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LAPD Concert Band

BY MICHAEL ELLINGTON

There is one member of The Los Angeles Police Concert Band who takes very personally what it means to be a part of this group of musicians. During weekly rehearsals in the Academy Gym, he leads the Trumpet Section. From his position on the gym stage, he can see "The Black Line," where virtually every police recruit has stood inspection to begin his or her career with this Department. He was playing with the band three years ago, the morning a recently slain officer graduated from the Academy. That trumpet player is Michael Rotman. He says, "I'm

proud to support the police, and respect what they do to uphold our 'Nation of Laws.'"

Rotman has played the traditional bugle call, *Taps* at police and military funeral services across the southland, sometimes through Bugles Across America. Rotman said, "I receive emails regarding all services near me for which I can then volunteer. I hate to see one go unfilled." At the services, he usually consults with the honor guard. He says, "I often have no contact with the family as they are involved in their farewell and grief for their loved one. A few have told of the loved one, though. I recently played



Michael Rotman (left) leading the L.A. Police Concert Band Trumpet Section.

for a Navy Corpsman who served in the World War II Pacific Theater. They are always very grateful and the rendering of *Taps* means a lot to them."

When he is participating in a service, Rotman is conscious of the solemnity of the occasion. His mission is to honor the fallen. After playing the familiar 24-note bugle call, Rotman said, "Honestly, I'm just trying to get it technically perfect, clear sound, good attack, vibrato. The music speaks for itself if I can do that."

On Jan. 10, Officer **Fernando Uriel Arroyos** and his girlfriend were house hunting in the Walnut Park area of Los Angeles County. Arroyos was off duty when he was shot and killed in an armed robbery attempt. Arroyos is remembered as a phenomenal young man who had two goals in life: to graduate from college and to become an LAPD officer. He had been on the job only three years and assigned to Olympic Division before his career was brought to a tragic end. On Jan. 26, Olympic Station hosted a large turnout of co-workers, family, and friends to offer emotional and financial support to the Arroyos family. Chief Michel Moore

has announced that the Department will cover all funeral costs.

Rotman said, "Knowing I played at Officer Arroyos' graduation makes his killing more personal, knowing he marched by the band as I played, stood for inspection, took a photo with the Chief, and threw his hat in the air as I played. His picture shown in the media was taken in front of the mural at LAPD Academy. The mural I've seen new officers proudly pose in front of, the mural I have stood in front of with the LAPD Band."

The Los Angeles Police Concert Band is an all-volunteer organization. From the website: "Our motto, 'To perform and to serve,' is taken from the LAPD motto, 'To protect and to serve.' As volunteer musicians, we strive to share our pure joy of performing for worthwhile causes with our audiences."

For more information about the band, see our website at www.lasown.com and contact Jim Starr, Executive Director – email: sngcop@aol.com. For greatly appreciated donations, please go to www.lapolicefoundation.org, and in the 'Comments Box' put, "For The Band." ❖




Sounding "Taps" at Officer Arroyos' funeral service.

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Rotman (right) with fellow trumpet player, Dan Lienward.



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