



LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BAND

By Dawn Anderson

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Band

A TRADITION OF SERVICE THROUGH MUSIC

The LASD Band has added another smaller band within our Concert Band. We now have three distinct bands — the Dixieland Band of about nine members, the Swing Band comprising 17 members and our Concert Band consisting of anywhere from 45 to 65 members.

The Dixieland Band performs jazz music that originated in New Orleans around the turn of the 20th century, as well as some of the jazz music later developed by bands from Chicago in the 1910s. The jazz craze, including the blues style of playing, remained popular well into the '30s. This band has performed for several Mardi Gras events!

Our Swing Band, also known as the Big Band, plays the swing-type jazz that dominated the music industry in the '30s and '40s, and remained popular into the '50s. Swing music has its own type of specialized rhythm. Dances were created to step to those wonderfully syncopated rhythms. Swing is loud and enjoyable to listen or dance to, but definitely not as background music.

The LASD Concert Band is the pride of Los Angeles County. The Concert Band plays all types of music, including patriotic, marches, Broadway musicals, movie soundtracks, popular music, children-themed pieces and holiday music of all types. Please check our website often to see where we are performing.

One of the instruments that is required in all our bands is the trombone. The trombone is considered lower brass and the trombone player must read from the bass clef. This differs from the trumpet and the French horn, which are also brass instruments but create sounds much higher, requiring their players to read music from the treble clef. It is my pleasure to highlight three of our trombone players.

Our first trombone player, Owen Klug, was born in Chicago and began his musical journey on the trombone at the young age of 11. His family moved from state to state through the east, but Owen still managed to play his trombone through high school. After high school, he played in several rock bands until he was drafted into the army. One of the groups he played with acted as a warm-up band for Three Dog Night. While serving in the military, he played in the Army show band.

Upon completion of his service, he finished college, earning a master's degree in business administration. But Owen's musical escapades continued and included stints with the Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus Band, UFO Review, BC and Company, and many other bands that sought his skilled musicianship. In 2013, Owen moved to Los Angeles by way of Virginia after retiring from his "day job" as a project manager. He is in our Concert Band as well as our Swing Band and plays in many Southland bands. Owen says that playing with the LASD Band is "an enjoyable experience."



Owen, we are happy that you enjoy performing with the LASD Band and share your talent with the citizens of Los Angeles County.

Tom Rocha, a valuable trombone player in the LASD bands, hails from El Paso, Texas, and moved to Los Angeles in 1953 as a young teenager. Tom was the youngest of four siblings and remembers the older three all picking up an instrument before him. He followed suit, hoping to play the trumpet. But since trombone players

were needed, he chose the trombone instead. Reflecting back, he noted, "I have always been glad about that decision." In 1964, Tom was chosen as the first student to receive a scholarship from East Los Angeles College to study under classical music professionals. After college, Tom laid down his instrument for 25 years to concentrate on his career as a computer programmer. Tom always considered his playing as a hobby, but now retired, he considers himself a full-time musician. Tom picked up his trombone again in 2000, took some lessons to brush up and began to search for bands to play with. He plays in many Southland bands and likes to boast that he is the only sibling still playing an instrument.



Thanks for allowing music back into your life, Tom, and considering the LASD Band as a major part of your musical career.

Steve Newman is homegrown — born in Van Nuys. Steve didn't start playing the trombone until junior high school, but music was always a part of his childhood, with a piano in the house and both parents playing an instrument since their youth. Like Tom, Steve wanted to play the trumpet, but opted for the trombone to meet a need for trombone players. Also, like Tom, Steve remains very happy with that decision. Steve played in all the musical groups at Taft High School, including orchestra, concert band, marching band and swing band. He briefly played the guitar, playing in rock bands after high school. He also admits taking violin lessons at age 5, but that didn't work out. Neither did his career in rock, so he went to school and earned a bachelor's degree in radio, TV and film from California State University, Northridge (CSUN).

After graduating from CSUN, Steve put down his trombone and concentrated on his new career. He worked at several different radio stations, but finally landed at NBC in Burbank working as a TV engineer/video editor. He picked up his trombone again when his daughter decided she also wanted to play the instrument. Steve wanted to help her, and in the process, he found his once-lost passion. Now retired, he plays in many Southland bands. Steve



feels that playing music keeps his brain sharp, but also the camaraderie with his fellow musicians helps to make his retirement years fun! He also says that playing next to such skilled musicians has helped him improve. "We all come from very different backgrounds and experiences, but we all work together to create music."

I couldn't have said it better myself, Steve. Thanks for finding your passion on the trombone and thanks for sharing it with the LASD Band.



Please call us for your Sheriff's Department musical needs and 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. ☆

Retired Female Deputies (RFD) Social Club Annual May Luncheon and Meeting



Friday, May 1

5–8 p.m. | reception

Studio A/B (across from the ballroom)

Hot and cold appetizers: \$15

Saturday, May 2

11 a.m. social | 12 p.m. lunch

Italian-themed buffet luncheon: \$53

Where: Agua Caliente Resort
Casino & Spa
32-250 Bob Hope Drive
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

**Reserve your room before April 10 for the rate of \$171. Mention block code: RFDSC.
Reservation direct line: (800) 854-1279**

**To RSVP for the luncheon and/or reception, contact RoseMarie Johnson at nvwren@aol.com.
Checks can be sent to her at 3480 West Our Road, Pahrump, NV 89060-3637, by April 28.**

The RFD is open to all retired LASD female deputies and professional staff members, and active members with 20 or more years on.