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LAPD Band

by Christina Challey

From beauty queen to principal trombone player in the Shreveport Symphony, LAPD Band member June Satton has many diverse accomplishments on her impressive performance resume.

Born and raised in Chicago, June grew up in a musical family. Her dad played the violin, her mom the piano, her brother the trombone, piano and guitar, and her aunt was a professional opera singer! Surrounded by all this talent, June was to begin her own musical journey at 7 years old, when her brother brought his trombone home from school. She picked it up because it was fun to play. But it wasn't until she was in college that she realized she wanted to pursue playing the trombone professionally.

June graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in Trombone Performance from the University of Southern California. While in college, not only did she play in all the bands and orchestras she

could, including playing at three Rose Bowls with the USC Marching Band, but, as she said, "I put myself through several years of college with scholarship monies won from the Miss America preliminary pageants." June was the third runner-up to Miss Louisiana in the Miss America preliminary pageant and a three-time talent winner!

After graduating from USC, June won the second trombone contract position with the Shreveport Symphony in Louisiana, which then led to winning and holding the principal trombone position there for the following two years. While in Shreveport, June also worked with Dionne Warwick, Ray Charles, Andy Williams, Henry Mancini and Shari Lewis.

June went on to play principal trombone with the Fresno Philharmonic, where she performed with Vikki Carr, Dizzy Gillespie and P.D.Q. Bach. For eight seasons, she played in the Ringling Bros. Circus Band, then became a member of the Los Angeles Phil-

harmonic Institute Orchestra, with performances at the Hollywood Bowl with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. June has toured with Opera a la Carte, the Belle Air Brass and Satin Brass, of which she is a founding member. She was principal trombone and four-time soloist with the Cypress Pops Orchestra and was the first female musician in the CableACE Awards Orchestra. Additionally, she was also music contractor and trombonist with "Jesus Christ Superstar" for the historic reunion performance in 2007 at the Ricardo Montalban Theatre in Hollywood.

Besides playing on tours and in bands and orchestras, June has also appeared in

national commercials for AT&T, United Airlines and the California Lottery. She has appeared as a trombonist on the FX TV show "Better Things" and in an Aloe Blacc music video called "Love is the Answer," which was featured in a Lincoln car commercial. She has also appeared on the soap opera "General Hospital" and in the movie "Fantasia 2000."

When asked what inspired her career, June said, "The Carpenters (brother and sister music group) inspired me to pursue a dream of performing and entertaining, and the trombone just kept being fun. Many of my colleagues inspired me to practice and be the best I could be." One such colleague was Dennis Smith, former principal with the L.A. Phil, who, she said, "was quite an encouraging inspiration to me."

And speaking of inspiration, June continues to inspire all the musicians in the



LAPD Concert Band with her incredible talent. She also plays the euphonium, piano and guitar!

For more information about the LAPD Band, please contact **Jim Starr**, executive director at sngcop@aol.com. For greatly appreciated donations, please go to www.lapolicefoundation.org, and in the "notes box," put "for the Band." ♦



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