



## LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BAND

By Dawn Anderson

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Band

### A TRADITION OF SERVICE THROUGH MUSIC

The LASD Band enjoyed our yearly break in August, and we are looking forward to another year of performing for Department events and representing the Sheriff's Department as we play music for the citizens of Los Angeles County. On September 11, two of our trumpet players had the honor of playing "Taps" at sunset for the lowering of the flag in the city of Lakewood. Please visit our website, [www.LASDBand.org](http://www.LASDBand.org), and/or our Facebook page, *LASDBand*, to view snippets of our performances and the stirring rendition of echo "Taps" played by Julie and Sheldon.

I think it is time to highlight our Assistant



Conductor Jim Thompson. The assistant musical director, in addition to his responsibilities on his own instrument, must be ready to take on the role of leader, whether for a rehearsal or a concert, conducting when our musical director is not available. He must also have a good rapport with the musicians. Dan Glass was Dr. Don Holcomb's assistant before "waving the baton" as the conductor, and he understands that this is the time to hone the skills necessary before stepping on the podium to lead the world-class musicians of the LASD Band as the musical director. Jim Thompson has taken the reins a few times in rehearsals and concerts, and we are privileged to play under his baton.

Jim Thompson's other role is as a drummer in our percussion section. His interest in percussion



knowledge of concert band music. Jim performs with several Southland musical organizations, most notably the Bellflower Symphony Orchestra, and he is a founding member of the Golden State British Brass Band.

Jim states that music has taught him perseverance and teamwork because performing has not come easy. Jim practices and works hard to achieve the level of performance he expects of himself.

Jim is married, with two children and two grandchildren who enjoy watching him perform. Jim, we thank you for your service to the LASD Band, not only as a percussionist and an EC member, but also as our assistant conductor. You are our ultimate team member!

As we venture around the band, one of the most impressive instruments is the saxophone. Named for and invented by Antoine-Joseph Sax, its history can be traced back 150 years. This may sound like a long time ago, but the saxophone is relatively new on the musical spectrum. The sax has the body of a brass instrument and the mouthpiece of a woodwind, and was specifically invented to balance the brass and woodwind sections in a concert band.

Dena Pride is a premier saxophone player. She didn't pick up the sax until much later in her musical career. She began playing the accordion when

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began when he attended his older brother's football game and saw the marching band come onto the field. The rhythm of the cadence and beat of the bass drum was mesmerizing, Jim remembers. He vowed to himself that he would one day play the drums — he was in kindergarten. Jim started percussion lessons when he was in the fourth grade, and he never looked back. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education from Cal State University, Los Angeles, and has earned his master's in music degree from the American Band College of Southern Oregon. Jim has dedicated much of his life to teaching young musicians from elementary, middle and high school. He has a 42-year career in public school education, which began in 1973. During that time, he has been awarded several times as "Teacher of the Year." Most recently, Jim has taught music history at the graduate level as a faculty member of Hope International University. He currently is a member of the LASD Band's Executive Committee, and we rely on his extensive



Happy Thanksgiving, everyone! Thanksgiving, as it implies, is a time to give thanks for our family and friends and the blessings we have received throughout the year. Your Food Services Unit wishes you a happy and safe Thanksgiving Day with your friends and family!

**RECIPE OF THE MONTH**

Here's a great side dish for your celebration.

**SAUSAGE AND HERB STUFFING**

- 16 cups 1-inch bread cubes, white or sourdough (1 1/2 pound loaf)
- 8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter
- 2 cups medium-diced yellow onion (2 onions)

- 1 cup medium-diced celery (2 stalks)
- 2 Granny Smith apples, unpeeled, cored and large-diced
- 2 tablespoons chopped flat-leaf parsley
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 3/4 pound sweet or spicy Italian sausage, casings removed
- 1 cup chicken stock
- 1 cup dried cranberries

1. Preheat the oven to 300 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Place the bread cubes in a single layer on a sheet pan and bake for 7 minutes. Raise the oven temperature to 350 F. Remove the bread cubes to a very large bowl.

3. Meanwhile, in a large sauté pan, melt the butter and add the onions, celery, apples, parsley, salt and pepper. Sauté over medium heat for 10 minutes until the vegetables are softened. Add to the bread cubes.
4. In the same sauté pan, cook the sausage over medium heat for about 10 minutes, until browned and cooked through, breaking up the sausage with a fork while cooking. Add to the bread cubes and vegetables.
5. Add the chicken stock and cranberries to the mixture, mix well and pour into a 9-by-12-inch baking dish. Bake for 30 minutes until browned on top and hot in the middle. Serve warm. ☆

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she was a child because she had dreams of playing in the Lawrence Welk Band. Born in Pomona, she transplanted to Las Vegas for 20 years, and during this time, she picked up the sax, learning and playing at UNLV and College of Southern Nevada. Dena returned home to her native state in 2013 and got busy right away finding many Southland bands that could use her multi-talented musical abilities. She currently plays in eight bands of different styles, in addition to her own small combo that plays once a week at her temple. Dena is proficient in several instruments, including the flute, piccolo and clarinet, and says, "Playing comes natural, it's like breathing." She divulges that she "can't imagine what life would be like without music."

Dena has also been in front of a marching band, leading the musicians in the Covina Christmas Parade as a drum major — she actually won third place. Another highlight of her musical career was during her UNLV days, when she had the opportunity to perform under the baton of Colonel John R. Bourgeois, conductor of the United States Marine Band. Dena is honored to play in the LASD Band because, like a military band, everyone knows "who we represent and it is a great privilege." And we are flattered to have your support in the LASD Band. Thanks, Dena!

Another late bloomer, musically speaking, is our own Steve Danchik. His interest in music was sparked when his children began taking music lessons. He now plays both the saxophone and the clarinet. When he first joined the LASD Band, Steve joined as a clarinet player; however, when our conductor realized that he played sax, he was quickly moved to that diminishing section. Steve spent a lot of his young adult life in school, then opening his own practices and raising his family. He is a physical therapist,



with offices in Hollywood, Simi Valley, West L.A. and Van Nuys. Steve says that playing music has opened many doors for him and has offered him the experience to travel to places he had never visited before. A side benefit of playing music is that it helps him build a rapport with numerous patients, because many of them are part of the acting, music or entertainment industries. He is an Angeleno, born and raised. One of his hobbies is riding a motorcycle, and he can often be seen pulling up to rehearsal with helmet on and instrument packed on the back end of his cycle. We are happy to have you as part of the LASD Band family, and most especially because you help fill out the sax section, which helps to balance out the band. Thanks, Steve!

In closing, I would like to say that the LASD Band members are honored to be a part of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. We hope to see you at an event soon, and as always we do our best to enhance the events in which we participate.

*If you play an instrument or previously played an instrument, it may be to 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. ☆*