

The United States Naval Academy Band



Celebrates 150 Years of Service

Summer 2003



150TH ANNIVERSARY GALA CONCERT

The first Naval Academy Band members sailed into Annapolis harbor on May 17th, 1853, beginning a long history of service to the United States Naval Academy and the nation. Today, "The Navy's Oldest and Finest Band" continues the tradition of excellence started 150 years ago. To celebrate this very important anniversary, a special event was organized utilizing the talents of several composers and multimedia specialists as well as the band members themselves. The culmination of much planning and hard work was the band's 150th Anniversary Gala Concert on May 9th.

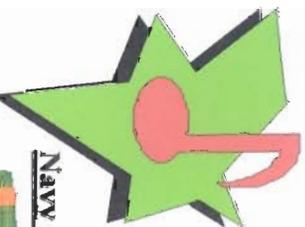
Upon entering the lobby of the Bob Hope Performing Arts Center, concertgoers were treated to a unique display of Academy Band historic memorabilia including an old style drumline and examples of how the uniform has evolved through the years. Letters of recognition were on display from the President, Secretary of the Navy, Chief of Naval Operations, the Head of the Navy Music Program, and the Superintendent and Commandant of the Naval Academy. In his letter, Commander Michael E. Mitchell, Head of the Navy Music Program, described the Academy Band as having "a rich history filled with countless achievements that have literally touched the lives of most every American." The Center's new plasma displays flashed recent photos of the concert band, Electric Brigade, and marching band as ushers distributed programs to a full capacity crowd. The specially designed color programs, produced by MUCM James Cunningham, featured an in depth history of the band with exclusive photos of the various performing ensembles and many leaders from 1853 to the present.

The concert showcased the world premier of several new works including "Sesquicentennial March," by USNA Band trumpeter Musician First Class John Ohlemeyer, and "Oldest and Finest March," by Dr. Gary Belshaw. Also written for the occasion were "Since First We Set Sail," by James L. Hosay, and "The Navy Hymn," by Dr. Paul Whear, a U.S. Navy veteran and noted composer. Musician First Class Justin Skorupa composed "Anchored In Tradition" as a setting for an 11 minute video chronicling the band's rich history. MUI Skorupa was very impressed by the multimedia presentation, saying that it "captured the essence of the history of the band." The video was created by Musician First Class Todd Nix of the Academy Band, along with Taylor Reeder, Matt Frantzich and Matt McMahon from the Naval Academy's Multimedia Support Center. The photos and video footage gathered were courtesy of the National Archives of Washington D.C., Academy archives, Multimedia Support Center, and Academy Band alumnus MUC Bill Healey.

Present in the audience were some of those who played a part in the band's history, MUCM Richard Sowell and MUCM Ralph F. Gambone, who served as leading chiefs, and MUCM Don Carter, who served as the band's first Command Master Chief. Past bandleaders present were CAPT Joe Phillips, CDR John Bledsoe, CDR Ray Ascione, CAPT Ralph M. Gambone, and CDR Mike



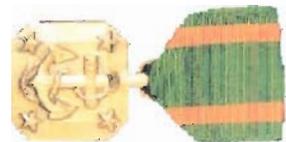
USNA Band uniforms from different periods.



Noteworthy Events

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

MU1 Bruce Smith



USNA Band Sailor of the Quarter

MU1 Todd Nix, 1st Qtr, 03

Navy Good Conduct Medal

MUCCM Jeffrey Diehl, MUCC Robert Stibbe, 6th award

MUC Michael Jarjoura, 5th award

MUC Ronda Ory-Lettie, MUCS Kenneth Shrum, 4th award

MU1 James Fowler, MU1 Heidi Schultz,

MU1 Brian Strawley, MU1 Brenda Williams, 1st award



NUPTIALS

James and Eve Fowler exchanged vows on June 7, 2003.

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEASTO:

LTJG J. Walter Cline to Navy Band Mid-South, Millington, TN



Fred Magliano (L) shares a moment with Richard Sowell, the Naval Academy Band's first Master Chief.

Alverson. Fred Magliano, the oldest known band alumnus (USNA Band 1938-1968), is 91 years young and still an active performer. Special guests in attendance were family members of the band's 7th leader, LT Adolph Torovsky, family members of the 6th leader of the band, LT Charles A. Zimmermann, and Dorothy Pfeiffer Laborde, the great granddaughter of the 1st leader of the band, John Phillip Pfeiffer, who hired the original members of the band and served as its leader from 1853-1861.

A highlight of the evening came when the Electric Brigade, the Navy's premier Top 40 band, joined the concert band for a medley of old and new hits. The featured vocalists, MUC Frank Dominguez, MU1 Ira Ostrowski, and MU1 Dana Stillinger, gave a crowd pleasing performance that brought thunderous applause. As the evening came to a close, it was evident that this was not just another concert, but an event to be remembered for years to come.

Sesquicentennial celebrations continue throughout this summer in concerts featuring band members and alumni. Annapolis' Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts will host the 150th Anniversary Alumni Concert on July 22nd and the first ever Tidal Wave/Electric Brigade Reunion Concert on July 24th, which features former members of both groups. The USNA Band's original rock ensemble, "Tidal Wave" had it's beginnings in 1972 and was the Navy's first rock group to go on tour. The group's successor, "Electric Brigade," was formed in 1979 and has been going strong ever since.

The United States Naval Academy Band enjoys a unique bond with its alumni, and the 150th Anniversary Gala Concert was a tribute to the hundreds of Navy musicians whose performance established a reputation of professionalism, versatility, and excellence. Judging by the look of pride on the faces of those in attendance, the band is maintaining the course.



Dorothy Pfeiffer Laborde great-granddaughter of John Phillip Pfeiffer.



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

DIRECTOR

LCDR Donald H. Keller, Jr.

ASST. DIRECTOR

ENS Robert J. Wrenn

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF

MUCM James E. Rodak

OPERATIONS

MUCS Rob Wentz

ADMINISTRATION

MUC Ronda Ory-Lettie

SUPPLY

MUCS Richard Chappell

LIBRARIAN

MUC James Bean

AUDITION SUPERVISOR

MUCS Steve Barzal

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MUCM James H. Cunningham

CONCERT INFORMATION:

(410) 293-0263

Welcome Aboard

MU1 Dana Stillinger

Musician First Class Dana Stillinger, of Boulder, Colorado, graduated from Prior Lake High School, Minnesota, with the class of 1992. Petty Officer Stillinger went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Colorado in 1997, after studying music/vocal performance at Luther College and the University of Colorado. Petty Officer Stillinger has performed for such notables as General Colin Powell, United States Secretary of State, and Zhu Rongji, the Premier of China. In 2000 she was featured at the Holiday Bowl in its half time show as a member of Up With People, an international touring cast of actors and singers. In addition to performing, her duties with Up With People included show manager, vocal instructor, recording engineer, and cultural research assistant for show development.

In 2002 she auditioned for the United States Naval Academy Band, and was chosen as vocalist for the Electric Brigade, the Navy's premier contemporary music ensemble. After completing recruit training, Petty Officer Stillinger reported for duty at the Naval Academy in January, 2003. In addition to her duties as vocalist, her interests include running, travelling, and playing the piano.



MU1 Tony Zhihong Liu

Musician First Class Tony Zhihong Liu is a native of Beijing, China. Petty Officer Liu graduated from the Capital Normal University, Beijing, in 1988 with a Bachelors Degree in Vocal Performance. Petty Officer Liu worked in China as a sound engineer for the Qi Lin Tong recording studio, Capital China TV studio, and Beijing TV. Petty Officer Liu produced over 200 shows per year as lead engineer for Zero Point, the number one-rated rock band in China, and for Tang, a Chinese heavy metal band. In 1996, Petty Officer Liu was awarded the Chinese Department of Culture Award in Beijing, China as the top live-sound engineer of the year for his contribution to Chinese Music. Petty Officer Liu arrived in the United States in 1997, earning an Associates Degree in Recording Arts at the Sound Audio Engineers Institute of Technology in New York City, New York. After graduation, he worked in New York City as a free lance sound engineer and as live sound engineer for Midnight Express, a sound engineering company. Petty Officer Liu provided live-sound engineering for such notable events as a concert featuring Sade and the 2002 Jazz Fest of Manhattan.

Petty Officer Liu was hired as sound engineer for the Electric Brigade in 2003. After completion of Navy Recruit Training, where he earned the academic award for highest scholastic grade point average of his division, he reported to the United States Naval Academy in March, 2003. In addition to his sound engineering duties, Petty Officer Liu plays bass drum in marching band and serves as driver for the Electric Brigade.



NATIONAL AMBASSADORS OF MUSIC

During the months of February and March, the United States Naval Academy Band presented several special concerts garnering national attention. They included a performance with a celebrity conductor, a concert of chamber music for American music educators, and a live internet broadcast from The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

On Valentine's Day, the Naval Academy Band had a guest conductor Maestro Leonard Slakin, musical director of the National Symphony Orchestra. The internationally acclaimed conductor has made regular appearances over the last two decades with virtually every major international orchestra and opera company, and is recognized on five continents for his imaginative programming and highly praised interpretations. His discography includes more than one hundred symphonic recordings recognized with five Grammy awards and more than fifty other Grammy nominations. Throughout his career Mr. Slakin has demonstrated a continuing commitment to arts education, reflected in his work with student orchestras at various conservatories across the country through the National Symphony Orchestra American Residencies program, and as the founder and director of the National Conducting Institute. The audience witnessed inspired performances of Percy Grainger's "Lincolnshire Posy," and Paul Hindemith's "Symphony in Bb," two major works from the Symphonic Band repertoire.

Two separate events on March 6 featured many talented ensembles of the Naval Academy Band in both afternoon and evening chamber music performances. The Brass Ensemble, Clarinet Choir, Brass Quintet, Wind Quintet, and Tuba/Euphonium Quartet all performed an afternoon chamber music concert in the Naval Academy Chapel. The program was one of many activities held in conjunction with the annual American Bandmasters Association Conference. The conference, hosted by the University of Maryland in College Park, included a trip to Annapolis. After a tour of the city, conference-goers were ushered into the Naval Academy Chapel for an informative historical perspective of the Chapel, followed by the Naval Academy Band Chamber Concert. Of the concert itself, Mr. Ray C. Lichtenwaller, Director of Bands at The University of Texas at Arlington, commented, "The groups played marvelously in a beautiful setting." A post-concert tour of the Preble Museum highlighted the Naval Academy Band with a display of band memorabilia during its 150th Anniversary. Later that evening, the Brass Ensemble appeared on the Millennium Stage of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The group presented a program of classic brass literature by Ravel, Dvorak, Byrd, and Bizet. Those interested in seeing footage of the Millennium Stage performance may do so by visiting the Kennedy Center website. The Millennium Stage concert was part of the Performing Arts for Everyone project, designed to introduce the Kennedy Center to a far wider audience by providing performances open to the public and free of charge 365 days a year. Looking ahead to the spring and summer months, there is excitement about our May 9 Gala Concert featuring works by James Housay, Dr. Paul Whar, and Gary Belshaw written in honor of the band's sesquicentennial. We look forward to this grand event and our alumni concerts this summer featuring past members in the concert band, big band and first ever rock and roll reunion. It's been a great year to celebrate the past, commemorate the present, and consider the future of the "Navy's Oldest and Finest Band."



Maestro Leonard Slakin

The United States Naval Academy Band

Summer Serenade 2003

SUMMER SERENADE 2003

AREA PERFORMANCES

Tuesday evenings at 7:30 P.M. at the Annapolis City Dock

July 8

SUMMER SERENADE SERIES OPENER

Join us for the first evening of pleasant music by the harbor.

July 4

8:00 P.M. CONCERT BAND

pre-fireworks concert, Annapolis City Dock

8:00 P.M. ELECTRIC BRIGADE

pre-fireworks concert, Rip Miller Field USNA

July 15

ELECTRIC BRIGADE

High energy Top 40 and Rhythm & Blues

July 6

6:00 P.M. ELECTRIC BRIGADE

Down's Park, 8311 John Down's Loop, Pasadena, MD

7:00 P.M. CONCERT BAND

Allen Pond Park, 3330 North View Dr., Bowie, MD (301) 809-3076

July 22

150th ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI CONCERT

Past & present members of "The Navy's Oldest and Finest Band"
Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, 801 Chase St., Annapolis

July 13

7:00 P.M. CONCERT BAND

Rawlinsville Camp, 475 Clearfield Rd., Holtwood, PA (717) 284-2746

July 24

TIDAL WAVE AND ELECTRIC BRIGADE

REUNION CONCERT

First ever reunion of the Naval Academy Band's Contemporary Music Ensemble
Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, 801 Chase St., Annapolis

July 27

7:00 P.M. CONCERT BAND

William A. Humbert Amphitheater, Bel Air Town Hall, 39 Hickory Ave, Bel Air, MD

(410) 803-9784 (Rain site @ Falsion H.S.)

7:00 P.M. ELECTRIC BRIGADE

Allen Pond Park, 3330 North View Dr., Bowie, MD (301) 809-3076

July 29

THE NEXT WAVE

Classic & contemporary Big Band jazz

August 3

4:00 P.M. ELECTRIC BRIGADE

Harbor Place Amphitheater, Light St., Baltimore, MD (410) 332-4462

August 7

7:30 P.M. ELECTRIC BRIGADE

Rip Miller Field on the Naval Academy grounds.

August 5

CONCERT BAND

August 12 - 6:30 P.M.

August 10

6:00 P.M. CONCERT BAND

Linthicum Park, Benton Ave, Linthicum, MD (410) 859-3308

FINALE CONCERT

A Musical Extravaganza featuring Chamber Groups, Marching Band, Concert Band,
Jazz ensembles, and "The 1812 Overture" complete with live cannon fire!

August 24

6:00 P.M. ELECTRIC BRIGADE

Washington College, 300 Washington Ave., Chestertown, MD