



NEWS

From the First Council District

ED P. REYES, COUNCILMEMBER

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REYES, COMMUNITY DEDICATE SOUSA-HINER BANDSHELL AT SYCAMORE GROVE PARK – *Historic bandshell in Highland Park community named after “The Stars and Stripes Forever” composer and founder of UCLA music department*

Councilmember Ed P. Reyes today joined Hiner family members and the community to dedicate the Sousa-Hiner Bandshell at Sycamore Grove Park, 4701 N. Figueroa Street, in the Los Angeles community of Highland Park.

“Through their passion for music and dedication to sharing their gifts with others, Dr. Hiner and Sousa created a focal point for the great talent we have in the community,” Reyes said. “For this reason, we dedicate the bandshell at Sycamore Grove Park in their honor.”

The bandshell is being named after Dr. Edwin M. Hiner, nationally-renowned bandleader and founder of the music school at what is now UCLA, and John Philip Sousa, who ranks among the most famous composers and conductors in America.

In 1919, Dr. Hiner, moved to Los Angeles from Kansas City where he was bandmaster for more than three decades and for two wars--the Spanish American War and World War I. Prior to his move, he had directed the Third Regiment Band, which was inducted into regular service during the Spanish American War, and played for President McKinley.

Dr. Hiner, who lived across the street from Sycamore Park, ran the Hiner Band School, the largest private band school in the nation, from 1921-1948. Many of the musicians who trained at the N. Figueroa Street school performed for the Los Angeles Philharmonic or were buglers at Santa Anita racetrack. At their home, the Hiners frequently entertained John Philip Sousa who composed *The Stars and Stripes Forever*, the official march of the U.S.A., in 1896. He also dedicated one of his 15,000 musical compositions to Anna Hiner, Dr. Hiner’s wife.

On July 30, 1922, the first public band performed at Sycamore Grove Park and nearly all of the concerts for state picnics were directed by Hiner there. In 1928, the Hiners built a rehearsal hall at their home and named it “Sousa Nook” after their dear friend. Dr. Hiner later founded the music department at Los Angeles Normal School, at what is now UCLA.

The decision to name the bandshell after Dr. Hiner and Sousa was initiated by the Highland Park Heritage Trust. The Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council, Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council and Highland Park Chamber of Commerce helped spearhead efforts to dedicate the Sycamore Grove Park bandshell in the memory of Dr. Hiner and Sousa.

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