

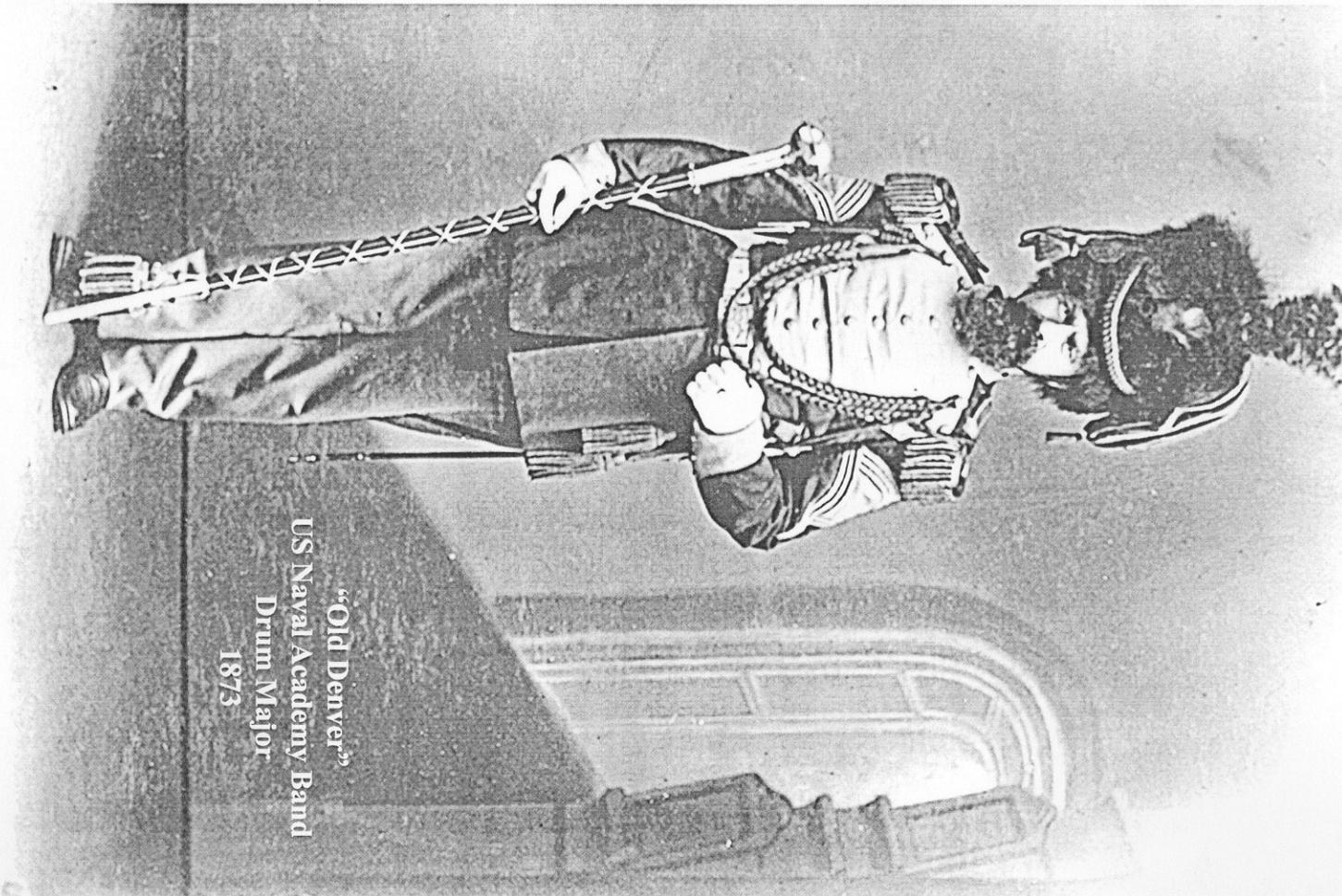


A New Chapter Begins

On January 28th, the Naval Academy Band got a preview of their next leader's expertise and dynamic style. At the invitation of CDR Keller, LCDR Kessler came to Annapolis and conducted a superb concert in the historic USNA Chapel. This performance garnered much praise from the audience and set the tone for great things to come. On March 15th of 2005, the "Navy's Oldest and Finest Band" officially welcomed to the podium their 26th leader. LCDR Kessler brings to the Naval Academy Band a wealth of experience, and an infectious "can-do" leadership style. Upon his commissioning, LCDR Kessler was the first member of the U.S. Navy Band in over 40 years to be selected as a Fleet Bandmaster. Prior to becoming an LDO Bandmaster, LCDR Kessler performed as a trumpet instrumentalist and soloist with the U.S. Navy Band, Washington, D.C. In addition to his military music career, LCDR Kessler has performed with the Pittsburgh, Maryland, and Virginia Symphony Orchestras, as well as Opera Memphis. LCDR Kessler's guest conducting credits include the National Concert Band of America, The Florida State University Wind Ensemble, the Germantown Symphony Orchestra, and the George Mason University Concert Band. With such an accomplished leader and musician, the Naval Academy Band's reputation will surely continue to flourish.



"Old Denver"
US Naval Academy Band
Drum Major
1873



In the months leading up to the change of leadership, the band was privileged to perform with numerous talented guest musicians. It all began with a Chamber Winds concert on March 4th under the direction of Maestro Gene Young. Highlights of this program included Charles Gounod's *Petite Symphonie*, Louis Viernes' *Triumphal March for the Napoleon Centenary*, and Henri Tomasi's *Fanfares Liturgique*. This well-received concert gave the audience a unique opportunity to experience fine chamber music and virtuosic solos within the reverberant walls of the USNA Chapel. Mr. Young was the music director of the Goldman Band from 1990 through 1997, and at present is the founder/director of the "Peabody Camerata" at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, MD.

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Greetings to all. To say I am pleased to be here would be a gross understatement. The opportunity to work with "world class" musicians and to no longer be making the weekly commute to and from Norfolk are the most obvious reasons for my excitement. But it is more than that, as I have found in the first months of this assignment. The Naval Academy is a wonderful place to work because of the people, the beautiful Academy grounds, the history of the institution and the graduates who have passed through Bancroft Hall and marched on Worden Field. Each day I look forward to coming to work and being a part of the Academy and the Academy Band. As exciting as it all is, it is also very humbling and I am honored to be the 26th Leader.

We have just completed our Winter Concert Season, the Summer Series has been scheduled and programming is complete. All that is left is for all of you, our loyal patrons, to come out to City Dock starting on July 4th and every Tuesday night after that, ending August 9th with the annual "1812 Concert." July 19th is the Alumni Band Reunion Concert and its shaping up to be another special night for us, as many friendships will be renewed and you will have an opportunity to once again see some familiar faces performing with the Band.

Over the next several months I look forward to meeting you and providing you and the community with enjoyable and entertaining music in one of the world's most beautiful settings.

Sincerely,



Melvin P. Kessler
Director



The United States
Naval Academy Band

DIRECTOR
LCDR Melvin P. Kessler
ASST. DIRECTOR
ENS Diane Nichols
COMMAND MASTER CHIEF
MCOM James E. Rodak
OPERATIONS
MUCS Dan Diew
ADMINISTRATION
MUCS Ronald Ory-Leticie
SUPPLY
MUC Karl Schultz
LIBRARIAN
MUC Jared Williams
AUDITION SUPERVISOR
MUC/Ken Pihle
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
MUCS Rob Wemitz
CONCERT INFORMATION:
(410) 293-0263

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER

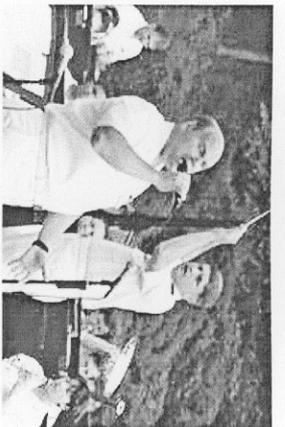
Ensign Diane Nichols is a native of Buffalo, New York where she earned a bachelor of music degree in music education from the University of Buffalo in 1989. After teaching at the middle school level for one year, she chose to pursue her love of performing and set her sights on a career in military music.

In 1990, she enlisted in the Navy and in June 1991, graduated first in her class from the Basic Musician (A) course at the Navy School of Music in Little Creek, Virginia. Upon graduation she was assigned to Navy Band San Diego, California where she served as a trumpet instrumentalist and unit leader for the brass quintet.



Ensign Diane Nichols
Assistant Leader
USNA Band

(Continued on page 6)



ALUMNI CORNER

Please mark your calendars! July 19, 2005 will be our next Alumni Concert. Former members of the United States Naval Academy Band will join present members for an unforgettable evening of great music-making.
We hope you can join us!

FRIENDS OF THE NAVAL ACADEMY (FONA) APPLICATION INFORMATION

The Friends of the Naval Academy program provides appropriate access to people outside the normal Department of Defense scope that support the USNA mission, its people, and its reputation. The FONA pass allows patrons affiliated with the Naval Academy to have vehicular access. Patrons that already have a DOD vehicle decal or handicapped tags/pass do not need to apply for a FONA pass. FONA passes take time to process and will be forwarded when available. Due to limited parking onboard, you should strongly consider the shuttle bus service. There are a limited number of FONA passes available to Naval Academy Band patrons on a first come, first served basis. Write: wemitz@usna.edu or write to:

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

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

United States Naval Academy Band

Summer Concert Series 2005

June 5
CONCERT BAND
 7:00 P.M. Allen Pond Park
 3330 North View Dr., Bowie, MD (301) 809-3076

July 4
INDEPENDENCE FOR ALL
 8:00 P.M. Annapolis City Dock
 Pre-fireworks concert

July 10
CONCERT BAND
 7:00 P.M. Rawlinsville Camp
 475 Clearfield Rd., Holtwood, PA (717) 284-2746

July 12
SUMMER SERENADE SERIES OPENER
 7:30 P.M. Annapolis City Dock

July 17
ELECTRIC BRIGADE
 6:00 P.M. Downs Park
 8311 John Downs Loop, Pasadena, MD (410) 222-6230

CONCERT BAND
 7:30 P.M. Rose Tree Park
 Media, PA (610) 565-7410

July 19
"OLD COMRADES" ALUMNI CONCERT
 7:30 P.M. Annapolis City Dock
 Past & present members of "The Navy's Oldest and Finest Band"
 Inlement weather site, TBD

July 26
ELECTRIC BRIGADE
 7:30 P.M. Annapolis City Dock

July 31
ELECTRIC BRIGADE
 7:00 P.M. Allen Pond Park
 3330 North View Dr., Bowie, MD (301) 809-3076

August 2
CONCERT BAND
 7:30 P.M. Annapolis City Dock

August 4
ELECTRIC BRIGADE
 7:30 P.M. Town Green
 777 Lynn Street, Herndon, VA 20172

August 7
NEXT WAVE
 4:00 P.M. Baltimore Inner Harbor
 Classic & contemporary Big Band Jazz

August 9
CONCERT BAND
FINALE CONCERT
 7:30 P.M. Annapolis City Dock
 A Musical Extravaganza featuring "The 1812 Overture"

August 10
NEXT WAVE
 5:00 P.M. City Center Plaza
 New and Church Streets, Bethlehem, PA

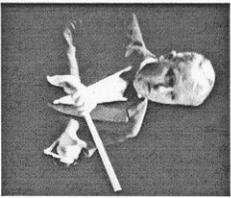
August 11
ELECTRIC BRIGADE
 7:30 P.M. Rip Miller Stadium
 U.S. Naval Academy

August 14
CONCERT BAND
 7:00 P.M. William A. Humbert Amphitheater
 Bel Air Town Hall, 39 Hickory Ave., Bel Air, MD (410) 803-9784 (Rain site @
 C. Milton Wright H.S., Fountain Green Road, Route #543)

ELECTRIC BRIGADE
 3:00 P.M. Belvedere Square
 518 E. Belvedere Ave., Baltimore, MD 21212 (410) 464-9773

All United States Naval Academy Band concerts are free and open to the public. For a listing of upcoming performances,

please call the Naval Academy Band Concert Information Line at (410)293-0263 or visit us on the World Wide Web at www.usna.edu/USNA/Band.



On March 11th the world renowned composer, conductor and lecturer Professor James Barnes came to lead the band. In a concert event entitled "Meet the Composer," Mr. Barnes treated a fascinated audience to seven of his compositions and a skillful arrangement of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. The evening began with the powerful *Fantaisie for Annapolis*, a composition written solely for the concert. This brilliant and regal work set the audience on the edge of their seats, where they remained for the entire performance. Mr. Barnes followed the fanfare with his *Symphonic Overture, Danza Symphonica, Fantasy Variations on a Theme by Niccolo Paganini* and the tone poem *Valor*. Upon hearing the concert, Mr. Carl Stewart, a past member of the band, remarked, "It was terrific to hear such great music and a bonus to hear the stories about each piece from the composer himself!" Professor Barnes was so pleased with the Naval Academy Band's performance that he agreed to compose a new work in commemoration of its 150 years in service to the Nation.



Professor Eugene Corporon brought a very challenging program which featured composers who represent the "movers and shakers" in the band music world. The concert began with Phillip Sparker's *Jubilee Overture* and moved to *Southern Cross*, a showcase for MUCS James Bean on cornet. This feature served as an affectionate nod to past band traditions and honored a bedrock composer of band music, virtuoso cornetist Herbert L. Clarke. The main event of the evening was a well balanced and passionate reading of Frank Ticheli's *Symphony No. 2*, followed by the exhilarating *Seadrift* by Anthony Iannaccone. The concert closed with *Where Never Lark Nor Eagle Flew*, an awe-inspiring work by James Curnow that brought the audience to their feet.



On March 31 and April 1st, composer, clinician and educator Bill Warfield brought his unique sounds to The Next Wave Jazz Ensemble. The driving force behind this memorable collaboration was Next Wave's drummer, MUI1 Joe McCarthy. Petty Officer McCarthy came up with the idea while sharing the bandstand with Mr. Warfield in a playing engagement in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Mr. Warfield enjoys an international career as a performer, recording artist, band leader and producer. In addition to his full schedule of engagements, he is currently professor of jazz studies at Lehigh University. Since Mr. Warfield was a Baltimore area native and a graduate of Towson University, the band chose to perform at The Gordon Center for the Performing Arts in Owings Mills, Maryland. A repeat performance was scheduled at McNeir Hall on the campus of Georgetown University.

The full-to-capacity audiences were treated to some of the most progressive jazz charts in the industry. The whole band was inspired by Warfield's talent and gregarious personality and came away from the experience with a deep appreciation for his music. MUI1 Ben Redwine (Bari Sax) enthused, *Creatioloop* (based on Darius Milhaud's *La Creation du Monde*) was the best piece of big band music I've ever played!" Next Wave unit leader, MUCS Dan Drew, added, "Bill's music is some of the best that's out there today, and certainly some of the best that I've had the pleasure to perform; his creativity is extremely inspiring as both a player and a writer."

With pride in these recent outstanding concerts, the men and women of the "The Navy's Oldest and Finest Band" look forward to a fruitful tour under LCDR Kessler's baton.

Following her first term of enlistment she returned to the School of Music for advanced training in the Section Leader Course where she again graduated first in her class. Her next assignment was to serve with the PACIFIC Fleet Band in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii as trumpet instrumentalist and ceremonial band conductor. In January 1999, she was transferred back to the School of Music to attend the Ceremonial Conductor/Drum Major (CC/DM) course and was promoted to the rank of Musician First Class. Following completion of the CC/DM course she was transferred to the ATLANTIC Fleet Band in Norfolk, Virginia where she served as drum major, ceremonial conductor and Leading Petty Officer. In September 2001, she was selected and promoted to Chief Petty Officer. Following her promotion, Ensign Nichols was reassigned to the School of Music to serve on the staff as the Navy Military Training Instructor for the Navy "A" School students. She was then selected to be commissioned as a Limited Duty Officer (Bandmaster) and received orders to the Senior Musician Course of Instruction for Bandmasters and Assistant Directors. She was commissioned in April, 2005 and reported to the Naval Academy Band in May.

Her awards include the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards), Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon (two awards), Good Conduct Medal (four awards), National Defense Service Medal (two awards), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Navy Pistol Shot Ribbon.

PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS

Congratulations to MUCS Ronda Ory-Lettie, flute section leader, Concert Band concertmistress, and Chief-in-Charge of the band's Administration office, for her promotion to Senior Chief Musician! Congratulations also to MUI1 Amy Jarjoura, Concert Band Leading Petty Officer, for receiving the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal in recognition of her selection as Sailor of the Year, 2004 and to MUI1 Dawn Henry, Assistant Automated Data Processing manager, for her selection as Sailor of the 1st Quarter, 2005. Both Petty Officers Jarjoura and Henry are clarinetists in the band.



MUCS Ronda Ory-Lettie



MUI1 Amy Jarjoura



MUI1 Dawn Henry