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LAPD Band

by Christina Challey

"Since high school, a musician is the only thing I wanted to be," said LAPD Band member, Kim Richmond. And what a musician he turned out to be! From touring Japan and Alaska with the Percy Faith Orchestra, to writing a

major symphony, "Centuria," to writing and conducting musical scores for film and television, and playing in various bands and orchestras, Kim has followed his dream and never looked back.

Looking back, though, his career probably began in kindergarten when his mother insisted he take piano lessons. And not only take lessons, but promise to take them for at least three years! Then he could quit, if he wanted to—which he did. He said he learned a little about music, though, and later, when his aunt, a music teacher, introduced him to the clarinet in sixth grade, he was hooked.

Kim played in bands throughout his education. In high school, that included the dance band. This led to him playing with local dance bands, where he



Kim at an LAPD graduation.



honed his craft. Then in music school at the University of Illinois, where he majored in classical clarinet, he played in the university's marching band as well as other ensembles.

Jazz was not allowed in the music school at the University of Illinois when Kim was there, but one of the classical string teachers, John Garvey, violist with the world-famous Walden String Quartet, happened to be a jazz fan and decided to form his own jazz band outside of the school curriculum. Kim played in and wrote music for this band, which went on to be sponsored by the Student Union and played many concerts on campus. Because the band won many awards at college festivals, it was later incorporated into the music school, and finally a jazz curriculum was established.

Kim has been involved in nearly every facet of the professional music industry, both as a player and as a composer/arranger. His instruments are alto, soprano, tenor and baritone saxes, clarinet, bass clarinet and flutes. Kim has been a member of the orchestras of Stan Kenton, Louis Bellson, Bob Florence, Bill Holman and Vinny Golia, among others. His own Kim Richmond Concert Jazz Orchestra is a workshop for his writing, conducting and leading. His ensemble (sextet) is a platform for more free-form expression and improvisation,


with the key factors being Kim's writing and the members playing.

A multi-Grammy award nominee, Kim has recorded three albums as leader: "Looking In Looking Out," "Ballads" and "Live at Café Metropoli," in addition to his 23-piece Kim Richmond Concert Jazz Orchestra with "Passages," "Refractions" and "Artistry." He has collaborated with jazz singer Kimberly Ford and pianist Herbie Hancock. He has served as artist-in-residence at Australia's University of Sydney Music Conservatorium Jazz Studies program, has been active as a regular radio host of programs on jazz and avant-garde music, and has written articles for jazz magazines "Saxophone Journal" and "Jazz Player."


Despite his busy professional schedule, Kim enjoys the educational side of music by serving as guest lecturer, conductor and soloist at college music festivals and workshops around the country. He was a member of the jazz faculty at USC for 11 years, where he taught ensembles, composition and saxophone.

Looking back at where it all started, Kim's piano lessons in kindergarten have really paid off!

For more information about the LAPD Band, please contact Jim Starr, executive director: 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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