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United States Naval Academy
121 Blake Road
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Fall 2000
Serenade



U.S. Naval Academy Band



"The Navy's Oldest and Finest"

The Electric Brigade *Naval Crusaders*

For more than twenty years the Naval Academy has been the home of one of the most visible and effective support tools of the Navy. Originally conceived to present high energy entertainment to the Brigade of Midshipmen, this exceptional team has undergone many modifications before achieving its current status as a premiere performing unit. Their attitude, ability, determination and dedication help them reach tens of thousands of people each year, instilling a sense of excitement, pride and patriotism.

These sailors are The Electric Brigade, the Navy's premiere top forty band, which reaches American youth through the music of their generation. During the academic year this eight-man team of professional musicians directly support Midshipmen activities performing

for company dinners, holiday parties, and dances, as well as melding into the marching band for football games and formal parades. On the Naval Academy complex they also provide entertainment for receptions, departmental celebrations, Marine Corps birthday functions and Naval Station MWR events. In addition, they're in demand by other area military commands for their special events.

Of all the Naval Academy Band's performing units, the Electric Brigade is among the most popular with the Midshipmen. It could be that they associate the band with significant events such as the Ring Dance, International Ball and Graduation Ball, or maybe it's their repertoire and the talent and energy of the presentation.

Guitarist and bandleader Chief Robert Stibbe has a theory. "Since The Electric Brigade formed in 1979, it has successfully predicted which songs will hit big. We've kept those songs and continually build, evaluating trends and updating our song list twice a year. We're playing the songs they know."

With its success at the Naval Academy, the band added public concerts during the summer months while the majority of the Brigade was off the yard. Soon, invitations abounded for performances at community centers in Washington, DC, Baltimore, Bowie, Annapolis and more. Public schools also began requesting performances for assembly programs. In response, each Spring The Electric Brigade sets aside a few dates for performances in local high schools. These performances put the Navy and Naval Academy in the eye (and ears!) of recruitment age people who may be considering their options for the future.

The success of the Electric Brigade at reaching young adults has not been ignored by Navy Recruiters. Over the last three years, USNA Band and Navy Recruiting have been working closely to determine how the Electric Brigade can meet its mission of support to the Midshipmen and also assist recruiters. This year alone, the band has performed in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Buffalo, and Ohio working as a public relations tool of Navy Recruiting.

"This dynamic group does an outstanding job of reaching out and energizing our younger audiences," CDR Alverson remarks. "Whether at a Midshipmen dance or at a Recruiter sponsored high school assembly program, Electric Brigade is one of the Navy's most effective means of "speaking" to our next generation of sailors."

It's easy to see why this group is one of the most requested and busiest units in the band!



**The United States
Naval Academy Band**

DIRECTOR

CDR J. Michael Alverson

ASST. DIRECTOR

ENS Kenneth C. Collins

COMMAND MASTER

CHIEF

MUCM Gary R. Wolfe

OPERATIONS

MUC Rob Werntz

ADMINISTRATION

MUCS Ken Shrum

SUPPLY

MUCS Richard Chappell

LIBRARIAN

MUC James Bean

SPECIAL PROJECTS

AUDITION SUPERVISOR

MUCS Steve Barzal

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MUCM James H. Cunningham

CONCERT INFORMATION:

(410) 293-0263

FAX:

(410) 293-2116



Electric Brigade 1979

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
SPONSORING A CONCERT?**

If you are interested in sponsoring a concert by The United States Naval Academy Concert Band, Next Wave, Electric Brigade, or one of the Chamber Groups, please write to The US Naval Academy Band, 101 Buchanan RD, Annapolis, MD 21402-5080 or contact our Operations Office at (410) 293-1257.



Visit us on the World Wide Web at:
www.nadn.navy.mil/USNABand



**COMMANDER'S
COLUMN**

Dear Patrons,

Since my last column, there's been a lot of action around here! First, in the "Hail and Farewell" department, we said goodbye to LTJG Mike Grant, who left us to become the new Director of Navy Band New Orleans, and we have welcomed our new Assistant Leader, ENS Ken Collins, who reported on board in June from The U. S. Navy Band. LTJG Grant was a very positive influence here, and I was very fortunate to have had him here as my

"right hand." I know he will have a great tour of duty down in Naw'lins. As those of you who have already met him are aware, ENS Collins brings a wealth of experience and dynamic energy with him to the assistant's chair. He will be conducting our September 22nd concert in its entirety, so if you didn't get a chance to speak to him during one of our Summer Serenade performances, please be sure to give him your own personal welcome that evening.

We also had to bid "Fair Winds and Following Seas" to two long time members of the Band - MUC Joel Lewis, vocalist and former Leader of "Electric Brigade" and MU2 Ken Meeks, electric bassist and arranger in "Electric Brigade". These gentlemen, and I emphasize gentlemen, are professionals of the highest caliber, and we will definitely miss their talent and their personalities.

This summer we were very privileged to have two of our units featured at national and international events. Our Tuba/Euphonium Quartet performed for a packed audience at the prestigious Texas Bandmasters Association Conference in San Antonio, and our Clarinet Quartet drew strong acclaim at the International Clarinet Association's symposium held this year at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK. Both groups displayed the talents, abilities, and challenging musical selections that you have come to expect from your Naval Academy Band. Thanks to these two groups, the Band's reputation for musical excellence has reached a much wider audience. Both groups will be featured during our fall and winter season. Be sure to catch one of their performances. You won't be disappointed! They are truly superb musicians as well as fine sailors.

I'd like to offer a special thanks to MUC (ret) Jerry Zadera and everyone who helped to make this year's Alumni Concert an overwhelming success! It was great to see so many old friends and make new ones. The "sea stories" and tall tales were abundant, and there was also some pretty good music being made that evening!

Our upcoming season is going to be filled with performances of new music, which I'm confident you will enjoy, as well as some old favorites sure to bring a smile. I look forward to seeing and talking to all of you at some point this year as we put together the 2000/2001 concert and recital series that promises to be one of our best yet!

Sincerely,

J. M. Alverson
Director

CHAMBER GROUPS PERFORM AT PRESTIGIOUS CONVENTIONS

Two USNA Band chamber ensembles, the Clarinet Quartet and the Tuba/Euphonium Quartet, were invited to perform at major music festivals this summer. "The Cane Mutiny" performed at the International Clarinet Association (ICA) "ClarFest" on July 15th in Norman, OK. They made Naval Academy Band history as the only chamber group ever invited to perform at an international music event. Every year the "ClarFest" is attended by thousands of amateur and professional clarinetists from the world over.

The Tuba/Euphonium Quartet was one of four featured ensembles to perform at Texas Bandmasters Assoc. (TBA) in San Antonio, TX, on July 25th. They performed a one hour concert of original and transcribed pieces showcasing their technical virtuosity as well as their unique arranging abilities. The group's leader, MUCS Ken Shrum, spoke briefly on the importance of pursuing performance opportunities in chamber music and how small ensembles enhance and fine tune larger performing



MU2 Amy Jarjoura, MU2 Paul Skinner,
MU2 Ben Redwine, MU2 James Hurd,
MU1 Marcia Diehl

units. CDR Alverson accompanied the Quartet and spoke about the benefits and job prospects in the Navy Music Program. TBA attracts over 8,000 music educators from Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana. In addition, TBA combined its convention this year with the National Band Association and the International Association of Jazz Educators.



MUCS Ken Shrum, MU2 Jarrod Williams, MU1 Karl Schultz,
MU2 Todd Nix, CDR Mike Alverson

NO TONE UNSTIRRED

Recitals and Master Classes On the Road

Master Chief James Rodak presents a series of recitals and master classes in October. He begins his journey on Oct. 6 at St. Andrew's By the Bay Church here in Annapolis, with a program of music for saxophone with piano and tape. On Oct. 12 and 13, he will present master classes to the saxophone students of The University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando, focusing on techniques to improve saxophone sections in the concert band and preparing for an audition. On October 13, he will present a recital on the guest artist series at UCF. As a special gift to his parents, he will perform "Holiday Waltz" by Noah Klaus, which was the first solo he ever prepared on saxophone. MUCM Rodak graduated from UCF in 1980 is very excited about returning to his alma mater to perform. On Oct. 16 and 17, its off to Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, presenting master classes to the saxophone studio at GSU and concluding with a recital on Oct. 17. Finally on Oct 19, it's off to Little Creek, VA and the Navy School of Music to discuss saxophone playing in the Navy and the audition process. In addition, he will perform segments of his recital with particular emphasis on the "Lazarus Sonata" and "Hanblecheyapi: Crying for a Vision."



If you or a friend would like to receive "Serenade", the Naval Academy Band newsletter, please fill out the enclosed coupon and mail it to us. We will be happy to include you on our patron list. **BONUS!** Patrons with email will receive press releases for each concert.

Name: _____

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Mail to:
U.S. Naval Academy Band
101 Buchanan Rd
Annapolis MD 21402-5080

MEET OUR FRENCH HORN SECTION



MUCS Rick Chappell and MUCS Steve Barzall

The United States Naval Academy Band's French horn section has gotten much public acclaim this summer as a result of being featured on several compositions performed on Summer Serenade 2000 Concerts. The section is comprised of four talented, hard working individuals who contribute greatly to the musical and operational aspects of "The Navy's Oldest and Finest Band." Since you have heard them all summer, why not meet them now?

Senior Chief Musician Steve Barzall serves as section leader and principal French horn for the concert band. He

joined the band in 1984 and has been a featured soloist with the group on several occasions. Senior Chief Barzall recently assumed the duties as the band's Audition Supervisor and Special Projects Manager. He continues to conduct the "Gold" ceremonial band, supporting high profile military ceremonies, and serves as enlisted conductor for the concert band. Senior Chief Barzall earned degrees from Temple University and Troy State University. He lives in Cape St. Claire with his wife, Claudia, and two sons, Michael and Thomas.

Heading the band's Fiscal and Supply Department as well as his performing duties as fourth horn in concert, ceremonial, and marching bands keeps Senior Chief Rick Chappell extremely busy. He has degrees from Brevard Junior College and North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem. Before entering the Navy in 1981, Senior Chief Chappell taught music in the public school of both Alabama and North Carolina. He resides in Mayo with his wife, Chief Sandy Chappell (a clarinetist in the band), and their daughter, Laura.

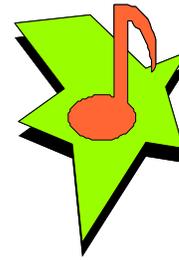
Musician First Class Adam Tillett plays associate principal and third horn in the concert band. He also performs in the woodwind quintet, ceremonial, and marching bands, as well as serving as assistant conductor of the "Gold" ceremonial band. Petty Officer Tillett uses his carpentry skills to improve our band spaces, designs and builds sets for our children's concerts, as well as building his own home! He has been a member of the band since 1991. Petty Officer Tillett earned degrees from the Peabody Conservatory of Music and Northwestern University. He resides in Linthicum with his wife, Jennifer, and children, Olivia, Josiah, and Emily.

Annapolis native, Musician Second Class Tony Valerio performs second horn in the concert, ceremonial and marching bands, and is the leader of the brass quintet. Petty Officer Valerio's degrees are from West Virginia University and the Peabody Conservatory of Music. He lives in Arnold with his wife, Kimberly.

The French horn section has been together since 1991 without a member change (a record for any section of the band). They continue to distinguish themselves with outstanding musicianship and meaningful contributions to the every day operations of The United States Naval Academy Band.



MUI Adam Tillett (front) and MU2 Tony Valerio



Noteworthy Events

Congratulations on your Promotion

MUC Ronda Ory-Lettie

Naval Academy Band Sailor of the Quarter

MU2 Joseph McCarthy, 2nd Qtr. 2000

Joint Service Commendation Medal

CDR Mike Alverson

Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal

MUC Joel Lewis

MU2 Ken Meeks

Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal

ENS Kenneth Collins

MUCS Rick Chappell

Navy Pistol Shot

MU2 Joel Borrelli-Boudreau

Fair Winds and Following Seas to:

MUC Joel Lewis to Fleet Reserve

MU2 Ken Meeks to Fleet Reserve



ALUMNI

Thank you to all the USNA Band Alumni who returned to Annapolis for our Alumni concert. A special "Thanks" to all who brought historic photos for scanning. It is always a pleasure to share the stage with you. See you next year!!

MUC Bob Cady 36-73
 MUC Bill Healy 38-66
 MU1 Max Gladfelter 46-53
 MUCM Dick Sowell 46-67
 MUC Bill Taylor 46-61
 MUCM Ralph Gambone 48-72
 MUCM Cy Harris 50-70
 MU1 Pete Metzger 59-63
 MU1 Leonard Nixon 60-76
 MUC Jerry Zadera 61-76
 CDR Raymond Ascione 62-70, 80-82, 85-88
 MU1 Dick Dresser 62-69
 MU1 Carl Stewart 62-66
 MUCM Larry Callahan 63-79
 MUC Don Evans 63-69
 MUCM Dwayne McClueb 64-89
 MUC Denny Davis 65-86
 MUC Ron Diehl 65-72
 MUCS Paul Schorgens 67-79

MU1 Greg McDonald 69-76
 MUCM Don Carter 70-98
 MUCM Hugh Ferguson 70-80
 MUC Scott Ragsdale 70-73, 82-85
 MUCS Dick Glass 72-77
 LCDR John Pastin 72-75
 MU1 Ben Winter 72-74
 MUCS Russ DeVilbiss 73-95
 MUC Jim Wycoff 74-77
 CDR John Bledsoe 75-78
 MU1 John Clemmer 76-85
 MUCM Gerry Ascione 77-80
 MUCS Jim Richards 77-81
 MUC John White 77-94
 MUCS Randy Martell 78-84, 85-98
 MU1 Karl Alexander 80-87
 MUCS Stan Moore 80-94
 MU1 Dennis Blair 83-93
 MUCS Max Murray 85-99
 LCDR John Fluck 88-89
 MUC John Emerich 90-93
 MU2 Ron Vazquez 91-99
 MU2 Ken Bell 93-97

Check out your new website at

<http://homestead.juno.com/jzaderasr/NABandAlumniAssoc.html>

The United States Naval Academy Band

Fall Concert Series 2000

September 22

Fall Festival

8:00 P.M. in **Alumni Hall.**

October 6

(Chamber Music Series)

No Tone Unstirred

8:00 P.M. at **St. Andrew By the Bay** Catholic Church, 701 College Parkway, Annapolis.

October 13

Navy Day Concert

8:00 P.M. in **Mitscher Hall.**

November 3

Veterans Day Concert

8:00 P.M. in **Mitscher Hall.**

November 17

(Chamber Music Series)

Chamber Winds

8:00 P.M. in **Mitscher Hall.**

December 9

A Charlie Brown Christmas

Join the fun at 2:00 P.M. in **Mitscher Hall.**

December 14 & 15

Holiday By The Bay

Two nights due to popular demand!! 8:00 P.M. in **Mahan Hall.**

All Naval Academy Band concerts begin at 8:00pm (except where noted) and are free and open to the public.

Please note the various venues. For concert information call (410) 293-0263 or visit our website at www.nadn.navy.mil/USNABand/Schedule.