



NEWS AND UPDATES

John Williams Tribute Concert Is Spectacular!

The Sacramento Symphonic Winds performed for a packed house of 450 audience members on March 19th at the El Camino High School Center For The Arts. The "John Williams Spectacular" concert, directed by SSW Music and Artistic Director Matthew Morse, featured all John Williams works, including "Star Wars: The Force Awakens", "Midway March", "Hymn to the Fallen", "Olympic Fanfare and Theme", "The Cowboys", "Superman March", "The Dance of the Witches", and "Catch Me If You Can".

Recognized for his achievements in television and film music, there are very few composers in the world whose works are more recognizable than John Williams. He has won 5 Academy Awards, 3 Emmy Awards, 4 Golden Globe Awards, 25 Grammy Awards, 7 British Academy Film Awards, and 8 Saturn Awards!

Audience members at the SSW performance were delighted with the choice of music selected for the concert and in awe of the level of musicianship by the 60 member wind ensemble. The hard work and many hours of rehearsal on the part of the SSW members was recognized with an immediate standing ovation by the audience at the end of the concert.

The Sacramento Symphonic Winds is a symphonic wind ensemble that performs a wide range of music from classic and contemporary wind band masterpieces, to popular music. Our twofold mission is to provide quality musical performances for audiences in the greater Sacramento community and to offer local musicians a challenging and rewarding musical experience in an encouraging environment.

The next performance by SSW is Sunday, May 7, 2023, 2:30pm, at the El Camino High School Center For The Arts.

General Admission	\$15
Seniors (65+)	\$10
Student (college)	\$10
Child (thru high school)	Free



SSW plays to a full house at the El Camino High School Center For The Arts



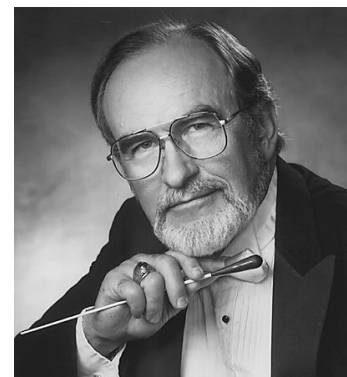
SSW Music Director Dr. Matthew Morse sporting his personal Star Wars lightsaber.

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www.sacwinds.org

MUSICIAN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Lester E. Lehr, is the founding director the Sacramento Symphonic Winds, which began in 2002. He is also the founder of the Sacramento Valley Symphonic Band Association, which is currently the largest community band organization in the United States. Les (as he is known by his friends and colleagues) received a Master of Music in Music Literature and Trombone Performance from Eastman School of Music in 1961. In 1980 he earned his Doctor of Musical Arts and Music Education Degree from the University of Southern California.



Les was a full-time tenured faculty member at American River College in Sacramento, where he was the Director of Bands and taught courses in Music Theory, Basic Musicianship, Survey of Music History, Recording Arts and Electronic Music. In addition to his teaching duties, Les was active on the campus as Music Department Spokesperson, Fine Arts Representative, and member of the Faculty Senate and Professional Standards Committee. Les organized, founded, and was founding President of the Los Rios Community College District Federation of Teachers. Off campus, Les was an adjudicator and clinician with the California Music Educators Association where he mentored and encouraged public school band students in Sacramento, Chico, Oroville, Fresno, San Jose, Cupertino, and Nevada city.

As a musician in Sacramento, Les has performed as principal trombone with the Sacramento Symphony, the Sacramento Municipal Band, the California State Fair Band & Orchestra, and Sacramento Music Circus. As a freelance performer, Les performed with an array of many, many professionals, including Mel Torme, Nat King Cole, Bob Hope, Liberace, Nelson Riddle, the Andrew Sisters, Jose Feliciano, and The Lawrence Welk All-Stars – just to name a few!

Les is a well-known conductor in the Sacramento community. From the podium Les has directed music ensembles such as the Sacramento Symphonic Winds, the California Wind Orchestra, the Sierra Nevada Wind Orchestra, the Camellia Symphony, the United States Navy Band, the California Music Educators High School Honor Band, and several local school district high school honor bands. In addition, Les was the Musical Director and co-producer of “Oh, Mr. Sousa”, an historically accurate musical biography of the great John Philip Sousa. In all of the above groups, Les gains a following and high level of respect from those who play for him, and each would jump at the chance to do it again.

Les is one who enjoys the opportunity to both learn from others and share his own personal knowledge and expertise related to music. It is blatantly evident that music is truly embedded in the heart, soul, and mind of Les Lehr. Les’ wife, Marjorie Lehr, likes to share the story of a time when several musicians were crowded around Les and one of them stated he was the “grandfather of Sacramento area community bands.” Another musician corrected the statement, saying Les was not the grandfather of bands, but the God Father!

Donate To The Sacramento Symphonic Winds

SSW incurs many costs throughout a concert season, including music, venue rental, instrument maintenance, publicity, and advertising. Please support SSW with a direct donation by clicking on the link below.

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