



## 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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