

PROGRAM NOTES



Lieutenant Commander Bruce A. McDonald reported for duty as Director of the United States Naval Academy Band in October of 2012. Previously, he had served as Director, U.S. Fleet Forces Band in Norfolk, VA, Fleet Bandmaster of both the Pacific Fleet Band in Pearl Harbor, HI and SIXTH Fleet Band in Naples, Italy, Associate Conductor of the United States Navy Band in Washington, DC, and as Music Program Liaison Officer to the Chief of Information, also in Washington, DC.

LCDR McDonald enlisted in the Navy in 1989 as a trombonist with the U.S. Naval Academy Band in Annapolis, Maryland. There, he performed with the "Electric Brigade" Top 40 Ensemble, the Brass Quintet, and as principal trombonist with the Wind Ensemble. After promotion to Chief Petty Officer in 1997, he transferred to the U.S. Navy School of Music in Little Creek, Virginia, where he graduated first in his class from both the Ceremonial Conductor/Drum Major and the Enlisted Bandleader/Assistant Director courses. He then transferred to the Atlantic Fleet Band in Norfolk, Virginia, where he was the ceremonial band director and assistant concert band conductor prior to his commissioning in October 2000 and subsequent assignment to the U.S. Navy Band.

LCDR McDonald holds a master's degree in instrumental conducting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The United States Naval Academy Band, "The Navy's Oldest and Finest," has been providing music for the Brigade of Midshipmen and surrounding community since 1852. Located at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, the band is comprised of 68 professional, Navy musicians, who have studied at some of the best music schools and conservatories in the country, and who have extensive résumés in performance and teaching.

At the Naval Academy, the USNA Band performs for dress parades, athletic events, pep rallies and other traditional events. In the community, the band presents concerts, provides music for civic events, and presents instructional clinics and performances for K-12 and university students. The band also plays for military ceremonies and funerals throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

In recent years, the band has supported the Naval Academy Admissions Department, touring throughout the country and performing at admissions forums and high schools. These events have greatly contributed to diversity initiatives and an overall increase in the number of applications to the Naval Academy.

The Naval Academy Band takes pride in representing the Naval Academy's deep heritage of excellence. Performing at the highest professional standard for the Navy, the Naval Academy, and the citizens of this great country remains our ultimate goal.

Visit the USNA Band's Website:
<http://www.usna.edu/USNABand/>

Follow the USNA Band on:

 <http://www.facebook.com/USNABand>
 <http://www.twitter.com/USNABand>



ELECTRIC BRIGADE

MUC Ritchie Smith, unit leader

VOCALS

MU1 Brooke Knight - West Palm Beach, Florida

MU1 Ira Ostrowski - Ballston Spa, New York

ELECTRIC GUITAR

MU1(SW) Benjamin Coker - Atlanta, Georgia

ELECTRIC BASS

MUC Rory Cherry - Dothan, Alabama

DRUMS

MUC Ritchie Smith - Erin, New York

KEYBOARD

Vacant

SOUND ENGINEER

MU1 Jason Broadwater - St. Clairsville, Ohio

BIOGRAPHY

Electric Brigade (EB), the Navy's premier popular music ensemble, has been entertaining audiences around the world since 1979. Acting as the United States Naval Academy's musical ambassadors to the nation, EB serves as a major public relations tool for the Navy, supporting Navy Recruiting by acquainting young Americans with the Armed Forces. With its unique brand of high-energy performance, this elite group has set the standard in popular-music entertainment for United States Navy Bands all over the world.

Under the direction of Chief Musician Ritchie Smith, EB's repertoire has grown to include the most current and popular music, as well as rhythm and blues, dance, Motown, classic rock, modern rock, soul, hip-hop, swing, country, and disco. The group excels at reaching young adults, but appeals to all audiences. EB is well-suited for performances at high schools and colleges, state and county fairs, art festivals, and community concerts.

At the Naval Academy, EB is called upon to entertain the Brigade of Midshipmen at a variety of functions, ranging from formal occasions, such as the Graduation Ball during Commissioning Week, to informal dances and pep rallies. In recent years, the group has traveled to the Houston Bowl and Emerald Bowl, performing at tailgate parties to support the Midshipmen and Navy football. Annually, the Electric Brigade plays a role in the week-long festivities leading up to the classic *Army-Navy* football game.