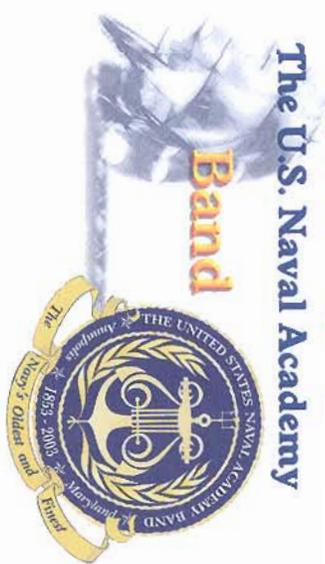


FALL 2003

Spencer



OLD COMRADES HELP CLOSE OUT 150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

This past July, Naval Academy Band welcomed back over 100 old friends and colleagues for the final week of our 150th Anniversary year. The attention was focused on those men and women who helped make this band "The Navy's Oldest and Finest." Alumni Week kicked off on Sunday, July 20th with a picnic attended by band members past and present. There were lots of sea-stories and reminiscing as people rolled in from as far away as California, Vermont, and Florida.

On the following day, the Next Wave Alumni Big Band rehearsed at the Fleet Reserve Club where Warren Kellerhouse led the group through some great ballads and swing tunes. What a band! Especially strong at this years reunion was the trumpet section. "Bunny" Carrigno, Larry Callahan, Tommy Porrello, Hugh Ferguson, and Paul Geitzenhauer really "lit it up."

That evening, the visiting musicians and their families were delighted to see the newly renovated USNA Band spaces decorated with over 50 historic band photographs, and displays including band uniforms of the past and two custom made boards with pictures of all past Director and Leading Chiefs: CAPT Phillips, CDR Ascione, LCDR Fluck, CDR Burch-Pesses, CDR Metcalf, CAPT Gambone, and CDR Amserson were on hand to help LCDR Keller take the band through its paces. It's hard to believe that there was a combined active/alumni concert band of 85 people packed into our rehearsal space for the Monday night rehearsal. Of particular note was the nine-member strong French Horn section! It would be difficult to estimate the number of years experience in the room, but suffice it to say these veterans know how to put a concert together in short order.

The Concert Band and Next Wave Alumni Big Band concert was held on Tuesday night at the Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, the hall was filled to capacity. Unfortunately, there were only 900 seats and many people were turned away. Retired Master Chief Gary Wolfe received such a rousing ovation when he stepped to the emcee mic that it seemed the concert would never start. When asked about it, Gary said "that it was a completely

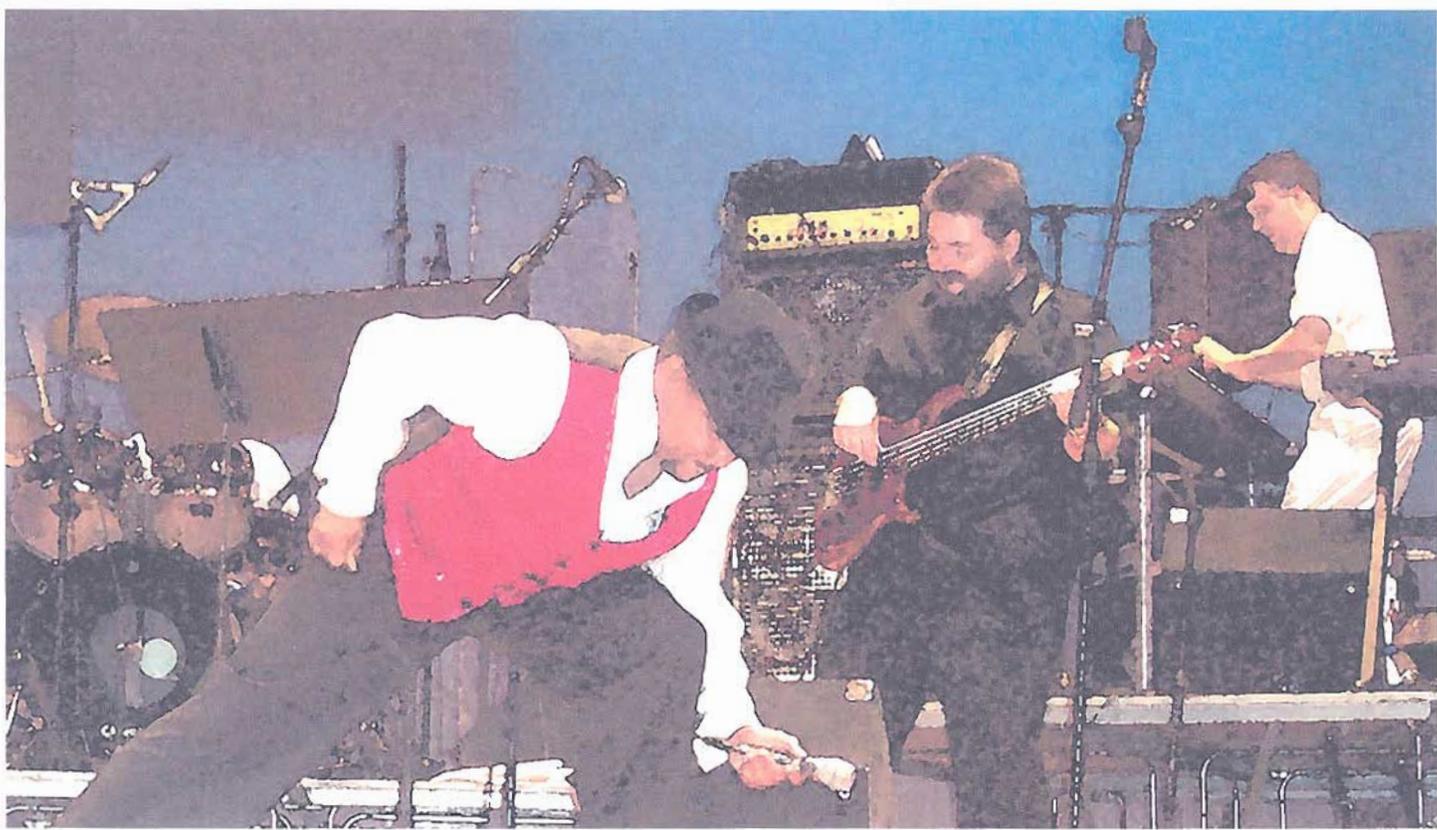


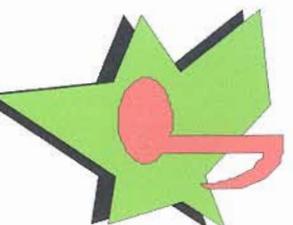
Next Wave trumpet section "Bunny" Carrigno, Larry Callahan, Tommy Porrello, Hugh Ferguson, and Paul Geitzenhauer.



The USNA Band rehearsal room is filled to capacity.

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Noteworthy Events



Congratulations to our new Chief Petty Officers



Naval Academy Band Leading Master Chiefs.
(l to r) MUCM (Ret) Cy Harris, MUCM (Ret) Don Carter with photo of MUCM (Ret) DeWayne McClab, MUCM (Ret) Hugh Ferguson, MUCM (Ret) Bob Rumbley, MUCM (Ret) Gary Wolfe, MUCM (Ret) Ralph Gambone with photo of MUCM (Ret) Dick Sowell, and MUCM James Rodak.



CDR (Ret) Burch-Pesses, LCDR (Ret) John Fluck, and CAPT (Ret) Joe Phillips taking their bows following the Concert Band Performance.

unexpected, very emotional moment, and it took some time for me to regain composure." LCDR Keller presented each of his visiting predecessors with a photo of the Band during the respective tenure, and a plaque listing each one's time as leader.

The reunion continued on Wednesday with the rock band rehearsal and a wonderful Alumni Banquet. Thursday evening brought the first-ever rock band reunion concert. "Tidal Wave" (31 years later) and five distinct versions of "Electric Brigade" were a huge hit with the audience. Long-time fans recognized the voices of Gayle Thompson-Steele, the Naval Academy Band's "First Lady of Song," as well as Larry Shirk, Randy Pendleton, Joel Lewis, and MUC John Fisher. Emcee MUI Dana Stillinger observed, "It is amazing to think that from the 56 talented and motivated musicians who have been [rock band] members since 1972 have come 4 Navy Bandmasters, 1 Salvation Army Bandmaster, and at least 5 Master Chiefs (3 of whom were Command Master Chiefs), 10 Senior Chiefs, and 9 Chief Musicians." Much credit is due to event organizer MUCM Jim Cunningham. Special thanks to LCDR Pastin for the Tidal Wave segment, to Electric Brigade for being such good hosts, and especially to the Alumni who contributed pictures and documents.

"We felt all along that our success in celebrating our 150th anniversary would be measured by the response of the Alumni. We had record numbers in attendance and wonderful contributions of picture and documents," LCDR Keller remarked. The activities of alumni week proved to be a momentous occasion for former band members, their families, and surviving family members of those who served.

Naval Academy Band's reputation for musical excellence was built on the talent and hard work of hundreds of band members past and present. It was an honor and a privilege to see these gifted veterans in action and to make great music with old comrades.



LCDR Donald H. Keller, Jr., The United States Naval Academy Band

- DIRECTOR**
LCDR Donald H. Keller, Jr.
- ASST. DIRECTOR**
ENS Robert J. Wren
- COMMAND MASTER CHIEF**
MUCM James E. Rodak
- OPERATIONS**
MUCS Rob Wentz
- ADMINISTRATION**
MUC Ronda Oy-Lette
- SUPPLY**
MUCS Richard Chappell
- LIBRARIAN**
MUC James Bean
- AUDITION SUPERVISOR**
MUCS Steve Buzal
- PUBLIC AFFAIRS**
MUCM James H. Cunningham
- CONCERT INFORMATION:**
(410) 293-0263



Tidal Wave 2003.
LCDR (Ret) John Pastin,
MUCM (Ret) Gary Wolfe,
MUCS Scott Ragsdale,
MUI Larry Shirk,
MUCM (Ret) Bob Rumbley,
MUCS (Ret) Bob "Rabbit" Simmons,
MUCS (Ret) Dick Glass,
MUCM Jim Cunningham.



MUC Blake Craker

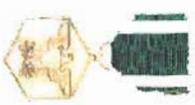


MUC Nick Pastalak



MUC Bruce Smith

USNA Band Sailor of the Quarter



Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal



LTJG J. Walter Cline

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal



MUI Justin Skorupa

MUI Geoff Bayne, 2nd Qtr, 03

BIRTHS

Anna Elizabeth Williams born on August 23, 2003 to MUI Jarrod and Kate Williams.

MEMORIES FROM ALUMNI WEEK 2004



70 years of band membership



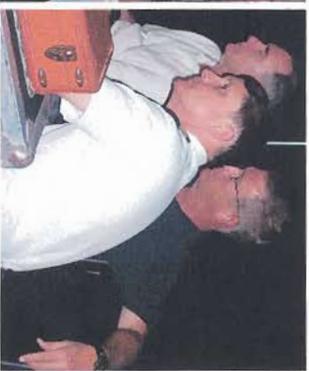
Trombones



Trumpets



Reeds



Waiting and listening.



French horns



Flutes



Seven Leaders



Basses



Drummers



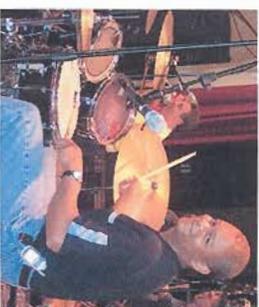
"First Lady of Song"



Partyman



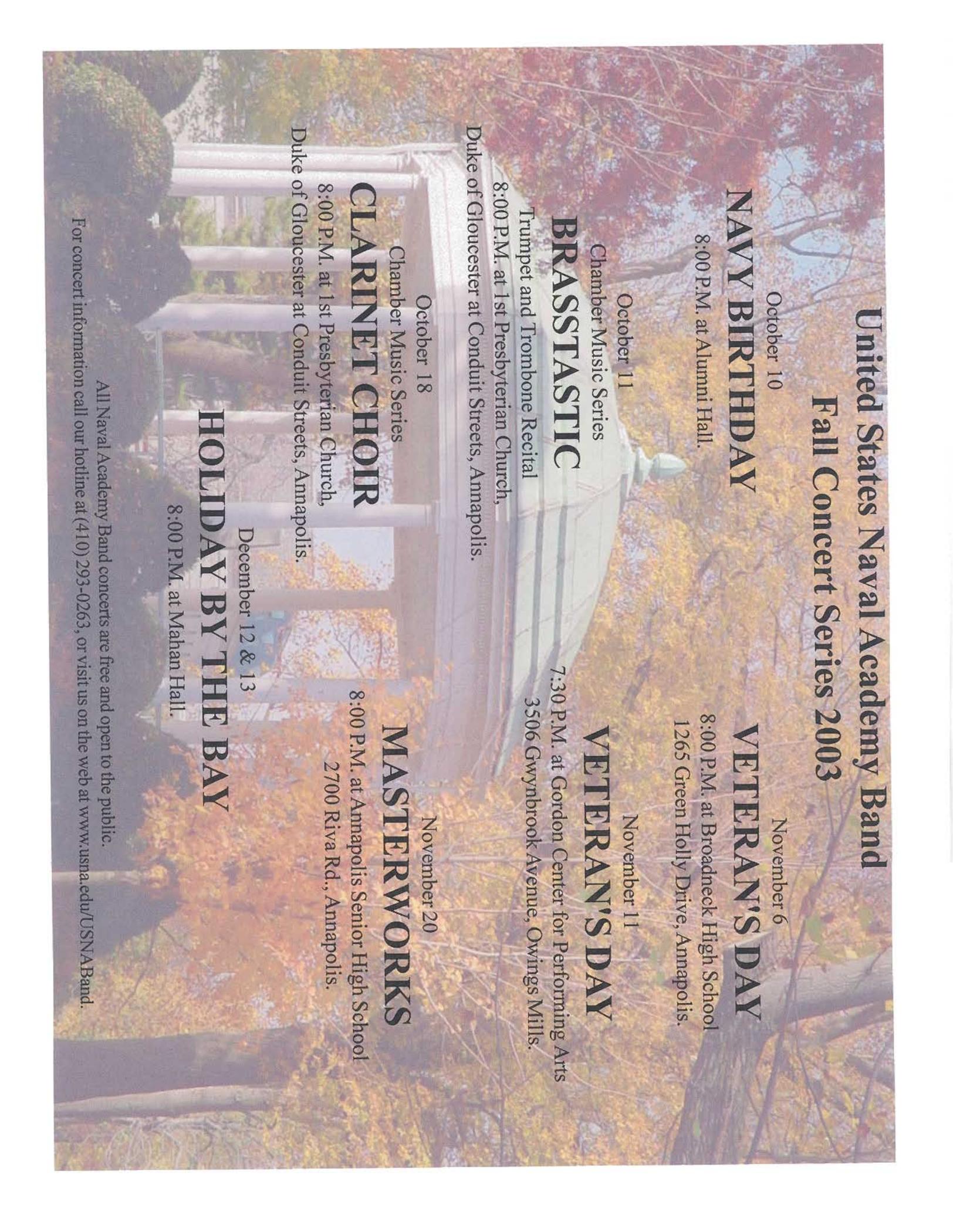
Past and present



Fun!



Done!



United States Naval Academy Band

Fall Concert Series 2003

October 10

NAVY BIRTHDAY

8:00 P.M. at Alumni Hall.

November 6

VETERAN'S DAY

8:00 P.M. at Broadneck High School
1265 Green Holly Drive, Annapolis.

October 11

Chamber Music Series

BRASS TASTIC

Trumpet and Trombone Recital

8:00 P.M. at 1st Presbyterian Church,

Duke of Gloucester at Conduit Streets, Annapolis.

November 11

VETERAN'S DAY

7:30 P.M. at Gordon Center for Performing Arts
3506 Gwynbrook Avenue, Owings Mills.

October 18

Chamber Music Series

CLARINET CHOIR

8:00 P.M. at 1st Presbyterian Church,

Duke of Gloucester at Conduit Streets, Annapolis.

November 20

MASTERWORKS

8:00 P.M. at Annapolis Senior High School
2700 Riva Rd., Annapolis.

December 12 & 13

HOLIDAY BY THE BAY

8:00 P.M. at Mahan Hall.

All Naval Academy Band concerts are free and open to the public.

For concert information call our hotline at (410) 293-0263, or visit us on the web at www.usna.edu/USNABand.