

Craig Mansanares, a life-long appreciator of music, has been bringing his somewhat organized waving of arms, weird body gyrations and lack of rhythm to uninterested audiences since he first saw the Darlings on the Andy Griffith Show during his formative years. Although his early formation of the “*Rosco’s Moose Mountain Bucket and Pop Bottle Stompers*” (Seven Mile Plaza’s Happiest Jug Band) did little to discourage his dream of one day conducting a respectable musical group, the band’s captivating, high-energy performances did transport audiences back in time as ROSCO’S MOOSE MOUNTAIN BUCKET AND POP BOTTLE STOMPERS blended shaky musicianship, perspective creativity and valley tradition with very little talent. Needless to say, large crowds were not the norm. (Rosco was the name of Craig’s loveable childhood cymbals-playing monkey toy, coincidentally, not related to the same haunted toy of the “*Phantom of the Opera*” fame.)

Obviously, someone recognized the hidden talent and raw potential of this 33-year law enforcement officer, probably in a chance encounter of seeing him attempt to direct traffic or give directions to some poor lost tourist or visitor, and nominated him for a chance to be this year’s Longmont Symphony Super Conductor. The Super Conductor is one of the Symphony’s annual fundraisers where three candidates from the Longmont area community are nominated to compete for the “Super Conductor” title. When he was first approached with the news of competing to be a “Super Conductor,” and he realized someone was not trying to use him to conduct electricity with little or no resistance, his humbleness and the honor was so overwhelming, he cried for hours before he could talk to others.

The Super Conductor fundraiser campaign is simple: Three nominees compete with one another for a chance to conduct the Longmont Symphony Orchestra at the May 9th Pops Concert. The candidate who generates the most donations for the Symphony wins.

I am extremely honored to be nominated for such a distinguished and rare opportunity to help one of the finest organizations in our community. Although the Symphony occasionally gets large donations towards the Super Conductor Contest, the majority are between \$25 and \$100. Regardless, every dollar raised goes to the Longmont Symphony Orchestra.

Thank you so much for your generous support and I hope to see you at the May 9th concert.

Craig Mansanares has been a police officer for the Longmont Police Department for 28 years, 18 years of which he served as the School Resource Officer at Skyline High School.