

## Santa on Patrol visits Monument...



Above: During the annual Santa on Patrol distribution of toys and gifts Dec. 15, Santa and Mrs. Claus met grandma Dorthéal Stanley, who resides in the apartments on Beacon Lite Road. She said she has six children, 19 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. *Photo by Bernard Minetti.*

## ...and Gleneagle



**Above:** Santa was taken out on patrol by the firefighters and board members throughout the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District on Dec. 22 to provide Christmas greetings and candy to all the people living and working in the Wescott district. Here Santa greets residents atop Engine 511 on Wuthering Heights Drive. *Photo by Jim Kendrick.*

## TLMA Christmas concert, Dec. 21



*By Janet Sellers*

The annual Christmas Celebration Concert was held by the Tri-Lakes Music Association (TLMA) Dec. 21-22 in the spacious auditorium at Palmer Ridge High School. Beginning with a strings program performed by children in the Monument String Blazers, the concert included classical performances, jazz band renditions of holiday tunes, traditional carolers in historic costumes, and a grand orchestra complete with choir and a number of solos and duets. Santa was also on hand to listen to children and hand out candy canes at the intermission.

The free concert featured more than

200 volunteer musicians, including the Dickens Carolers, the Blazers, and the TLMA Orchestra and Choir. Many of the music volunteers came from all over the state for the practices, and the TLMA's big group put in vigorous efforts to make this musical event a success.

CD recordings from previous concerts were available for purchase at the intermission, and donations were welcomed. The funds go to Tri-Lakes Cares and scholarships for local high school senior students who have participated in music programs.

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## RMMA piano, ballet event, Dec. 16



**Above (L to R):** At the RMMA concert Dec. 16, Dr. Dror Biranand and Dr. Zahari Metchkov performed dual piano pieces. *Photo provided by the RMMA.*

*By Janet Sellers*

Locally-based Rocky Mountain Music Alliance (RMMA) held a free piano concert on Dec. 16 at the Sunrise United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs. The concert featured a rare rendition of The Nutcracker Suite for two pianos by Tchaikovsky, and the second suite for two pianos by Rachmaninoff. Dr. Dror Biran and Dr. Zahari Metchkov performed piano with a special appearance by the

youth dancers of the Ballet Society of Colorado Springs.

RMMA will offer another free concert Jan. 12 at Sunrise United Methodist church starring 18-year-old Peruvian pianist Priscila Navarro, who returns to the area preceding her debut at Carnegie Hall.

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## Dinner and concert usher in new year at TLCA



*By David Futey*

On Dec. 29, the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA) rang in the New Year a few days early with a festive dinner and concert event. After dining on lasagna catered by Nikki of Pinecrest, attendees were treated to an energetic performance by Dotsero, a highly acclaimed Denver-based jazz band.

The band performance energized the audience, with many dancing to a number of the songs performed

throughout the evening, while also providing light moments. Saxophonist Stephen Watts periodically broke into Auld Lang Syne only to be chastened by other band members to cease. Information on Dotsero is at [www.dotsero.org](http://www.dotsero.org). Information on upcoming events at the TLCA is at [www.trilakesarts.org](http://www.trilakesarts.org).

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**Left:** Dotsero band members, from left, David Watts, Charles Peterson, and Stephen Watts play to an appreciative audience on Dec. 29 at the TLCA. Band members not pictured are Tom Capek and Thomas Jefferson. *Photo by David Futey.*