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## LAPD Band

BY CHRISTINA CHALLEY

The saying, "Captain of the Ship," was in full view at the recent LAPD event, *The Jack Webb Awards*. Two Captains, though from different 'ships,' came together to provide a fun-filled evening to support the LAPD Museum.

One of the captains, also known as "Captain Kirk," aka William Shatner, and the other, Maestro Richard Allen, Captain/Conductor of the LAPD Band, found themselves leading the event – Shatner with an MC script – and Maestro with a conductor's baton. These two 'Captains' found that they shared a flair for entertainment and a sense of fun, which

they demonstrated during the evening's activities.

Along with sharing the evening's activities, these two 'Captains' found that they also shared a little history. Richard had gone to Beverly Hills High School at the same time Mr. Shatner's daughter, Lisabeth, had attended. And Mr. Shatner's character of 'Captain Kirk,' made famous by the television series *Star Trek*, was created by an LAPD officer, Gene Roddenberry.

Roddenberry grew up in Los Angeles, where his father was a police officer. Gene flew 89 combat missions in the Army Air Forces during World War II. Later, he followed in his father's footsteps and joined the LAPD. Roddenberry became the Chief of Police's speech writer. He then became technical advisor for a new television version of *Mr. District Attorney*, which led him to writing for the show under his pseudonym "Robert Wesley." He found that it was becoming increasingly difficult to be a writer and a policeman, so he resigned from the force to concentrate on his writing career.



Richard Allen with William Shatner.



Richard Allen at Forest Lawn.

Roddenberry said, in reference to his vision for *Star Trek*... "Some people have good pitch when it comes to music. I have good pitch when it comes to the future." Thus came the saying, "To boldly go where no man has gone before."

Maestro Richard Allen, with good pitch for music, and a vision for going boldly where no conductor has gone before, wrote for Shatner's introductions during the evening, a musical 'play-on,' using the now famous music to the original "Star Trek" television series. It was well received with the audience, and Shatner commented, "I never heard it played better." At one point in the evening, Shatner even asked the band to play it again for one of his introductions. It then became a running gag as Richard would spot him backstage before he was about to go on – they would make eye contact – and with thumbs up, Richard knew to play it again. The audience caught on, and laughter could be heard each time this music was played.

Richard, also a talented composer and arranger, was able to provide additional musical play-ons during the evening – one for Chief Michel Moore – taken from the television series, *Dragnet*. Others he composed for additional honorees. He also arranged a lot of the evening's

entertaining music played by the LAPD Band.

As part of the LAPD family, Maestro Richard Allen is a great 'Captain of the Ship' for the LAPD Band. He envisions the exploration of new music for the band as a new frontier, to explore new options that support and enhance the LAPD Recruit Graduations and other community events for the LAPD and the City of Los Angeles – to boldly go where no LAPD Band has gone before.

For more information about the band, see our website at [www.lasown.com](http://www.lasown.com) and contact Jim Starr, Executive Director – email: [sngcop@aol.com](mailto:sngcop@aol.com). For greatly appreciated donations, please go to [www.lapolicefoundation.org](http://www.lapolicefoundation.org) and in the 'Comments Box,' put "For The Band." ♦



Captain Kirk

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