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LAPD Band

by Michael Ellington

The sound of the instrument is what draws this month's featured artist to her music. Beatrice Luna was the eldest of six siblings. It was her example that led them to be a musical family. Her father took notice of her love for music and bought her an accordion and lessons. Though she had enjoyed watching Myron Floren play the instrument on "The Lawrence Welk Show," she found it too bulky. It was in third grade that she set her sights on studying violin because she liked the sound. When her brothers and sisters saw how much fun she was having

playing music at school, they started lessons in oboe, trumpet and clarinet.

In the summer of 1968, Beatrice decided she wanted to be in her high school's marching band. There was a slot available for someone who could play the flute, so she learned how to play. Her first flute was a silver Armstrong. She still has it and plays it occasionally.

She was born and raised in East Los Angeles. After graduating from Montebello High School, Beatrice attended East Los Angeles College and graduated with an associate of arts in music. Between high school and college, Beatrice participated in a six-week study/concert tour of Europe. She was accepted to the L.A. Junior Philharmonic and earned first chair in the San Gabriel Junior Symphony. She then entered Cal State L.A. as a music performance major, but found she needed to start working full time, and as a result, never completed her music degree.

Additional interests captured her attention while Beatrice attended college. She delved into Mexican folklorico, ballet and Hawaiian dance. A fascination with vocal studies led her to sing soprano with a number of choirs.

That aforementioned full-time employment found her at what was then Pacific Bell, later AT&T. She spent 36 years working in network operations and dispatch before retiring in 2016. Music continued to be her passion, along with an ongoing interest in another of her pursuits. "I have always been athletic and enjoyed running competitively since elementary [school]," Beatrice said. She has run almost every kind of race, from 5Ks through marathons, as



Beatrice at the Reed Festival in La Croix-Valmer, France.



Beatrice Luna with LAPD Chief Michel Moore.

well as biathlons and triathlons. So impressive was her running prowess that Pacific Bell's USCAA corporate team sponsored her. In running circles, just qualifying for the Boston Marathon is a major accomplishment. Beatrice is among that select group of runners who has competed in Boston as well 17 other city marathons, including nine consecutive years participating in the Los Angeles Marathon.

Flutists she admires include Irish virtuoso Sir James Galway, French classical player Jean-Pierre Rampal and Swiss flautist Emmanuel Pahud. Beatrice was fortunate enough to take a master's class with Galway and describes him as bubbly, friendly and full of jokes. His soaring tone is one of her inspirations. She saw Rampal in concert at the Hollywood Bowl, and really would like to meet Pahud.

When she's not practicing, performing or lacing up her running shoes, Beatrice enjoys gardening and traveling. She divides her time between the L.A. Police

Concert Band and the Los Angeles Symphonic Winds, a 100-member ensemble based in Woodland Hills.

Beatrice clearly enjoys the sound of her flute and music she makes. "Playing the flute is one of the ways that I express and share my love of music," she said.

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." ❖



Beatrice at an L.A. Winds performance.

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