

# PCC staging 'Fiddler on the Roof'

By Anthony Victor Reyes

SPECIAL TO THE ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Traditions can shape us; they are the bridge between the past and the present.

They can keep memory, family and ritual alive.

That is at the center of "Fiddler on the Roof" which has celebrated tradition since 1964.

Tonight, Pima Community College keeps that going when it opens its production of the musical by Jerry Bock, Sheldon Harnick and Joseph Stein

Director Todd Poelstra says the time is right for the play here.

"Tucson is changing very fast. How do we maintain our 'Tucsonness,' move into the future, embrace it to an extent and stay together as a community?" said Poelstra. "With a particular show like this, it has been done probably a thousand times in Tucson, it still heals, it eases our pain, it moves us forward, it enlivens us with a sense of strength and fortitude."

Set in 1905 Russia, a time of turbulent change in the country, a poor dairyman named Tevye struggles to preserve his Jewish traditions with his five daughters. Living in a Ukrainian ghetto village, Tevye encounters many

## IF YOU GO

- **What:** Pima Community College's production of the musical "Fiddler on the Roof."
- **By:** Henry Bock, Sheldon Harnick and Joseph Stein.
- **Director:** Todd Poelstra.
- **Choreographer:** Mickey Nugent.
- **When:** 7:30 p.m. today, Saturday, Wednesday and next Thursday; 2 p.m. Sunday. Continues 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through March 2.
- **Where:** PCC Center for the Arts Proscenium Theatre, 2202 W.

Anklam Road.

• **Special guests include:** Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, State Sen. Steve Farley, and PCC Chancellor Lee Lambert.

• **Tickets:** \$18 with discounts available.

• **Reservations/information:** [pima.edu/cfa](http://pima.edu/cfa) or 206-6986.

• **Special Events:** Family Heritage Celebration today will include refreshments and entertainment and is free. Starts at 6 p.m. The musical begins at 7:30 p.m.—tickets are required.

outside influences on his and his family's lives and values.

The Tony-winning musical includes familiar songs, such as "If I Were a Rich Man," "Sunrise, Sunset" and "Matchmaker."

In an attempt to reconnect and celebrate our community, Poelstra says each show will have a different community member performing with the cast of 35.

"We crave story. We want to hear stories endlessly," said Poelstra. "We will never stop telling stories, we will just reinvent it for our time. For those community members who have this op-

portunity to celebrate with this particular group, it is a win-win for everybody."

Before the show, audience members will be treated to a multimedia exhibit of photos, poetry and stories submitted by members of the community.

"You'll laugh, you'll cry and you'll do it in a room with like-minded people," said Poelstra.

Anthony Victor Reyes is a University of Arizona journalism student apprenticing at the Star.

## 'WIZARD'

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to professional theater, she enjoyed L. Frank Baum's book "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" and the 1939 movie starring Judy Garland. She read the book after a friend gave it to her one Christmas, and "I've seen the movie a million times."

It's hard to separate Garland from the movie, especially if you've seen it a million times.

But that was her mission.

"The first thing the director said to me is, 'You are playing Dorothy, not Judy,' and I thought that was pretty cool. People have concepts about the characters, and that's kind of scary, but it's fun to bring a

fresh interpretation to something that everyone's seen."

Webber's "Oz" is his version of the movie, not the book. The original songs by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg are woven into the stage show, as are some new tunes by Webber and Rice.

But the heart of the tale remains: Swept away by a tornado, Dorothy and her dog, Toto, land in Oz and work to find their way back home to Kansas, meeting some wonderful—and odd—characters along the way, fighting a wicked witch, and learning some important lessons.

The story—both the book and film—have hooked several generations, something that Wade finds particularly appealing.

"The coolest part of the show

is when the lights come up at the end and you can see three different generations of people crying and cheering," she says.

"That it spans generations is really, really neat."

Wade hasn't lived at home with her family since she won the television show and set off on a whirlwind of performances. So the play speaks to her in a particular way.

"I realize how much Dorothy wanted to get back," she says. "Having a home, family, bed is something that people really latch on to. Home can be different for every person, but I think it's important to have something to call home."

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## ARTS BRIEFS

### SCRAPPY COMPANY OPENS PLAY COMPETITION WINNER

A scrappy theater company with no home but plenty of determination is opening a world premiere this weekend.

A few years back, the Tucson Alliance of Dramatic Artists (TADA) solicited play submissions from around the country, and this weekend the winning script, "Emmet, Down in My Heart," gets a staged production.

The play, by Clare Cross, had a bit of an "American Idol" boost: TADA put out the request in 2012, whittled the 52 submissions down to four, held a reading and the audience voted on its favorite.

"Emmett" has a horrific crime at its center—the 1955 kidnapping, torture and murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till, a crime that helped launch the civil-rights movement.

The play tells the journey of Emmett's mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, who became an advocate for justice after the murder, and a white teacher, Roanne Taylor, who found she no longer could stand by in silence.

Sheldon Metz directs the play, and Carley E. Preston, Joan O'Dwyer, P.J. Peavy, Candace Bean, Seth Fowler, Victor Bowleg, Kendrick Stallings and André Johnson make up the cast.

It previews at 7:30 p.m. Friday and opens at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Regular performances are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Sundays through March 9 at the Tucson Symphony Center, 2175 N. Sixth Ave. Tickets are \$20; at Friday's preview, you can snag one for \$15. 722-9553.

### TUCSON SYMPHONY ADDS THIRD BEETHOVEN CONCERT

The Tucson Symphony Orchestra will perform Beethoven's Fourth Symphony three times on March 8 and 9 to close out its MasterWorks series season.

The orchestra normally gives two concerts of each program, but after quickly selling every seat at Catalina Foothills High School, a third performance was added at 7

p.m. March 9.

The concert also includes Mendelssohn's "Hebrides" Overture and Stravinsky's "Pulcinella" Suite.

Performances are at 8 p.m. March 8 and 2 and 7 p.m. March 9 at Catalina Foothills, 4300 E. Sunrise Drive, with guest conductor James Feddeck on the podium. Tickets are \$53 to \$63 through [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)

### TUCSON'S 4 TENORS: A LITTLE BIT OPERA, A LITTLE BIT POP

Tra Fratelli, the upstart tenors quartet from the University of Arizona, will perform for the St. Philip's in the Hills Friends of Music series on Sunday.

The group, put together by UA voice professor Grayson Hirst, performs repertoire that traverses the classical landscape, from opera arias to the lighter classical fare that you'd find on an Il Divo or Andrea Bocelli recording.

On Sunday, each member of the quartet—Tucson native and Salpointe Catholic grad Bryce Rodriguez, Mexico native Humberto Borboa, Oregonian Brandon Dale and Nogales, Sonora, native Edgar Ricaud—will perform solo arias and quartets.

The concert begins at 2 p.m. at St. Philip's, 4440 N. Campbell Ave., at East River Road. Admission is a suggested \$15 donation, which benefits the Friends music program. Details: Call 299-6421.

### TUCSON CHAMBER ARTISTS TACKLE ST. JOHN PASSION

The Tucson Chamber Artists continues its 10th anniversary season with Bach's St. John Passion next weekend.

The professional choir and the TCA chamber orchestra will perform the work three times: 7 p.m. next Friday at Green Valley's Valley Presbyterian Church; 7:30 p.m. March 1 at Catalina Foothills High School; and 3 p.m. March 2 at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Details/tickets: [tucsonchamberartists.org](http://tucsonchamberartists.org)

Kathleen Allen and Cathalena F. Purch