



NEWS AND UPDATES

SSW Bids A Fond Farewell To Beloved Director Tim Smith

After five seasons as Music and Artistic Director with the Sacramento Symphonic Winds, Tim Smith has announced his retirement from the organization. Having built on the tradition of excellence established by his predecessor and founder of SSW, Dr. Les Lehr, Tim is leaving the ensemble in outstanding shape for his successor.

Tim's vision and work ethic for SSW was quite apparent from the moment he stepped on to the podium in August of 2015. From his first rehearsal with SSW, he began to challenge the musicians to practice and perform sophisticated wind band literature with technical precision and emotional sensitivity in a professional manner. His commitment and tireless energy resulted in truly outstanding performances that left audiences in awe and the musicians feeling proud.

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the second half of the 2019-2020 SSW season came to an abrupt halt. Regrettably, SSW was forced to stop rehearsing and never performed their final three public concerts. Tim maintained his position with the band through the COVID pandemic and was closely involved in the business side of SSW, and especially the search and selection process for a new director. Unfortunately, Tim was not able to conduct a final "farewell" performance with the band, which has been a difficult reality for both Tim and the SSW musicians. To celebrate Tim's accomplishments with SSW and provide band members the opportunity to personally thank him for his service, a private social gathering for Tim and the ensemble has been scheduled.

Although leaving the Sacramento Symphonic Winds, Tim will continue to serve as a music adjudicator, guest conductor and clinician for local, state and regional music ensembles and will continue to share his knowledge and expertise as a music educator. More importantly, Tim will have more time to spend with his wife, children and grandchildren.

2021 – 2022 Season Update

August 24th, 2021 was to be a special day for the musicians of the Sacramento Symphonic Winds... for at 7:00pm on that Tuesday evening, they would gather together for the first time in 18 months (Since March 10, 2020) to make music again.

Unfortunately, the COVID19 pandemic reared its ugly head again and our expectations were not realized. SSW has been informed by the San Juan Unified School District of their decision to not allow classroom use of facility requests. Our permit requests for rehearsal space in the El Camino High School band room and performance space in the El Camino Center For The Arts have been cancelled. Considering the current status of COVID19, the Delta Variant, and the health and wellbeing of our band members, the SSW agrees with this decision and believes it is in the best interest of our musicians, as well as the students of El Camino.

Although it is truly a "wait and see" situation, it is the hope of the SSW board that we will be permitted to rehearse in the El Camino High School band room once again after the new year, We are now looking at January 11, 2022 as our new date to return to rehearsals.

The following are the proposed dates for our Spring 2022 performances, which are planned to be held at 2:30pm in the El Camino High School Center for the Arts:

- Sunday, March 6, 2022 (Theme TBA)
- Sunday, May 1, 2022 (Theme TBA)
- Saturday, June 4 or Sunday June 5, 2022:
Carmichael Park Community Band festival

Since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, it has been quite a ride of ups and downs for the Sacramento Symphonic Winds and our supporters. As always, we will continue to make public any pertinent news related to our return to public performances.

SSW Selects New Music And Artistic Director

After a thorough search for a new Music and Artistic Director for the Sacramento Symphonic Winds, the Board of Directors is proud to announce the selection of Dr. Matthew Morse as the new director of the ensemble.



Based on his resume, paper screening, and effective interview with the search committee, Dr. Morse reputedly met the skills, experience, attributes, and education qualifications SSW was looking for in a new director and was selected by the SSW board to conduct the band in a live audition. The results of the formal evaluation survey and ranking by each band member made Dr. Morse the clear choice to become the third director of the Sacramento Symphonic Winds since its inception in 2002 by Dr. Les Lehr.

Dr. Morse comes to SSW with a varied background as a music educator and conductor. His 25 years of experience with United States Army and Military bands include: Commander and Conductor of the 3rd Infantry Division Band, Ft. Stewart, Georgia; the 1st Armored Division Band, Wiesbaden, Germany; and the 282nd Army Band, Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. In addition, Dr. Morse was the Associate Bandmaster and Director of the Jazz Knights, U.S. Military Academy Band at West Point, New York, where he also conducted the Ceremonial Band and Concert Band. Dr. Morse also conducted bands at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the University of North Texas. He is currently the Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Conducting in the School of Music at California State University, Sacramento."

There is no doubt that our former director Tim Smith will be missed by SSW band members. His tenure with the ensemble from 2015 through 2021 resulted in outstanding performances, educational rehearsals, and the development of new friends and colleagues. Tim built upon the tradition of excellence established by his predecessor and founder of SSW, Dr. Les Lehr, and his dedication to the band has been truly appreciated by all!

With any new Music and Artistic Director, some change is inevitable. The entire SSW family looks forward to continued growth and positive development of this proud ensemble as we welcome Dr. Morse to the podium and experience his leadership and vision for SSW's future.



SSW Benefits From AmazonSmile!

Thanks to the Sacramento Symphonic Winds supporters who participate in the AmazonSmile donation program, SSW has benefited in the amount of \$769.74 since enrolling in the program in 2017. Amazon makes quarterly donations to SSW, including the last one of \$55.31. Although this amount may not seem like a lot, every little bit certainly helps. SSW encourages our band members and audience members to participate the AmazonSmile giving program so the ensemble continues to receive financial support.

Here is how the program works:

- Support the Sacramento Symphonic Winds by starting your shopping at www.smile.amazon.com
- Choose Sacramento Valley Symphonic Band Association from the list of Amazon charities and a donation from your purchase will go directly to the Sacramento Symphonic Winds in quarterly installments.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the SSW. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know -- Same products. Same prices. Same service.

Visit The SSW Website At: www.sacwinds.org