

# Local flutist tackles jazz on new CD

**Joe "Jose" Corral** is a man divided, and that's a good thing. The 59-year-old Litchfield Park-born flutist spends his time blowing jazz when he's not playing Debussy or Mahler for the Phoenix Symphony. Classical and jazz music are equally demanding, Corral says, but in different ways:

"I don't prefer one over the other — you have to work hard at both of them. It's a hell of a lot of work in jazz to understand the chord structures and be able to improvise on them, but that doesn't mean playing classical music is easy, the way some people think it is. ...

## ARTS PEOPLE

Sometimes I'm scared to death. Sometimes I'm in heaven."

Corral, in his 38th year with the symphony and one of its three longest-tenured members, has played frequently as a sideman for recordings by many other Valley jazzers, but until now, he never has released a recording featuring his own fluid and fresh-sounding jazz-flute stylings. *Groovin' Higher*, out this month on Tempe's Tempest Recording label, finally fills that gap.

*Groovin' Higher* takes its

name after the Dizzy Gillespie tune *Groovin' High*, which leads the disc's 12 tracks. Also included are originals by stellar jazz locals Chuck Marohnic and Charles Lewis, plus such standards as *Night in Tunisia* and *Polkadots and Moonbeams*. Corral is joined by many familiar names in the Valley jazz scene, as well as a quartet of strings from the Phoenix Symphony, bringing his two worlds effectively together.

Now that he has done his first CD (available for \$15 at [www.joecorral.com](http://www.joecorral.com)), Corral wants to do more. Born to a



**Joe "Jose" Corral, flutist for the Phoenix Symphony.**

Mexican-American family, he thinks his next recording will go in a Latin direction.

— **Kenneth LaFave**