



## COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Dear Patrons,

By the time you receive this edition of "Serenade" your Naval Academy Band will have completed an exhausting summer of exciting concerts that took the band from the City Dock to the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, to the Navy Week festivities in conjunction with the Delaware State Fair, to Pennsylvania, and as far south as sunny Naples, Florida! It is a pleasure to represent our Navy to the various communities and to promote the Naval Academy through music. I hope you enjoy reading the highlights of some of these concerts inside this newsletter.

Please take a moment to familiarize yourselves with the new members of the Naval Academy Band. Our audition supervisors have been very busy over the last couple of years recruiting the highest quality musicians to serve at the Academy. I'm sure you will appreciate the talent that these musicians bring to the Navy.

Unfortunately, when we introduce new members, we also have to say goodbye to others. Senior Chief Musician Robert Wertz will be retiring after 24 years of service to this great country. MUCS Wertz entered the Navy in 1984 and has seen many changes in the band. He has contributed to the total environment at the Academy not only as a performing member of the band, but also training Midshipmen as an Officer in Charge with the Naval Academy Sailing Program. Rob's smile and steady demeanor will be missed here and I will certainly miss his wise counsel and advice as a khaki. We wish Rob and his family fair winds and calm seas. Maybe we will see MUCS Wertz (Ret) on the City Dock for future alumni concerts?

Speaking of alumni concerts, 2008 turned out to be a knockout success. I have received many emails and phone calls from audience members who enjoyed seeing familiar faces. This year, it was a highlight to have, not only a full big band jazz ensemble fronted by MUCM Larry Callahan (Ret), but also guest narrators MUCM Gary Wolfe (Ret) and MUCM Ron Cohen (Ret) with the Concert Band. Additionally, it was an honor to have CDR Ray Ascione (Ret), LCDR John Pastin (Ret), and LCDR Mel Kessler (Ret) return to the podium to conduct the Concert Band. We hope to see even more returning band members next season.

We hope to see you all in the Fall for our concert series or around the Yard. Whether it's in Mahan, Mitscher, or Alumni Halls, in the football stadium, or on Worden Field, your Naval Academy Band will be hard at work supporting the Brigade of Midshipmen and providing outstanding music.

Sincerely,  
Brian O. Walden  
Director



### **The United States Naval Academy Band**

**DIRECTOR**  
LCDR Brian O. Walden  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**  
ENS Scott A. Mythen  
**COMMAND MASTER CHIEF**  
MUCM James E. Rodak  
**OPERATIONS**  
MUC Nick J. Pastelak  
**ADMINISTRATION**  
MUC Amy K. Jarjoura  
**SUPPLY**  
MUC Geoffrey C. Bayne  
**LIBRARIAN**  
MUC Jarrod D. Williams  
**AUDITION SUPERVISOR**  
MUC Kenneth S. Pfabe  
**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
MUCS Ronda J. Ory-Lettie  
**CONCERT INFORMATION:**  
(410) 293-0263

## FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

MUCS Rob Wertz

## NEW FACES IN THE BAND

Welcome aboard MU1 Sarah Mueller (oboe) and MU1 Ben Bokor (saxophone)



2



## Naval Academy Band Fans Out on the Fourth

By MU1 Jessica Hatfield

This year the U.S. Naval Academy Band spent the Fourth of July showing off its wide range of talents and capabilities while breaking from tradition. "The Navy's Oldest and Finest Band" has a longstanding legacy of supporting the city of Annapolis on the Fourth, but this year was able to expand its reach and make new connections while preserving the old.

The Next Wave jazz ensemble was presented a unique performing opportunity in Collier County, Florida. Under the direction of Senior Chief Musician Dan Drew, the band traveled to Florida and performed three concerts for the residents of Collier County. The first took place on July 3rd at Gulf Coast High School in Naples. The second concert was presented on the 4th at Naples First Presbyterian Church and the third was on July 5th at the Everglade City Community Center. While in Florida, Next Wave was able to enjoy the summer weather, fireworks, and unique local fare. Master Chief James Rodak commented, "We had a great trip to beautiful southwest Florida. Our sponsor did a super job organizing a series of concerts in an area with very little military presence. The band played well for the extremely appreciative audiences and we really enjoyed the rare venture away from Annapolis."

Back at home the contemporary entertainment ensemble, Electric Brigade, led by Chief Musician Frank Dominguez, took over at the Annapolis City Dock and prepared to entertain the crowds leading up to the fireworks. Unfortunately, bad weather took center stage and the concert was rained out. The Ceremonial Band, under the direction of Ensign Scott Mythen, narrowly escaped rain clouds on the Fourth at Baltimore's Inner Harbor, where they played patriotic selections for the thousands gathered to see the city's fireworks display. Just one day earlier the same group performed in Centerville, Maryland at their Independence Day Celebration.

It is hard to predict how this departure from tradition will shape future Fourth of July planning. It is, however, safe to say that this year the Naval Academy Band reached out to more of the public than ever before, an experience we hope to build on.



3

the public to meet fleet Sailors and learn about the United States Navy and the opportunities it has to offer.

Other Delaware “Navy Week” events included demonstrations in an F/A-18 fighter jet flight simulator, Navy SEAL-inspired video games, performances by drill teams, and speeches by admirals serving in all fields, from surface warfare to medicine. Sailors participated in the “Caps for Kids” program by visiting terminally ill children in area hospitals and handing out Navy ball caps. One of the highlights of the week was welcoming home local Sailors returning from overseas deployments.

On July 21st, the band performed on two local morning radio shows, promoting the concerts and informing radio listeners about “Navy Week.” MUC Dominguez was impressed with the public’s support and enthusiastic about the high Navy presence at the fair. “Navy Week is really a big event, and it’s great to be part of the first one ever to be held in Delaware.”

Indeed, the event was a success. Audiences for EB’s concerts topped 8,000 and the group has already received an invitation to return to the fair next year. Electric Brigade’s solid performances and infectious energy continue to earn them fans all over the country, and they have certainly helped to ensure that “Navy Week” will be returning to Delaware in the future.



EB photos by  
MU1 Erin Heere

### BAND AWARDS

On June 12th, the US Naval Academy Band met to recognize several of its members with special awards.

MUCS Dan Drew earned the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal. MUC Tony Valerio, MU1s Devona Schiller, Joel Borrelli-Boudreau, Tom Pitta, Heidi Schultz (separated), and Jessica Hatfield all earned the Navy Achievement Medal.

MU1 Dawn Henry received a Flag Letter of Commendation recognizing her for being selected as the band’s Sailor of the Year, 2007.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

MUCS Karl Schultz and Bruce Smith, for their promotion to Senior Chief Musician, June, 2008.

MUC Dawn Henry, Joseph McCarthy, and Devona Schiller for their promotion to Chief Musician, September, 2008.

MU1 Joel Borrelli-Boudreau for his selection as the band’s Sailor of the 2nd Quarter, 2008.

MU1 Lynda Dembowski for earning her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Maryland, May, 2008.



MUCS Schultz      MUCS Smith      MUC Henry      MUC Schiller      MUC McCarthy      MU1 Borrelli-Boudreau      MU1 Dembowski

### FRIENDS OF THE NAVAL ACADEMY (FONA) APPLICATION INFORMATION

The Friends of the Naval Academy (FONA) program provides vehicle access to people outside the normal Department of Defense scope that support the USNA mission, its people, and its reputation. Patrons that already have a DoD vehicle decal or handicapped tags/pass do not need to apply for a FONA pass. There are a limited number of FONA passes available to Naval Academy Band patrons on a first-come, first-served basis. FONA passes take time to process and will be forwarded when available.

To renew, or apply for a FONA pass, e-mail Senior Chief Ronda Ory-Lettie [oryletti@usna.edu](mailto:oryletti@usna.edu) or write to:

United States Naval Academy Band  
101 Buchanan Road  
Annapolis, MD 21402-5080

**If you’re not already receiving our newsletter, “Serenade,” 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 e-mail will receive press releases for each concert.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: \_\_\_\_\_

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