



Civic Orchestra of Tucson

PO Box 42764, Tucson, AZ 85733 | www.cotmusic.org
Contact: Dorothy Fitch, manager@cotmusic.org, 520-730-3371

Herschel Kreloff, Music Director of Civic Orchestra of Tucson for 38 Years, Dies at Age 86

TUCSON, AZ (April 26, 2018) — The Civic Orchestra of Tucson (COT) is saddened by the death of its long-time Music Director, Dr. Herschel Kreloff, on April 25, 2018. He would have turned 87 years old on May 3. The orchestra will perform its May 6, 2018 “Pops in the Park” concert at Reid Park, Tucson, in his memory.

During his 38-year tenure, Dr. Kreloff conducted over 1,000 works by 155 composers, including three world premieres, one Arizona premiere, and solo performances by a dozen orchestra members, scores of locally and nationally-known soloists, and 88 Young Artists’ Competition winners. He is only the second Music Director in the orchestra’s 42-year history.

Dr. Kreloff earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees at Arizona State University, and his Doctorate from the University of Arizona. He taught band and orchestra at every grade level in public schools in Phoenix and Tucson. As a performer, he played trumpet in the Phoenix and Tucson Symphony Orchestras, as well as in numerous pit orchestras, stage bands, and dance bands. Dr. Kreloff also played in stage bands backing such artists as Vickie Carr, Liberace, Sammy Davis Jr., Shirley Jones, Robert Goulet, and Rafael Mendez. He conducted a Phoenix chamber orchestra and was assistant conductor of the Tucson Symphony Orchestra under Gregory Millar. Dr. Kreloff conducted his own composition, “Evocation,” with the University of Arizona in 1966, and authored an article “Style in Music,” published in Arizona Music News in 1971.

During his many years of public and private teaching and of professional playing, Dr. Kreloff achieved several honorary and elective positions and a variety of other awards: Outstanding Graduating Senior, Sun Devil Band; President of Kappa Kappa Psi, ASU; Member of Blue Key, ASU; Certificate of Appreciation, Arizona Symphonic Winds; and The Four Way Test Award in recognition of “Service Above Self,” given on June 15, 2011 by The Rotary Club of Tucson. Dr. Kreloff also served as Music Director of the Tucson Concert Band for 15 years. He was inducted into the Tucson Musicians Museum on April 2, 2015.

Succeeding Dr. Kreloff as the next Music Director is Charles Bontrager, who had already been appointed by the Board of Directors prior to Dr. Kreloff’s expected retirement at the end of this concert season.

Founded in 1975, the Civic Orchestra of Tucson is a 65-member, all-volunteer community orchestra presenting free concerts to residents of Tucson and Southern Arizona.