

# for your Information

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## LAPD Band

by Christina Challey

'Big Sky Country' is a term given the great state of Montana, and this is where LAPD Band member Ron Lins grew up—in Great Falls, Mont. Montana is also known as "The Treasure State," and Ron is certainly one of the LAPD Band's "treasures" playing saxophone in both the LAPD Concert Band and the LAPD Swing Band.

Ron began to play the saxophone when he was just nine years old. He started taking private lessons at Kops Music Store. While studying at Kops, at age 13, Ron organized a quartet with some of the other students. The quartet consisted of piano, bass, drums, and with Ron on saxophone. The quartet became known as "The Four Sharps," and they became so popular, they were asked to play as the house band for Kops' regular Saturday morning radio show. The radio show featured selected students at Kops, and The Four Sharps would open and close the

show. Ron's quartet was soon playing for local dances and concerts, and by high school at age 15, Ron qualified to join the Musicians Union!

Ron played in jazz and concert bands all throughout high school and college. He financed his college education by playing music. Ron spent the first three years of his college education in Santa Barbara and graduated with a degree in Music Education from the University of Montana. After college, Ron auditioned for and was accepted into the U.S. Naval School of Music in Washington, D.C. where he served as a full-time musician and repair tech.

Ron's tour of duty with the Navy Band took an amazing turn when he became part of a specially selected group of musicians to serve for the Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (the world's largest fleet command encompassing 100 million square miles). Ron said the musicians were the admiral's own "personal band," and the band would go wherever the admiral went. This meant Ron spent 22 months with tours on the aircraft carriers USS Kitty Hawk, USS Constellation, the USS Bennington and the USS Ranger.

While Ron was on the USS Ranger, the boiler system lost one of its boilers and repairs were going to take six weeks. With this delay, the admiral decided to take the band to Hong Kong, calling the trip "basket leave." They stayed at the Hilton Hotel, and when the manager of the hotel heard they were musicians, they were asked to play in the elegant Dragon

Room. Needing more than their standard Navy attire, the Admiral bought them all tuxedos! They wound up playing the Dragon Room for seven nights.

Other performances of note for Ron with the Pacific Fleet Band included a weapons demonstration for Chiang Kai-shek, a celebration of Astronaut Alan Shepard's first orbit around the earth and playing for President John F. Kennedy in Washington, D.C.

After leaving the Navy, Ron taught instrumental and vocal music for 10 years in the Montana public school system. Today he loves to buy, sell and repair new and old saxophones.

Ron's favorite style of music is jazz, with Paul Desmond "taking the number one spot in his admiration," he says.

Ron and his wife, Muriel, who is French, love to travel, especially to Nice, France, where Muriel grew up. Some favorite travel spots are Switzerland,



Ron Lins at LAPD recruit graduation

Germany, and Sedona, Ariz. They are now looking forward to taking some "Jazz Cruises."

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.lapolicefoundation.org](http://www.lapolicefoundation.org), and in the "notes box," type "for the band." ♦



Ron Lins at band rehearsal

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TERM OF

JANUARY 1, 2019 - DECEMBER 31, 2021

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CANDIDATE FILING PERIOD  
WILL OPEN **MONDAY, AUGUST 13 AT 9 A.M.**  
AND CLOSE **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, AT 5 P.M.**  
BALLOTS WILL BE MAILED ON **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2**  
AND COUNTED ON **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19.**