

FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

ANY OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE THE VIEWS OF INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS. THEY SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS ENDORSED BY THE LOS ANGELES POLICE PROTECTIVE LEAGUE OR THE *THIN BLUE LINE*.

LAPD Band

BY CHRISTINA CHALLEY

"Seventy six trombones led the big parade"... these lyrics begin the famous song, written by Meredith Wilson, for the musical, *The Music Man*. Seventy-six trombones – one can only imagine what that must sound like in a marching band.

Though not one of 76, LAPD Band member and trombone player Matt



Matt

McGraw plays with bands of all sizes, and wherever the opportunities take him. Although Matt is known for playing the trombone, it wasn't the instrument he originally planned to play.

Growing up in West Covina/La Puente, and in a musical family – his brother, now a band director, from fifth grade started playing lots of different instruments, and his sister sang in high school choir –

Matt began playing the trombone out of opportunity and need. His family bought various instruments, just in case, and one was a cornet and one was a trombone. Up until this point, Matt had played drums in junior high school. But when his brother told him he'd never make the high school drumline, Matt decided to pick up the cornet. Then, when his brother told him he didn't want him to play the trumpet, either, Matt turned to the trombone.

Matt learned how to play the trombone, along with teaching himself how to play the baritone and tuba. Later, in high school, he also

learned how to play the saxophone and the clarinet. After high school, he taught himself how to play the flute. He has since taught private and group lessons for all of these instruments.

When asked if he was inspired by any trombone player, Matt said, "Having learned to play trombone from my high school band director (a clarinetist), I didn't really have a trombonist to look up to since I was playing better than the upperclassmen after a couple of months of learning. If I were to pick a trombonist that I wanted to emulate, it would have to be James Pankow of the rock band Chicago".

Since then, Matt has developed a couple of other favorite trombonists – Carl Fontana and Frank Rosolino for jazz; Dick Shearer and Bob Fitzpatrick of the Stan Kenton Orchestra for Big Band; Ralph Sauer and Jeff Reynolds for classical (both play for the LA Philharmonic); and for bass trombone, George Roberts. Matt said, "George helped define the big band bassbone sound."

Matt has played with a number of different bands and orchestras. He played while attending Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, then at Citrus College in Glendora, PCC in Pasadena, Cal State Long Beach, Cal Poly Pomona, Pomona College and East LA College. He played with the Claremont Symphony as the principal trombonist. He's played banda and salsa music, Top 40, worked for a cruise line, and played for some musical theater productions.



Matt playing trombone.

Along with his busy life as a musician, Matt enjoys reading books on musical literature and Morrie trombones. He said he has slowly stopped collecting action figures in favor of buying books. He's also getting into musical composition and arranging.

With all of Matt's musical talents, his path is reminiscent of Meredith Wilson, who was a flutist, a composer and musical arranger, and played in bands. Although the LAPD Band doesn't have 76 trombones in its brass section, it is lucky to have a trombonist such as Matt.

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." ♦

BAIDA JEWELRY
The ORIGINAL Jeweler to Law Enforcement

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

Over 44 Years Serving the Los Angeles Police Department!! LEO Owned & Operated

affirm
Now Available!

100% Natural GIA® Certified Diamonds
1000s of Designs in Stock
Lifetime Diamond Upgrade Policy
Custom Design Done on Premises

International Jewelry Center
550 South Hill St, Suite 830
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 623-3780 / (213) 623-4087

www.baidajewelry.com @baidajewelry

*GIA, Affirm, and Instagram Logo are registered trademarks to their respective owners.

LAPD BENEFITS
Protection when you need it most

Access customized benefit information

**DENTAL • DISABILITY (LTD) • LIFE
LEGAL • MAP**

www.lapplbenefits.com