



News and Updates

And one day she discovered that she was fierce, and strong, and full of fire, and that not even she could hold herself back because her passion burned brighter than her fears. —Mark Anthony

The Song of the Everyday Woman: Spirit & Strength

This Mother's Day, as the Sacramento Symphonic Winds takes the stage for *Spirit & Strength: A Mother's Day Musical Tribute*, we aren't just celebrating a date on the calendar or a holiday created to sell cards and flowers. We are honoring a specific kind of spirit: the enduring, often quiet resilience of the women who help shape our world.

When we speak of "spirit and strength," we aren't necessarily referring to those with the title of Mother. We see it in the *musicians of our ensemble* - the women who balance careers, artistry, and community service. We see it in the *mentors* in our audience who guide the next generation, the *sisters* who provide a steady anchor, and the *friends* who offer fierce, unconditional support.

Our program reflects this multifaceted strength through the lens of history and modern creativity. We are honored to feature soloist, Dr. Cathie Apple, in the West Coast Premiere of Alan Theisen's *L'histoire de la Nouvelle Orleans*, where we encounter the legendary Marie Laveau. Laveau was known as the Voodoo Queen of New Orleans and was a woman of immense influence and community leadership, embodying a spirit that could not be silenced. This enduring strength is echoed in the work of Julie Giroux, a renowned American composer and arranger of modern wind band music. *Paprikash* captures a fiery, unrelenting energy that mirrors the passion women bring to every endeavor. The timeless melodies of Frank Ticheli's *Simple Gifts: Four Shaker Songs* celebrate the Shaker community, a society famously led by Mother Ann Lee to America in 1774. Their belief in

23rd Concert Season
Dr. Matthew Morse, Music & Artistic Director
Spirit & Strength:
A Mother's Day Musical Tribute
A journey through the American spirit—honoring the strength of women everywhere.
Featuring flute soloist
Dr. Cathie Apple
performing the West Coast Premiere of
L'histoire de la Nouvelle Orleans
Sunday, May 10, 2026 2:30 pm
Free Admission
Donations appreciated
California State University, Sacramento
Capistrano Hall
Free parking in Structure 1
www.sacwinds.org * Facebook * Instagram

Program:

Flashing Winds by Jan Van der Roost

Paprikash by Julie Giroux

Simple Gifts: Four Shaker Songs by Frank Ticheli

The Corcoran Cadets by John Philip Sousa

The Golden Age of Broadway Arr. by Warren Barker

L'histoire de la Nouvelle Orleans, Concerto for Flute and Wind Ensemble by Alan Theisen
Soloist, Dr. Cathie Apple

Fanfare for Justice by Richard L. Saucedo

One must surrender themselves to music, invest their heart and soul in it. Only then, can they experience the truth of it – Julie Giroux

finding the spirit through diligent work and a devoted heart remains a tribute to the foundational strength found in purposeful living. Last, we cannot forget the unsinkable spirit of Molly Brown touched on in Warren Barker's *The Golden Age of Broadway*. Margaret Brown embodied resilience and wit, both as the historic figure who survived the sinking of the Titanic and went on to a life of philanthropy, and as the charismatic persona depicted on film and stage.

Whether raising a family, leading a movement, or nurturing a creative passion, these stories represent the true American spirit. As the music fills the hall, we invite you to celebrate the women in your own life—the biological mothers, the chosen family, and the quiet leaders. Their lives are the melody; their strength is the harmony.

Join us this Mother's Day as we play in honor of the everyday woman.

Dates to remember:

Please join us for the final performance of our 2025-2026 season:

June 7, 2026, 11:30 –

Carmichael Park Community Band Festival

The Carmichael Park Community Band Festival is a two-day event. Please consider spending a portion of the weekend at the park, supporting many of our local community bands!



CAPTRUST

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In Memoriam

Dr. Lester Lehr, March 20, 1938 – April 10, 2026

We are saddened to announce that Dr. Lester Lehr passed away from complications of Parkinson's Disease on April 10, 2026. Dr. Lehr was a musician, teacher, conductor, and founder. He was a giant in the music community in the greater Sacramento region.

Dr. Lehr spent time as an educator at all levels, from elementary through college and was presented with the Music Educators National Conference Excellence in Music Education Award in the spring of 1989.

His career as a professional musician included 16 years as principal Trombone with the Sacramento Symphony, and more than 15 years with the Sacramento Municipal Band and California State Fair and Exposition Orchestra.

As a conductor, Dr. Lehr directed the Sacramento Valley Symphonic Band from 1984-1989, taking it on tour multiple times. He also co-produced, conducted, and wrote the musical arrangements for the Bay Area based "Oh Mr. Sousa!", an operetta based on the life and times of John Philip Sousa. It toured the United States from 2005 to 2015.

Dr. Lehr's leadership grew Sacramento area community bands from one to four along with the formation of a professional wind ensemble where he served as conductor from 1994-2004. He founded the Sacramento Symphonic Winds in 2001, conducting from 2001 to 2016.

Thank you for so many years of music, Dr. Lehr. Rest in Peace.

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I am interested in humanity and will do my duty impartially and conscientiously.
– Margaret “Molly” Brown



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