

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
United States Naval Academy  
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Official Business



## Electric Brigade

Winter/Spring 2007

The U.S. Naval Academy

Band



## Electric Brigade: Premium Blend of Musical Talents

By MU1 Lynda Dembowski

A crowd of 10,000 gyrates to the energetic groove laid down by the band on stage. Some pump their fists in excitement while others sway to the music. The singers exude musical electricity punctuated by guitar riffs, a screaming horn section, and bone-crushing drums and bass. The sound man works magic behind the Star Trek-like console, achieving CD-quality sound from the performers. Is this the Grammy Awards? No! This is the Navy's premier rock band, the United States Naval Academy Band's Electric Brigade, playing before a frenzied audience of midshipmen and alumni at the Poinsettia Bowl in San Diego in January, 2006!

The Electric Brigade (EB) is an eight-member, highly talented group led by Chief Musician Frank Dominguez. Their musical styles range from the most current rock, hip-hop, rhythm and blues, pop, and country, to classic rock, funk, and soul. They provide musical support for the Brigade of Midshipmen during many balls, dances, and pep rallies at the Naval Academy. Additionally, they perform tours along the eastern seaboard, and have rallied crowds at three recent bowl games for Navy football. Their members share common musical backgrounds, and their unique blend of talents reveal the secret of their master musicianship.

Most of the members of EB played music in school band programs. Vocalist/saxophonist MUC Dominguez played saxophone throughout his school years in San Jose, CA. Dominguez got his first break singing at his first duty station, SEVENTH Fleet Band, Yokosuka, Japan. Drummer Petty Officer John Duley and audio reinforcement engineer, Petty Officer Ritchie Smith, played drums for their school bands. Bassist MU1 Rory Cherry, trumpeter MU1 John Tuck, and trombonist MU1 Steven Tomlinson also participated in their school band programs.

Rock n' roll has flowed through the veins of some of its members since youth. MU1 Duley, of Annapolis, performed with a rock band in high school. MU1 Smith of Erin, NY, formed his first rock band at age 14, playing drums for gigs at clubs. He entered the Navy as a percussionist, and began extensive training in audio engineering

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## COMMANDER'S COLUMN

As the interim director of the Naval Academy Band, this will be my only opportunity to address you in the "Serenade." Since LCDR Kessler's retirement, I have had the pleasure of working with some of the Navy's best and brightest musicians and Sailors. Having served at the Academy before, as the Assistant Director, I returned to many familiar and friendly faces. I also had the pleasure of meeting a few new band members who have arrived since I left in May of 2000. As you already know, you have the pleasure of attending concerts and recitals performed by some of the best musicians our colleges and universities have to offer, and I have had the privilege of conducting this fine group. They so much enjoy what they do, and it is your attendance and enthusiasm that causes our musicians to give just a little more, turning mere performances into events. The musicians appreciate your support, and I thank you.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the next permanent Bandmaster will be onboard, so I will take this opportunity to introduce him to you. Arriving from the Navy School of Music where he has served as the Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander Brian Walden comes to the Navy's "Oldest and Finest" band with a wealth of experience, knowledge, and education. Prior to his tour of duty at the Navy School of Music, Mr. Walden attended and graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music where he earned a Masters of Music Degree in Conducting. Having successfully led bands overseas, as well as stateside, I have no doubt you will find him to be the perfect "maestro" for this premier musical organization. Please give him as warm a welcome as you have given me. Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Michael S. Grant

## Spotlight on Naval Academy Band Enlisted Conductors

By MU1 Benjamin Redwine

The Naval Academy Band's October 20th concert at Mitscher Hall gave the new leader of the Navy's Oldest and Finest Band, Lieutenant Michael Grant, the opportunity to feature two of the band's outstanding musicians. Petty Officer Joel Borrelli-Boudreau, principal trombonist, conducted David Cichy's *Divertimento for Band*, and Petty Officer Devona Schiller, principal flutist, led the band in Richard Wagner's *Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral*.

Both musicians recently earned master's degrees in conducting from George Mason University, where they studied with Professor Anthony Maiello, a frequent guest conductor of the Academy Band. Petty Officer Schiller stated, "I was able to use the knowledge that I learned from Professor Maiello to rehearse and conduct the band." Petty Officer Borrelli-Boudreau commented, "Conducting the band has been the highlight of my career. It is an honor to work with such talented musicians."

MU1  
Joel  
Borrelli-  
Boudreau



(continued on page 5)



MU1  
Devona  
Schiller



**The United States  
Naval Academy Band**

**DIRECTOR**  
LCDR (Sel) Michael S. Grant  
**ASST. DIRECTOR**  
ENS Diane Nichols  
**COMMAND MASTER CHIEF**  
MUCM James Rodak  
**OPERATIONS**  
MUC Nick Pastelak  
**ADMINISTRATION**  
MUC Amy Jarjoura  
**FISCAL**  
MUC Geoffrey Bayne  
**LIBRARIAN**  
MU1 Erin Heere  
**AUDITION SUPERVISOR**  
MUC Ken Pfabe  
**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
MUCS Ronda Ory-Lettie  
**CONCERT INFORMATION:**  
(410) 293-0263

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Navy Band, Memphis, TN. MU1 Cherry, from Dothan, AL, joined his first rock band during his senior year of high school. He later expanded his talents, playing professionally in country bands. Cherry joined the Navy in 2000 and toured with several fleet show bands before being selected for Electric Brigade in 2006.

Three share backgrounds in jazz. Guitarist MU1 Randy Morser, of Felton, CA, studied jazz guitar in his youth. He was leader/guitarist for the Air Mail Special Swing Orchestra from 1998-2001 before joining Electric Brigade in 2001. Trumpeter MU1 John Tuck joined EB in 2005. Originally from Chicago, IL, he attended the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University and the University of Kentucky, studying jazz and classical trumpet performance. Trombonist MU1 Steven Tomlinson, from Dayton, OH, attended Indiana University and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and received a bachelor of music degree in jazz performance from Morehead State University. Tomlinson joined the Navy in 1995 as a keyboardist and transferred to the Electric Brigade in 2006.

Vocalist MU1 Dana Robinson adds depth with pop, contemporary, and classical music experience. She studied contemporary and classical voice throughout her collegiate career, and received a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from the University of Boulder, CO. She was a main singing character in the touring cast of "Up With People" and later served as show manager/vocal instructor. MU1 Robinson joined Electric Brigade in 2003.

When asked, "What attracted you to join Electric Brigade?" its members claim the opportunity to work with some of the military's finest musicians as a major motivator. The appeal of a permanent duty station is important as well, since it gives them the chance to settle down and build a life here with their spouses and families. Unanimously, they feel gratified to earn a living doing what they love to do best ... music.



Electric Brigade poses with Naval Academy Superintendent and Mrs. Rodney P. Rempt.

## Naval Academy Trombone Players Head to St. Louis

By MU1 Jessica Privler

Big changes are happening in the trombone section at the Naval Academy Band, as two of our trombonists say goodbye to the Navy in order to start new careers. Coincidentally, both have chosen roads that lead to St. Louis, MO.

In January, MU1 Twig Sargent will leave the Navy to begin studies at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis. He and his family will move to Missouri in time for the spring semester to begin.

"While I love my current job as a Navy musician," says Sargent, "... I have a desire to study the Bible more intensively and to learn about people and the culture more deeply...Seminary will allow me focused time to think through a lot of the big life questions, and in thinking through them, to learn how to help others through those questions."

A native of Lake Jackson, TX, MU1 Sargent arrived at the Naval Academy Band in 1999. He holds a bachelor's degree in music from Texas Tech University, and a master's degree in trombone performance from the University of Minnesota. He has been a member of the Concert Band, trombone quartet, Next Wave jazz ensemble, ceremonial band, and marching band.

In October, former Naval Academy Band member Jonathan Reyecraft began his first season as a member of the St. Louis Symphony. "I feel extremely honored and privileged to have been selected," said Reyecraft, after winning the highly-competitive audition in May. "My goal has always been to perform with a notable symphony orchestra."

As a member of the St. Louis Symphony, Reyecraft plays second trombone, bass trombone, and on occasion, assistant principal. The symphony's season lasts 42 weeks and includes performing in the pit orchestra for the Opera Theater of St. Louis and an annual concert at Carnegie Hall.

Originally from Northport, NY, Reyecraft earned a bachelor's degree in music from Indiana University and a master's degree in trombone performance from the University of Maryland. He reported to the Naval Academy Band in December of 1998, and, like Sargent, was a member of the Concert Band, trombone quartet, Next Wave, ceremonial band, and marching band.

Until Reyecraft left the band last month, his career was closely intertwined with that of Sargent's. After crossing paths at auditions around the country, both arrived at the Naval Academy Band within six months of each other, and played side-by-side for seven years. In fact, Sargent saw Reyecraft's appointment to the St. Louis Symphony as a sign, at a time when he was hesitating with his decision to enter the seminary. "My wife and I were convinced that Jonathan's success was also a confirmation...in our decision making process."

Both trombonists can be heard on the Naval Academy Band's latest CD commemorating the Band's 150th anniversary, which was released in October, 2006.

The members of the Naval Academy Band wish the best for their colleagues as they embark on new chapters in their lives. Their time in the Navy has touched many, and both will be missed.

MU1  
Twig  
Sargent



MU1  
Jonathan  
Reycraft



### Enlisted Conductors (continued from page 2)

Chief Musician Karl Schultz, Leading Chief of the Concert Band, noted, "It's always interesting to see a new perspective on the wonderful literature that we play. It's also a pleasure to work with our fellow colleagues to make great music!" After the concert, a devoted patron observed, "I think it was unusual to have so many different conductors. It added nicely to the flavor of the concert." Be sure to mark all of the band's concerts on your calendar—each one is full of exciting surprises!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO

Musician First Class **James Hurd** for his selection as Naval Academy Band Sailor of the 3rd Quarter.



### 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

# United States Naval Academy Band

## Winter-Spring Concert Series 2007

Concerts are on the grounds of the U.S. Naval Academy at **7:30 P.M.** unless otherwise noted.

January 26

### **Tribute to Charles Zimmermann**

**Concert Band**

Naval Academy Chapel

February 2

### **Brass Ensemble**

Naval Academy Chapel

February 3

### **Brass Ensemble**

Towson University

Center for the Arts, Harold J. Kaplan Concert Hall

8:15 P.M.

February 16

### **Symphonic Works for Band**

**Concert Band**

Mitscher Hall

March 2

### **Next Wave Jazz Ensemble**

Mitscher Hall

March 9

### **“Side by Side”**

**Concert Band**

North County High School

10 East First Avenue

Glen Burnie, MD

March 11

### **Trumpet Recital**

Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian Church

1281 Green Holly Drive, Annapolis

**3:30 P.M.**

March 23

### **Concert Band**

Mitscher Hall

April 15

### **Saxophone Recital**

Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian Church

1281 Green Holly Drive, Annapolis

**3:30 P.M.**

April 27

### **Clarinet Recital**

Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian Church

1281 Green Holly Drive, Annapolis

**8:00 P.M.**

April 29

### **Commandant’s Combo Recital**

Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian Church

1281 Green Holly Drive, Annapolis

**3:30 P.M.**

*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 <http://www.usna.edu/USNABand>.*