THOMAS LEE – Professor Emeritus, Director of Bands, Emeritus UCLA. Lee holds the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Conducting from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati (1971), as well as two degrees from Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, where he was a student of Don Marcouiller.

Previous to his appointment at UCLA, he was the Founder/Conductor of the University of Texas Wind Ensemble in Austin and was director of the graduate program in Band Conducting. Before his appointment at Texas, Dr. Lee was founder/conductor of the Ohio University Wind Ensemble where he received a research grant to develop an innovative approach to teaching conducting through non-verbal communication. (1973)



Since his arrival at UCLA in 1985, the UCLA Wind Ensemble received international acclaim as well as significant prominence for performances at national and regional conferences as well as well as recordings of important composers. Dr. Lee is especially known for musical performances as well as for creative programming, balancing both traditional and contemporary literature. In addition, he has a special commitment to the commissioning of new music by American composers.

Professor Lee created several new programs within the Wind Ensemble performance venue that includes collaboration between the Society of Los Angeles Film Composers and the Wind Ensemble. This resulted in an internship program for UCLA students to work directly with the most acclaimed film composers.

Currently, there are a large number of conducting students of Professor Lee that hold university, high school, and middle school conducting positions throughout the USA. He is particularly proud of these conductors and their achievement.

Dr. Lee has been invited to guest conduct with All-State Bands and music festivals in all parts of the USA, Canada, Mexico, Western Europe, and Asia. In addition, Professor Lee has given innumerable workshops on all aspects of conducting and interpretation of music with special emphasis in the area of non-verbal communication skills.

The UCLA Wind Ensemble participated in the International New Music Forum in Mexico City presenting several premieres during two concerts. The UCLA Wind Ensemble was the only American university music group so honored. In 1992, Lee conducted the Wind Ensemble's performance of student works on the CBS Evening News (New Year's Eve) which was nominated for three Emmy Awards.

Since Professor Lee's retirement from UCLA, he has maintained a full schedule of Guest Conducting and leading Conducting Workshops.