



News and Updates

Bittersweet Bookends

Our 23rd season is ending and we will look back on this one with bittersweet memories. October (*Summon the Heroes*) found us celebrating the heroes in our lives with exhilarating and heroic music that ranged from *The Incredibles* to Sibelius' *Finlandia*. But sadly, as we were preparing for this concert, one of our members, tuba player Nick Sower, a retired firefighter, EMT, and true hero, passed away unexpectedly. We honored Nick and many of our own personal heroes at that emotional concert.

An art show made our December concert unique (*Winter Winds: Old World Carols, New World Sounds*). Patrons made donations to the band then selected an original painting donated by Bay Area artist Debbie Vinograd to take home. A large and enthusiastic audience turned out for this Holiday concert where we performed celebratory and uplifting music including Alfred Reed's *Russian Christmas Music* and of course Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*. We gave away poinsettias to several lucky recipients, along with the gift bags that are our staple. It truly was a seasonal celebration.

At the start of the new year, we learned that we received a grant from the Small Organization Sustainability Fund from the Sacramento Office of Arts and Culture. Thank you to band member Andrew Crotto for working hard to secure this significant award.

We teamed with the high school musicians of CK McClatchy in their beautiful auditorium in mid-March. This collaboration concert aligns with our mission to bring music to the greater Sacramento community. We hope we inspired the high school students as much as they inspired us.

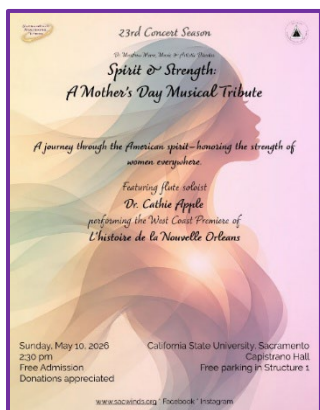
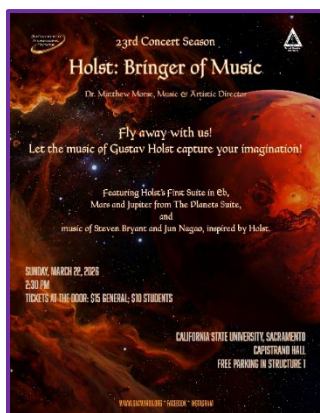
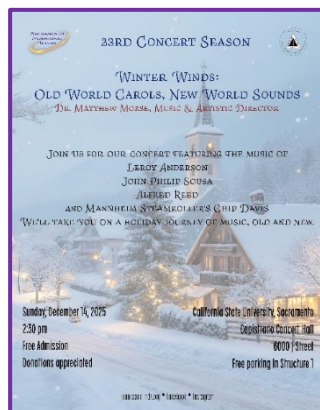
The concert with CK McClatchy High School was followed by a notable concert in which we played music of Gustav Holst. (*Holst: Bringer of Music*). Our audience enjoyed iconic and powerful music of this master composer, including *Mars* and *Jupiter* from *The Planet's Suite*, and several pieces by composers who were influenced by Holst.

On Mother's Day (*Spirit & Strength: A Mother's Day Musical Tribute*) we again welcomed a very large audience who were treated with a season highlight. The ensemble accompanied CSUS flute professor Dr. Cathie Apple as she performed the West Coast premiere of Alan Thiesen's *L'histoire de la Nouvelle Orleans*. A truly magnificent performance! As a Mother's Day treat, we gave away many potted flowers to appreciative audience members.

But again, it was bittersweet as we ended the season the way it began with the loss of two of our own. In April, we learned of the passing of Dr. Les Lehr (1938-2026), who founded Sacramento Symphonic Winds. Our May concert was dedicated to his memory, and we intend to honor his legacy as we strive for the excellence and growth he began decades ago. May he rest in peace. And very recently, we learned of the passing of Les Corbin. Les was a trumpet player and an original SSW founding member, many of those years as our treasurer. Both men will be missed, and our deepest sympathies go out to their families.

As we close the books on this season, we'd like to thank all of you, our devoted patrons, who contribute so much to making Sacramento Symphonic Winds a success. We do it for you.

Kari Zimny



Loss teaches us to cherish every single moment with the people still by our side. - Unknown

In a season with so many remarkable losses, and still so many wonderful and memorable musical moments, the idea that a community band is, in and of itself, also a community, is brought home. As we said good-bye to our founder, a longtime member, and a current member, we also feel the need to hold tight to those who are here with us making music.

The members of the band would like to sincerely thank **Dr. Matthew Morse**, Artistic Director and Conductor. He has shared his passion and expertise with us every Tuesday evening and has brought the ensemble to a new level of performance. We thank him for choosing fun yet challenging repertoire for us to play. It is rewarding to present this music to our patrons, friends and families. We are looking forward to another season of working together. Thank you, Dr. Morse!

Thank you Extras, Subs, and Volunteers!

Concert music sometimes requires musicians that we don't usually have as members of our ensemble, so we bring those players in for a specific piece or concert. Additionally, members have life events that prevent them from playing for a period so long-term substitutes fill in for them. We are fortunate to have an extensive sub list of willing players we can call. Many thanks to the following people for helping us out this season for one or more concerts.

Jesse Barba, percussion

Parker Carroll, tuba

Julian Dixon, tuba

John Doolittle, saxophone

Kate Drennan, clarinet

Jeffrey Edom, percussion

Lynette Edom, percussion

Gabe Guerrero, percussion

Robert Halseth, trombone

Patti Hammernik, clarinet

Susan Hamre, piano

Marcus Holifield-Helm, percussion

Roberta Huff, piccolo/flute

Emma Keisler, clarinet

Helen Kilpatrick-Halseth, French horn

Amanda Lopes, percussion

Gregg Machel, trombone

Kay McCammond, bass clarinet

Sheryl Mosher, bassoon

Christian Orr, French horn

Gabe Read, saxophone

Soraya Roman, percussion

Vincent Salvitti, trombone

Jordan Shippy, percussion

Andy Sullivan, percussion

Leanne Vu, percussion

Special thanks to **Parker Carroll** for stepping gracefully into Nick Sower's spot in October. It is particularly difficult to step in at the last minute to not only learn difficult music, but to fill the role of a deceased member who was as liked and respected as Nick.

Our box office volunteers and ushers are also an invaluable part of making our concerts possible, taking care of our audience and generally making things run smoothly, allowing the musicians to do what we came to do. Thank you to:

Peggy Adams, Dixie Jew, Linda Jew, Donna Miller, Andy Sullivan, Brian Sullivan, Jeff Wemmer, and John Zimny.

Dates to remember:

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

June 7, 2026, 11:00 –

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!

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened. — Dr. Seuss



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