 8th floor with great acoustics and 360° views of Albq's downtown and the Sandia Mountains.

And, of course, all the rest. 50 Sundays, 6 Cabarets. Please watch our world at ChatterAbq.org.

YOU ARE CHATTER and we are grateful.

Pamela Michaelis

pamelamichaelis@mac.com

For the Chatter Team of musicians, poets, and volunteers