

Laguna Community Concert Band to Perform "Musical Portraits of America" at The Laguna Playhouse on May 2

Music is in the air at The Laguna Playhouse when the Laguna Community Concert Band performs its Annual Spring Concert on May 2 from 3-5pm. The concert, "Musical Portraits of America", will feature guest artists Elizabeth Johnson (violin) and Gary Gould (clarinet), as well as vocalists Linda Hughes and Ginger Hatfield with Lona Ingwerson narrating. Tickets will be available at the door for \$5. There is limited free parking available in the lot across the street.

Known for "putting on a show", the Laguna Community Concert Band will explore American-themed music showcasing a wide diversity of musical styles. From the exploratory form of Charles Ives' "Variations on America" to a haunting and powerful work from John P. Zdechlik, "Chorale and Shaker Dance". These will contrast with the joy of Jewish Klezmer music, (which was brought to America in the 1880s from eastern Europe and has colored Jewish American culture ever since) and tributes to Ella Fitzgerald and Henry Mancini. The concert band and SwingSet big band have a full array of musical flavors in store for the audience. Additionally, Laguna's own Dixieland Band, TheThird Street Strutters will bring a little bit of New Orleans Jazz to the stage.

The Laguna Community Concert Band is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization of over 60 members from Laguna Beach and surrounding communities under the direction of Dr. Bill Nicholls, Ed Peterson and Pete Fournier. The Concert Band and smaller ensembles supports Laguna with over 20 concerts each year, provides scholarships to young musicians and promotes the city throughout Southern California. The band is always looking for good musicians. Additional information and concert schedules can be found on the bands website at www.lagunaconcertband.com.

Background on Guest Artists Gary Gould and Elizabeth Johnson

Gary Gould

Accomplished Woodwind player Gary Gould has a passion for music that has been acknowledged since childhood. In high school he won the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award for two consecutive years and was listed in Who's Who in Music. In college he was awarded Most Outstanding Jazz Musician and received dozens of awards from the National Association of Jazz Educators for outstanding solos.

He performed for nearly three years in show orchestras for Sitmar and Holland-America Cruise Lines traveling to the Caribbean, the Mexican Riviera and Alaska, before moving to California to finish his education at California State University at Fullerton. He has performed at jazz clubs all over town, numerous private parties, weddings and recording sessions, but his career got a big boost when he won the 94.7 KTWV "The Wave" Southern California Saxophone Contest. Gary Gould also performs and lectures on various ethnic instrumental styles including klezmer, the folk music of the Eastern European Jews, played on clarinet; Choro, the precursor to Brazilian Samba; and traditional Celtic music played on Irish penny whistles. Currently Gary performs for concerts and special events, and teaches music classes at the Orange County High School of the Arts.



Elizabeth Johnson

Elizabeth Johnson, an Irvine resident, received her Bachelor of Music from the University of California at Irvine. She also studied at The Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland where she received her Master of Music Degree and her Graduate Performance Diploma. Miss Johnson is on faculty at Vanguard University, Orange County High School of the Arts (OCHSA) and has her own private violin studio. In addition, she is an active freelance musician with local symphonies in the Los Angeles and Orange County areas, and has performed with various artists including Josh Groban, Bebe Neuwirth and Steve Perry.

