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LAPD Band

by Michael Ellington

Not everyone who is involved with the Los Angeles Police Concert Band is a musician. It has been said that "there are musicians who only listen." The subject of this month's Band member profile is Training Division Captain Armand "Tony" Carranza. Though he carries no instrument case, he has a longstanding passion for band music. "I have always enjoyed musical bands as part of our national history, from high school to college bands to the annual Rose Parade to Department events. Bands provide a special place in our hearts to celebrate the important events in our lives. Alas, I have not been blessed with musical talent, but my gratitude for those who do is immense."

Recruit Officer Carranza joined the Department in 1990 and did his probation in Wilshire Patrol. Following were postings and promotions in Northeast and Southwest. In 2000, sergeant stripes sent him to West L.A., and in 2008, a promotion to lieutenant found him on the Olympic Transition Team. In January of

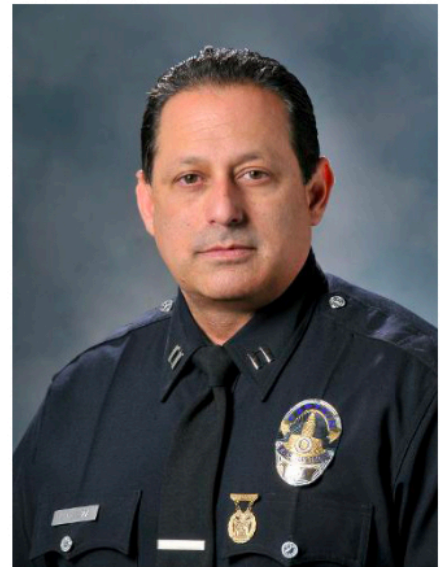
2017, Chief Michel Moore gave Captain Carranza command of Training Division.

One of his duties as commanding officer is oversight of the Band. In the captain's words, "My responsibilities include the administrative oversight for travel, accepting of grant monies through the Police Commission and any other assistance the Band might need." That assistance came through in a big way when Captain Carranza supported and guided the effort that ended up with the Band participating in the 2019 Celebration of National Police Week in the nation's capital. Our contribution included providing music at several venues, including a special performance at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. That occasion marked 28 years since President George H.W. Bush dedicated the Memorial in 1991. Captain Carranza said, "During that week, hundreds of law enforcement officials gather to celebrate and remember fallen officers. It is an incredibly meaningful event to attend, and I encourage everyone who has the opportunity to attend to try and go. I am sure you will

appreciate the experience forever. Our Band represents our Department there and is a focal point of several of the high-profile events."

The Band has not performed at a recruit officer graduation since March of this year. Coronavirus restrictions do not permit gatherings of the size that the graduation ceremony regularly draws. The Band misses performing at these important occasions, and Carranza misses those performances as well. "One of the truly unfortunate consequences of our current societal situation is our inability to have recruit graduations. It is a tremendous disappointment for both the graduates and their families. The Band, of course, is an integral part of the ceremony, and I can't express how important a role they play in that special day. I hope that we will soon be able to once again celebrate our graduates on the hallowed grounds of the Academy parade field."

The Band is fortunate to have as insightful a supporter as Captain Carranza. He may not play an instrument, but his oversight and concern is vital to the Band's future. He said, "My admiration and



Captain Carranza

respect for all these individuals is enormous, and whenever I hear them play, I am thankful and grateful that I am part of a Department that has been blessed with these talented musicians who give so much and provide an experience we all enjoy!"

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.lapolice-foundation.org, and in the "Comments" box, put "For the Band." ♦



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