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LAPD Concert Band

BY CHRISTINA CHALLEY

Anyone who has been to the circus has probably seen a clown car. You know, a tiny car where an endless line of clowns seem to continually exit the vehicle. This is what you might think of when you watch LAPD Band member Mike Deutsch unload timpani drums from his car. The first time I watched him do this, I couldn't believe how he could take out these huge timpanis from a very modest-size van.

He seemed to continually remove drum after drum, one larger than the next. This is just one of the many magical talents Mike exhibits. Then, when he begins to play the timpani, you realize one of his other amazing talents.

Mike was born in Los Angeles and then lived in Ojai, Calif., where he attended elementary and high school. At age nine, he started taking drum lessons at a local music store. He took lessons on and off after that. He also studied piano for two

years in high school, which, he said, helped him branch out into the world of percussion and assisted him with reading music, with ear training, as well as learning pitched instruments like the xylophone and timpani.

Mike played in school bands all through elementary, middle and high school. During high school, he started playing outside of school at clubs, bars and weddings. When he was 17, he had his own rock band and had to sneak into bars in order to play!

By the time he finished high school, he



Mike on drums.

knew he wanted to take music seriously. Mike said he had a lot of support from family and friends, along with the community, to pursue music professionally. So, he moved back to Los Angeles to study percussion at California State University, Northridge. While in college, he began working in Los Angeles with an assortment of jazz combos, orchestras and theater shows.

Mike said that throughout the years, he's been inspired by drummers Buddy Rich, Art Blakey, John Bohnam, Ringo Starr and Dave Grohl. At age 18, Mike started teaching private drum lessons, and in 2006, he started his own business, The Percussion Works (www.thepercussionworks.com), which provides percussion instrumental services. He is also an adjunct professor of percussion studies at California Lutheran University and a percussion accompanist at California Institute of the Arts for the dance department.

Some of Mike's career highlights include on-screen film and television credits for "American Idol," "The Voice," "The Late Late Show," "Dancing with the Stars," "The Gambler," "Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards," "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and Netflix's "Hollywood." His live events

include working with John Williams at the Hollywood Bowl, Andrea Bocelli, Placido Domingo, Harry Shearer, Seth MacFarlane, Hanson and Mitzi Gaynor. Live filmed concerts include "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," "Rudy," "Killer Klowns from Outer Space," "Rocketman," "Rick and Morty" and "Parasite." Live video game concerts include "Final Fantasy," "Kingdom Hearts," "League of Legends" and "The Legend of Zelda." His numerous musical theater credits include "Cats," "Les Miserable," "In the Heights," "Rocky Horror Picture Show" and "Cabaret."

During Mike's spare time, he enjoys hiking, jogging, woodworking and photography.

The LAPD Band is so lucky Mike has chosen to share his amazing talents, and his "timpani van," with us. Come see Mike and the LAPD Band at the Reagan Library on Nov. 4 celebrating the library's 30th anniversary.

For more information about the Band, see our website at www.lasown.com and contact Jim Starr, executive director, at sngcop@aol.com. For greatly appreciated donations, please go to www.lapolicefoundation.org, and in the "Comments" box, put "For the Band." ♦



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Mike on timpani.