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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
United States Naval Academy  
121 Blake Road  
Annapolis MD 21402-5000  
Official Business



Winter-Spring 2001

*Serenade*

**The U.S. Naval Academy**

**Band**



"The Navy's Oldest and Finest Band"



Of all the performing units here at The United States Naval Academy Band, the marching band is undoubtedly the most visible and most connected to the military tradition of the Naval Academy. Throughout the year this group performs on Worden Field with the Brigade of Midshipmen for thousands of visitors from all corners of the globe. Additionally, the Fall season brings Navy Football, and for each home game the Naval Academy Band, followed by a column of 4000 excited Mids, parade through the streets of Annapolis into Navy Marine Corps Stadium for another grid-iron contest. The culmination of this season is the most widely recognized college rivalry in the United States. ARMY vs. NAVY!

It is with both anticipation and apprehension that The United States Naval Academy Band faces the Army Navy football game each year -- anticipation of a high-energy game, and apprehension about marching the choreographed halftime show. The Midshipman Drum & Bugle Corps bring halftime entertainment to the games throughout the season, but Army-Navy calls for something special, a show featuring the combined sounds of the Band and D&B. Each year Drum & Bugle Corps leader, Mr. Jeff Weir, stages a high-stepping production in which both bands perform on the field.

"Choreographing Midshipmen and career musicians is no easy task," Weir remarks. "First, the instrumentation of the D & B is different than the Band. Where the Naval Academy Band features more than 50 musicians - including brass, percussion and woodwinds - the D & B is comprised of nearly 100 Midshipmen exclusively on brass and percussion. That's a lot of sound. It can be a challenge to find balance between the sections."

Then there's the choice of music. The tunes are carefully selected with blending of the two groups in mind. Often at the Army-Navy game, the two bands marching together take turns, playing music separately.

"We carefully select which songs will best compliment the show," said CDR Michael Alverson, "The key is to find songs that work for both bands and that will be both patriotic and timely."

Once the music is squared away, Mr. Weir and Naval Academy Band Drum Major Chief Rob Wertz plot the show step by step. This year they wove the two bands in a tapestry of sight and sound.

According to Chief Wertz, working with the Drum & Bugle Corps is like learning to march all over again.

"The steps we take on the parade field are completely different than the steps used in a show formation. The D&B has the advantage of learning their show throughout the football season. The Naval Academy Band has one show each year."

Planning rehearsals can also be difficult. Accommodating the Midshipmen's academic schedule often has the bands practicing in the wee hours of the morning, late in the afternoon, or through the lunch hour.

Aside from the halftime show, the Naval Academy Band proudly leads the Brigade of Midshipmen into the arena and onto the field. This year that procession began in Baltimore's famous Inner Harbor, next to the USS CONSTELLATION. Special units, known as "fast attack bands," provided a musical background during each quarter. Playing a mixture of traditional fight songs and cheers, these bands have been well received.

"Naval Academy Band has an almost 150 year tradition of supporting the Brigade of Midshipmen," says MUCM Wolfe. "The Army-Navy halftime show is just one in a long line of performances we give to promote the Naval Academy, the Navy and the United States of America."

The United States  
Naval Academy Band

**DIRECTOR**

CDR J. Michael Alverson

**ASST. DIRECTOR**

ENS Kenneth C. Collins

**COMMAND MASTER CHIEF**

MUCM Gary R. Wolfe

**OPERATIONS**

MUC Rob Werntz

**ADMINISTRATION**

MUCS Ken Shrum

**SUPPLY**

MUCS Richard Chappell

**LIBRARIAN**

MUC James Bean

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

**AUDITION SUPERVISOR**

MUCS Steve Barzal

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

MUCM James H. Cunningham

**CONCERT INFORMATION:**

(410) 293-0263

**FAX:**

(410) 293-2116

**EDITORS NOTE**

I have had the greatest time over the past 8 months assembling, scanning, and posting USNA Band photos onto our website. These photos span 140 years of the Band's history! How exciting it is to "zoom in" to the image of someone who performed my job 100 years ago. With the help of the Naval Academy Band Alumni Association, I have been able to identify many of the faces in the photographs, and I will continue to attempt to document the proud members of this Band. I hope you will visit the site and check out the "Timeline" as well as some of our other new features. If you have comments, corrections, or additions, I welcome your input.

MUCM Jim Cunningham



The U.S. Naval Academy Band  
circa. 1930

Visit us on the World Wide Web at:  
[www.nadn.navy.mil/USNABand](http://www.nadn.navy.mil/USNABand)



**COMMANDER'S  
COLUMN**

Dear Patrons,

There is no hard and fast way that we at The U. S. Naval Academy Band can say thank you for all your support during the past year. The one major exception to that statement is that we can and do take great pride in providing you with as diverse a musical product as you will hear anywhere. And the common thread weaving through that diversity is

quality. I wish that I could quantify the enormous amount of practice and dedication to perfection that each one of my musicians works to achieve as they perform as soloists or as members of the various groups that comprise "The Navy's Oldest and Finest Band." Whether it's the Concert Band, Electric Brigade, the Brass or Wind Quintet, or any number of our other smaller ensembles, you, as our audiences, deserve no less than the best from each of us. That is our pledge, and we're sticking to it!

Speaking of diversity, we have a schedule of recitals and ensemble performances planned during 2001 that I think will reach everyone's musical palate. While not to short change any other upcoming presentation, I believe my personal favorite is going to be our "Music for a Cathedral" concert here at the Naval Academy Chapel on February 2nd. Mr. Monte Maxwell, the Naval Academy's organist, will be joining us along with the Naval Academy Glee Club under the direction of Dr. Barry Talley. For those of you who will not be able to make the Friday night concert, we will repeat the performance at the beautiful and majestic Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore on Sunday evening, February 4th. This will be one concert not to miss!

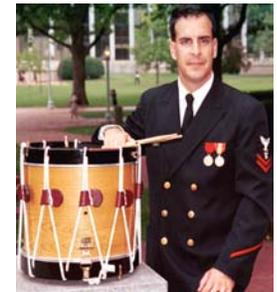
As I begin my final season with The U. S. Naval Academy Band, I look forward to greeting as many of you as I can at our performances. You make it all worthwhile!

Sincerely,

J. M. Alverson  
Director

**Indiana State University Percussion Concert**

This past November Petty Officer Joe McCarthy traveled to Terre Haute, Indiana to appear as the featured soloist and clinician at Indiana State University. Joe conducted master classes, gave private instruction, and coached the Steel Band, Big Band, and Percussion Ensemble. In addition to the activities at ISU, he visited three area high schools introducing students to fundamentals of Afro-Cuban drumming and musical opportunities in the the United States Navy. The exciting week of drumming came to a rousing finale with the ISU Percussion Ensemble and Steel Bands in concert featuring MU2 Joe McCarthy on drum set and Latin percussion.



**Electric Brigade On the Road for Navy Recruiting**

The Electric Brigade is back on the road taking their energetic message to high schools in the Eastern United States. In February they will be supporting Naval Recruiting District (NRD) Philadelphia in Delmar, Seaford, & Dover, Delaware, as well as Atlantic City, New Jersey. In March they will head for Ohio with concerts in Columbus, Chillicothe, and Newark. Later in the month it's back to NRD Philly with concerts in Southern New Jersey, including Atco, Pine Hill, Cherry Hill, and Winslow. In April NRD New York has invited them to play in schools surrounding the greater New York City area. This is a busy group, watch your local listings for concert times and locations.



**Texas Tech Trombone Concert**

Trombonist, MU2 Twig Sargent will be performing at his college alma mater, Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas on January 7<sup>th</sup>. He will represent The United States Naval Academy Band in an alumni recital featuring the trombone students of his former teacher, Mr. Don Lucas, Associate Professor of Music. The solo pieces he will perform are "Basta," by Folke Rabe and "Deux Danses," by Jean-Michel Defaye, the later of which he will also perform with the Naval Academy Band on January 19<sup>th</sup>. MU2 Sargent is a native of Lake Jackson, Texas, and received his Bachelor of Music Degree from Texas Tech University in 1995.



**Trombone Quartet Performs for MBDA**

The Trombone Quartet played for the Maryland Band Directors Association on October 13<sup>th</sup> at Eubie Blake High School in Silver Spring, MD. Maryland Band Directors Association (MBDA) is part of Maryland Music Educators Association (MMEA). The hour-long performance by MUCS Jeffrey B. Diehl, MU2 Joel L. Borrelli-Boudreau, MU2 Jonathan W. Reycraft, and MU2 Twig D. Sargent was part recital and part clinic. Senior Chief Diehl lectured on the importance small ensemble playing for developing listening skills, blend, intonation, and style, then carrying this heightened awareness and skills into larger ensembles. Included in the program were "Bartok for Trombones," by Frank Siekmann, "Trois Pieces pour Quatuor de Trombones," by Eugene Bozza, and Leslie Bassett's "Quartet for Four Trombones."



The Trombone Quartet with  
MBDA President, Mr. Ted Wilson

## Chamber Music Series Marks 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

This is a milestone season for a concert series favored by Naval Academy Band musicians for its diversity and the opportunity for artistic freedom and expression. The Chamber Music Series began in 1981, under the leadership of Chief Diane Tarabour, as a vehicle for band members to choose and perform challenging literature normally not programmed on full band concerts. Members are responsible for each aspect of production, including choosing a title or theme, selecting the program, assembling ensemble members and guests, setting the rehearsal schedule, and gathering publicity information. These performances provide so much more than wonderful entertainment, they allow these highly trained Navy professionals to hone and demonstrate their musical, managerial, and leadership skills, ultimately benefitting the individual, the band and the Navy, as well the audiences who attend.



Chamber Winds in rehearsal for their JAN 26th concert.

Not all the challenges related to this program over the last 20 years have been musical! In the beginning, audiences totals averaged 20-25 enthusiastic supporters, so many ideas have been implemented in an effort to increase the exposure and interest. Instead of considering the series separate from the Naval Academy Band concert series, it is now an integral part of that series. We have learned the value of promotion, regularity of performance days and times, and the acoustic and aesthetic properties of the venue. We have expanded our venues from our usual Naval Academy Mitscher, Mahan, and Alumni Halls, to include the wonderful Naval Academy Chapel, the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of Annapolis, St. Andrews By the Bay Catholic

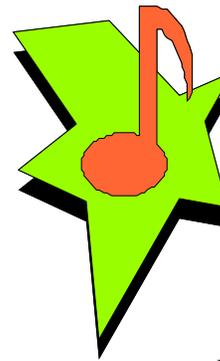
Church, Gordon Center for the Performing Arts, and the beautiful and majestic Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in nearby Baltimore. (We are very grateful to all who have welcomed us into their beautiful churches and auditoriums.) Today we regularly see 200-400 people in the audience!! The Series Coordinator, Chief Ronda Ory-Lettie, and her assistant Petty Officer Amy Jarjoura are close at hand to assist in obtaining dates, venues, approval of repertoire and guests, and time for proper preparation. This "behind the scenes" assistance is very important, as these performances are in addition to the regular duties of each member, so attention to scheduling is paramount.

Concert themes have been as varied and individual as you'd expect from a 68 member organization staffed from all across this great nation. Themes have included a Black History Recital, Holiday Recital, "An Artist's Portrait of Bosnia," "Bass Fest," "All That Jazz," "Theatre Music for Wind Band," "An Evening of Easy Listening," and "Music for Trumpet, Voice & Organ." They have included all size ensembles ranging from solo clarinet to small Wind Ensemble, or tuba and native American flute to a "choir" of 15 electric basses, performing classical chamber music, jazz, opera, ethnic, musical theater, and "pop" styles. One ensemble formed for a recital, The Cane Mutiny, remains as an active performing unit today. In addition to the featured band member, guests have included many talented people (including some spouses!) such as MUC Sharon Barry (pianist from The U.S. Navy Band), SSGT Bob Boguslaw, (Presidential pianist from The U.S. Marine Band), Midshipman Becky Dengler (bass), Mrs. Susan Rodak, (clarinetist, USNA Band alumnus, and wife of MUCM Butch Rodak), SMS Patricia Wolfe, (vocalist with The U.S. Air Force Band's Singing Sergeants and wife of MUCM Gary Wolfe), Ms. Ana Castrello-Vazquez, (mezzo soprano), and the list goes on. In 1981 Senior Chief John Derby, guitarist with the Electric Brigade planned and produced "The Guitar Showcase" and included all Washington area Navy guitarists and featured world renown jazz guitarist Herb Ellis.

As you can see, this is an extremely eclectic series of performances with many differences, but one thing in common, quality. If you enjoy musical diversity, plan to join us for this 20<sup>th</sup> season of The United States Naval Academy Band's Chamber Music Series.



The Guitar Showcase of 1981, featuring Mr. Herb Ellis.



# Noteworthy Events

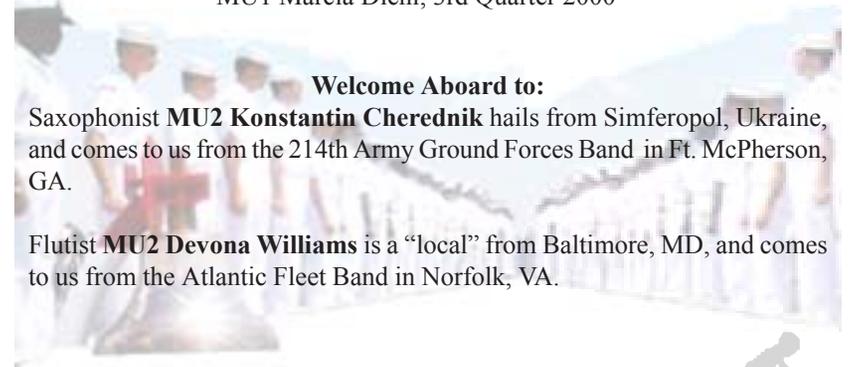
**Congratulations on your Promotion!!**

MU1 Tony Valerio  
MU1 Jarrod Williams



**Naval Academy Band Sailor of the Quarter**

MU1 Marcia Diehl, 3rd Quarter 2000



**Welcome Aboard to:**

Saxophonist **MU2 Konstantin Cherednik** hails from Simferopol, Ukraine, and comes to us from the 214th Army Ground Forces Band in Ft. McPherson, GA.

Flutist **MU2 Devona Williams** is a "local" from Baltimore, MD, and comes to us from the Atlantic Fleet Band in Norfolk, VA.

**NEW TO THE USNA BAND FAMILY**

*Matthew Neil Ohlemeyer, son of MU2 John and Ruth Ohlemeyer. Born at 2:21 P.M. on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2000. Congratulations!*



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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

# The United States Naval Academy Band

## Winter-Spring Concert Series

### **A Classical Evening**

January 19  
Mahan Hall

### **Music for a Cathedral**

February 2  
USNA Chapel  
February 4 (5:30 P.M.)  
Cathedral of Mary Our Queen  
5300 North Charles St. Baltimore

### **Electric Brigade**

February 9  
Mitscher Hall

### **The Little Wave**

February 16  
Mitscher Hall

### **Traditional Favorites**

February 23  
Mitscher Hall  
February 24  
North County High School  
10 East First Ave, Glen Burnie

### **Percussion Ensemble**

March 16  
Mitscher Hall

### **Side By Side**

March 30  
Alumni Hall

### **Conductors' Choices**

May 4  
Mahan Hall

### *CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES*

#### **Chamber Winds**

January 26  
Mitscher Hall

#### **Brass Ensemble**

March 1  
Gordon Center for Performing Arts  
3506 Gwynnbrook Ave. Owings Mills  
March 2  
USNA Chapel

#### **Time Will Tell**

*(A Jazz Recital)*  
March 9  
Mahan Hall

#### **It's In The Woods**

*(Music For Clarinet)*  
March 10  
St. Andrew By the Bay  
701 College Parkway, Annapolis

#### **An Evening With Friends**

*(Oboe & Trombone)*  
March 17  
1st Presbyterian Church,  
Duke of Gloucester at Conduit St, Annapolis

#### **Brass Band**

March 23  
Mahan Hall

#### **Love & Marriage**

*(A Clarinet & Vocal Recital)*  
April 20  
1st Presbyterian Church,  
Duke of Gloucester at Conduit St, Annapolis

All Naval Academy Band concerts begin at 8:00pm (except where noted) and are free and open to the public.  
Please note the various venues. For concert information call (410) 293-0263 or visit our website at [www.nadn.navy.mil/USNABand/Schedule](http://www.nadn.navy.mil/USNABand/Schedule).