

Gifts from GVCC Presented to Local Schools & Students

Green Valley Community has a proud history of gifting to local schools in support of music education.



Our Gifts Through the Years

In **March 2026** GVCC awarded gifts to two local schools to enable further music education. Sahuarita Middle School received \$1200. Rio Rico High School received \$2400. Rio Rico High School used these funds to present a production of "Chicago" on April 15-18, 2026.

In addition, Chad Pittman, a doctoral student in Choral Conducting from the University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music received an individual gift of \$1200.



Chad Pittman

In **December 2024** GVCC awarded gifts to three local schools to enable further music education within their respective schools. Continental Elementary School and Sahuarita Middle School received \$1200 each and Rio Rico High School (a new award for GVCC this year) received \$2500. Rio Rico High School used these funds to put on a successful production of "Sweeney Todd" in March 2025.



Additionally, Meg Palermo, a doctoral student in Choral Conducting from the University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music received an individual gift of \$1200.

December 13, 2023, GVCC Choral Education Chair Joyce Lepak presented a gift from GVCC in the amount of \$1200 to Sahuarita Middle School.



At right: Stephanie Silman, principal of Sahuarita Middle School, Joyce Lepak, GVCC Choral Education Chair, and Susan Bjork, Sahuarita Middle School music teacher.

December 5, 2023, GVCC Choral Education Chair Joyce Lepak presented gifts to two local schools and a third gift to a University of Arizona Choral Conducting doctoral student at our Winter 2023 holiday themed concert. Each gift was in the amount of \$1200. Luke Diamond's Walden Grove Chamber Choir performed at this concert, and Mengda Jiang guest directed the Green Valley Community Chorus who performed "Ocho Kandelikas" under her direction at this concert.



Amanda Hatch of Continental School



Luke Diamond, Walden Grove High School



Mengda Jiang, University of Arizona choral
conducting graduate student

Amanda Hatch, Luke Diamond, Mengda Jiang

August 23, 2022, GVCC presented a gift in the amount of \$1200 to Walden Grove High School, Sahuarita, to enhance their choral music program at the school.



Luke Diamond,

(left), Joyce Lepak, GVCC Choral
Education Chair



Choral Director,

At left: Joyce Lepak, GVCC Choral Education Chair, and
Cynthia Belletti, Continental School K-5 music teacher.

Monday, August 22, 2022, GVCC presented a gift in the amount of \$1200 to Sahuarita Middle School, Sahuarita, to enhance their choral music program.



At right: Robert Beachy, Assistant Principal SMS, Joyce Lepak, GVCC Choral Education Chair, Jessica England, SMS Choral Director, and Stephanie Silman, SMS Principal.

December 2020, GVCC presented \$1000 gifts to two students that are currently pursuing their doctoral degrees at the Fred Fox School of Music at the University of Arizona, He Huang and William Mattison.

He Huang is in his second year as a DMA student in choral and orchestral conducting at the University of Arizona, where he has served as the assistant conductor of the Arizona Choir and Treble Glee. Prior to his studies at the University of Arizona, He Huang was a lecturer at Chuzhou University (China) for eight years, where he also served as the music director and conductor of the college choir. He Huang has conducted several choirs in China, for which he won several awards, such as first-place award in the Anhui Arts Exhibition Show for College Students, and the “Outstanding Conductor” award at the Yangtze River Delta City Chorus Competition. He Huang had been selected in the “Young Elite Talents “of Anhui Province, China. **GVCC** is pleased to be able to present a \$1000 gift to He Huang (*right*).

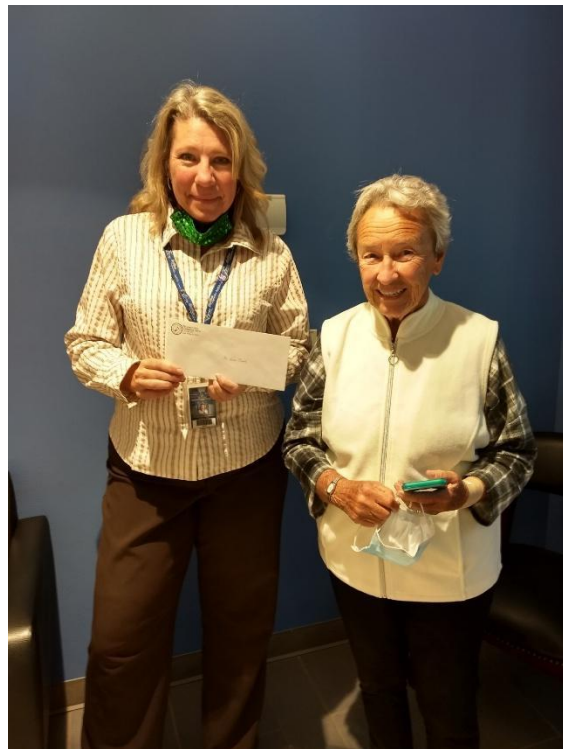


William Mattison is a proponent of Sacred Music from all of its eras who is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Choral Conducting at the University of Arizona. Born in Allentown, Pennsylvania and raised in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Mattison earned his Bachelor degree in Sacred Music and Music Education from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. His academic focus of study at Westminster dealt with finding ways to incorporate the tenets of Dr. Frank Abrahams Critical Pedagogy for Music Education with the accepted focuses of Liberation Theology. Mattison also holds a Master’s degree from the University of Notre Dame in Sacred Music where he focused on Choral Conducting with Dr. Nancy Menk, Dr. Tom Merrill, and Dr. Carmen Helena-Tellez. Mattison served several parishes in the United States as vocalist and

organist and taught in several schools, including in Indiana, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Arizona. GVCC is pleased to be able to present this \$1000 gift to William Mattison (left).

November 25, 2020, GVCC Choral Education Chair Bobbie Richards presented a check in the amount of \$600 to the Sahuarita High School Music Booster Club. (right)

November 25, 2020, GVCC presented a \$600 gift to Walden Grove High School. (below)



Christine Garcia, Director of Band and Orchestra and Bobbie Richards, GVCC Choral Education Chair

Left to right: Walden Grove Assistant Principal Kristen Blaser, GVCC Choral Education Chair Bobbie Richards, Walden Grove Director of Choral, Music, and Theater Ben Lebovitz, GVCC President Annie Zurbuchen, and Walden Grove Assistant Principal Preston Elchert

November 17, 2020 GVCC Choral Education Chair Bobbie Richards and GVCC President Annie Zurbuchen



presented a gift in the amount of \$600 to Continental School.

At right: President Annie Zurbuchen, Continental School Music Director Seth Murzyn, and GVCC Choral Education Chair Bobbie Richards.



November 17, 2020 GVCC Choral Education Chair Bobbie Richards and GVCC President Annie Zurbuchen presented a gift in the amount of \$600 to Sahuarita Middle School.

At Left: GVCC President Annie Zurbuchen, GVCC Choral Education Chair Bobbie Richards, Director of Orchestra and Choir at Sahuarita Middle School Jessica England, and Sahuarita Middle School Vice Principal Robert Beachy.

February 28, 2020 GVCC Choral Education Chair, Bobbie Richards presented a gift in the amount of \$1200 to the Walden Grove High School Music Director, Ben Lebovitz.



Members of the Walden Grove High School Chamber Choir

Standing (left to right): Dr. Theresa Hill (Principal), Kristen Blasar and Kreston Elcher (Assistant Principals), Ben Lebovitz and Bobbie Richards

February 28, 2020, GVCC Choral Education Chair, Bobbie Richards, presented a check in the amount of \$1200 to Dr. Connie Nokes, Sahuarita High School Choir Director



November 20, 2019,
Bobbie Richards,
GVCC Choral Education
Chair, presented a gift in
the amount of \$1200 to
Continental School in
Green Valley.

(Left to right): Joe
Ferguson, Band and
Choir, Continental
School, Annie
Zurbuchen, GVCC Vice
President, Betty Atwater,



GVCC President, Bobbie Richards, GVCC Choral Education Chair, Rozana Rico, Superintendent of Continental School District, and Seth Murzyn, Orchestra, Band, and Elementary Music, Continental School.



October 24, 2019 - Bobbie Richards, GVCC Choral Education Chair presented to the Sahuarita Middle School Chorus a \$1200 gift to further choral music education at the school.

Seated from left to right: Stephanie Silman, Principal, Bobbie Richards, GVCC Choral Education Chair, Betty Atwater, GVCC Board President, and Jessica England, Choral Director. *Standing:* members of the Sahuarita Middle School Chorus

October 11, 2019 - Bobbie Richards, GVCC Choral Education Chair presented a gift in the amount of \$4000 to Angelica Dunsavage at the Fred Fox School of Music located on the campus of the University of Arizona.



Left to right: Annie Zurbuchen, GVCC Vice President, Betty Atwater, GVCC President, Dr. Miguel Felipe, UofA Director of Choral Activities, Aaron Rice, GVCC Artistic Director, Angelica Dunsavage, 3rd year choral conducting doctoral candidate, and Bobbie Richards, GVCC Choral Education Chair

October 7, 2019 – GVCC presented a \$2000 gift to the Community Performance and Art Center, CPAC.

GVCC is excited to contribute this gift to a CPAC donation fund being established for the exclusive purpose of purchasing a new sound system for the CPAC Performance Theater.

At right: GVCC Interim Treasurer Brian Graaf, CPAC Executive Director Chris Ashcraft, GVCC Artistic Director Aaron Rice, and GVCC President Betty Atwater



April 5, 2019 – GVCC presented a gift from our Chorus to Walden Grove High School for \$1,000 to further our mission of promoting choral music in our Community.

At left: Benjamin Lebovitz, Director of Choral Music and Theatre, Walden Grove High School, Bobbie Richards, GVCC Choral Education Chair, and Chris Laughland, Assistant to the Principal, Walden Grove High School

March 6, 2019 – GVCC presented a gift from our Chorus to the Sahuarita High School Choir in the amount of \$1000.

Left to right: GVCC President Betty Atwater, GVCC Choral Education Chair Bobbie



Richards, Sahuarita High School Choir Club President Katie Zinn, Vice President Sabrina Molina,

Treasurer Thomas Trejo, and Sahuarita High School Choir, Band, and Orchestra Director Christine Garcia



School Principal Mary McNichols.

December 13, 2018 — GVCC

Scholarship Chair Bobbie Richards presented a \$1000 gift to Continental School, Green Valley, for use in their choral music programs.

At left: Joe Ferguson, Band and Choir, Continental School, Bobbie Richards, GVCC Choral Education Chair, Seth Murzyn—Orchestra, Band, and Elementary Music, Continental School, and Continental

November 1, 2018 — GVCC Scholarship Chair Bobbie Richards presented a \$4000 gift to Thomas Wininger. Thomas is a second year DMA candidate in Choral Conducting at the University of Arizona. A Nebraska native, Thomas received a Bachelor's degree in Piano Performance from Wartburg College in Waverly, IA and a Master's Degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Nevada in Reno.



Left to right: Brian Graaf, GVCC Vice President, Betty Atwater, GVCC President, Bobbie Richards, GVCC Choral Education Chair, Thomas Wininger, and Moises Paiewonsky and Dr. Miguel Felipe of the University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music



April 23, 2018, GV Community Chorus Choral Education Chair Bobbie Richards presented Ben Lebovitz, Walden Grove High School Choir Director, with a gift in the amount of \$1000 in support of GVCC's mission to promote Music Education in our community.

Bobbie Richards, Ben Lebovitz and WGHS
Principal, Teresa Hill



April 12, 2018 — GVCC Choral Education Chair, Bobbie Richards, presented Sahuarita High School Choir Director, Christine Garcia, with a \$1000 gift in support of music education in our local schools.

In support of the Arts in Green Valley, the Green Valley Community Chorus Choral Education Chair, Bobbie Richards, presented music teacher Seth Murzyn a \$1000 gift for the Continental School choir program.



September 29, 2017 — Bobbie Richards, GVCC Choral Education Chair, presented John McMeen with a gift in the amount of \$4000.

John has an undergraduate degree in Music Education from Lipscomb University in Nashville, and a Masters of Music degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Mississippi. He is in his second year in the DMA program at the University of Arizona and will also be assistant to Dr. Bruce Chamberlain with the Tucson Symphony Chorus.

Left to right: Betty Atwater, Dr. Bruce

May 18, 2017 — Ben Lebovitz, Choir Instructor at Walden Grove High School accepted a \$1000 gift from the Green Valley Community Chorus.

Left to right: Dr. Manuel Valenzuela, Superintendent SUSD #30; Betty Atwater, GVCC Board President; Ben Lebovitz, WGHS Choir Director; Bobbie Richards, GVCC Choral Education Chair, and Hector Estrada, WGHS Assistant Principal



May 11, 2017 — The Green Valley Community Chorus Choral Education Chairperson, Bobbie Richards, presented a gift in the amount of \$1000 to Autumn Watson, a senior at Sahuarita High School. Ms. Watson will be attending Brigham Young University in the fall in pursuit of a degree in music.

Back row: Meegan Burr (SHS Counselor), Karla Nistler (SHS Counselor), Thomas Herrera (SHS Choir Director) and Scott Downs (SUSD Assistant Superintendent).

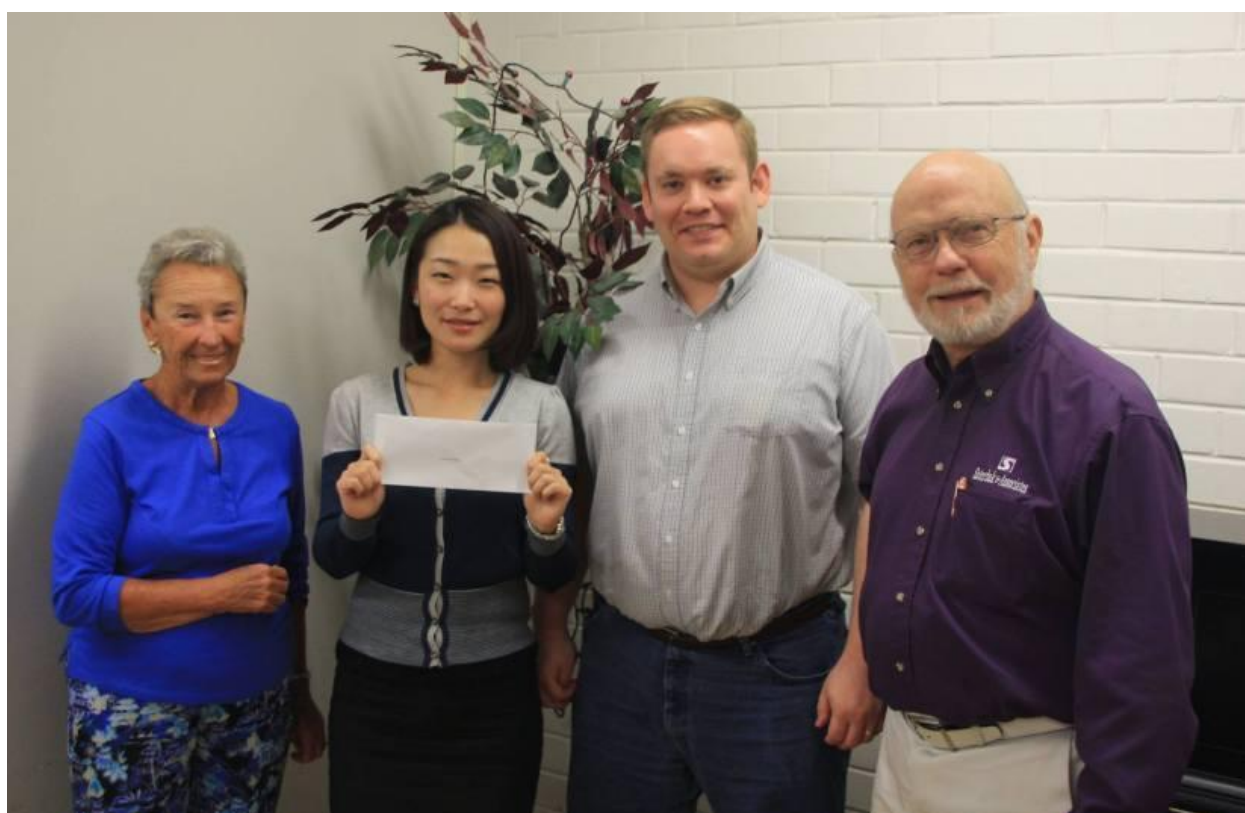
Front Row: Bobbie Richards, GVCC Choral Education Chair, and Autumn Watson.



November 17, 2016

Bobbie Richards of Green Valley Community Chorus presents a check in the amount of \$1,000 to Continental School teachers, Joe Ferguson and Seth Murzyn. The donated money will be used to buy sheet music for the school's Choir classes.

2014 Gift to UofA Doctoral Student Jooteon Hwang



Left to right: Bobbie Richards, GVCC Choral Education Chair, Jooyeon Hwang, Tom Lerew, GVCC Artistic Director, and Al Saterbak, GVCC President