



LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BAND

By Dawn Anderson

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Band

A TRADITION OF SERVICE THROUGH MUSIC

Thank you for the music!" A quote from a song by ABBA. In this song, ABBA demonstrates the importance of music for a life well-lived. The importance of music is widely accepted all over the world. Music is taught in schools because it is highly recommended for the development of the human brain. Your LASD Band has a school performance program ready to educate and entertain students from grade school to high school. Sprinkled throughout the recital, we show off each instrument throughout the band with a short recognizable melody and end with the conductor's baton that controls the speed and volume with which we play — not to mention keeping us all together. We have performed this program many times and love to see the eyes light up as children hear some instruments for the very first time. We hope that we will again be able to perform for schools as they start back to in-person classrooms.

No society on earth has been without music for as far back as we can trace. It is readily accepted that the first musical instrument was the voice, followed by a flute made by the Neanderthals. Of course, we have come a long way throughout the 5,000 years since that first flute was played. Martin Luther said, "My heart has often been refreshed by music when sick and weary." As your musical ambassadors, we thank you for the music and for giving us the opportunity to play.

The LASD Band is excited to be rehearsing and getting ready to perform once again. We were called upon to provide taps at sunset for the city of Lakewood for its 9/11 remembrance and lowering of the flag. Also, we sent our brass quartet to perform our national anthem for the Azusa Pacific University "We will never forget" 9/11 remembrance. We are honored to be the musical portion of these programs. And as Victor Hugo observed, "Music expresses that which cannot be put into words."

One of our extraordinary band members, performing with us since

July 2012, hails from Denver, Colorado. John Salazar first began his clarinet lessons in junior high school, after hearing the Denver Symphony perform for his elementary school. In addition to studying music in junior high, he joined Denver's Junior Police Band. He continued to play throughout his high school years, and after graduation joined the Navy. He was one of the lucky ones to be sent to the Navy School of Music. During his Navy career, his travels took him all over the world including the Mediterranean, South America, the North Sea and as far as Finland.

Continuing his education, he eventually earned his bachelor of arts and teaching credentials from Cal State Los Angeles. He went on to teach music in the elementary schools in the Norwalk and La Mirada areas.

Missing his performing days, he began to join community bands and currently performs with several Southland bands. Although John began his musical career on the clarinet, he now plays the saxophone with the LASD Band. He stated that the "sax was too heavy for him," but once he got a little older and grew taller, he changed over to the sax.



John explains that playing in the LASD Band provides a musical outlet and a chance to meet like-minded musicians. Many of our members attended the Navy School of Music during their service to our country and John has had a chance to "talk about the old days" with his Navy bandmates. We are lucky to have such a talented musician with the LASD Band.

As Thomas Carlyle said, "Music is well said to be the speech of angels." We believe this to be true. As your musical ambassadors and part of the musical community, we help to bridge the gap between citizens and deputies through the universal language of music.

Please call us for your Sheriff's 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 at LASDBand.org. ☆

