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## LAPD Band

by Michael Ellington

Jodi Gladstone has been playing the trumpet since she was 9 years old. Her childhood in North White Plains, N.Y., included listening to her aunt and grandmother, who played piano and sang. During her early development as a musician, she also learned to play the piano as well as guitar.

She came to play the trumpet in a fashion similar to another of her role models. In fourth grade, her class was given the opportunity to choose instruments to play. Herb Alpert & the Tijuana Brass was all over the radio and television at the time. She liked the sound of the trumpet. She found Alpert's sound to be so compelling that she bought all his albums and books, and played along with the group's records. She says that doing that helped with her sight reading later. Alpert says he discovered the trumpet in a grade-school music appreciation class. The teacher had instruments arranged on a table and told them to just pick one. He can't explain why, but he was just drawn to the trumpet. The

legendary trumpet player says that from the very beginning, the trumpet could say things an introverted 8-year-old couldn't.

After high school, Jodi became a Buckeye, playing in The Ohio State University Jazz Ensemble, The OSU Concert Band and The OSU Symphonic Orchestra. One of the teachers who really challenged her need to grow as an artist was OSU faculty member Richard Burkhart. She received her Bachelor of Music Education while there.

She moved to Texas to pursue graduate studies at North Texas State University. During her two-year stay, she worked as a trumpet assistant and performed with The Three and Four O'Clock Jazz bands and the Symphonic Winds. She completed her studies and received a master's degree in Music Education in 1980.

Still moving west, she settled in Southern California and embarked on a career teaching music in the Long Beach and Los Angeles Unified School Districts. Jodi taught band, jazz band, marching band, orchestra, guitar and choir. Since retiring last year after teaching for 37



Jodi with her trumpet.

years, she has been a freelance, L.A.-area trumpet player. All right, she's semi-retired. She continues to teach and coach music part-time. She practices 1 1/2 to two hours a day. Those sessions include breathing exercises, technical studies and etudes. When she's not playing or teaching music, she enjoys hiking.

Another of her pursuits involves a band she joined and now directs. The Great American Swing Band was formed in the late '70s. Jodi joined the semi-professional group in 1981 and ended up becoming the director a few years later. They have since evolved into an L.A. area professional big band.

Her favorite type of music is jazz, which comes as no surprise, since she counts the legendary Louis Armstrong as one of her inspirations. She remembers seeing him in the movies and hearing him on the radio all the time. His phrasing and approach to entertainment riveted her attention and has been an influence ever since. She sums up her approach to music in general, and her chosen

brass instrument, this way: "Playing my trumpet is like having a buddy with me all the time. If I don't play, I'll miss it. I'm going to play as long as I possibly can."

For more information about the Band, see our website at [www.lasown.com](http://www.lasown.com) and contact Jim Starr, executive director, at [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." ❖



Jodi Gladstone

## LAFPP Office Hours are Changing!

by Bernice Ortiz

To improve customer service and to meet the needs of members, LAFPP will change its business hours beginning Jan. 1, 2020. The new business hours will be 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding City holidays.

As always, you can visit the LAFPP website at [www.lafpp.com](http://www.lafpp.com) for more information or to access the member self-service web portal. Send questions by email to [pensions@lafpp.com](mailto:pensions@lafpp.com) anytime.

For more information, please contact LAFPP at (213) 279-3000 or (844) 885-2377. ❖

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## LOS ANGELES POLICE POST 381 MEETING INFO

**Meeting days:** Third Tuesday of every month

**Location:** Police Academy (Elysian Park)  
in the room to the right as you enter.

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Contact:** Richard Kalk

[Richard\\_kalk@yahoo.com](mailto:Richard_kalk@yahoo.com)

(626) 287-1616