



## LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BAND

By Dawn Anderson

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Band

### A TRADITION OF SERVICE THROUGH MUSIC

It was a crisp chilly morning the 16th of January in the city of Diamond Bar, where hundreds of bands waited to check in at 7 a.m. for this year's Concert Share event. The event is attended by approximately 50 city management teams covering as many as three counties, all looking to fulfill their concert in the park series, holiday celebrations and other occasions where music is needed or welcomed. This is a chance for all attending bands to pitch their music, expertise and genre hoping to get an offer to perform. This is the second year your LASD Band has attended this event, and we are happy to report that the City of Glendora invited us to return after our successful performance there last year. We will be performing in Glendora on July 5 from 6–8 p.m. for its Concerts in the Park event. We have also been contacted by Temple City, Diamond Bar and Moreno Valley, so look to upcoming articles or visit our website for our

summer concert bookings, and please come out and support your LASD Band and see us perform.

Concert Share is a fun event for all the musicians. Even though we are competing for gigs, we are all connected through music. Many of us have performed together in other groups and all of us want musicians to succeed. It was a chance for us to network, catch up and recruit. We had fun, it was a success and we look forward to next year.

In an effort to show you the magnificent musicians who donate their time, expertise and talent to the LASD Band, it has been my privilege to highlight a few members in each article. This time, it is my pleasure to introduce you to my woodwind section bandmate, Steven Langinger. He is a native Angeleno, born and raised in Los Angeles. Steve is an avid woodwind player, having started lessons on clarinet, sax and flute since early childhood. His father Ronnie, a musician as well, encouraged Steve to love music and to take lessons. Ronnie, having left the comfort of playing in the famous Les Brown's band, became a professional studio woodwind doubler. He worked on recordings, television shows and movies scored by Henry Mancini, John Barry and John Williams. Ronnie studied and practiced at home, and so from infancy, Steve listened, learned and absorbed the music.

At the age of 8, Steve began clarinet lessons with the notorious Dominic Fera. Steve enjoyed playing the clarinet as well as other instruments all through his school years, but after graduating high school, decided to attend UCLA, where he earned his teaching credentials in English, history and music. He taught English at Hollenbeck and El Sereno junior high schools for seven years. But when he received

an offer to work at Warner Bros. Records running their tape library archives, he could not turn it down. He worked for Warner Bros. for 32 years and had the pleasure of meeting hundreds of recording artists, from Neil Young to Prince. Warner Bros. had libraries in Los Angeles, Nashville, New York and London. He had a dream job that also allowed him to play music in his off times, and for 40 years, he has been a member of an East L.A.-based salsa band, Mestizo LA. Mestizo LA has been the opening act for artists such as Willie Bobo, Poncho Sanchez, War, Los Lobos and Tierra.

Now that Steve is retired, he plays in six southland bands with varying styles. He is a credit to our clarinet section and an outstanding performer. He subs when needed in our swing band as well. He says, "Playing music keeps me mentally stimulated and allows me to make countless new friends. Playing in the LASD Band and performing at various community events offers me the opportunity to give back positive musical energy to the city I love."

Steve, I know that your father, currently at the young age of 90, is proud of your musical involvement and we are privileged to count you as a member of the LASD Band.

Another native-born Angeleno band member, also in the woodwind section, is Steven Kaye. He plays the oboe as well as the English horn, which is neither English nor a horn. The English horn resembles the oboe but has an angled neck with which to place the double reed and a bulb at the bottom. It is much longer creating a deeper sound. In Germany, where the English horn was invented in the 1720s, musicians

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said its shape reminded them of an “instrument of the angels.” One of the German words for angels sounds like the word, “English.” Hence the origin of the English horn’s name.

Steve started his musical journey at the age of 5, learning the piano by taking lessons from his mother. Since both parents were musicians — Steve’s dad played clarinet and saxophone — and with Steve playing in his school orchestra and band, music became his dominant hobby. Steve’s father, Harold Kay, was also a member of this band, making Steve a second generation LASD Band member. After high school, Steve continued his education at UCLA, earning a BA in mathematics and a MBA in computer/information systems and finally a BS in physics from CSULA. His career as a systems analyst/programmer took him to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for a few years, but in 1983, he returned to Los Angeles. Since 1996, he has earned his living as a ritual chairman/cantor for Temple B’nai Emet.

In Jewish tradition, a cantor is a musician trained in the vocal arts who helps lead the synagogue in songful prayer. He is a clergy member who fills a diverse role within the Jewish community. Cantors lead worship, officiate at lifecycle events, teach adults and children, run synagogue music programs, and offer pastoral care.

Steve has had a colorful musical career playing in youth bands, where he was once asked to conduct. He participated in summer chamber music workshops that took him to West Germany, France, Switzerland and Austria to perform. And he had the opportunity to attend a master class with the great Mitchell Lurie. Learning music and playing instruments have afforded Steve with a lifelong hobby and enabled him to attain his current position as a cantor with his Temple. This was his dream occupation since the age of 15. Joining the LASD Band ended a five-year absence from musical

groups and has offered Steve the chance to perform with “quality musicians.”

Steven Kay, I know that your father is proud of you, and we thank you for bringing your unique talent and expertise to the LASD Band.

Please call us for your Sheriff Department musical needs and/or events, such as retirements, celebrations or holiday/patriotic festivities.

We are here for you!

*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. Please visit our website, LASDBand.org. ☆*



**LASD ASD Sustainability Team**

The Sustainability Team

EV Charging Infrastructure

Resource Management plans for all LASD and increasing recycling

PDC Laundry Water Recycling Project

Energy efficient fixtures, motors, and drives for PDC

Pursuit vehicle EV Pilot

EV Bus Pilot

PDC Recycling Center

PDC Repower and Resilience Project - 30 MW of solar and batteries



THANK YOU,  
Commander  
Gregory P.  
Nelson

WE WANT TO GIVE A SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO THE PERSON WHO PERSISTENTLY KNOCKED ON DOORS FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS TO SPEARHEAD ALL OF THE SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS YOU SEE ABOVE-  
COMMANDER GREGORY P. NELSON.

Greg brought awareness and calls for action to the executives for the last 10 years! From his persistence and drive, he caused funding to be approved for projects to move forward and also ensured LASD was included in the County's Sustainability Leadership Council and Coordination meetings and the development of the OurCounty Plan. He was the one that made countless presentations on the effects of climate change, the advantage of electric vehicles and bus technology, and pushed for clean renewable energy for the Department and county. He supported energy efficient and resource reduction projects that were brought to him and included those projects in his presentations. Without his leadership and tenacity, these projects would not have been supported, championed and approved. And did we mention, all this was done as collateral duty. His concerns, passion and forward thinking will continue to bring the Department into a new paradigm of cooperation with environmental sustainability. As Greg nears his March 2020 retirement, we gratefully salute his significant contribution to a cleaner LA County Sheriff's Department

Thanks Greg!