

# for your Information

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## LAPD Band

by Christina Challey

It is said that music is the universal language, and the LAPD Concert Band exemplifies this sentiment, not only through the music it plays but also by the musicians who play it. Our Band members represent an international mix of



Misha, where is your LAPD hat?

various backgrounds, cultures and walks of life, and LAPD Band member Michael (Misha) Lubko, from the Republic of Ukraine, adds his talent and expertise to the wonderful diversity of the band.

A fabulous trombone player, Misha grew up in the Soviet Union in the Republic of Ukraine. At 10 years of age, he began his musical education at music school, which was a supplemental program to the regular school. He said, "I knew that I wanted to play the trombone the first time I heard the trombone glissando (a continuous slide upward or downward between two notes), which I thought was a very funny and fun instrument."

But at 10 years of age, Misha said his arms weren't long enough to reach the slides, so he decided to start his

musicianship by playing the euphonium. By 11 years old, with his arms finally long enough to reach the slides, he switched to the trombone and never looked back.

The first of his family to play a musical instrument, Misha completed high school and auditioned for Music College. At 17 years old, while attending college, he auditioned for the Kiev National Orchestra and played with this orchestra for three years. Then he was drafted for mandatory military service, and for the next two years, while in the Army, he played in the Army band.

After completing his Army service, Misha began to play as the principal trombonist for the National Orchestra of Ukraine. Also at this time, he simultaneously obtained his doctorate degree in music, which was a five-year program.

In 1990, as a refugee from the Soviet Union, Misha immigrated to the United States. Upon his arrival, he began to freelance as a trombone player and began teaching all levels of brass instruments. He also attended the music program at the University of Southern California. In addition to all of his musical endeavors and accomplishments, Misha has been a professional massage therapist for the past 20 years.

When asked if he was inspired to play the trombone by anyone, he said it was just the instrument that grabbed his attention. But he said he is inspired



Misha in the Ukrainian Army Band.

all the time by great players such as Joe Alessi (principal trombone player of the New York Philharmonic) and Ian Bousfield (principal trombone player of the Vienna Philharmonic). Classical and jazz are his favorite styles of music, but he can play all genres.

A huge soccer fan, Misha loves to play and watch soccer. He said that a year ago, he began to ski and really loves the sport. Other activities he likes to do are swimming, biking, hiking, horseback riding and generally anything that's active and outdoors. Always up for trying new things, he said he's recently tried yoga and has begun to meditate. He also really enjoys cooking and eating!

For more information about the LAPD Band, please contact Jim Starr, executive director, at [sngcop@aol.com](mailto:sngcop@aol.com). For greatly appreciated donations, please go to [www.lapolicyfoundation.org](http://www.lapolicyfoundation.org), and in the "notes box," put "for the Band." ♦

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