

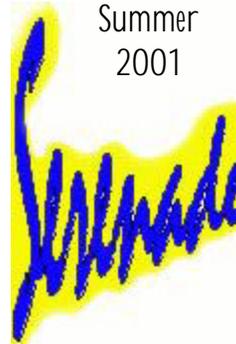
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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

United States Naval Academy
121 Blake Road
Annapolis MD 21402-5000

Official Business



A CHANGE OF COMMAND

“The Navy’s Oldest and Finest Band,” is proud to receive three new men to the helm of leadership this year. We’d like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our 25th Leader and Conductor, Lieutenant Commander Donald H. Keller, Assistant Leader and Associate Conductor, Ensign John W. Cline, and finally, our new Command Master Chief, MUCM James Rodak. Please make them feel at home!

Lieutenant Commander Donald H. Keller, Jr., a native of Stockton, CA, enlisted in the Navy in 1975 and was an accelerated graduate of the Machinist Mate “A” school in Great Lakes, IL and a Learning Resource Instructor. LCDR Keller attended the Navy Nuclear Power school in Vallejo, CA, and was assigned to the USS San Jose (AFS-7) where he served as a Hydraulic and Air Conditioning specialist.

LCDR Keller completed the Basic Music and Intermediate courses at the School of Music in 1981. He served as a trumpet instrumentalist with Navy Band Great Lakes and was promoted to Chief Musician. In 1988, while assigned to Navy Band Orlando, he was selected as a Limited Duty Officer and promoted to Ensign.

His first assignment as an officer was as Director, Navy Band San Francisco, where he advanced from Ensign to Lieutenant. Subsequent tours included assignments as Fleet Bandmaster SEVENTH Fleet Band, Yokosuka, Japan, Fleet Bandmaster SIXTH Fleet Band, Naples, Italy, Training Officer at the Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk, VA, and as Fleet Bandmaster, ATLANTIC Fleet Band, Norfolk, VA. He assumes leadership of The United States Naval Academy Band in August, 2001, and conducts his first concert at the City Dock on August 7th.

New to Annapolis, but coming home to Maryland, Frederick native **Ensign John W. Cline** enlisted in the Navy in June, 1988 just weeks after graduating from Middletown High School. After completion of Musician “A” School at The Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk, VA, he was assigned as a trombone instrumentalist with Navy Band Memphis, TN. Later, he transferred to Navy Band Great Lakes, IL, where he served as Leader of the Brass Quintet, Public Affairs Coordinator, and Drum Major. He was selected in 1994 as the Naval Training Center (Simplex) Sailor of the Year. His next assignment was with the Atlantic Fleet Band in Norfolk, VA, where he served as Drum Major, Leading Petty Officer, Fiscal/Supply Petty Officer, Leader of the Brass Quintet, and member of the 1996 U.S. Navy Showband in support of WATC-96 and UNITAS-37, touring nations of Africa and South America. He was selected as that organization’s Sailor of the Year for 1997 and 1998.

Ensign Cline is also a graduate of the School of Music’s Section Leader’s Course, Ceremonial Conductor and Drum Major’s Course, and Assistant Director’s Course. He received his commission in May, 2001 and assumes his position with The United States Naval Academy Band in July.

(cont. on page 7)



The United States
Naval Academy Band

DIRECTOR

CDR J. Michael Alverson

ASST. DIRECTOR

ENS Kenneth C. Collins

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF

MUCM James Rodak

OPERATIONS

MUC Rob Wertz

ADMINISTRATION

MUCS Ken Shrum

SUPPLY

MUCS Richard Chappell

LIBRARIAN

MUC James Bean

SPECIAL PROJECTS

AUDITION SUPERVISOR

MUCS Steve Barzal

PUBLICAFFAIRS

MUCM James H. Cunningham

CONCERT INFORMATION:

(410) 293-0263

FAX:

(410) 293-2116

The Electric Brigade just finished their most involved recruiting season ever. For a total of five recruiting tours totaling twenty high schools, EB reached over 20,000 recruitment aged young men and women in America's high schools. With an additional nine local schools, they further enhanced public relations between high schools and the Navy in the Washington, Baltimore, and Annapolis area. These eight Navy professionals gave an electrifying mix of today's teen radio hits, earning the title "The Navy's Premiere Pop Group."

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,

This summer is going to be a time of transition for several of us here at the Band. First, we face a major loss in the retirement of our Command Master Chief and "Voice" of the Band, MUCM Gary Wolfe. Master Chief Wolfe will be relieved by MUCM James Rodak, our principal alto saxophonist, during Gary's retirement ceremony on 6 June. On 1 July, LTJG Ken Collins will depart for his new assignment as Director of our Navy band in Seattle, Washington. LTJG Collins has been a superb assistant and is well on his way to a great future in the Navy Music Program. ENS Walt Cline will assume the responsibilities as the Band's new Assistant Director, and we look forward to his arrival during mid-June. Then I will have a retirement and change of charge ceremony on 1 August as LCDR Don Keller relieves me to become the 25th leader of "The Navy's Oldest and Finest Band."

Although there will be new faces in the Band's three senior positions, I guarantee that the musical quality to which you have become accustomed will not diminish. And there are 62 reasons why. Whether soloist or section performer, Electric Brigade or Concert Band, each member of the Band deserves the credit for that. They are all professionals.

With Master Chief Wolfe having been such a mainstay to this organization, I felt it only right that he have the opportunity to address all of you in this column. I asked him what his thoughts were as he approached the completion of his Naval service. His response is as follows:

"If I were to sum up the last 30 years in one statement, it would be, 'never take a single minute of your life for granted.' I say that because it seems like yesterday that my mother kissed me goodbye the morning I left for recruit training at Great Lakes. It also seems like just last year that my parents took me to hear my first military band concert in Washington, DC. For some reason, the image of polish, precision, patriotism and high musicianship made an indelible impression on me. For 30 years I've performed for the wide-eyed children, the families saying farewell to their deployed loved ones, the heartwarming homecomings, the parents of our Midshipmen who want to feel proud of their Navy, for those who have paid the highest price, and many more. What a privilege and an honor it's been to work with world-class musicians representing the men and women of the Navy through the universal language of music. Every minute of it."

Master Chief, I couldn't have said it better. It has also been my honor and privilege to serve you these last three years. There have been some wonderful moments that I will never forget, and the entire experience of being stationed at the Naval Academy has been extraordinary. I will cherish the many new friendships made such 1998 and look forward to coming back to the Alumni concert every chance I get. I thank you all for being a part of my life and my career as a Navy musician.

Sincerely,

J. M. Alverson
Director



Oklahoma Jazz Festival

MU2 James Fowler played for the Redbud Jazz Festival on April 5th & 6th at Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa, Oklahoma. He played a concert for 500 Tonkawa High School students, then spoke with the jazz band at Northern Oklahoma College about opportunities in the Navy Music Program, and life as a Navy Musician. He performed with the Redbud Big Band first in a clinic/rehearsal open to the public, then an evening concert for 600 jazz aficionados. The Redbud Jazz Festival, an annual competition for area high school jazz ensembles, features the winning ensembles on the evening concert before the Redbud Big Band. The festival, sponsored by Dr. Michael Moore, head of Jazz Studies at Northern Oklahoma College, also features jazz luminaries as special guests.



Clarinet Quartet to Maine

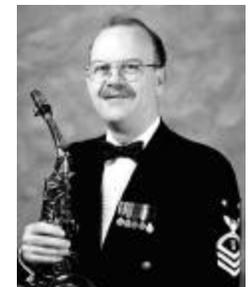
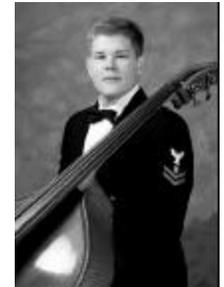
The Clarinet Quartet "The Cane Mutiny," featuring Petty Officers Marcia Diehl, Lynda Dembowski, James Hurd, Paul Skinner and guest soloist Benjamin Redwine, traveled to Maine in late May for a series of concerts and clinics. They appeared at Beals High School in Jonesport, the Eastport Arts Center in Eastport, and at the Washington Academy in Machias. Finally, the members of the group were guests of honor at a reception where they were given instruction in the fine art of lobster consumption!

A CHANGE OF COMMAND (cont. from page 1)

In 1985, Master Chief James Rodak reported for duty with the Naval Academy Band and has served as solo alto saxophonist and Chief in Charge of the Concert Band, Ceremonial Unit Leader, and Head Librarian. He assumed his duties as Command Master Chief in June, 2001. MUCM Rodak is a native of Orlando, FL, where he attended Oak Ridge High School. He earned an Associate in Arts degree from Valencia Community College in 1977 and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education from the University of Central Florida in 1980. After college, he taught music at Liberty Junior High School, Orlando, FL, in 1980 and joined the faculty of the University of Central Florida as jazz instructor in 1981.

MUCM Rodak enlisted in the Navy in 1983 and graduated first in his class from the School of Music in November 1983. His first tour of duty was with Navy Band Great Lakes where he was a saxophone and clarinet instrumentalist. While there, he was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for composing Great Lakes Naval Training Center's official march, "The Spirit of Great Lakes."

In addition to his Navy activities, MUCM Rodak performs with the Paul Lewis Big Band, a local evangelical jazz ensemble, and the Virginia Grande Military Band. He also enjoys writing and arranging music for small ensembles, golf, and with his wife, sharing the joy of watching their children, Sarah and Jacob, grow. He is married to the former Susan Wilson of Orlando, FL, a clarinetist and Naval Academy Band alumnus.





Building the Bands of the Future

MU2 Kari Astrid Haugeto

It has always been a strategy of The United States Naval Academy Band to achieve musical excellence through performance and teaching. Many within the band provide individual lessons, classroom clinics and act as role models for both military and civilian bandsmen. Though it is easy to recognize the influence this unit has on our fighting forces, it is interesting to note that for nearly 50 years we have been reaching out to the community, cultivating performers and educated listeners.

Over the years many students have returned as members and even leaders of our band, but with today's climate of budgetary cutbacks in our public schools, our influence may be more important than ever. Our annual Side-By-Side concert is perhaps the most visible program, but is just one way we reach out to the community to lend our expertise.

Concerto Competition "Back in the late 50's or early 60's there was a Naval Academy Band Wives club that gave a music scholarship to a local high school student. The student would come to receive the award and then do a solo or just play with the band," provided retired musician and Secretary of the Naval Academy Band Alumni Association, Jerry Zadera. This was the beginning of an active attempt by the band organization to involve students in a competitive spirit. Who would have thought it would also become a recruiting tool for the Navy Music Program? "The USNA Band Wives Club began offering a one semester scholarship to Peabody Preparatory School. The scholarship and the opportunity to solo with the Naval Academy Band were awarded to the winner of a formal audition held at Annapolis Junior High. I just happened to win the first year it was offered," remembers CDR Ralph Gambone, current director of The US Navy Band, Washington, DC, and former leader of the USNA Band. His father, MUCM Ralph Gambone, USN/Ret, adds, "Because I was a member of the band, I was reluctant to let Ralph enter, but Max Corrick, the band leader at the time, convinced me to let him try and to let the judges decide. He did so well in that first year at Peabody that, when the scholarship ran out, his instructor gave him a second year at his expense." Soon the singularity of the Concerto competition proved too confining. The band, looking to involve more students and increase its audience base, began what is known today as the Side-by-Side concert.

Side-by-Side Commander John Bledsoe, USN/Ret, accounts the inspiration for this special concert. "I invited students from the surrounding high schools for a concert during the 1976 summer series. That was our first-ever regular series at the dock, and I needed to find a way to attract an audience to a new venue." He continues "back then we started the series earlier in the summer, about the first of July, and I recall the difficulty of contacting students and bandmasters after school had let out. However, I got the idea from my own days at the Navy Band back in the 60s when we had very elaborate children's concerts. The guest clinician and conductor was not always part of the event." CDR Bledsoe remembers, "While guest conductors and clinicians did appear infrequently in the remote past, the first really distinguished visitors were invited by Commander Alan Beck. He somehow managed to get funding for this, something I never was able to do. In any event, it is certainly great that this quality of guest conductors has continued."



Musical Partnership When Commander Gambone returned to the USNA Band as leader, one of his greatest accomplishments was in the formation of a formal partnership with the Anne Arundel County School System to keep the Side-By-Side concert an annual event and to expand the involvement of the band in community music programs. In the mission statement signed by Mr. Bruce Horner, Coordinator of Music for Anne Arundel County Schools, LCDR Ralph Gambone, Director, USNA Band, and CAPT W.T.R. Bogle, Commandant of Midshipmen, U.S. Naval Academy, the Band offered "to provide expertise and assistance to the instrumental music teachers and students of the county. The purpose of this partnership is to foster mutual growth by encouraging students and the instrumental music program to embrace the state of the art by providing instructional assistance and unique musical opportunities and to increase community awareness of the mission and presence of the United States Naval Academy Band." Commander Alverson, current leader of the Naval Academy Band, enthuses, "The Naval Academy Band takes great pride in its Partnership in Education program which involves concerts, adjudications, and clinics by band members at schools throughout the county. All band teachers are encouraged to nominate their best students for selection in the Side-by-Side concert." Senior Chief Steve Barzal, Special Projects Coordinator, adds "This is a great opportunity for aspiring young musicians to experience "close up" what it feels like to play in a professional musical organization and gives the pros a chance to serve as mentors and educators. We are very proud of the quality of past winners and their performances with the Naval Academy Band. We look forward to the continuation and expansion of the program."



Noteworthy Events

Fair Winds and Following Seas to:

LJTG Kenneth Collins to Navy Band Northwest
MUCM Gary R. Wolfe to the Retired List
MUC Frank Russo to Fleet Reserve

Welcome Aboard to:

ENS John W. Cline from Atlantic Fleet Band
MU3 Tim Stanley from Navy Band Northeast



Naval Academy Band Sailor of the Year 2000

MU1 Mike Jarjoura

Naval Academy Band Sailor of the Quarter

MU2 Ray Ascione, 4th Quarter, 2000
MU2 Ken Pfabe, 1st Quarter, 2001



Meritorius Service Medal

MUCM Gary R. Wolfe

Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal

MUC Frank Russo

Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal

MU1 Mike Jarjoura, (2nd Award)
MU2 John Babcock

NEW TO THE USNA BAND FAMILY

Hannah Suh, daughter of Chief Ronda Ory-Lettie and her husband Roger. She was born on April 23, 2000 and adopted her new family on March 21, 2001.

Luke David, son of Petty Officer Twig Sargent and his wife Joanna. Luke was born on April 10, 2001 at 4:41 P.M., weighed 6 lbs, 9 oz and was 21" tall.

Congratulations Newlyweds!

MU1 Karl and MU2 Heidi Shultz were married on May 26th.

MU2 Ken Pfabe and Sally Schlenker Pfabe exchanged vows on May 5th.

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: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

email: _____

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

The United States Naval Academy Band

Summer Series 2001

Summer Serenade 2001

Tuesday evenings at 7:30 P.M. (Except where noted)
at the Annapolis City Dock

July 10

SUMMER SERENADE SERIES OPENER

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

July 17

ALUMNI CONCERT

Past & present members of "The Navy's Oldest and Finest Band"

July 24

ELECTRIC BRIGADE

Classic & contemporary Hits

July 31

COMMANDER ALVERSON'S FAREWELL

"Fair winds and following seas, Sir."

August 7

A CHANGE OF COMMAND

"Welcome aboard!" to our new Director,
Lieutenant Commander Donald H. Keller, Jr.

August 14 - 6:30 P.M.

FINALE CONCERT

A Musical Extravaganza
Chamber Groups, Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz and
Contemporary ensembles, and
"The 1812 Overture" complete with live cannon fire!
(Rain Date August 16, same time & place)

Guest Series 2001

Featuring the finest Washington area Military Bands.
Thursday evenings at 7:30 P.M. at Rip Miller Field
on the Naval Academy grounds.

July 19

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S COMBO

Classic and Contemporary Jazz

July 26

ARMY BLUES

The Premier Jazz Ensemble of the U.S. Army

August 2

THE CRUISERS

The U.S. Navy's Premier Rock Ensemble

August 9

ELECTRIC BRIGADE

High Energy Top 40, R&B, and Rock

Other Area Performances

June 3 - 7:00 P.M.

CONCERT BAND

Allen Pond Park, 3330 North View Dr., Bowie, MD

July 4

11:30 A.M. **ELECTRIC BRIGADE**

Northside Beach 125th St., Ocean City, MD

4:00 P.M. **ELECTRIC BRIGADE**

Northside Beach North Division St., Ocean City, MD

8:00 P.M. **CONCERT BAND**

Farragut Field USNA

July 8 - 7:00 P.M.

ELECTRIC BRIGADE

Allen Pond Park, 3330 North View Dr., Bowie, MD

July 15 - 7:30 P.M.

CONCERT BAND

Rawlinsville Camp, 475 Clearfield Rd., Holtwood, PA

July 22 - 6:00 P.M.

ELECTRIC BRIGADE

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

July 29 - 7:00 P.M.

CONCERT BAND

William A. Humbert Amphitheater
Bel Air Town Hall, 39 Hickory Ave, Bel Air, MD
(Rain site @ Fallston H.S.)

August 12 - 6:00 P.M.

CONCERT BAND

Linthicum Park, Benton Ave, Linthicum, MD

August 17 - 7:00 P.M.

CONCERT BAND

White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Hwy, Ocean Pines, MD