



LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BAND

By Dawn Anderson

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Band

A TRADITION OF SERVICE THROUGH MUSIC

Silenced by the mask — the year when live performances vanished. The world, as we know it, is gone. We have new terms to our language, such as “social distancing” and “flattening the curve.” We even have a new law in effect — the “stay-at-home ordinance.” We are “alone, together” and “we will get through this.” As we all search to return to some sort of new normal, I thought I would share with you the biggest emblem of this time — the mask. The LASD Band has been silenced by the mask, since almost all of us need to blow into our instruments, and play together closely. We have not been able to rehearse or perform, and audiences have not been allowed to gather to listen. So, I have included in this article a collage of our members with their masks on, while we wait for a time when we can rehearse and perform safely.

For now, we will continue on our musical journey, spotlighting our members. Your LASD Band members are tremendously talented, dedicated and all have brilliant musical backgrounds that are interesting and delightful. It is one of my



Gary Mellor

greatest pleasures to impart to you their stories and how they arrived here, to represent you as the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Band.

I would like to introduce you to Gary Mellor, a native Californian who grew up under the lights of Hollywood. He became interested in learning an instrument because his childhood friend was playing the clarinet. When he joined the music class, there were no more clarinets, so he started his musical career on the bass clarinet. As he entered middle school, he auditioned and joined the notable Royal Cavaliers Youth Band and played with them until he aged out. During his tenure there, he had the opportunity to travel, winning awards at festivals such as the Calgary Stampede in Canada and the Seafair in Seattle, Washington. The Royal Cavaliers were instrumental in performing the drum and bugle corps-style of field shows we see today. They were the first Southern California band to perform the new and exciting rhythmic music and performed exhibitions at several Anaheim Kingsman's events. Other performances with the Royal Cavaliers included the Hollywood Bowl and the grand opening of the Los Angeles Convention Center.

When Gary entered North Hollywood High

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The Chaplain's Notebook

By Chaplain Emery Lindsay
Century Station

WHY COMMITMENT MATTERS!

Perhaps one of the most important questions we can ask ourselves is: "What do I believe I was born to do?"

As I walk and talk with LASD deputies, I often feel I'm among people who've discovered their purpose. They truly believe in being society's peacekeepers and servants. They really do believe in protecting the weak, the elderly, the defenseless, the victims of injustice.

These men and women have what I refer to in my theological training as a "holy calling." They are called, committed and deeply motivated in their service; to maintain all of our welfare — regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, you name it — by preserving safety and peace.

This type of commitment is often tested, and sometimes it is tested daily — especially as we've seen recently on the streets of our cities. This is where the rubber meets the road. It's easy to talk about commitment. It's quite another to pay the cost

and live it out every day. As a more mundane example, I'm usually committed to losing weight until I sit down at the dinner table. Then I find myself not quite so willing to pay the price of dieting!

With true commitment comes the ability to overcome obstacles we confront in the pursuit of any worthwhile and noble dream. We may tend to think our success is due to some sort of genius, some magic, some special favor — but most of the time, it's simply due to hard work and the discipline that comes from commitment.

Woody Allen once said, "80% of success is showing up!" And Jeff Olson wrote, "Showing up is essential. Showing up consistently is powerful. Showing up consistently with a positive outlook is even more powerful." Amen!

Success most often happens simply by holding on and persevering in the battles of life. And that only happens when we believe in what we're doing! It's the decision that nothing will overrule my determination to make a difference. This is my duty, my calling and my purpose.

My prayer for all peacekeepers is that you will have the tenacity and faith to rise to this high calling daily. I don't need to tell you that we, your communities and your department — all people of goodwill anywhere — honor you and your family.

Unfortunately, in law enforcement, many men and women start out well, with good intentions, then burn out. We need to keep our goals realistic — and pace ourselves. As a theologian once said, "I may not know if I'm actually doing your will, but I believe it is my desire to do your will that pleases you!"

May your commitment carry you through, brothers and sisters. One of the great apostles at the end of his life's journey said, "I fought a good fight and kept the faith." Only committed people conclude life's pilgrimage with such words. And please remember:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9) ☆

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School, he was handed the baritone sax and directed to "learn it," as it was better for marching than the bass clarinet. So, ultimately, the "bari sax" became his instrument. He continued to play and learn the sax all through high school, so when he arrived at college, he was quite proficient. Joining the Cal State Northridge Band, he performed at the Los Angeles Coliseum for the NFL Pro Bowl.

After college, Gary laid down his horn for 25 years and did not resurrect the instrument until his son began middle school and became interested in playing a musical instrument. He got it out and began practicing again, playing duets with his son. One of his fondest memories is marching alongside his son when the Royal Cavaliers put together an alumni band and marched in the Memorial Day parade in Pacific Palisades in 2000. Inspired by his son, he joined the concert band at Pierce College. While the Pierce College Band performed at many venues, one incredible perk was performing on tour in the United Kingdom.

Once Gary started playing again, he hasn't

turned back. He decided to try his hand at jazz music and joined several jazz ensembles, which led to performing in many festivals, including the Reno Jazz Festival in Nevada. Gary is a welcomed member of our band; he enjoys the camaraderie and friendships he has forged with his fellow bandmates. "The opportunity to travel has been a big plus," he observed. Gary has traveled to places he may never have seen had it not been for music. He hopes we get more opportunities to perform, and despite the 25-year hiatus, says, "music has enhanced my life tremendously!" The year 2020 has been a difficult one for all of us, and we are right there with you, Gary, in the hopes that we may perform again soon. Thanks for your contribution to the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Band.

I tell stories to my grandkids about the times when we used to be able to see our family members leave in airplanes as we waved from the big windows inside the airport. About the times when there were no security checkpoints to go through and when we actually got to keep our shoes on. Much like travel changed after 9/11,

COVID-19 will bring about changes, too. We will wash our hands more often. We will be careful not to sneeze or cough near anyone. We will all have learned to Zoom and will appreciate socializing so much more. And when our break is over, we will return to live performances because there is nothing more magical than attending a baseball game, a Broadway play or a live performance by your Los Angeles Sheriff's Department 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. ☆