



LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BAND

By Dawn Anderson

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Band

A TRADITION OF SERVICE THROUGH MUSIC

The LASD Band members hope you have had a wonderful summer and were able to stay cool in the blistering heat of Southern California. We had another great musically filled summer with a patriotic performance at the Reagan Presidential Library on the Fourth of July, which was attended by hundreds of visitors, in addition to two exciting concerts under the stars. We were privileged to perform at the Memorial Dedication honoring our fallen heroes on May 23 at the Biscailuz Center. The LASD has a theme song commissioned by Sheriff McDonnell titled "In Service," composed by DiMaggio and arranged for our concert band by our own Pete Mittelstadt, which we performed for the first time at the memorial service.

Today, I would like us to venture into the trumpet section. The trumpets are the highest pitch instruments of the brass family. Many trumpeters have achieved fame by "screaming" on the trumpet. Doc Severinsen led *The Tonight Show* band for many years playing the "highest notes" possible on the trumpet. Trumpets were traditionally played during wartime to signal battle as far back as 1500 BC. Today, we still use trumpets for fanfares such as "first call" to signal the beginning of a horse race or "Taps" to signal the end of service for our heroes. On September 11 of this year, in the city of Lakewood, two of our trumpet players will have the privilege of



playing "Taps" for the lowering of our flag in a remembrance ceremony in honor of those who lost their lives that day and for those who lost their lives protecting ours.

Bob Perino, our first chair trumpet, was born in Santa Monica, California, because his mom took a job working in an airplane assembly plant (like Rosie the Riveter) during WWII in order to help out with the war effort. She returned home when the war ended to a small rural town in Farmland USA known as Virden, Illinois. There were only about 2,900 people in the entire town where Bob grew up and fell in love with the trumpet. Bob credits his grandmother for introducing him to music. She would take him every Saturday night to the town square where a community band would be playing in the gazebo for the evening's entertainment. Much of their program consisted of marches by John Phillip Sousa. Young Bob would lean over the railing to

listen and, "There was just something about the trumpet," he remembers.

By the age of 10, in the fifth grade, he was learning to play the trumpet. Bob, like many of our senior members, served in the armed forces playing his instrument. He played with the 101st Airborne Division Band in Vietnam from 1967-68. After finishing his obligation with the Army and wanting to achieve his master's degree in music education, he taught instrumental music in the public school system for grades 5-12 while completing his courses at the University of Illinois.

In 1970, with degrees in hand, Bob came to California to make his future in music. He started at Disneyland playing in a band on the Tomorrowland stage for two years and then toured with that band all across the nation. He then had the fortune to play and tour with the band named Spiral Staircase, which had a hit

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record in the '70s called "I Love You More Today Than Yesterday." I'm sure you all know the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Bob played with the original *Superstar* orchestra and show, which was very successful all over the country. Then, in the late '70s, he hooked up with Wolfman Jack's management company and wrote and arranged an oldies rock and roll show called "Wolfman Jack — I saw Radio." His group performed a Halloween show at Knott's Berry Farm, which kicked off the now-famous Knott's Scary Farm.

Bob gave up his musical career in the early '80s and put his other degrees in accounting and computer networking to use. But Bob never stopped playing and is active in many Southland jazz, Latin, big bands and concert bands. He says it is fun to play and not have to worry about making a living. Thanks, Bob, for having fun with the LASD Band.

Now we come to the heart of the trumpet section, the supporting trumpets. The trumpets that don't sit first chair do not often get to "scream" on their trumpets; however they balance out the section and add depth to the sound. Often the second and third trumpet players have the task of bringing out the wonderful harmonies in our music. Dr. Don Holcomb, and now Dan Glass, our current superb conductor, put some of the best players on all parts so that the harmonies and counter melodies are sure to be heard, which adds much color to the musical scores.



Geoffrey Berens is one of the best supporting trumpet players in Southern California. He is originally from Chicago, Illinois, and started playing the trumpet in junior high school. A good friend of his from the Chicago neighborhood took trumpet lessons and he thought it looked like fun, and he felt that "I just may be good at it." So he started at school in the beginning winds class and worked his way up to beginning band and orchestra. After two semesters, his dad purchased a trumpet for him and it wasn't long before Geoffrey was playing in the senior band and orchestra. He must have inherited some

musical talent because his dad was a professional percussionist playing all during the '30s through to the '60s. During WWII, his father moved the family to Nebraska where Geoffrey's dad worked on the Martin Marauder B-26 as an electrical inspector to help with the war effort. However, in 1944, Geoffrey's dad heard of a job opening for a nightclub called Slapsy Maxie's in Los Angeles. His dad drove to L.A., auditioned, was hired, bought a house in the Toluca Lake area, returned home to Nebraska, quit his job and moved the family to Los Angeles.

Geoffrey played trumpet in his new high school until he "discovered cars and girls." But he did manage to continue his education earning his associate's degree at Glendale College in aerospace technologies and then onto Cal State L.A. where he earned his bachelor's degree in business. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a flight engineer, first at March AFB in Riverside then at Norton AFB in San Bernardino. He then went on to work as a fiber optic engineer for visual and special lighting effects. When business was slow in 2010, Geoffrey decided to dust off the trumpet and start practicing. He says, "Playing the trumpet again is the best thing I ever did." He has met many interesting people/musicians and now plays in four bands. Geoffrey serves on our nine-member Executive Committee, so he contributes more than his musical talent to the

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PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

By Mike Rodi

WHAT TO EXPECT IN A DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATION

Peace officers and professional staff under Department investigation experience a number of feelings related to the investigation. They may feel betrayed by the public, the Department or their peers. They can experience disillusionment and feel abandoned. Often, they are not “supposed to” talk about the issue under investigation and can be isolated from their peers. They can be embarrassed, concerned about their reputation, worried about their career and possible disciplinary action, transfer, demotion or termination. They also can feel paranoid.

They subject themselves to the worst kind of self-scrutiny, going over every action and reaction. They may also be angry, and it is difficult not to let that anger leak out at work where it may cause further difficulties. Law enforcement personnel often have a deep sense of commitment to being right. Being accused of wrongdoing, especially if it is totally unwarranted, attacks the basic concept of him- or herself. Lastly, any investigation can take months to conclude, thus dragging out the impact and feelings for a long time.

It's important during an investigation that you have friends and family available who will be supportive, compassionate, empathetic and not judgmental.

Be prepared for the investigation to last longer than you think it should. Remember, you will not have any control over how long the investigation lasts. This can be extremely stressful and frustrating. It's important to continue with hobbies as you would during any other stressful situation. Hobbies can get your mind off the investigation and distract you in a good way. Stay away from using alcohol to make you feel better and be sure to use professional resources (such as Psychological Services Bureau, Peer Support Program, etc.) through the Department, which are confidential. If you would like to talk with someone about this or other topics, please contact the Psychological Services Bureau at (213) 738-3500. ☆

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band. The Executive Committee runs the day-to-day operations of the band and makes many decisions regarding gigs, rehearsals, disputes, policies and procedures and much more. Geoffrey says music has kept him busy and given him another purpose in life! Thanks, Geoffrey, for contributing your talent and your time to serve on the EC and perform with the LASD Band.

Now we come to our native Angeleno, Julie Levine. She has been studying music in one form or another since the age of 9. First with the piano, then on to singing, and finally in high school, she found the trumpet. Julie wanted to join the marching band, so she purchased a trumpet using her birthday money. Her parents, realizing how serious she was about learning the trumpet, decided to pay for lessons. It was only one short semester before she was proficient enough to join the high school marching band. Julie continued her education at Cal State Northridge, initially as a music major, where she was also challenged with the assignment of conducting. She graduated from Cal State Northridge with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts having changed her major looking for a different career path. She played her trumpet at UCLA in a wind ensemble where she continued her education, but soon after, put her trumpet down for a short rest.

In 1999, she picked up the trumpet and once again found the joy in performing. A quest on her bucket list is to be a conductor someday. Though she got her first real taste of conducting at Cal State Northridge, she recalls having gone

to a concert as a young child to see and hear an orchestra. When she got home, she immediately found a stool, placed it in front of the mirror and started waving her arms around pretending she was conducting. Julie vividly remembers because she got so carried away conducting her pretend orchestra that she fell off the stool. It took her quite a while to recover from that fall, so she now muses that it is the reason it took her so long to get back on a conductor's podium. But Julie has learned to waive the baton since that fall because she is the assistant conductor for another Southland band and reveals that standing in front of a band gives her another whole perspective.

She runs a small business making custom gift items, but her other passion is her nonprofit animal rescue service. Not having a regular 9-to-5 job has afforded her the opportunity to follow both of her passions. She is a member of several bands, all with different playing styles, and she readily admits, “I learn something new every day.” Through her music, Julie has learned the importance of teamwork. “It really is all about sounding great together.” Julie, welcome to the team and thank you for contributing to the LASD Band's winning sound.

Retired LAPD Officer Robert Fox is a major player in our trumpet section. Born in Lodi, California, he ventured down to SoCal in 1975 to attend Pepperdine University. He picked up the trumpet in fourth grade and has been playing ever since — except for a short stint on the French horn in junior high. At Pepperdine, Robert

began his college studies as a music education major, but in his senior year, changed to political science and transferred to Cal State Fullerton, where he graduated. While at Pepperdine, Robert arranged some orchestra pieces and conducted the orchestra and singers for the frat/sorority Spring Festival competition. One of the judges was Lawrence Welk, who came down and congratulated him on a job well done. His musical talent has afforded him the opportunity to travel and perform with an orchestra in Chile and with a big band in Guatemala. Robert began his law enforcement career with San Clemente P.D., then four years later joined the ranks of the Los Angeles Police Department. Robert scaled those ranks to lieutenant and retired with 30 years of service. Robert says playing the trumpet “is a wonderful way to relieve stress” and “share his talent with like-minded musicians.” Robert, we thank you for your service as a police officer and as a valued member of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Band.

Your LASD Band is now preparing to perform at recruit officer graduations, and as always, we hope to enhance the events in which we participate.

If you play an instrument or previously played an instrument, it may be time to dust it off and join the LASD Band. If you would like to have one of our bands perform for an event, either the dance band or concert band (subject to Department guidelines), please contact me at Dawn.LASDBand@gmail.com. ☆