



## Donor Profiles: The Quiet Foundation of UApresents By Sandra Um

### Peggy and Emerson Knowles



Peggy and Emerson Knowles, like so many of our supporters, started their lives far away and came to Tucson for the healthy environment, ease of life and cultural opportunities. They were introduced to UApresents through a family friend about five years ago. Emerson shares, “The program is a real gift! We get to pick from the best of the performing arts from all over the world and enjoy them in our own back yard.”

As Peggy and Emerson got more involved in the Tucson Community, they decided to transition some of their community support from their hometown of Cincinnati to their new home of Tucson. Peggy says, “We love Cincinnati, but Tucson is now our home.” They selected UApresents as one of their focused efforts to support bringing world-class performances from all over the world to Southern Arizona. To date, they have been event sponsors for world-class fiddler Natalie MacMaster (2008), the Big Band sound of the Glen Miller Orchestra (2009) and our opening this year of Mariachi with Vikki Carr. In addition, they underwrote a bus-load of community volunteers as a “thank you” for their time to see Natalie MacMaster and a bus-load of veterans to relive their younger years with Glen Miller. For all their support, the only thing they ever ask for is help with parking so Peggy, paralyzed by a stroke, can access the performances. They will not even let me buy lunch.

Just as we aspire to educate, enlighten and inspire our community with our wonderful “patchwork quilt” of performing arts from around the world, we discovered that we were one square on their “quilt” of community support. Peggy and Emerson also support Stroke and Cancer Research, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Arizona Theater Company, Honor Flights and so many more. Emerson, an active supporter and fundraiser, says “It does not matter if it is a quarter from a school child, a ten dollar bill from their teacher or the check from a professional; it is the collective generosity of each of us that makes the difference for all of us!”

