

PROGRAM NOTES



Lieutenant Commander Steve Trzcinski was born in Melbourn, England while his father was serving in the U.S. Air Force. A 1977 graduate of Robinson H.S. in Robinson, Texas, LCDR Trzcinski earned a Bachelor of Music degree in trombone performance from The University of Texas at Arlington and a Master of Music degree in trombone performance from Southern Methodist University. In 1986 he enlisted in the Navy, and was assigned to Navy Band Memphis as a bass trombonist. From Memphis, he transferred to Navy Band Guam, then to Navy Band Charleston, South Carolina where he was selected for a commission as a Navy Bandmaster.

Prior to his appointment as Director, U.S. Naval Academy Band in 2010, LCDR Trzcinski served as Assistant Director of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet Band in Norfolk, Virginia; Director, Navy Band Northwest in Seattle; Director, Navy Band Southwest in San Diego; Director of the joint, multi-national Allied Forces Band in Naples, Italy; and Band Support Officer at the Navy Office of Community Outreach in Millington, Tennessee.

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/>

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SUPERINTENDENT'S COMBO

MUC James Fowler, unit leader

TRUMPET

MU1 Matt Shea - Ellington, Connecticut

SAXOPHONE

MU1 Colin Renick - Belmont, Massachusetts

PIANO

MU1 Todd Simon - Dover, Delaware

DRUMS

MUC Joe McCarthy - Meriden, Connecticut

ELECTRIC GUITAR

MU1 Shawn Purcell – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

BASS

MUC James Fowler - Ponca City, Oklahoma

BIOGRAPHIES

MU1 Matt Shea is from Ellington, Connecticut and joined the Naval Academy Band as a trumpeter in 2004. He attended the University of North Texas in Denton, TX, where he earned a bachelor's degree in jazz performance in 1996. Later, he returned to UNT, and earned a master's degree in 2001. While in graduate school he performed as the jazz trumpet soloist in the world renowned One O'clock Lab Band, recording "Lab '98" and "Lab '99" with the ensemble.

MU1 Shea gained invaluable professional experience freelancing in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. He performed big bands, brass quintets, wedding bands, musicals, salsa bands, rock bands, and small jazz ensembles. He performed for studio recordings used for radio and television commercials, and performed live for several Dallas Cowboy football games, a Dallas Stars hockey game, and with the Ft. Worth/Dallas Ballet. While on summer breaks from school, MU1 Shea worked as a showband musician for Norwegian, Royal Caribbean, and Carnival Cruise Lines. Having worked for Carnival periodically from 1998 to 2000, MU1 Shea accepted a full-time position with them in 2001 and was quickly promoted to Musical Director.

MU1 Colin Renick is from Belmont, Massachusetts and joined the Naval Academy Band as a saxophonist in 2006. After earning a Bachelor of Science in Film Production from Ithaca College in 1995, he went on to pursue a career in music. He attended the State University of New York at Buffalo where he studied with Edward Yadzinsky, and earned a Bachelor of Arts in music in 2001. He then attended Indiana University where he completed the double degree program, earning master's degrees in saxophone performance and jazz studies. While at IU, he studied classical saxophone with Otis Murphy, and jazz with David Baker, Pat Harbison and Tom Walsh.

MU1 Renick's professional credits include a cross-section of musical styles, from classical to jazz to R&B to free improvisation. Highlights include performances with the Genkin Philharmonic, the Odean Pope

Saxophone Choir, David Baker's Jazz Ensemble, David Sanchez, and the Busselli-Wallarab Jazz Orchestra. In addition, he was a founding member of several original ensembles, including the Saxophone Cartel (a saxophone quintet), and the jazz/hip-hop/funk band, Mojai.

MU1 Todd Simon is from Dover Delaware and joined the Naval Academy Band as a pianist in 2009. He received a Bachelor of Music degree specializing in Jazz Piano Performance at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in 2007. While there, he studied piano and organ with Tim Murphy, and soprano/alto/tenor/baritone saxophones with Gary Thomas. In addition to playing multiple instruments in several Peabody ensembles, MU1 Simon also contributed original compositions and arrangements.

Upon graduation, MU1 Simon began performing more regularly on the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. jazz scene. During his time as a full-time freelance musician, he performed with Dontae Winslow, Alex Norris, Donvonte McCoy, Tarus Mateen, Jimmy "Junebug" Jackson, Mike Hawkins, the Rumba Club, and The Fabulous Hubcaps, a group his father founded.

MUC Joe McCarthy is from Meriden, Connecticut and joined the Naval Academy Band as principal percussionist in 1994. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree in percussion performance from The Hartt School of Music in 1988, and a master's degree in percussion performance from the University of North Texas in 1992.

Upon graduation, MUC McCarthy taught percussion and music theory at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth, Texas and performed with The Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, and the Dallas Jazz Orchestra. At the top of his profession, he won a Latin Grammy Award in 2008 for music recorded with his Latin Jazz Ensemble, Afro Bop Alliance. MUC McCarthy is currently the unit leader of the Naval Academy Band Jazz Ensemble, *Next Wave*.

MU1 Shawn Purcell is from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and joined the Naval Academy Band as electric guitarist in 2011. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Recording Arts and Sciences from Duquesne University, a Master of Arts in Music with an emphasis in jazz composition and arranging from Middle Tennessee State University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Jazz Performance with a minor in ethnomusicology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

MU1 Purcell is a jazz guitarist, bandleader, arranger, composer, and educator, having shared the stage with many of the world's top jazz artists including The Chicago Jazz Ensemble, Alan Baylock Jazz Orchestra, Afro-Bop Alliance, Jim Pugh, Chip McNeill, Dana Hall, Jeanie Bryson, Eddie Daniels, Chuck Redd, Gene Ludwig, Bob Berg, James Moody, Jerry Bergonzi, Pat Coil, and Steve Allee. MU1 Purcell has served on the jazz faculty at Middle Tennessee State University, George Mason University, and Tennessee State University, and was a Visiting Lecturer in Jazz Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington, as well as serving as a faculty member for The National Guitar Workshop and as a columnist for Jazz Guitar Life and DownBeat magazine.

MUC James Fowler is from Ponca City, Oklahoma and joined the Naval Academy Band as principal bassist in 2000. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Oklahoma City University in 1990 and a master's degree in music education from the University of Central Oklahoma in 1994.

Prior to enlisting in the Navy, MUC Fowler performed with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Tulsa Philharmonic, and the Delta Queen Steamboat Company. He also served on the faculties of Northern Oklahoma College and Southern Nazarene University.