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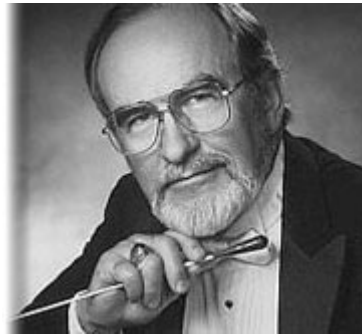
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# Lester Lehr Conductor



## Contents:

- Biography
- Vitae Summary
- Curriculum Vitae

**Lester Lehr**

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Lester E. Lehr graduated from Sacramento High School, California State University, Sacramento, Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester, and the University of Southern California, completing the Doctor of Musical Arts degree with a Teaching Assistantship under William A. Schaefer. He studied trombone with Norman J. Hunt, Emory Remington, Robert Marstellar, Tommy Johnson, Byron Peebles and Lewis Van Haney. As a professional musician, clinician, and conductor, his career spans over 40 years, including band tours to Europe, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and performing with such celebrities as Jimmy Durante, Bob Hope, Mitzi Gaynor, Liberace, Nelson Riddle, Nat King Cole, and many others. In 1983, he founded the Sacramento Valley Symphonic Band Association which led to the formation of many other local community bands. Since 1966, Dr. Lehr was Director of Bands at American River College until retirement in 2000, conducting the Concert and Symphonic Bands. In 1989, he was awarded the Excellence in Music Education Award from the Music Educators National Association. In 1995 he formed The California Wind Orchestra, a 38 piece professional ensemble. He is now co-producer and musical director of "Oh, Mr. Sousa", a musical biography which is appearing in the United States.

**Lester Lehr**

## **VITAE SUMMARY**

Dr. Lehr is a distinguished and much respected member of the Sacramento Music Community. Born in South Dakota, he moved to Sacramento in 1947. His education includes a B.A. from CSUS, Sacramento, a M.M. in Music Literature and Performance from The Eastman School of Music of the Rochester University, and a Doctorate in Musical Arts from U.S.C. where he was a teaching assistant to William A. Schaefer. Dr. Lehr studied trombone with Norman J. Hunt, Emory Remington, Robert Marsteller, Byron Peebles and Lewis Van Haney and conducting with Frederick Westphal, Paul White, Frederick Fennell and William A. Schaefer.

### **Musician**

Dr. Lehr's professional career includes 16 years as Principal Trombone with the Sacramento Symphony, over 15 years with the Sacramento Municipal Band and California State Fair and Exposition Orchestra. He has played in numerous local professional groups in Sacramento and San Francisco, Ringling Bros. & Barnum and Bailey Circus, and Polack Bros. Circus. During his professional engagements, he has worked with many well-known artists including Jimmy Durante, Bob Hope, Nelson Riddle, Nat King Cole, the Andrew Sisters, Mitzy Gaynor, and Liberace. And, he has also recorded with Jan and Dean. Dr. Lehr is a performing member of the Placer Brass.

### **Teacher**

His teaching career includes all levels of music education, elementary through college. He was Director of Bands at American River College, where he conducted both the Concert, Marching and Symphonic Bands. Dr. Lehr has been a guest clinician, and is a conductor and adjudicator in California, Nevada, and Hawaii. In the spring of 1989, he was presented with the Music Educators National Conference Excellence in Music Education Award. In the summer of 1989, he produced and conducted a historical digital recording of original ragtime music by Stephen Kent Goodman entitled "Is There Any Ragtime on Mars?"

### **Conductor**

Dr. Lehr directed the Sacramento Valley Symphonic Band from 1984 to 1989 and was invited to perform at the Second Conference of the World Association of Bands and Ensembles in Kortrijk, Belgium and tour Europe in 1985, participate in the Canadian 1986 World's Fair, and toured New Zealand and Australia in 1988 performing at the 1988 World's Fair in Brisbane, and performed for the California Music Educators Association. He is the former conductor of the Sacramento Valley Symphonic Band and Sierra Nevada

## **Lester Lehr**

Winds in Grass Valley, California a performing tour of the northwest in 1994 to Oregon, Washington, Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

### Founder

Under the leadership of Dr. Lehr, community bands in the Sacramento valley area grew from one to four bands and the formation of a new professional wind ensemble in Sacramento, The California Wind Orchestra, under his direction which was a logical product of this growth, and a celebration of Sacramento's recognition of the value and heritage of the American Band. He served as conductor from 1995 to 2001. He serves as conductor the newly formed Sacramento Symphonic Winds. In addition, Dr. Lehr is co-producer of San Francisco based "Oh, Mr. Sousa", an operetta based on the life of John Philip Sousa with 9 singers and 22 musicians.

Lester Lehr

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## EDUCATION

### ***University of Southern California.***

Doctor of Musical Arts: Major - Music Education, Minor - Musicology, Educational Psychology, Teaching Assistantship and Band Arranging under William A. Schaefer, Trombone Performance – Robert Marsteller, Tommy Johnson, Byron Peebles, Lewis Van Haney.

June 1980.

### ***Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester.***

Master of Music in Music Literature and Performance.

Trombone Performance – Emory Remington

June, 1961.

### ***California State University, Sacramento.***

Bachelor of Arts. Special Secondary in Music Education.

Trombone Performance – Norman J. Hunt

January, 1960.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Full-Time, Tenured Faculty; American River College, since fall 1966, Director of Bands. Duties involve coordinating all instrumental performing groups including Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Marching Band, Jazz Band, and Commercial Music Ensemble. Other teaching assignments have included Music Theory and Basic Musicianship, Introduction to Music, Survey of Music History, and Recording Arts and Electronic Music. Music Department Spokesperson, Music Department (three periods). Member Faculty Senate, Professional Standards Committee and Staff and Institutional Development Chairperson and Member for eight years. Fine Arts Representative for the Faculty Senate for eight years. Organized, founded and founding President of the Los Rios Federation of Teachers (the largest founding charter Local west of the Mississippi). Part-Time Faculty; San Juan Unified School District,

Fall 1983-1989. Band Director for Adult Education. Duties included concerts, recruiting, and maintaining the band library. The band grew from 45 in 1983 to 155 members in 1989 involving the formation of three separate bands. Select members of these bands gave performances in England, Germany, and Belgium. The band was invited to perform at the World Conference of Bands and Wind Ensembles in Kortrijk, Belgium, 1985, followed by invitations to the Worlds Fair in Vancouver, 1986, and New Zealand and the Worlds Fair in Brisbane Australia, 1988. Full-Time, Tenured Faculty; Sacramento City Unified School District,

Fall 1961 - 1966. Elementary, Junior High, and High School instrumental instruction (Band). Duties include Concert, Marching, and Jazz Band performance, Music

Appreciation. Full-Time, Long-Term Substitute: Sacramento City Unified School District,

## **Lester Lehr**

Fall 1961-1962. Excellence in Music Education Award presented by C.M.E.A. Capitol Section, 1989. Private Instructor - Brass instruments specializing in Trombone, conducting, and arranging since 1961. Assistant Band Director and Counselor, Boy's State, 1957-1959. Founder and Host for the Capitol Section, Music Educator's Association High School Honor Band since 1975(23 years). Band Representative on the California Music Educator's Board of Directors, 1982-83

### **LECTURES AND CLINICS**

Pacific Rim Music Festival, Adjudicator and Clinician, 1998. Golden Empire Music Festival, Adjudicator, 1990 - 1997. American River College Conducting Workshops, Director - Clinician, 1984-1985. Music Festival, Adjudicator , Chico, Oroville, Fresno, San Jose, Cupertino, Nevada, 1969 - 1997. Olmstead Marching Band Workshop, Instructor and Clinician, summer 1967, 1968.

### **PROFESSIONAL RECORDINGS**

Director/Conductor of "Is There Any Ragtime on Mars?", 1989. First DAT recording of all original ragtime music composed by Stephen Kent Goodman performed by 33 Sacramento professional musicians resulting in sales in the United States, Japan, England, Germany, and Canada. Director/Conductor of "In Honor of America", 17 Marches and Patriotic Music of the United States Armed Forces by The California Wind Orchestra distributed by SUMMIT Records, 1997, released in February 1998. Actor/Musician CBS pilot movie, Hallmark Hall of Fame. 1996. Actor/Musician Harvey's Hotel and Casino, 1996. Musician, Bill Rase Recording Studio, 1963. Musician, "Command Performance" with Jan and Dean/Live in Person, 1962.

### **PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE**

Trombonist: Placer Brass since 1996, Principal Trombone for the Sacramento Symphony 1963-1974, member and Principal Trombone Sacramento Municipal Band and California State Fair Band/Orchestra 1957-1976, Free-lance Musician - John Skinner Orchestra, Bill Rase Orchestra, Mel Torme, Nat King Cole, Barbara McNair, Wayne Newton, Bob Hope, Jimmy Durante, Peter Lawford, Liberace, Marlena Dietrick, Jan and Dean, Nelson Riddle, The King Singers, The Andrew Sisters, Roger Williams, Sergio Franchi, Franky Laine, Jose Feliciano, The Lawrence Welk All-Stars, Glen Campbell, Helen Reddy, Rafael Mendez, Jan Pierce, and Jan and Dean. Sacramento Music Circus Summer Productions, 1963 - 1969 Carmel Bach Festival, 1962, 1963 Sacramento Municipal Park Band, 1957-1974 California State Fair Orchestra, 1957 - 1976 Pollack Bros. Circus, 1957 - 1966 Sacramento Symphony, 1955-1959, 1963 - 1975

## **Lester Lehr**

### **CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE**

Musical Director and co-producer, "Oh, Mr. Sousa" musical biography 2004 -  
Conductor, American River College, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, since 1966  
Conductor of The California Wind Orchestra, since 1994, Sierra Nevada Wind Orchestra,  
1992 – 1995, Guest Conductor, Camellia Symphony Orchestra, 1973,  
Guest Conductor Elk Grove School District High School Honor band, San Juan School  
District Honor Band, 1983 C.M.E.A. High School Honor Band, 1985, Winnemucca,  
Nevada, 1978 Guest Conductor, the United States Navy Band while on tour in  
Sacramento, 1962.

### **PROJECTS, GRANTS, AND ACTIVITIES**

Founder of the Sacramento Valley Symphonic Band Association, largest community band  
organization in the United States with representation of 8 community bands in the region.  
Founder of the Carmichael Park Band Festival started in 1992 with 15 bands.  
Grant - International Musicians Special Projects to initial three performances by The  
California Wind Orchestra at local community events. Grant, "The Railroad Suite" original  
music composed by Robert McClintock. Initiator of the "Youth Artist of the Year Award",  
\$1,000, for Instrumentalists through the Sacramento Valley Symphonic Band Association  
and California Wind Orchestra. Grant from The Sacramento Bee, 1996, 1997 for at-risk,  
target students to attend concert of the CWO SMAC Grant for the CWO, 1996, 1997  
Hewlett-Packard Grant for Youth Artist Award Grant from Gold Country Tobacco Coalition  
demonstrating non-tobacco use to students Chairperson, Carmichael Park and Recreation  
District Band Shell Renovation Committee.