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LAPD Concert Band

by Christina Challey

It is said that behind every great band lies an even greater drummer, and in the world of drummers, there are few who can top the LAPD Band's Jack LeCompte. Raised in Philadelphia, Jack began formal drum lessons at age 13. He went on to complete his studies at the Philadelphia School of the Arts. He attributes his love and knowledge of the drums to his teacher and mentor, Carl Motolla, a renowned Philly musician. In 1980, Jack made his way to Los Angeles, and has since become known as an exceptionally versatile drummer, percussionist and overall outstanding musician.

Jack has recorded and performed with a multitude of renowned artists, such as Anita O'Day, Les Brown Big Band, Stevie Wonder, Liza Minnelli, Bette Midler, Gladys Knight and the Pips, and Natalie Cole. He has also been featured in movies and on TV, including "Bird," "The Charlie Parker Story" and "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno." In 2008, Jack recorded at the famed EGREM Studios in Havana, Cuba, with legendary bass player Orlando "Cachaïto" Lopez, the double bass player of international

fame known as "the heartbeat of the Buena Vista Social Club."

Jack is also passionate about teaching, and along with 2000 Grammy nominee Bobby Rodriguez and the Jazz Adventure, has brought jazz education and history to Los Angeles County schools. Performing more than 100 concerts per year for over 15 years, reaching students from K-12, Jack presently conducts after-school percussion classes for LACER (Los Angeles Center for Educational Research) within the L.A. Unified School District. He is also involved with the Children's Music Workshop and its UCLA-sponsored Honors Orchestra. Additionally, Jack serves as in-class orchestral percussion coach for the Irving Middle School Concert Band, LAUSD. Jack is educationally endorsed by Paiste, Yamaha, Vic Firth and Remo.

For the past five years, Jack has also played with the Desert Symphony Orchestra Ovation Series at the McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert, Calif.

After years of playing with well-known artists, Jack teamed up with fellow Philadelphia musicians Lou Shoch (bass) and Larry DiTommaso (piano) to record his first solo album, "Blue Collar." Jack is currently focusing on his second solo album.



Jack and Steve Pemberton at recruit graduation.

Jack has received a multitude of honors, including the "Living Jazz Legend Award" presented by the Living Legends Foundation and the Duke Ellington Society of Southern California, and a certificate of recognition from Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Representative of the 43rd District of California.

Jack's versatility in many musical styles has led him to become the drummer of choice for many bands and recording artists. However, it's jazz and Latin jazz that has his heart. This, along with his commitment to serving

his community, has led Jack to contributing his amazing talent to the Los Angeles Police Swing Band and Concert Band. He has inspired every musician in both bands, and has brought a new and exciting "beat" to the LAPD.

For donations to the LAPD Swing and Concert Band, please go to www.lapd-foundation.org and in the "Notes" box, indicate for "The Band." You can also contact Cecilia Glassman, executive director, at (213) 489-4636. For more information about the band, contact Jim Starr, executive director, at sngcop@aol.com. ❖

Support Groups

ADDICTION PREVENTION UNIT

The Addiction Prevention Unit (APU) is housed under Behavior Science Services (BSS). It consists of sworn Department employees who have specialized training and education in addiction and recovery. APU counselors, who are in recovery themselves, provide education, support and assistance to Department employees and their family members who misuse alcohol and/or prescription medication. Contact us for 12-Step Program information, including Peace Officer Fellowship meetings. Our mission is to help those who help others.

Contact: Det. Mike Margolis: (213) 479-5663

Email: 30110@lapd.lacity.org

Contact: Sgt. Gustavo Marroquin: (213) 840-4864

Email: 31234@lapd.lacity.org

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE UNIT

The Employee Assistance Unit (EAU) is a component of the Office of Administrative Services. EAU provides assistance in obtaining information, referrals and funeral arrangements for Department employees. EAU also assist employees in the following areas:

- Death and Funeral Notices
- Department Chaplain Program
- Peer Support Program
- Financial Counseling Team Referrals
- Department Honor Guard
- Family Support Group
- Children's Support Group

Contact: (213) 486-0190

FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Founded in 1983, FSG comprises widows and widowers who provide emotional support and grief recovery to those who experience the loss of a police officer. FSG sponsors events and speakers and provides grief counseling, working in conjunction with the following groups: Employee Assistance Unit, LAPD Memorial Foundation and Concerns of Police Survivors.

Meetings: Last Tuesday of every month, 5 p.m.

Contact: Maria Johnson: (323) 546-8038

Email: support@lapdfsg.org

Website: www.lapdfsg.org

LAPD CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Since 2005, LAPCSG's mission has been to provide the law enforcement community with hope, support, education and a place to start when diagnosed with cancer. Officers can now contribute to the LAPCSG via payroll deduction. Contact Police Relief for details at (213) 647-3701 or (888) 252-7721.

Meetings: Fourth Thursday of every month, 11 a.m.

Contact: Department Wellness Coordinator at (213) 925-0963

Website: www.lapdcs.org

LAPD CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

The Children's Support Group was founded on the belief that every child and teen deserves the opportunity to grieve in a supportive, understanding and compassionate environment. It is our mission to provide peer interaction and bereavement support to the children and teenagers of law enforcement officers who have died or been killed while on active duty. CSG sponsors events, seminars and speakers working in conjunction with the LAPD Employee Assistance Unit.

Meetings: Quarterly on the last Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m.

Location: LAPD Academy training rooms

Contact: Rene Aragon (714) 955-1300

Email: lapdcs@gmail.com

Website: www.lapdcs.org

LAPD WIVES ASSOCIATION

Founded in 2005, the LAPD Wives Association offers support to LAPD wives through friendship, education and experience. They have educational meetings, workshops, pizza nights—and occasionally sponsor and support various social and Department events. Wives interested in joining can visit the website and fill out the membership application. There is a yearly membership fee of \$30.

Contact: Lynn Caprarelli: (818) 399-6886 or

Alice Sturdy: (626) 523-8277

Email: lynn@lapdwives.org

Website: www.lapdwives.org

LOS ANGELES POLICE AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP

Launched in 2008, LAPASG provides the law enforcement community, including their families, with a place to start when diagnosed with autism or a related autism spectrum disorder. LAPASG offers understanding and support through personal experience, education and resources on dealing with autism, as well as discussions from experts.

Meetings: TBA

Contact: Officer Adriana Sanchez

Email: 34364@lapd.lacity.org

PEER SUPPORT GROUP

Over the years, Department members of PSG have helped hundreds, if not thousands, of employees with personal and work-related problems. This group is open to all active LAPD employees, both sworn and civilian. The core of PSG is being able to appropriately respond to people in need in order to help them through life's difficult times. Currently, there are approximately 249 certified peer support members, sworn and civilian. Services include help with overwhelming situations at work or home, relationship issues, substance abuse issues, health concerns, issues regarding grief or loss and other self-destructive thoughts or behaviors.

Email: 35328@lapd.lacity.org