



Chamber music plays to rapt audience at museum

By Mark Wheeler For the Hi-Desert Star

YUCCA VALLEY — Playing to sold-out audiences over two performances at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum Saturday and Sunday, the Encelia Chamber Ensemble added a touch of musical class to the museum's programming.

The concert was promoted as a fundraiser to help the museum pay for improved fixture and framework so that more of the museum's collection could be put on exhibit.



Ron Resnick photo

Ensemble members included Sharon Morgan Jenkins, Elaine Faulkner Nessola and Bonnie Schwartz on violin; Phyllis Moss on viola; and Kristen Belin, Erin Franzen and Jeff McClellan on cello. They played a program of Telemann, Grieg, Mozart, Beethoven and Grainger. All accomplished musicians and either present or previous members of community orchestras, the performers were pleased to donate their time and talent to the museum's purposes in exchange for a pleasant venue and an appreciative audience.

Indeed, the audience was enthusiastic with its compliments at the receptions following both concerts. In fact, the enthusiasms ran high enough to encourage Museum Supervisor Stefanie Ritter to consider making chamber orchestra performances a regular part of the museum's annual calendar.

Other sponsors for the event included Mr. and Mrs. Sotomayor, Jennifer Rodriguez, Stater Bros. Markets, Dennis and Dawn Blevins of the Route 62 Vintage Market Place and Fabric Outlet. In her program introductions, Ritter expressed her gratitude to these people and businesses for their generous contributions to the museum's continued and improved service to the public.