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LAPD Concert Band

BY CHRISTINA CHALLEY

And the beat goes on... with the LAPD Concert Band's drummer, Allen Weiss.

Keeping the beat alive has been Allen's goal since growing up with a father known as "Sammy, The Drummer, Weiss." Continuing in his father's drumming footsteps, Allen now volunteers his own drumming talent to play with the LAPD Band's drum/percussion section.

Allen and his family—his mom and dad, two brothers, a sister and their dog—moved from New York to Sherman

Oaks, Calif., in 1945. Inspired by his professional musician father, Allen and his siblings grew up playing various instruments. Allen began playing the drums, along with the trombone and piano. His brother Maurice played trumpet, piano and drums, and brother Jack played saxophone, piano and drums. As one might imagine, with all that talent, they had a family band, with dad on piano (showing their father's versatility) and Allen on drums. He said they performed at veterans' hospitals and various other service organizations around Los Angeles.



Allen at the end with Jerry Sun Group.



Allen, on right, with LAPD percussion section.

Allen's father, also known as "Sammy the Drummer," was a drummer who began his career with Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey and Artie Shaw, and later played drums on the Jack Benny radio and TV shows, which spanned over 25 years. He also had his own radio show called "Jammin' With Sammy." It is said that Sammy led the way for Gene Krupa and Buddy Rich because, as he didn't want to go on the road, they stepped up in his place. Sammy wanted to stay in town to raise his family. He was one of the few musicians who made the transition from sideman, to bandleader, to "personality," leading his own bands and then performing as one of the cast of characters on the Jack Benny television show.

After playing percussion while attending North Hollywood High School, Allen decided he wanted to go on the road. At age 20, he was working in the Nevada lounge circuit as a drummer, vocalist and comedian. He appeared with several acts in Las Vegas, Reno, Tahoe and Elko, Nev. He also played the bowling alley circuit in Los Angeles.

Allen says he loves playing with big bands, and since March 2020, has again

followed in his father's footsteps by leading and rehearsing his own 17-piece band. This he does, on his patio, three days a week, giving many musicians a place to play and rehearse during the pandemic.

Allen says that joining the LAPD Concert Band's percussion section has given him more musical challenges. He has appeared with the Band at various venues, including Forest Lawn's Memorial Day Celebration and the Reagan Library's 30th Anniversary Celebration held in the Air Force One Pavilion.

Allen's favorite drummers are, of course, his dad, "Sammy the Drummer," as well as the famous Buddy Rich. He says he hasn't had much time for hobbies lately, but has spent some time cleaning out the garage and closets. The LAPD Band is lucky Allen has saved some of his time to share his drumming talents with them.

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." ♦

Feb 28, 1997

44 Minutes: The North Hollywood Shootout

It will be 25 Years!!!

We are in the process of planning an event to remember this day.

We are reaching out to all the brave officers and personnel who were involved on this historic day.

Please send an email to nhwdcpab@gmail.com to be included on the Guest List.

Details will be sent out later.

Save the Date
Monday, February 28, 2022



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