

## **The Los Angeles Pierce Symphonic Winds**

The 100 piece Los Angeles Pierce Symphonic Winds are among the growing number of internationally recognized and critically acclaimed community bands in the United States. Since their founding in 1983, the L.A. Winds have been a leading force in Southern California's cultural community. Praising the Winds for their "dedication to the highest standard of musical excellence" Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has also written: "As one of the great cultural treasures of Los Angeles, your band has enchanted audiences with fantastic performances, elegant melodies and graceful harmonies."

As a result of annual tours throughout the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Europe, audiences all over the globe have delighted in the L.A. Winds' eclectic programs. Membership is drawn from the vast pool of gifted Los Angeles-based professional, semi-professional and amateur musicians, many of whom have performed with major symphonies, motion picture and television recording studio orchestras and entertainment-world headliners. The L.A. Winds present a six concert subscription series before sold-out houses in the beautiful Performing Arts Center on the campus of picturesque, suburban Los Angeles Pierce College. In the summertime, the L.A. Winds, along with such musical luminaries as The Kingston Trio and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, appear before tens of thousands of appreciative concertgoers on the Warner Center Park summer concert series.

With the help of grants and donations from a variety of governmental, corporate and institutional organizations, including the prestigious Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, the band has been able to sponsor a significant number of community service events. Our Children's Concerts, for example, introduce young audiences to the sonic delights of the symphonic band while our Seniors' Concerts offer a nostalgic look back on the unsurpassed richness of our musical heritage. The 1995 release of the critically acclaimed CD "Raggin' the Baby to Sleep"-- a compilation of original American ragtime music for concert band-- helped underscore the L.A. Winds' commitment to both well-known and lesser-known music.

Premiere performances of works by contemporary composers and arrangers such as Michael Daugherty, Ira Hearshen, Joseph Hebert, as well as L.A. Winds' composers Michael Kibbe and Charles Fernandez, help advance the quality of wind band music on both national and international levels. A number of compositions written specifically for the L.A. Winds have become part of the growing standard repertoire of symphonic wind ensemble music. In addition, guest conductors such as Col. Arnald Gabriel, Col. John Bourgeois, H. Robert Reynolds, Tom Lee, David Whitwell, William Johnson and Colin Touchin have made significant contributions to the band's development and notoriety. The high performance level of the band has led to performances with such internationally acclaimed soloists as Jens Lindemann, Dale Underwood, Jim Self, David Jackson, Alex Isles, Larry Zalkind, David Shostac, Helen Goode and Fritz Kaenzig.

The L.A. Winds' repertoire encompasses a wide variety of classical, popular and commercial music in exciting arrangements that highlight the diversity of styles and sonorities of the contemporary wind band. As a result of their performance at the prestigious Midwest Band and Orchestra clinic in December, 2004 – the first California community ensemble to perform at Midwest - the Winds were invited to perform at the Mid Europe Festival in Schladming, Austria in July 2007. This was the Winds' fourth European tour since their first tour to Italy in 2000. More recent tours include Ontario, Canada and New York in May of 2010 as well as Paris and Luxembourg in 2011. Plans are currently underway for the band's first featured performance in New York's famed Carnegie Hall and a return visit to the Festival des Anchez in La Croix Valmer, France.