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## LAPD Concert Band

BY MICHAEL ELLINGTON

The Los Angeles Police Concert Band is made up of three different categories of volunteer musicians: community band members, professional band members and college band members. The subject of today's profile falls into the last category. Meet clarinetist Salvador Quinonez.



Salvador with parents.

This musician's road to developing proficiency on his chosen instrument was fraught with challenges at a very young age. When he was three years old, testing found that he had a 50 percent hearing loss in his left ear and an 80 percent loss in his right ear. Surgery followed the next year that returned his hearing acuity to an acceptable level.

Salvador's first exposure to musical instruments was in elementary school, when a teacher showed him a xylophone and a marimba. Some students gravitate to certain instruments almost immediately. Salvador took his time for things to come into focus. While attending Burbank's David Starr Jordan Middle School, Salvador made a decision. He said, "I wanted to play the clarinet when I was 11 years old."

His sister Raquel said, "Salvador is very passionate with music. You could say music runs through his veins. He was born to play. You can hear it when he plays." He continued to play



Salvador and Lancers' clarinet section.

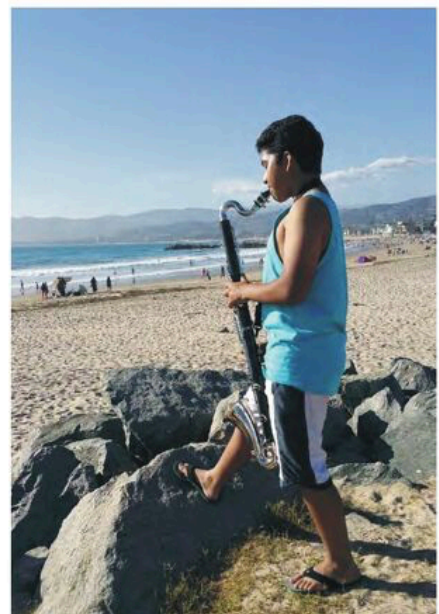
the woodwind with reasonable interest all through middle school and high school. After graduation from John Burroughs High School, there was a paradigm shift. Salvador said, "In middle and high school, I was just getting by and didn't really get serious until I went to Pasadena City College." While there, he joined the Lancers Marching Band and embarked on a musical journey with its clarinet section. He learned just how much a group with the same goals could accomplish. His newfound determination found him in step with the Lancers as they proudly participated in the 2022 Tournament of Roses Parade.

Recently, through a referral from retired Los Angeles City Fire Captain Steven Bro, Salvador sought to sit in with the LA Police Concert Band. He began regularly attending rehearsals and developed a positive rapport with his new bandmates. Conductor and Music Director, Maestro Richard Allen said, "He is new to the concert band experience. However, his lack of experience he makes up for with his exuberance and enthusiasm. He has no ego, no pre-defined expectations. He takes criticism well and tries as hard as he can." As conductor, Allen is constantly observing how personnel are interacting. He said, "I recall a time when Jim Scimonetti was showing Salvador some technique on the clarinet. Jim, being a seasoned professional, was demonstrating something about the embouchure of the clarinet on some low notes in the lower register. Salvador was like a sponge, taking in all that Jim had to offer."

Scimonetti himself values Salvador's focus. He says, "I like how Salvador listens and pays attention to his role in our concert band. He makes sure the way he is playing fits correctly and blends in with everything else that is going on." Fellow clarinetist Jim Murphy said, "I would call Salvador a problem solver. He figures out what is needed and delivers."

Though only 21 years old, Salvador is well on his way. Regarding his musical and personal development, he said for a long time he felt like a follower. He said, "Now, I want to be the leader that I want to be and take ownership of my path."

For more information about The Band, see our website at [www.lasown.com](http://www.lasown.com) and contact Jim Starr, Executive Director – email: [sngcop@aol.com](mailto:sngcop@aol.com). For greatly appreciated donations, please go to [www.lapolicefoundation.org](http://www.lapolicefoundation.org), and in the "Comments Box" put "For The Band." ♦





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